

Grace Notes

Grace Lutheran Church, 2006 60th Street, Kenosha, Wisconsin

November 29, 2020

Gathering Liturgy for First Sunday of Advent

P Holy are you, God of steadfast love and faithfulness; you promised to make a covenant with your chosen ones, and to establish the throne of your servant David forever. We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

WREATH LIGHTING SONG
Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (ELW 240)
*1 Light one candle to watch for
Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to
Israel,
God fulfills the promise.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.



First Sunday of Advent

C Amen.

P Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Loving and forgiving God,

C we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

P People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free— free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, + comforted by Christ's peace, and

accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG Hark, the Glad Sound! (ELW 239)
*1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne
and every voice a song.*

*4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.*

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Readings for First Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 64:1–9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalms 80:1–7, 17–19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**
³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
⁴**O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. ...
¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**
¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.



Gospel: Mark 13:24–27

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

“Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

“Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in

charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

“Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Pastor Barker’s Sermon on Psalm 80

Have you ever had a deep longing? Like it almost ached waiting for it to be realized.

When I was in preschool and elementary school, this is how Advent and Christmas Day felt. Two weeks off from school, and Christmas Day with all sorts of presents.

I especially remember waiting for Christmas in third grade. My parents that year took my brother and me to a bike store because they wanted to make sure the bikes they were going to give us were the right size.

So, we knew exactly what we were going to get.

And in the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas, my brother and I were just counting down the days until Christmas Day would come.

I imagine many of you have experienced that type of longing for Christmas to come when you were a child.

In Psalm 80 we find God’s people deeply longing for God’s presence and intervention.

The original context of Psalm 80 is the impending invasion of the Northern Kingdom, Israel, by the Assyrians. The Assyrian empire was one of the first hegemonic semi-global superpowers. By

conquest and intimidation they gained complete control over their region.

Israel, the northern Kingdom, comprised of ten tribes, now faced certain destruction as the Assyrians approached.

This is a moment of Kingdom-wide fear and upheaval.

And we can relate to this in a new way because of the pandemic we are living through. We collectively are afraid and collectively have been disrupted.

So there is much we can learn from this Psalm in terms of kingdom-wide, or we might now say national, emergency.

The Psalm starts with God’s people asking for God to listen. We might say pleading for God to listen. “Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel.” God hear us!

And under this cry is the feeling that God is not listening. And some of you have shared a similar sentiment with me during this pandemic—where is God? Why hasn’t God stopped this?

This Psalm teaches us we pray in good company when we pray for God to pay attention. God be mindful of us! God listen!

The Psalm continues in verse 2 “come and save us!”

They are crying out to be saved from this impending national calamity.

This simple prayer feels so resonate. We long for God to come and save us from this pandemic and shut down. God save us!

And it’s not just the pandemic, right? We pray for God to save us from the evil of racism. We pray for God to save us from climate change. We pray for God to save us from economic destruction.

And it’s not just on a national level. We long for God’s saving power as we face a variety of many hardships and challenges. When we face illness or the loss of a loved one, we cry out that God will save us.

The Psalmist doesn’t just call for saving but cries out “Restore us, O God.” I love this word “restore”. Certainly in this moment of the pandemic this prayer could be ours.

But in a bigger sense in this world that is still in bondage to death and decay, we are always longing for restoration. In our lives, in our communities, we see the consequences of death and sin daily.

We feel this both collectively and also individually. Before the unrest we already

longed that our Uptown neighborhood be restored. For our community deeply impacted by poverty we longed for restoration. We know that it is not God's intention that God's children live outside, go hungry, have inadequate housing and inadequate opportunity. So in our community we pray and long for restoration.

And this is true for our own lives as well. We long to be restored to health, restored to relationship with those who sin has cut us off from or who have passed, and restored in so many other ways. We have picked up injuries along the way living in the world of death and sin and we want restoration.

This is really what Advent is about. It's a season where we intentionally long for God to save us—for God to restore us.

I'll close with this. I was at a pastor training in Portland more than a decade ago. One of our afternoons was spend intentionally walking around the neighborhood we were staying on pondering what ministry, what a church, what God could be up to in this neighborhood. And then the idea is we would bring that same technique back to our congregations.



At one point I ended up speaking to a man who was clearly down on his luck. He had his gear with him and had tattered clothes.

