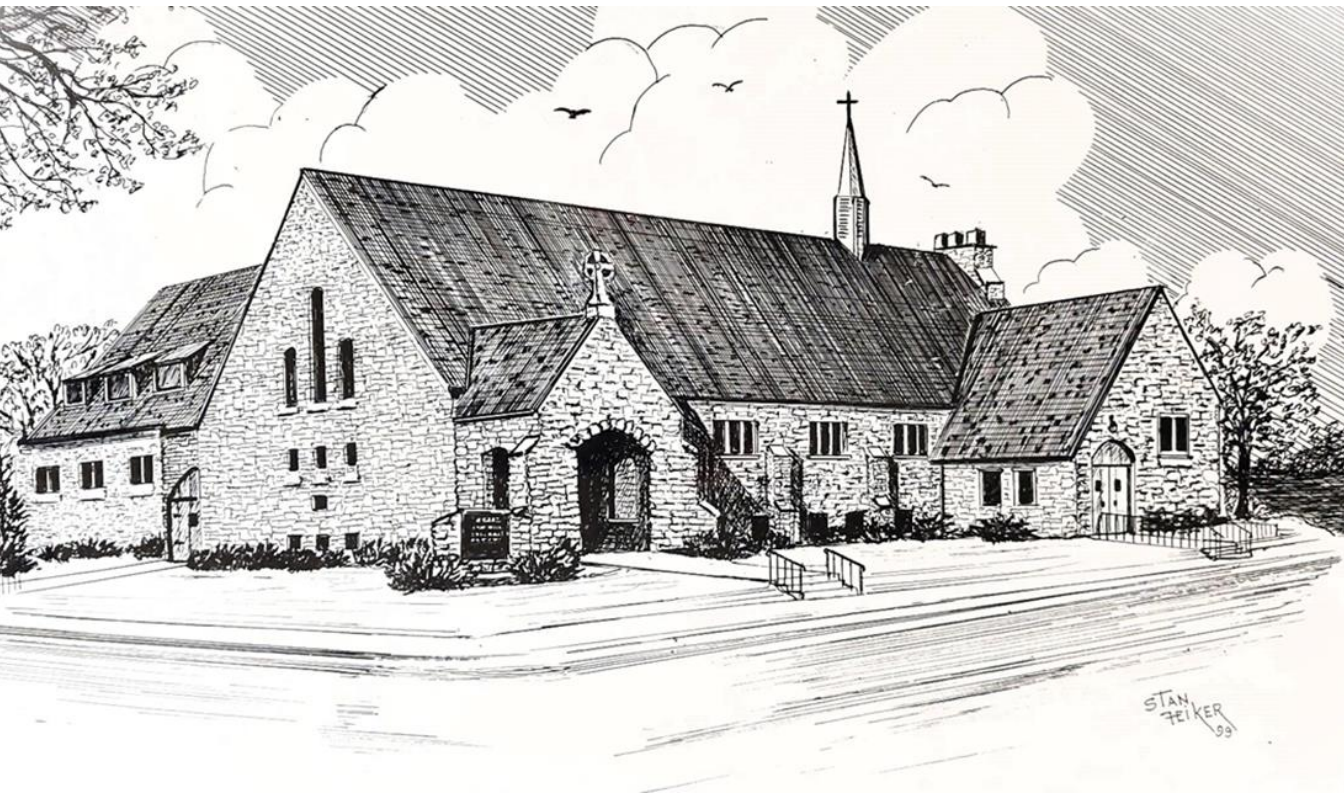


Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Racine, Wisconsin
December 28 & 31, 2023

**GRACE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)**
3700 Washington Ave., Racine, WI 53405
www.gracelutheranracine.net
262-633-4831

Vacancy Pastor: Rev. David W. Hintz
(920) 227-7915 (mobile)
revdwhintz@hotmail.com

Welcome to Grace!

What We Believe:

✝ As Lutheran Christians we stand with the church of the ages and confess the faith of the **Holy Bible**, which is **God's Word**.

✝ We believe that our **Triune God** created man and woman holy; however, since we sinned and still sin we cannot free ourselves from **sin and death**. Therefore God sent His Son **Jesus Christ**, who is our **only way to salvation**. By His death and resurrection and through no work or decision of our own, we have forgiveness, life, and salvation.

✝ We joyfully receive these gifts in His Word, and in the holy sacraments of **Baptism** and the **Lord's Supper**.

✝ In all our teaching and preaching we seek to be faithful to God's holy **Law** which shows our sin, and to proclaim His precious **Gospel**, which is the good news of our **salvation in Christ!**

✝ We subscribe also to **Luther's Small Catechism** and the other documents in the Book of Concord of 1580 because they faithfully confess these biblical truths.

