

# Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2024 A.D.

4:00 PM



## GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



## NALC

North American Lutheran Church

*Christ-Centered*

*Mission-Driven*

*Traditionally-Grounded*

*Congregationally-Focused*

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# Nativity of Our Lord



**WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP** at Grace Church this morning as we gather to worship the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit in truth. As you entered the sanctuary today, you received this bulletin containing the order for worship and announcements. Please also notice the Prayer List where you will find a listing of all the known prayer concerns. You are invited to use this as a guide for your personal prayers throughout the coming week. If you need information about our congregation or if you'd like to update your information, make sure to fill out the yellow Worship Today Form and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. If you have a prayer concern, indicate that on your Worship Today Form at the bottom or on the reverse side. If you are seeking a Church Home or would like more information about Grace, please contact Pastor Doug (980)234-8848.



\* = Stand    Hymnals in Pew Rack:    LBW = Green    WOV = Blue    TCH = Burgundy

**PRELUDE**    *Please Observe Silence For Meditation*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### \* **BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

**C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: God of goodness and lovingkindness,

**C: we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

L: Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through + Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

**C: Amen.**

\* **THE GATHERING HYMN: O Come, All Ye Faithful**

**1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!**

Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him Born the king of angels:

Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

**2. Highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,**

Born of a virgin, A mortal he comes;

Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!

Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

\* **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: THE CHRIST CANDLE**

L: In preparation for this holy night, we have lit the candles of hope, peace, joy and love in anticipation of the coming of Christ the Light of the World among us. On this holy night so long ago, a star shone brightly over Bethlehem town.

**C: Christ Jesus is born. Behold the Light of the World!**

L: In fields where shepherds were watching sheep, a glorious company of angels filled the sky and sang, "Glory to God in the highest!"

**C: Christ Jesus is born. With the angels we worship the Light of the World!**

L: In a quiet cattle stall, a woman named Mary gave birth to Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.

**C: Christ Jesus is born. The Light of World has come among us.**

L: On that very night, the shepherds ran to see Jesus, their faces beaming because of what they saw.

**C: Christ Jesus is born. The Light of the World shines upon us!**

L: In the midst of this dark world, Jesus is our ray of hope. The shadows that sin casts on our world are overpowered by the brightness of God's gift.

**C: Christ Jesus is born. The Light of the World scatters the darkness.**

*We sing vs. 3 as we light the Paschal Candle & The Christ Candle*

**3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,**

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God – In the highest:

Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,

Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

L: As these candles brightly burn, and this night is filled with the Light of Christ,

**C: Let our lives be filled forever with the light of Christ's love and presence.**

\* **GREETING**

L: 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**

L: Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2–7**

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness —on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You 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. <sup>4</sup>For 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. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For 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. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will 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.**

**SECOND READING: Titus 2:11–14**

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

\* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

**1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.**

**"Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with angelic ..... hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**\* GOSPEL: Luke 2:1–20**

L: The holy gospel according to Luke. **C : Glory to you, O Lord.**

L: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

L: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You O Christ.**

**\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

**3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!**

**Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.**

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

**CHILDREN'S SERMON:** "The Sweetness of Jesus' Love" Pastor Doug  
*"Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him!"* Psalm 34:8

