

Grace Lutheran Church

2006 60th Street, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140-3893

Phone 262-654-9143 www.gracekenosha.com

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023

4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Jonathan Barker

Musicians: Gracie, Samuel & David Underwood

ASL interpreter: Dottie Watts

Wreath lighters: Houston family

Lay readers: Judy Gregory; Skylar, Dawn, & Sydney Houston

Communion assistants: Paula Pirez & Bert Felland

Projectionist: Jarlene Kriehn



GATHERING

WELCOME

P The angel said *to the shepherds*, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem’s manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

W We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles 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.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (ELW #283) vv. 1-3

1: **O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:**

Refrain: **O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

2: **The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing!** Refrain

3: **Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:** Refrain

THINGS OF GREAT JOY

READING: Isaiah 9:2-7 —Judy Gregory

B A reading from Isaiah.



he people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep

darkness—

on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the
harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne and dominion of David,
to establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

 The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SONG: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (ELW
#257 alt.)

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.*

2: *O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things mightly
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in her ways to go
teach us your will and guide our way.* Refrain

6: *O come, thou Dayspring, from on high
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;*


*disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadow put to flight.*

Refrain

+: *O come Desire of nations. Bind
In one the hearts of all mankind
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease
And be Thyself our King of Peace* Refrain

CCLI Song # 7210977. John Mason Neale | Paul Zach Words: Public
Domain; Music: 2022 Paul Zach Publishing All rights reserved.
www.ccli.com CCLI License # 21946728


READING: Luke 2:6–7 —Skylar Houston

hile they were there, the time came for
her to deliver her child. And she gave
birth to her firstborn son and wrapped
him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger,
because there was no place for them in the inn.

SECOND CAROL: *Away in a Manger* (ELW
#277)

- 1: *Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet
head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down
where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*
- 2: *The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from
the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is
nigh.*
- 3: *Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender
care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you
there.*

READING: Luke 2:8–14 —Dawn Houston

n that region there were shepherds
living in the fields, keeping watch over
their flock by night. Then an angel of
the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the
Lord shone around them, and they were
terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

CAROL, "Joy to the World" (

1: *Joy to the world, the Lord is come!*

*Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

2: *Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!*

*Let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

3: *No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.*

4: *He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

CCLI Song # 7210979 George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts | Paul Zach Music: © 2022 Paul Zach Publishing For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission: CCLI License # 21946728

READING: Luke 2:15:-20 —Sydney Houston



he shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

"JOYFUL"

1: *Come, O Lord, and make us joyful
as you came to Mary's womb;
buried deep beneath our sorrows,
where our hopes take root and bloom.
Be the promise that sustains us
through the seasons of the years
'til at last we see your radiance
when you shine beyond our tears.*

2: *Come, O Lord, and show your mercy
as you came in Bethlehem;
let us see the sunlight bursting
through the shadows once again.
Let us hear the song of glory
where the silence held us fast.
We will come to you rejoicing
from the shackles of the past.*

3: *Come, O Lord, as living water;
make our deserts green again
where the wellspring of our laughter
will refresh us like the rain.
After all the years of waiting
for the promise long foretold,
come at last, and let the day break
in the morning of your joy!*

CCLI song #7210999 © 2022 Kate Bluett Music; Paul Zach Publishing. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission: CCLI License # 21946728

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration. You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring for our world. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

P As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

P You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially systems that perpetuate inequity and exclusion. Do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become idols that obscure your call to justice.

Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

P Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill, especially:

- Darlene Bard
- Kate Barker
- Dawn Bench (Welcome Center volunteer)
- Doug Becker (Marlene's son)
- Eric Berge (Paul's brother)
- Pat Bernacchi
- Jackie Brichacek (Nancy's sister-in-law)
- Andrew Calvert
- Cameron Carr (Karen Cassiday's nephew)
- Wayne Cornelius (Dan's brother)
- Holly Cummings
- Eric Dangerfield
- Jan Dugdale
- Barb Ehlen
- Gregory Foster
- Judy Gregory
- Shirleen Gulick
- Cogan Holly Hall
- Aggie Hartnell (Bert's mother)
- Christine Hill
- Sydney & Skyler Houston
- Dick Kauffman
- Rubel Pierce (Randy's father)
- Rex Reeve
- Carolyn Reynold's children Eddie, Santino, and Lytosha
- Martha, Joel, and Jeanette Sanchez
- Cynthia Schwartz (Norma's daughter)
- Patti Shields

