

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
December 11, 2022

Light Shines in the Darkness

Intergenerational Christmas Program

December 11, 2022

Welcome to worship! During the days of Advent, we hope that you can reflect on this worship experience. We have gathered together so that we can share the light of Christ with each other, as the darkness of the world grows .

The season of Advent is a time of preparation for the expected Messiah, who came in an unexpected way, as the baby Jesus. The color of the season is blue like the night sky, representing the Christ who is called Dayspring, which means source of day.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Prelude

*Softly in the Morning
Stepping Lightly*

JC Dare
JC Dare

Grace Notes Bell Choir

Welcome

Light Shines in the Darkness

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:5

Pastor Ken Scheck II

Confession and Forgiveness

Arise in body or spirit

- P** We have sinned and fall short of God's Glory.
- C** **Let us turn to God who saves.**

- A** As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,
- C** **let us open our hearts to God.**

- P** Beloved children of the Most High, we are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on all. Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven in the name of the one who is coming and is already here, + Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C** **Amen**

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- ☐ The grace of God who enters our desert world, the holy and living One, Jesus Christ who brings gladness and the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us, be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us Pray... Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God.
- ☑ **Strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

A Season of Light

God is light, and because this is true, there is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5

Lydia Markwart

Advent Song

“As We Make our Advent Journey”

tune ELW #269

I

**As we make our Advent journey,
let us walk as in the Lord.
Pilgrims with a holy calling
trav’ling, strengthened by God’s word,
toward the stable, toward the manger,
toward the gift of God made flesh.**

II

**In the desert, blooms and blossoms
mark the Way of Holiness.
As we travel with rejoicing
strengthen, ransomed, undistressed.
Now restored by water springing,
in the Lord, we new begin.**

Let There Be Light

In the beginning..., the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep..., Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. Genesis 1:1-3

Sandy Mostellar

Grace Notes Bell Choir

A Christmas Lullaby

arr. B. Ingram

Let Your Light Shine

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

Ed Markwart

Song of Sharing

Go Light Your World

Chris Rice
Mary Kuhlman & Kate Watson, Duet

God's Holy Fire

There the angel of the Lord appeared to *Moses* in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed... When the Lord saw that *Moses* turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, *Moses, Moses!*... And *Moses* hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Exodus 3:2, 4, 6

Bill Freedlund

1 My soul is filled with joy as I
 2 I am low - ly as a child, but I do
 3 I pro-claim the power of God, you do

sing to God my Sav-ior: you have looked up-on your
 know from this day for-ward that my name will be re -
 mar - vels for your ser-vants; though you scat - ter the proud -

ser - vant, you have vis - i - ted your peo-ple.
 mem-bered, for all will call me bless-ed.
 heart - ed, and de - stroy the might of princ-es.

Refrain D G D G
 And ho - ly is your name through all gen - er -

a-tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your mer-cy to the
 peo - ple you have cho-sen, and ho - ly is your
 name.

4 To the hungry you give food,
 send the rich away__ empty.
 In your mercy you are mindful
 of the people you have chosen.
Refrain

5 In your love you now fulfill
 what you promised to your people.
 I will praise you Lord, my Savior,
 everlasting is your mercy.
Refrain

Led by the Light

The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. Exodus 13:21

Liz Markwart

Piano Solo

Shine, Jesus Shine

Graham Kendrick
Kristi Winick

The Lord is My Light

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? Psalm 27:1

Gwen Hansen

Hymn of the Day

Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW 726

The Light of Life

Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12

Lydia Markwart

Pay Attention

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East...set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was....On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Matthew 2:1, 9, 11

Pastor Ken Scheck

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

▲ As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

▲ Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Augustana Lutheran Church, Tustin; Saint Andrew and Matthias Anglican Church, Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* We lift our hearts to you,

☞ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

▲ Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. We lift our hearts to you,

☞ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

▲ Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke).* We lift our hearts to you,

☞ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

▲ Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss. Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. We lift our hearts to you,