**SERMON:** "Thanks Be to God for God's Inexpressible Gift!" 2 Cor. 9:15

\* **HYMN:** IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR LBW 54

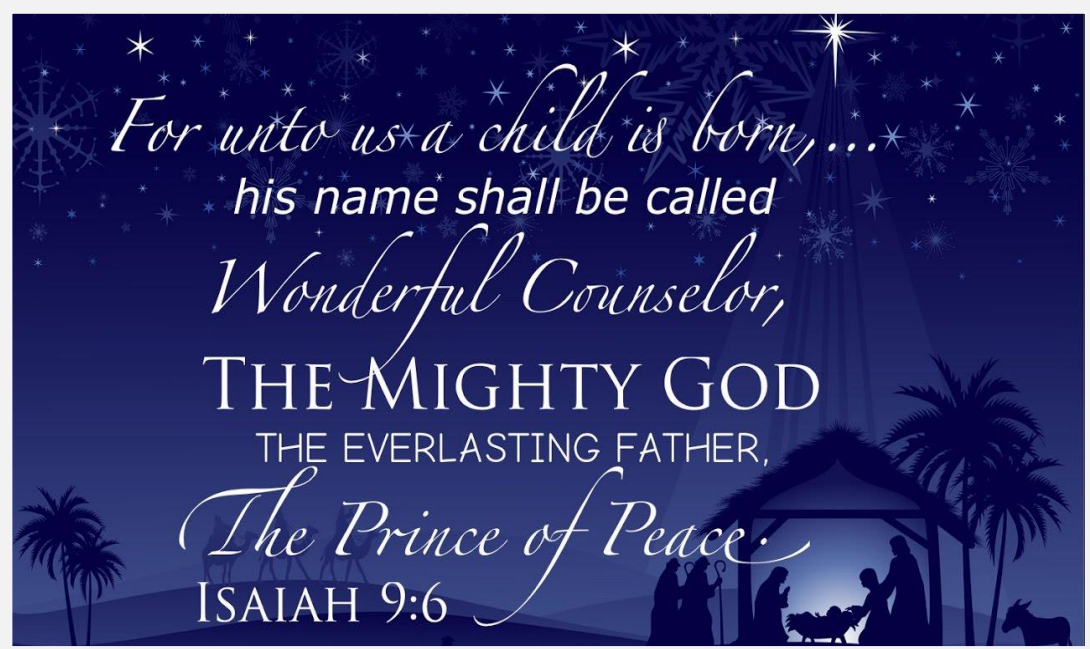
\* **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Response: L: Lord in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.

\* **SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Worshipers may greet one another with "the Peace of Christ" or similar words.*



**OFFERING**

\* **OFFERTORY:** What Feast of Love (vs.1 & 3)

Tune: Greensleeves (What Child is This?)

1. What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?

What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?

This, this is Christ the King, the bread come down from heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

3. What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?

What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?

This, this is Christ the King, the sweetest wine of heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

\* **OFFERING PRAYER**

L: 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 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. Amen.

\* **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

LBW PG. 68

\* **PREFACE AND HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

LBW PG. 69

\* **WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

LBW PG. 70-71

\* **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

L: The gifts of God for the people of God! C: Thanks be to God!

\* **COMMUNION SONG**

Lamb of God

PG.72

**COMMUNION HYMNS:**

Away in a Manger

LBW 67

The First Noel

LBW 56

\* **COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

Let us pray. Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



\* **SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHTING**

*A candle is lit from the Christ Candle and it is spread throughout the congregation by the ushers and then passed down each row.*

**The Gospel of John 1:1-14**

L: <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

L: <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

L: <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**



\* **HYMN:**                                      **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 Saviour, is born! Christ, the Saviour, is born!
3. Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
    Radiant beams from Thy Holy Face With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
    Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth! Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth!
4. Silent Night, Holy Night Here at last, healing light  
    From the heavenly kingdom sent, Abundant grace for our intent.  
    Jesus, salvation for all. Jesus, salvation for all.

\* **BLESSING**

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. **Amen**

\* **SENDING HYMN:**                                      **Go Tell it on the Mountain**                                      **LBW70**

**Chorus: 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 over silent flocks by night,  
    behold throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light. **Chorus**
2. Down in a lowly manger our humble Christ was born,  
    and God sent us salvation, that blessed Christmas morn. **Chorus**

\* **DISMISSAL**

L: May you be filled with the wonder and love of Mary, the devotion and obedience of Joseph, the joy of the shepherds, and the determination and adoration of the Magi as you celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus our Lord and proclaim the Good News in word and deed!   **C: Thanks be to God.**

### **GRACE PRAYER LIST**

**In the Grace Church Family:** Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Irene Heavner, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Harvey Leatherman, Phil & Malinda

Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Michael, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Scott & Carolyn Whisnant, Nancy Willis

**Nursing Home:** Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Ted Whisnant (Trinity Village)

**Friends and Relatives in our Prayers:** Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Bobby Aderholdt, Jimmy Aderholdt, LeAnn Buckwell, Patsy Bumgardner, Caleb Bumgarner & Family, Becky Cartee, Jessica Cassels & Family, Evelyn Childers, Dennis D'Alessio, Guy Franzen, Stormy Geter, Wendy Hannah, J.C., Rebecca Speagle Jackson, Lily Rose, Alyssa McCary, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Katie Patton, Ray Porter, Angela Sanford, Anita Sabino, Marc Sigmon, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, Nathan Starnes, Monica Thomas, United States of America; Faye White, and especially the families of those who have given their lives in the service of our country and those who continue to protect our freedoms and for all members of our Armed Forces.