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.
Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have

- Jill Swails
- Marcia Swanson
- Joyce Swift
- Andrew Tate
- Ron and Linda Wadham
- Steve & Heather Waldron
- Henry, Florence, and Jacqueline Walker (Carolyn's brother and sisters)
- Charles and Timothy Walker
- Dottie Watts
- Kristi Weiss
- Chris Webb (Bert's sister)
- Pam Wisse

Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers in search of a safe and stable home.

Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

P You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and chosen families in celebration. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and other ministries that assist in setting up new homes. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Blessed are you for Mary and all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy (*especially...*). Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

P Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

C **Amen.**

MEAL

blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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 birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light 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

LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us.

C **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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. 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 The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine. Come meet Christ in this meal.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)

P The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Each person may respond: Amen.

SOLO: "O Holy Night"

SONG: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

1 Infant holy, infant lowly, heaven's highest love come down

For the poor you left your glory and you laid aside your crown

Weak and helpless, here you slumber in a stable with your mother as the shepherds gather 'round

Do they know you've left your crown

2: Infant holy, infant lowly, you who once held heaven's power

now you lie here, cold and hungry in the silent midnight hour

with your parents wrapped in worry, still exhausted from their journey

you were helpless in that hour yet you set aside your power

3: Infant holy, infant lowly, king of kings and lord of lords

you have come to us with nothing, as the poorest of the poor

so we come to you in wonder, see you helpless as you slumber

And we lay our gifts before Christ the Savior, weak and poor

CCLI Song # 7186106. Isaac Wardell | Kate Bluett | Paul Zach

Words: © 2021 Integrity's Alleluia! Music; Kate Bluett For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 21946728

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING GOSPEL: John 1:1-5

P The Good News according to John:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

CANDLE LIGHTING CAROL: “*Silent Night, Holy Night!*” (ELW #281)

1: *Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and*

child.

*Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.*

2: *Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!*

3: *Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.*

SENDING

BLESSING

P Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ✚ through the Word made flesh.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: “*Go Tell It on the Mountain*” (ELW #290)

Refrain: *Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!*

1: *While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,*

*behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.* Refrain

2: *The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.* Refrain

3: *Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.* Refrain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission: annual permit #GAS017083



Poinsettias are given

By Julie Newhouse in memory of Davin Misurzelli

By Paula & Randy Pierce in memory of Paula's mother, Charlotte Prothro

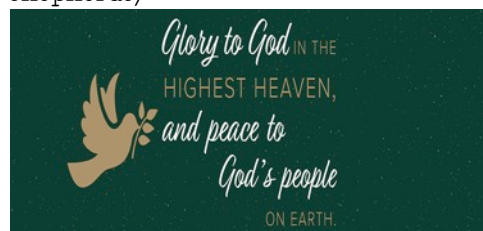
By David & Janice Riutta in memory of Ruth & Wes Riutta

Opportunities This Year at Grace

Sunday, December 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>		Pastor Barker at church	
	4:30 pm	Candle light service	sanctuary/Facebook
	7:00 pm	NA	Rainbow Room
Monday, December 25 <i>Christmas Day</i>		No Welcome Center volunteers or Prayer group	
Tuesday, December 26 <i>St. Stephen</i>		Paul in office 9:00-2:00	
	8:00 am - noon	Welcome Center volunteers	lower level
	4:00 - 5:30 pm	Welcome Center food pantry	courtyard, back of lot
Wednesday, December 27		Paul in office 9:00-2:00.	
Thursday, December 28 <i>Holy Innocents</i>		Paul in office 9:00-2:00	
	8:30-9:15 am	Welcome Center breakfast	Rainbow room
	2:00 - 5:00 pm	Infant Moses diaper ministry	
Friday, December 29		Call ahead to see whether Paul is in office	
	8:30-9:15 am	Welcome Center breakfast	Rainbow room
Saturday, December 30			
Sunday, December 31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>		Pastor Barker at church	
	9:30 pm	Worship service	sanctuary/Facebook
	10:44 am	Worship planners meeting	office
	7:00 pm	NA	Rainbow Room

Presiding Bishop Eaton's 2023 Christmas Message

In the Gospel according to Luke we hear the angels say to the shepherds,



At this time of the year, perhaps our longing for peace is even more acute. We know the world isn't right. Nevertheless,

we wait for and trust in Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

The angels proclaimed, "Peace on Earth. Good tidings we bring." We pray for peace in our world and in our communities. Every week we take time during worship to greet one another with the message of peace. We reach out, grasping hands across pews, across the aisle. Some may walk to other areas of the sanctuary to give a message of peace to a neighbor or a visitor.