☞ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Ⓐ Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. We pray especially for *Frances Ann, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Keith Busheé, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Victor Crowder, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Greg Franks, Bill Frutiger, Mike Gibbons, Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Larry Hansen, Henry Heil, David Hills, Mike Kemper, Norma Ludlow, Alexis Markwart, Mattea Markwart, Terri Neeb, Ken Plourde, Annette Poholski, Cynthia Rudesill (pregnancy), Al Throop, Lindsay Varkula (pregnancy), and Maryellen Wammock.* We lift our hearts to you,

☞ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Ⓐ Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. We lift our hearts to you,

☞ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Ⓐ Be attentive, gracious God, to the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we rejoice that all who die in Christ are raised to new life. We thank you for the lives of those who have prepared the way for us and have now joined the great cloud of witnesses. We lift our hearts to you,

☞ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Ⓟ You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name.

☞ **Amen.**

Offering Prayer

Ⓐ 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. Amen**

Sharing the Peace of God

Ⓟ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☞ **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

For All People

In 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.” Luke 2:8-11

Vickey Argo

Great Thanksgiving

☐ The Lord be with you.

☑ **And also with you.**

☐ Lift up your hearts.

☑ **We lift them to the Lord.**

☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☑ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

☐ It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. 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 again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Table Prayer

☐ Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

☑ **You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

☒ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

☒ Remembering, therefore, Christ's life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

☒ **By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want.**

☒ By this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

☒ **Through Christ all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen**

Lord's Prayer

☒ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☒ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.**

Amen.

Invitation to Communion

☒ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

☒ **Thanks be to God.**

Communion at Grace

All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.

✠ **Bread** is served by the Pastor. **Wine** is served from a *pouring chalice*. Take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Assisting Minister. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.

✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.

✠ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.

✠ A **Verbal Blessing** may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.

✠ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the Pastor.

People, Look East!

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

ELW 248

ELW 242

Prayer after Communion

Ⓐ O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son.

☑ **By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be Christ's body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

Mission Minutes

Testify to the Light

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. John 1:6-9

Liz Markwart

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

Ⓐ God's blessing be with you, as we testify to the light, Christ's peace be with you, as we share his light and the Spirit's outpouring light be with you all, now and always.

☑ **Amen.**

Sending Song

This Little Light of Mine

ELW 677

Dismissal

Ⓐ Surrounded by God's people of every time and place, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Grace Notes Bell Choir

Siyahamba ~ Walking in the Light of God

arr. SK Tucker

*Thanks to all who made this worship
service possible!*

Grace Notes Bell Choir members: Kim Domke, Joan Hefflebower, Mike Kemper, Linda Melcher, Jan Rounds and Anita Shaw.

Assisting Minister: Mark Anton **Readers:** Pastor Ken Scheck II, Lydia Markwart, Sandy Mosteller, Ed Markwart, Bill Freedlund, Liz Markwart, Gwen Hansen, Vickey Argo **Musicians:** Clyde Watson, Cindy Olson, Grace Notes Bell Choir, Mary Kuhlman, Kate Watson, and Kristi Winick **Acolyte:** Lexie Watson **Pastor:** Ken Scheck II **Fellowship:** Jesus Birthday Party

Christmas Eve Service begins at 5:30 on Saturday, December 24th.

Christmas Day Service is at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 25th.

Christmas Family Adoptions. There is a signup sheet to help provide groceries. The grocery sign up is in the Gathering Area.

We need the following...

- 3 4-5 lb. Hams
- 2 Jugs of Laundry Soap
- 5 Packages of 6-roll pack of Toilet Paper
- 5 sets of kid-friendly Shampoo and Conditioner

*Please have grocery and gift donations to the church by **Sunday, Dec. 18th.** **THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN MINISTRY.***

The nursery is available during the 10:45 worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.

Lakewood Area Choral Society Concert The Lakewood Area Choral Society cordially invites you to its annual Christmas Concert, Hosanna In the Highest!, at Lakewood High School on **Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 p.m.** In lieu of tickets, a freewill offering will be collected.

Giving Tree for 2022 is up. Please come select a tag or two, or share a donation earmarked 2022 Giving Tree, and someone will shop for you. You may also call the church to find out what is still needed or check the Grace Facebook page for more ideas.