Guests and Holy Communion:

Holy Communion is a gift Christ gives to His Church. In it, He offers His true Body and Blood, in, with and under the bread and wine. When received in faith, it brings forgiveness, new life and salvation.

Holy Communion is also a statement of our unity in Christ (*community*). Those who receive the Lord's Supper at Grace Lutheran Church are baptized Christians who have been instructed in and publicly confess the Evangelical Lutheran faith.

For this reason, *only members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod* are ordinarily communed at this altar. If you have any questions regarding the doctrine of Close Communion, please talk to the pastor before or after the service.

Nursery: If your child becomes restless during the service, you are welcome to make use of the Nursery downstairs.

Friendship Pad: Please sign the Friendship Pad when it is passed during the service.

Offering: The offering plates are not passed. Rather, they are located at the back of the nave. Please place your offering in one of the plates as you enter or leave the church. You may also hand it to one of the ushers.

Fellowship Time: Immediately following the 9:00 AM Worship.

Large Print Hymnals: Are available from the ushers!

Electronic Devices: PLEASE silence all devices during worship. Thanks!

May the Lord bless your worship today!

+First Sunday after Christmas+
December 28 & 31, 2023 – Divine Service, Setting One

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, CHIMES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

♪ **From East to West** **LSB 385**

Invocation **LSB 151**

Confession of Sins and Absolution **LSB 151**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

♪ **Introit** *Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 52:10*

[P] The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

[C] **Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!**
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

[P] The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

[C] **He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.**
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

[P] Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

[C] **Glory be to the Father and to the Son**
and to the Holy Spirit;

[C] **as it was in the beginning,**
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

[P] The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

♪ **Kyrie** **LSB 152**

♪ **Gloria in Excelsis** **LBS 154**

Salutation and Collect of the Day **LSB 156**

[P] O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation

of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

 **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:10—62:3

Pew Bible, p.621

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God

Epistle: Galatians 4:4–7

Pew Bible, p.941

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

♪ Alleluia and Verse

LBS 156

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22–40

Pew Bible, p. 847-858

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Catechism Time – The Lord's Prayer

Luther's Small Catechism, LSB 322

The Seventh Petition

P But deliver us from evil.

P What does this mean?

☞ We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

Nicene Creed

LSB 158 or inside back cover of hymnal

♪ Let All Together Praise Our God

LSB 389

Sermon–Theme: “The Nunc Dimittis” Text: Luke 2:25-40

Prayer of the Church

Offering The offering plates are not passed. Please see note on the first page of the bulletin.

♪ Offertory

LSB 159-160

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

♪ Preface

LSB 160

♪ Sanctus

LSB 161

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 162

Lord’s Prayer

LSB 162

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 162

♪ Pax Domini

LSB 163

♪ Agnus Dei

LSB 163

Distribution – If you are visiting with us, please read “Guests and Holy Communion,” printed on the inside cover of the Friendship Pad. If you would like to receive Holy Communion in your pew, please notify the pastor or an usher. If possible, please sit near the center aisle, and it will be brought to you at the conclusion of the distribution. Wine greatly diluted with water is available in purple-tinted cups in the center of each Communion tray for those with alcohol sensitivities.

Distribution Hymns:

♪ The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

LSB 624

♪ Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332

♪ Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

LSB 390

♪ Thank the Lord

LSB 164

♪ Benediction

LSB 166

♪ All My Heart Again Rejoices

LSB 360



+ TO GOD BE THE GLORY +



CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF December 31st – January 7th

SUNDAY 9:00 AM **DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**
10:30 AM Bible Study

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY 6:30 PM **DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**

FRIDAY

SUNDAY 9:00 AM **DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**
10:30 AM Bible Study

Lectionary Summary: *The Time Has Fully Come for Redemption and Purification through Jesus Christ, Our Lord*

“When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,” born of the woman, *“to redeem those who were under the law”* (Gal. 4:4–5). Therefore, *“according to the Law of Moses,”* Mary and Joseph *“brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord”* (Luke 2:22). There He was received and taken up into the arms of Simeon, who was righteous and devout, *“waiting for the consolation of Israel”* (Luke 2:25). Simeon praised God and blessed the parents by confessing the cross for which this child was appointed. *“At that very hour,”* old and faithful Anna, who had watched, prayed and worshiped in the temple for so long, came up and *“began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem”* (Luke 2:38). The Lord causes *“righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations”* (Is. 61:11). We also *“greatly rejoice in the LORD,”* because this child has clothed us *“with the garments of salvation,”* covered us *“with the robe of righteousness”* and called us *“by a new name”* (Is. 61:10; 62:2).