

Grace Lutheran Church  
2006 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140  
Sunday, January 7, 2024  
Baptism of Our Lord Sunday  
Pastor: Rev. Jonathan Barker  
Musicians: Gracie, Samuel & David Underwood  
Lay reader: Judy Gregory  
ASL interpreter: Dottie Watts  
Communion assistants: Bert Felland & Judy Gregory  
Projectionist: Jarlene Kriehn  
Phone 262-654-9143 email graceoffice@wi.rr.com



## GATHERING

### AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME STATEMENT

- P** Let us affirm our welcome statement.
- C** Grace Lutheran Church commits to live as a community of people seeking reconciliation and wholeness in our life together and in our ongoing outreach to the world. We commit to the work of anti-racism, anti-ableism, liberation, and environmental justice for all of God's beloveds.

We affirm the sacredness of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. We affirm the sacredness of all those who have experienced exclusion because of race, culture, disability, age, or physical demeanor. We affirm the sacredness of those who wrestle with addiction, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us.

You are absolutely invited to share your gifts as you join us in this lifelong journey. We welcome and embrace all who are seeking God's love and grace. We need each other and our sincere hope is by being in community together we will know the kin-dom of God has come near.

### GATHERING SONG: "Take It Easy"

Chorus: *Take it easy easy God loves you completely  
Take it easy easy Rest in the shade of his wings.*

1: *Lay down your burdens and rest for a while*

*The shepherd who  
seeks you is  
gentle and kind*

*There's nothing to pay for and nothing to earn  
And nothing you have to become.* Chorus

2: *Lay down the scales where you weigh out your  
life*

*The measures are empty. Just leave them behind  
The distance between his two hands are enough  
To tell you the depths of his love.* Chorus

3: *Lay down the armor you brought to the fight  
Lay down your weapons and lay down your strife  
God's on your side and he won't let you go  
He already loves who you are  
Won't ask you to be something more.* Chorus, twice

Coda: *Rest in the shade of his wings.* Repeat

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### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## WORD

GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

**P** The holy gospel according to Mark.

## **C** Glory to you, O Lord.

**J**ohn the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "After me the one who is more powerful than I is coming, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but the one who is coming will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

## **C** Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON** — Rev. Jonathan Barker

### **HYMN OF THE DAY: "We Abide We Abide in You"**

**1: We are the vineyard You have planted**

*Tend our leaves and wild branches:*

*we abide, we abide in You.*

*We abide, we abide in You.*

**2: Fruit growing from our strength and labor**

*Rain on us with grace and favor*

*We abide we abide in You*

*We abide we abide in You*

**Chorus: Where can my soul find living water**

*Apart from You we bear no fruit*

*O plant my feet down by the river*

*We abide we abide in You*

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### **VERSE: "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.*

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## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**P** As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders (*church leaders may be named*) to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace,

### **C** receive our prayer.

**P** Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace,

### **C** receive our prayer.

**P** Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace,

### **C** receive our prayer.

**P** Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering, *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
  - Norma Larson
  - Rubel Pierce (Randy's father)
  - Rex Reeve
  - Carolyn Reynold's children Eddie, Santino, and Lytosh
  - Martha, Joel, and Jeanette Sanchez
  - Cynthia Schwartz (Norma's daughter)
  - Patti Shields
  - 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
  - Chris Webb (Bert's sister)
  - Florence Weiske
  - Kristi Weiss
  - Pam Wisse
- God of grace,

**C receive our prayer.**

**P** Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace,

**C receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**P** Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace,

**C receive our prayer.**

**P** Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

## PEACE

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MEAL

### OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**C Amen.**

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

**P** Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might. 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 preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance 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** We pray our common prayer that Christ taught us.

***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 debts  
 As we forgive our debtors  
 And lead us not into temptation  
 But deliver us from evil  
 For thine is the kingdom  
 The power and the glory forever  
 And ever. Amen*

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**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P** At Jesus’ table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

**COMMUNION** (ELW p. 25)

**P** The body of Christ, given for you.  
 The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
 R7 Amen.

**COMMUNION SONG: “Now Behold the Lamb” vv. 1-2** (ELW #341)

1: *Now behold the Lamb,  
 the precious Lamb of God,  
 who bore all my sin, that I may live again:  
 the precious Lamb of God.*

2: *Holy is the Lamb,  
 the precious Lamb of God.  
 Why you love me so, Lord, I shall never know;  
 the precious Lamb of God.*

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**SONG: “Deep Peace” (ACS #1018)**

*Deep peace of the running waves,  
 deep peace of the flowing air,  
 deep peace of the shining stars to you,  
 deep peace of the quiet earth.*

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**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Giver of every gift, Christ’s body is our food, and we are Christ’s body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

**Deep Peace (All Creation Sings #1018)**

Deep peace of the run - ning waves, deep peace of the  
 flow - ing air, deep peace of the shin - ing stars to  
 you, deep peace of the qui - et earth.