"The peace of Christ be with you."

"And also with you."

We share the peace, the love of God, and as we do, we know that God has reached from heaven to earth and, in the Prince of Peace, is sharing God's peace with us. In this season and all year round, may the peace of Christ be with you.

Merry Christmas, dear church.

-Elizabeth C. Eaton

Pastor Barker will be away from the office Tuesday through Friday this week. Pastor Kevin Beebe will be covering one last time for him those days; in case of pastoral emergency, please contact him at 262-612-3790.

Thank you to Bert and Brian Felland for giving the altar flowers and sponsoring Sunday bulletins in December!

Thank you, Sister Dawn and the rest of the volunteers who decorated our sanctuary! Thank you for leading us in Advent worship with these beautiful decorations!

Worship planners will meet after the morning service next Sunday, December 31.

L'Arche's January meeting will be on Monday the 8th at 6:30 p.m.

Krisan Knapp has let us know that she will step down as our Treasurer in 2024. She is willing to help train the next Treasurer before she steps down. Please let Pastor or somebody else on Council know if you are interested in being our church Treasurer.

We invite everyone to sit in the first eight pews on each side of the sanctuary—this will make the acoustics of our congregational singing much stronger. When we gathered in the courtyard over the summer, it sounded like everyone was singing—that's because there was less space between us. We won't make you move, but ask that you prayerfully consider doing this.

Attendance December 17: ≥28

December 17 offerings/receipts:

General.....	\$ 2,085.00
Benevolence	\$ 180.00
Christmas	\$ 45.00
Grace Welcome Center.....	\$ 60.00
Infant Moses diaper ministry	\$ 20.00
From friends:	
General.....	\$ 20.00
Grace Welcome Center.....	\$ 112.37
Pastor's benefits package.....	\$200.00
Grant for Infant Moses ministry	\$ 1,000.00
Internet transaction fees.....	(\$ 2.74)
<u>Total.....</u>	<u>\$ 3,719.63</u>
Weekly budget:	\$2,671.70

We are now at GraceLutheranKenosha on Facebook — the page with the mustard sprout icon.

Grace Welcome Center is in need of two breakfast cooks on Thursday and Friday mornings. Email Denise at DRussell.GraceWelcomeCenter@gmail.com for more details.

Memory Verse

We sing joyful songs at Christmas to celebrate Jesus' birth. Who sang the first Christmas carol? Angels!

Use the code to find out the words the angels shared with the shepherds!

" n _ _ _ b _ _ afrai _ _ _ f _ _ r see I am
 bringing y _ _ u _ _ _ d news of _ _ r _ _ at j _ _ y for all
 the p _ _ pl _ _ : to y _ _ u is b _ _ m _ _ is _ _ ay in
 _ _ _ _ _ ci _ _ y of _ _ avi _ _ , a Savi _ _ r." Luke 2:10-11

" _ _ l _ _ ry _ _ _ _ _ d in _ _ _ _ _
 _ _ i _ _ _ _ s _ _ ." Luke 2:14a

Did You Know?

The shepherds appear only in the Gospel of Luke. (Check out Luke 2:8-20.) Matthew is the only Gospel that describes the visit of the wise men. (Read Matthew 2:1-12.) Mark and John's gospels introduce John before they introduce Jesus. We have to read the Christmas story in all 4 Gospels to see the big picture.

🔔 = G 🌸 = H 🌸 = O 🌸 = T 🌸 = D 🔔 = E

Spark: Activate Faith Bulletin copyright © 2011 Sparkhouse. All rights reserved. May be reproduced for local use provided every copy carries this notice.

CHRISTMAS EVE