How he survived was he made beautiful art pieces out of soda cans and beer cans he found. He had figured out a way to cut the cans apart and weave them together. And then he sold them.

As I looked at these can art pieces I was so moved. He had salvaged these cans out of the trash. They were empty, without purpose, and bound for a landfill.

He had saved them and not only saved them but restored them to an even greater purpose and existence than they had before.

When we read about God saving, when we read about

God's restoration God is up to something like this man but just on a much larger scale.

God wants to save each of us from sin and death and God wants to save our communities, our nation, and our world from the forces of death and sin as well. And not only does God want to save us but God is constantly restoring us, restoring our community, and restoring our country and world. God is constantly restoring what has become broken, discarded, and trash into beauty.

And we see little glimmers of this each week at Grace. We have a mother and son now volunteering at our food pantry that needed pantry services. But they also want to volunteer. And now her son can't wait to come and help. This is God bringing restoration—out of hunger is coming soul formation for this child.

We long to be part of God's restoration and we long for the final restoration when God recreates both the heaven and earth with no more sin, death, tears, and mourning.

Amen.

Creed, Prayers, and Communion Liturgy

HYMN OF THE DAY Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying (ELW 436) vv. 1 & 3

*1 Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
awake, Jerusalem, at last.*

*Midnight hears the welcome voices,
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:*

*"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The bridegroom comes! Awake;
your lamps with gladness take!"*

Alleluia!

*Rise and prepare the feast to share;
go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.*

3 Gloria! Let heaven adore you!

*Let saints and angels sing before you,
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming,
lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming,
with angel choirs around your throne.
No eye has caught the light,
no ear the thundering might
of such glory.*

*There we will go: what joy we'll know!
There sweet delight will ever flow.*

CREED

**☩ I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYERS Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (ELW 752)

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

send us love, send us power, send us grace.

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" by Ken Medema copyright © 1973 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under OneLicence.net permit #A-733643

PRAYERS

P God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. (*Local feeding or housing ministries may be named*). Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses (*especially...*). Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We pray for the family and friends of Thomas Lenfestey Jr. & Thomas Lenfestey III

- Mary Andrews (Welcome Center volunteer from St. Anthony's)
 - Dawn Bench (Welcome Center volunteer)
 - Jackie Brichacek (Nancy's sister-in-law)
 - Jean Boothe (Grace soup kitchen supervisor)
 - Hank Buehrens
 - Andrew Calvert
 - Pat Calvert
 - Barb Caputo
 - Holly Cummings
 - Eric Dangerfield (Carolyn Reynold's boyfriend)
 - Alyssa and Aaron Dell
 - Connie, mother of Welcome Center volunteer Lynda Eirich
 - Ben Felland
 - Gregory Foster
 - Steve Gapko
 - Shirleen Gulick
 - Dennis Houston (Dawn's father-in-law)
 - Sydney Houston
 - David Kramer
 - David Kristopeit (Nancy's brother-in-law)
 - Dorothy Keuffer
 - Dean O'Hanlon
 - Nancy Piehl (Andrew Calvert's cousin)
 - Carolyn Reynold's children Eddie, Santino, and Lytoshia
 - Cynthia Schwartz (Norma's daughter)
 - Marcia Swanson
 - Joyce Swift
 - Linda Wadham
 - Florence and Jacqueline Walker (Carolyn's sisters)
 - Dottie Watts
 - Kristi Weiss (Rollie's daughter)
 - Pastor Warren Williams
 - Darlene (Vivienne's friend)
- Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERING We Give Thee but Thine Own (ELW 686)

*1 We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING. SONG O
Come, O Come, Emmanuel (ELW 257)

vv. 1 & 6

*1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.*

Refrain: *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

*6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.* Refrain

DIALOGUE & PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of power and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my

blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C **Amen**



INVITATION TO LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

LORD'S PRAYER

C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven:**

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

Laud to Leif Peterson and Kery Kola for fixing a broken window in the crawl space above the organ loft. Leif and Kery climbed up into the crawl space to fix a window pane that had fallen out. Thank you, Leif and Kery, for helping to keep our building up!

Laud to Nancy Brichacek for all her work keeping worship going these times. Nancy not only plays the organ for us, sings for us, picks the hymns for us, but she is also our worship tech person. She worked very hard to get our Thanksgiving Eve service out to all of us. Thank you, Nancy, for



tremendous leadership during this pandemic!