**Family and Friends of:** Elizabeth Grace Hefner

(Names are left on the prayer list for 30 days unless the office is notified otherwise.)



## Poinsettia Donations Christmas 2024



### In Loving Honor of:

- Kara, Rhyan, Emma & Elena Causby and Chris & Kristina Gorman
- Phil & Malinda Leatherman
- Arlene Klinger
- Our Children & Grandchildren
- Glenda Childers
- Larry Heavner & Betty Matheson
- Brian, Kevin, Ruben & Mark Beatty
- Our Grandchildren
- Harvey Leatherman
- Bill & Joy Heavner
- The Shull Family
- Jonathan, Aaron, Landon, Jaxon, Corbin and Jodi Moss

Wayne & Sandra Powell

Todd & Susan Setzer

Jason Yoder

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Todd Childers

Irene Heavner

Sandi Tallant

Herb & Libby Travis

Kim, Karen & Gary

Don & Nicky Jarrett

Alan & Stormy Shull

Jane Moss

### In Loving Memory of:

- Hugh & Carol Setzer
- Franklin & Libby Jarrett

Todd & Susan Setzer

Gene & Frankie Crouse & Chris Jarrett

- Harold & Jo Ann Crouse
- Wallace Carney
- Our Parents
- Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Hatchett  
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Carpenter
- Dennis Yoder
- Our Parents
- Pate & Bobbie Brendle
- Robert & Della Heavner
- Randall Childers
- James & Hazel Medlin
- Randall Childers
- James & Hazel Medlin
- Randall Childers
- James & Hazel Medlin
- Tommy & Faye Childers
- Glenn Heavner
- Rachel Heavner
- Richard Tallant
- Chuck & Frieda Carpenter
- Our Grandparents
- Helen Leatherman
- Janice Hall and Alvie & Peggy Hall
- Donald Hall & Mavis Hall
- Jimmy & Geraldine Jarrett
- David & Odessa Whisnant
- Tim Sherrill
- Pete & Betty Snipes
- Adkin & Grace Shull
- Dr. Donald Garrow &  
Helen Leatherman
- Annie Whitener Cansler &  
Bob Heavner
- Johnny Moss

- Gene & Frankie Crouse
- Jason Yoder
- Allen & Sherry Biggerstaff
- Allen & Kay Hatchett
- Allen & Kay Hatchett
- Jack & Betty Wilfong
- Jack & Betty Wilfong
- David & Belinda Wilfong
- David & Belinda Wilfong
- Bruce & Lisa Fox
- Bruce & Lisa Fox
- Glenda Childers
- Glenda Childers
- Todd Childers
- Todd Childers
- Todd Childers
- Debra Hefner & Patty Little
- Debra Hefner & Patty Little
- Sandi Tallant
- Sandi Tallant
- Herb & Libby Travis
- Kim, Karen & Gary
- James Hall
- James Hall
- Don & Nicky Jarrett
- Phil & Malinda Leatherman
- Alan & Stormy Shull
- Alan & Stormy Shull
- Alan & Stormy Shull
- Dan & Tricia Panek
  
- Bill & Joy Heavner
  
- Jane Moss
  
- Joe & Lynette Momier

**Given to the Glory of God:**



## COMING UP AT GRACE

**Wednesday - Friday** Church Office Closed

**Next Sunday:**       **FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
9:30am – Sunday School  
10:30am - Worship Celebration

The Ministers.....	The People of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor .....	Doug Hefner
Organist.....	Sandi Tallant
Administrative Assistant .....	Kristi Tucker
Leadership Board President .....	Tim Eckard
Youth Leader .....	Stormy Shull
Lector .....	Stormy Shull
Communion Assistants.....	Rick & Cindy Bivens
Ushers .....	David Wilfong & Jack Wilfong
Altar Preparation.....	Herb & Libby Travis
Offering Tabulators .....	Todd Childers & Sheila Drum
Custodian .....	Chris Abernethy