Managing Expectations

Last week John the Baptist was full of religious fervor, certain in his convictions, and bold in his proclamation about the role of the coming Messiah: “Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire” (Matthew 3:10).

But there was no fire. There was no chopping down of anything or anyone. Jesus had arrived and his ministry had begun, but he did *not* come bearing the ax or winnowing fork that John had predicted. Instead, he began healing the sick, casting out demons, and spending a lot of time with the very people many thought were part of the problem. John asks on behalf of his community, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” (Matt. 11:3).

John’s hope (and ours) is not in vain. But this Messiah’s redemption will not come in the way we expect. This Messiah is not a victor in a battle scene or a political coup. Instead, this Messiah is one who shows that greatness and strength are actually found in gentleness and service. It isn’t through fire that God saves the world; it is through God’s own sacrificial love. And the road to this love is not a victory parade, but the one that leads us humbly to a cleansing bath and a laden table.

To those who trust in wealth and power to set things right, what we do each Sunday must sound silly: gathering around old stories, singing and praying, sharing a little meal. How could any of this change *anything*? But for us wilderness wanderers, it is water in the desert. It is the very presence of God in our midst. Thanks be to God!

From sundaysandseasons.com.

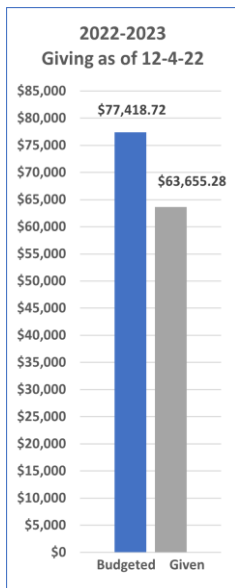
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Replace, Repair, Renew Campaign. As you can tell by the above numbers, we have paid off all of these items. We are into the Renewal phase of the campaign which has a goal of raising \$4842.00 toward a new HVAC system for the Fellowship Hall. Thanks again for your continued generosity.

Christmas Food Baskets There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area for those who wish to contribute the food basket campaign. Donations need to be dropped off at the church by Sunday, December 18. Monetary donations are also being accepted. Please place your donation in the collection plate and identify it by marking “Christmas Food Baskets” on the envelope.

Brothers of Grace will be having their annual Christmas Dinner Night Out Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at Yankee Bills Wood Fired Saloon. We hope that all of you can make it for good food and fellowship.

Stewardship Information



Attendance: 55
Weekly Giving: \$8,118.00
Renew Campaign Needed \$1,100.00
Renew Campaign Received \$ 100.00
TOTAL Outstanding \$1,000.00

Views: 276
Budget Amount: \$4,301.04

Pasty Sale \$1,687.00 and CPR \$110.00

Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. WE HAVE RETURNED TO A CHRISTMAS PROGRAM THIS YEAR! We are excited, as during the dark days of COVID 19 we had to take a break. It is good to experience God's light breaking into our darkness.

WELCOME TO ADVENT You are invited to join us for a special service on the first three Wednesdays. We gather for Frito pie, salad, rice, tortilla chips, salsa, dessert and more benefitting the ELCA National Youth Gathering at 6:30 followed by worship at 7:15 pm. This year we are having *Holden Evening Prayer with a Flare!* We hope you can join us for this unique worship and educational event. **This week we feature for our special music Barry County Flute Choir.**

Jesus Birthday Party after the 10:45 Worship Service is **TODAY**. Please join us for fun and fellowship.

Caroling for the Homebound Meet at the church **TODAY** at 1:00pm, as we set out to spread some cheer. Carpooling is available if it desired.

Outreach meets on Monday at **5:30 pm**.

Adopt-a-Family Great news! We have adopted all of the families this year! We would still like to collect money to buy these families gift cards. If you would like to help, please place your donation in the offering plate and mark "Adopt-A-Family" on the envelope. Please return your donations of gifts and grocery items to the designated Sunday School room by Sunday, Dec. 18.