Laud to Paul Berge, our secretary. During this busy holiday season he has worked especially hard as we do so many things differently this year and explore new tech and opportunities. Whether it be testing the strength of our Zoom connection, splicing together services, making digital fundraisers, getting the weekly newsletter out Paul has made it happen. Thank you so much, Paul, for your incredible partnership in keeping our church going this holiday season!

SENDING

BLESSING

P The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, + now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG Soon and Very Soon (ELW 439)
1 *Soon and very soon we are going to see the King... Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're going to see the King.*

4 *Soon and very soon we are going to see the King... Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King.*
Coda: *Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Liturgy from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission: annual permit #SAS017083

Birthdays in December

- Dec. 6 Michael Swift
- Dec. 16 Skylar Houston
- Dec. 17 Heaven Childress
- Dec. 20 Bert Felland
- Dec. 22 Kenneth Wermeling
- Dec. 29 Florence Wieske

Thanksgiving Week Lauds

Laud to Leif Peterson and Kery Kola for fixing a broken window in the crawl space above the organ loft. Leif and Kery climbed up into the crawl space to fix a window pane that had fallen out. Thank you, Leif and Kery, for helping to keep our building up!

Laud to Nancy Brichacek for all her work keeping worship going these times. Nancy not only plays the organ for us, sings for us, picks the hymns for us, but she is also our worship tech person. She worked very hard to get our Thanksgiving Eve service out to all of us. Thank you, Nancy, for

tremendous leadership during this pandemic!

Laud to Paul Berge, our secretary. During this busy holiday season he has worked especially hard as we do so many things differently this year and explore new tech and opportunities. Whether it be testing the strength of our Zoom connection, splicing together services, making digital fundraisers, getting the weekly newsletter out Paul has made it happen. Thank you so much, Paul, for your incredible partnership in keeping our church going this holiday season!

Grace Opens Listening Session on Zoom

Executive Council will host a Zoom listening session on December 1 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. If you have concerns about what is going on at Grace right now, please come to this meeting. We want to hear your concerns. This will be a Zoom meeting that can both be logged on to online and also called into on a phone.

To join the Zoom Meeting on line, click at <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/6857498173?pwd=aFROMzFYZFRpOFdFbVNkOUlMdmF3UT09> . the passcode is: 7WfefC .

Since this web addresses is very complicated, we will post links on our Facebook page and in the November 29 newsletter post on our website.

You can also call in at 646-876-9923. You will need to then enter the meeting ID and passcode. The meeting ID is 685 749 8173 and the passcode by phone is 834854. (Note: You can skip the participant ID prompt by pressing the # key.)

If you are participating by phone, you can mute and unmute yourself by pressing “#6”.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>World AIDS Day</i> 4:30-6:30 pm Food pantry 6:30 pm Listening session on Zoom	2 5:00 pm Shalom supper	3 2:00-5:00 pm Infant Moses 8:00-9:30 am Welcome Center breakfast	4 8:00-9:30 am Welcome Center breakfast	5
6 <i>St. Nicholas</i> 9:30 am Worship service on Facebook 7:00 pm NA	7 <i>Pearl Harbor Day</i>	8 4:30-6:30 pm Food pantry	9 5:00 pm Shalom supper	10 <i>Hannukah</i> 2:00-5:00 pm Infant Moses 8:00-9:30 am Welcome Center breakfast	11 8:00-9:30 am Welcome Center breakfast	12 <i>Nuestra Sra. de Guadalupe</i>
13 <i>St. Lucy</i> 9:30 am Worship service on FB 10:30 am Congregation meeting on Zoom 7:00 pm NA	14	15 4:30-6:30 pm Food pantry	16 <i>Las Posadas</i> 5:00 pm Shalom supper	17 2:00-5:00 pm Infant Moses 8:00-9:30 am Welcome Center breakfast	18 8:00-9:30 am Welcome Center breakfast	19
20 9:30 am Worship service on FB 7:00 pm NA	21 	22 4:30-6:30 pm Food pantry	23 5:00 pm Shalom supper	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 8:00-9:30 am Welcome Center breakfast 4:30 pm Worship service on FB	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 8:00-9:30 am Welcome Center breakfast	26 <i>St. Stephen; Kwanzaa</i>
27 <i>St. John</i> 9:30 am Worship service on FB 7:00 pm NA	28 <i>Holy Innocents</i>	29 4:30-6:30 pm Food pantry	30 5:00 pm Shalom supper	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 8:00-9:30 am Welcome Center breakfast	Jan. 1, 2021 8:00-9:30 am Welcome Center breakfast	2 

'Even This Year, We Are Invited to Give Thanks'

Over the internet, through the Zoom
To grandmother's house we go;
This Thanksgiving Day, we'll just have to pray
Our Wi-Fi sees us through.