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## SENDING

### BLESSING OF AARON

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and **+** give you peace.

**C** Amen

**SENDING SONG: "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" vv. 1-3 & 5 (ELW #779)**

1: *Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.*

2: *'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear*

*the hour I first believed!*

3: *Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

5: *When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.*

### DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

**C** Thanks be to God!

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Thank you to Paula and Randy Pierce for sponsoring Sunday bulletins in January!

Grace Lutheran Church's annual congregational meeting is scheduled after the worship service on Sunday, February 11. Council members and service groups are asked to submit their reports to the church office ([graceoffice@wi.rr.com](mailto:graceoffice@wi.rr.com)) before Wednesday, January 31, so that members can pick up copies of the annual report on February 4.

We need readers for Sunday, January 14. Our service will involve excerpts from some of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s most famous speeches. The speeches and writings include excerpts from: a.) his first speech during the Montgomery Bus Boycott b.) Strength to Love c.) Letter from a Birmingham Jail d.) Beyond Vietnam e.) Poor People's Campaign

L'Arche meets this Monday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m.



We are having several celebrations at Grace in the weeks ahead. On Sunday January 21, we will celebrate Brother Greg's and Zeiah's birthday at Grace. Come for this joyful day of celebrating. (No gifts are

required or expected for Zeiah, but if you are inclined to give him a gift, please consider a financial gift that can be put towards his college fund).

Please Join Us and  
Take the Chill Out of Winter

- Sample Craft Beer
- Sip on Local Wines
- Enjoy Delicious Comfort Food
- Live Music by The Lonely Ninjas

Friday, January 26th 6pm-8pm  
Todd Wehr Center – Carthage College  
Use Upper South Parking Lot

Cost - \$70 per Person

Reserve a spot online by January 19th  
at [www.elcaoutreachcenter.org](http://www.elcaoutreachcenter.org) or  
call the center at 262-652-5545

Send checks to ELCA Outreach Center  
6218 - 26th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53143

On Sunday, February 4, we will have a potluck to celebrate Council President Dawn Houston. She is finishing up her council term this month. She has been VP or council president for the last 11 years at Grace, and we want to celebrate this historic tenure. Please sign up to bring dishes.

Our compressor went out on the upstairs part of our HVAC system. This is an essential part of the system and must be repaired. The repair cost is \$4,100. We appreciate everyone who has generously donated towards this repair already, and we hope those who have not donated will consider making a donation—every donation helps get this paid for.

Krisan Knapp has let us know that she will step down as our Treasurer this year. 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.

Attendance December 31:  $\geq 25$

December 31 offerings/receipts:

General .....	\$ 1,994.00
Benevolence.....	\$ 10.00
Altar flowers .....	\$ 180.00
Bulletins .....	\$ 90.00
Compressor repair .....	\$ 700.00
Postage.....	\$ 5.00
From non-members:	
General offering.....	\$ 370.00
In honor of Connie Ferwerda.....	\$ 1,041.44
<u>Minus internet banking fees .....</u>	<u>\$ (72.28)</u>
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 4,318.16</b>
2023 weekly budget:	\$2,671.70

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

Grace Welcome Center has a part-time opening for a Fund Development Coordinator. GWC is also in need of two breakfast cooks on Thursday and Friday mornings. Email Denise at DRussell.GraceWelcomeCenter@gmail.com for more details.

### Opportunities This Week at Grace

<b>Sunday, January 7</b> <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	Pastor Barker at church <b>9:30 am</b> <b>Worship service</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> <b>NA</b>	sanctuary/Facebook Rainbow Room
<b>Monday, January 8</b>	Pastor Barker at church <b>9:00 am - noon</b> <b>Welcome Center volunteers</b> <b>9:00 am</b> <b>Prayer group</b> <b>6:30-8:00 pm</b> <b>l'Arche</b>	lower level library narthex
<b>Tuesday, January 9</b>	Pastor Barker at church. Paul in office 9:00-2:00 <b>8:00 am - noon</b> <b>Welcome Center volunteers</b> <b>4:00 - 5:30 pm</b> <b>Welcome Center food pantry</b>	lower level courtyard, parking lot
<b>Wednesday, January 10</b>	Pastor Barker at home. Paul in office 9:00-2:00.	
<b>Thursday, January 11</b>	Pastor Barker at home. Paul in office 9:00-2:00 <b>8:30-9:15 am</b> <b>Welcome Center breakfast</b> <b>2:00 - 5:00 pm</b> <b>Infant Moses diaper ministry</b>	Rainbow room
<b>Friday, January 12</b>	Pastor Barker at home. Paul in office 9:00-2:00 <b>8:30-9:15 am</b> <b>Welcome Center breakfast</b>	Rainbow room
<b>Saturday, January 13</b> <i>St. Knut</i>	Pastor Barker at church	
<b>Sunday, January 14</b>	Pastor Barker at church <b>9:30 am</b> <b>Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. service</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> <b>NA</b>	sanctuary/Facebook Rainbow Room