Over the internet, through the Zoom
It's how this year must go!
We'll all stay home, we dare not roam,
As COVID is making it so.
(with apologies to Lydia Maria Child)

In this year filled with unexpected challenges and unforeseen disappointments, I recognize that many of us are uncertain how we are going to navigate a season so filled with traditions when we just can't do what we are accustomed to doing. We may have smaller gatherings at our holiday tables; we may be concerned about friends or family members who are or have been suffering from COVID-19; we may be struggling to find ways to mourn the loss of loved ones when our customary



rituals of grieving are not available to us; we may be feeling disconnected from all that we love and hold dear. In the midst of it all, we may find it challenging to name much for which we can give thanks on this day dedicated to the same.

And yet, the words of the psalmists' familiar refrain echo in our hearts: "O give thanks to the

Please turn to back page ➡

Join Us In Car Parade for Dorothy

Our life long member, Dorothy Keuffer (and Dawn's mom), has had a year full of medical challenges, most recently suffering a stroke. To support our dear sister, we are going to



do a car parade for her to celebrate her birthday.

car to show Dorothy our love and to celebrate her birthday. Then, we will all drive our cars to Dorothy's house and honk so she can see all of us driving by.

How this works: On Sunday, November 29, meet at Grace's parking lot at 11:00 a.m. Bring signs, and decorate your

Please join us as we try to be a little bit of light for our beloved sister Dorothy.

2021 Estimate of Giving Card for Grace Lutheran Church

In grateful response to God's love and mercy, I/We estimate my/our giving will be:

\$ _____ per week month year Current \$ _____ Benevolence \$ _____

Name/s _____ Date _____/2020

Address _____

Phone _____ Envelope number _____

Email address _____

Church copy

Grace Lutheran Church
2006 60th Street
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140-3893

www.GraceKenosha.com

Worship services livestreamed at www.facebook.com/GraceElcaKenosha/

Pastor Jonathan Barker: jonathan.w.barker17@gmail.com 626-864-6404

Church office: graceoffice@wi.rr.com 262-654-9143

Office hours: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

Special Congregational Meeting Scheduled December 13

We will have a congregational meeting on Zoom on Sunday December 13 immediately following worship. You can log in or call in. If you are having trouble with those options please call the church office and we will help.

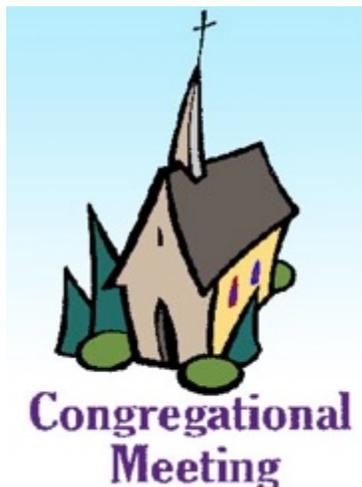
We will be voting on accepting a walk-in refrigerator that a donor has very generously offered to Grace. We will also be voting on the location of this walk-in refrigerator.

Council will be sending out their recommendation of placement next week.

Bishop Erickson's Thanksgiving Message

➤ continued from page 9

Lord, who is good; whose steadfast love endures forever." (Psalm 106:1) Even in the midst of conflict, suffering, fear, and uncertainty, we are invited to



give thanks. Even when we cannot gather with family and friends around our dinner table or our siblings in Christ around the sacramental table, we are invited to give thanks. Even in this year that seems to have moved from the penitence and fasting of Lent directly into the hope-filled longing of Advent, we are invited to give thanks.

God's steadfast love has never left us, and even though my mind and my heart are longing for a future in which all this conflict, fear, and uncertainty will be behind us, the words of the psalmist invite me to pause and give thanks, right here, right now. Whatever this season looks like for

you, your family, your congregation, I pray that we can all experience at least a moment or two when God's grace, and love, and hope break into our lives and move us to say, "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:4)

In Thanksgiving hope,
Bishop Paul Erickson