



DID YOU
KNOW?

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Serving the Portland Area
With the Means of Grace
As a family of believers
For almost 110 years...

As a Church
As a School
As a Preschool
As a Mission
As a Ministry
As a Family of Ministries



A Family of Ministries For Christian
Worship, Education and Care

Church Campus
7610 NE Fremont Street
Pastor Thad Bitter
503.290.6316 – call/text

School Campus
2252 SE 92nd Street
Principal Justin Eternick
920.988.1999 – call/text
ECE Director Tammy Godish
503.312.4230 – call/text

Advent 4 / GLS Children's Christmas – December 20th, 2020

Welcome!

GRACE ~ *“I am not ashamed of the gospel...”*



When it comes to the truth of Scripture, there is no room for compromise. The Bible is the book we live by... for life now and for life forever. We accept the Bible as the pure Word of God. We believe that our only Savior is Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, who was crucified, died, and was buried but rose again to open the door to heaven for everyone who believes in him.

GRACE ~ *“These are written that you may believe...”*



Grace Lutheran Church has served the Portland area for 110 years by faithfully preaching and teaching the timeless truth of God's Word. We believe that God uses the timeless message of Word and Sacraments to bring souls into his care. This is a message that we share here and around the world through our affiliation with the WELS.

GRACE ~ *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...”*



Grace Lutheran Church exists to win souls by joyfully proclaiming the truth of God's grace through Christ, to nurture believers in growing in faith and lives of Christian service, and to join together in worship and praise. **“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever! Amen.” 2 Pt. 3:1**

Song – Kindergarten

“Who Is This Child We Worship?”

Opening Hymn: CW #55

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

*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.*

*God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
Only begotten Son of God the Father.
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

*Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, All glory in the highest.
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

Congregation rises.

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,
Word 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.*

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

C: **Amen.**

OUR CONFESSION

M: Unto us the Christ is born:

C: **Oh, come, let us worship him.**

M: Let us worship with our children as they tell the story of his birth:

C: **O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise.**

M: Let us worship with the angels, and sing praise to the Lord who came to save us:

C: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.**

M: Let us worship with the shepherds and tell every person about the Child, our Savior.

C: **Christ the Lord, our Savior, everlasting God and Mary's Son, we praise you forever.**

M: With the joy of God's promise we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. Jesus has paid for your sins and the sins of the world. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

C: **God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God.**

GOD'S ABSOLUTION

M: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt. Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him.

C: **And we are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for we are receiving the end result of our faith, the salvation of our souls.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

M: We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

C: **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

M: We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

C: **We light our Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

Sermon:

Luke 1:26-38; 1 Timothy 3:16a

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great: He appeared in the flesh!

Grades 5-8 Song:

"Mary, Did You Know?"

Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

PART 1: THE PROPHECIES FORETOLD JESUS' BIRTH

Narrator:

Did you know that it's already been more than two thousand years since that first Christmas? Imagine how many things have changed since then! You may not even realize what that night in Bethlehem was like. Today we would like to take you back to the first Christmas to get a better idea of what Jesus' birthday really was like. Most people know about nine months in advance that they are going to have a baby. But did you know that people knew about Jesus' coming at least three thousand years before he was actually born? The first time people heard about Jesus was when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, which meant all mankind would be sinful humans for the rest of time. The only way to solve this problem was to have a Savior come into the world, live a perfect life, and die for us. Genesis 3:15 has the first promise of a Savior.

Congregation:

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

Narrator:

But that's not the only time God promised this gift. There are many other times in the Old Testament where we hear about the Savior that would come to rescue us. For example, we read about it in Genesis chapter 49 when God tells us that the Savior would come from Judah's line of descendants.

Congregation:

Genesis 49:10

The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.

Narrator:

Another time God told Isaiah that the mother of Jesus, Mary, would be a virgin.

Congregation:

Isaiah 7:14

The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Narrator:

Later in the Old Testament the prophet Micah says that the Savior would not be born in a castle or some huge city, but, rather, he would be born in a small town called Bethlehem.

Congregation:

Micah 5:2

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

Narrator:

Over the course of almost four thousand years God gave this promise many times, and we are reminded again and again that God kept his promise then and he still keeps his promises today.

Congregation, Hymn #23:

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel!”

*Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!*

*Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save, And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!*

*Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!*

*Oh, come, O Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!*

PART 2: THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Narrator:

Did you know that it's about 80 miles from Nazareth, where Mary and Joseph lived, to Bethlehem? That's about how far it is from Milwaukee to Madison. It would only take us about an hour and a half to get there, but it may have taken Mary and Joseph a week to walk that distance! We hear more about their journey in Luke chapter 2.

Congregation:

Luke 2:1-5

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Narrator:

Can you imagine what that trip might have felt like for Mary? She was just about to have a baby! We can imagine that the only way she could have endured that kind of a trip at that point of her pregnancy was by God's grace. We can be comforted, as I'm sure Mary was, by the words of Psalm 46:1: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Luke continues by telling us of Jesus' birth.

Congregation:**Luke 2:6-7**

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Narrator:

Did you notice that the Bible doesn't actually say that Jesus was born in a barn? It says that he was placed in a manger, or feeding trough, for animals. These words tell us that Jesus was not born in a palace where a king normally would have begun his life. Instead, we see how Christ willingly began his life in a place where not even a poor individual would be born.

Grades 1-2 Song:**"Away in a Manger"****PART 3: THE SHEPHERDS HEAR ABOUT THE BIRTH OF JESUS****Narrator:**

Did you know that shepherds at this time were very low in society? The only thing they were trusted with was the sheep! Isaiah even compares them to nomads, people who wander from one place to another. Usually when a baby is born, all the important people hear about it first: Grandma, Grandpa, aunts, uncles, and so on. But God chose these lowly shepherds to be the first to hear this wonderful message. Why? Perhaps using these men shows us that this is news everyone should hear! Let us hear how the angels gave them the exciting message from Luke 2:8-20

Congregation:

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

Narrator:

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

Congregation:

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

Narrator:

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Congregation:

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Narrator:

Did you hear how everyone responded to this news? The angels praised God in a united chorus, the shepherds ran to spread the news, and Mary treasured these things in her heart. As you can see, there are many different ways to show your excitement on this special day. How are you going to share the message?

Grades 3-4 Song:

“Holy Jesus, Child”

PART 4: THE WISE MEN ARE LED TO THE SAVIOR**Narrator:**

This message was proclaimed to the simplest of men, the shepherds, but it was also shared with some very important and intelligent men, the Magi from the east. Unfortunately, there is a lot we don’t know about the Magi. We don’t know exactly when they came to worship Jesus, we don’t know how many there were, and we don’t know what country they came from. The Magi may have left their homes on

the day Jesus was born, but we know, based on certain facts the Bible gives us, that they didn't arrive in Judea until at least a few months after his birth. Perhaps this shows us the importance of praising Jesus throughout the year, not just on Christmas! We also are told that the Magi came from the east; however, the Bible doesn't tell us which country. This is a story that every person on earth needs to hear. Matthew recorded this event.

Congregation:

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh."

Grades 5-8 Song:

"What Gift Can I Bring?"

PART 5: THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS IS FOR ALL

Narrator:

Did you know that Jesus didn't have to come into the world? After Adam and Eve fell into sin God could have just called it quits and started over. But instead, Jesus left his heavenly kingdom to be born on this earth. He lived a perfect life here on earth, he died on the cross, and he rose three days later. And he did it all because he loves us. God wants us to share this amazing news with the rest of the world. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples:

Congregation:

Matthew 28:19

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Narrator:

Did you also know that Christ will return again someday? In the last book of the Bible, Jesus says, "I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star. . . Yes, I am coming soon". As we look forward to his return, we thank him, praise him, and serve him, using the gifts he has blessed us with to share this news with the people who surround us.

*What child is this who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the Son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through; The cross he'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the Son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings Salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high; The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the Son of Mary!*

OUR THANKSGIVING

Offering

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Prayer of the Church

M: Dearest Jesus, hear our humble prayer this Christmas. We confess that all the words we speak and sing to your glory this day fall short of the praise we sinners owe to you. For you are our God, who left your throne in heaven to appear here in lowliness as our Savior. A stable was your first home; a manger, your first bed. Yet, for our sakes, you endured far deeper humiliation than this: for you came to bear the cross, the shame, the suffering, and even the death which we sinners deserve for our sins. We thank you for coming here and sharing our human nature. You did this that we might share your glory and immortality in heaven. We thank you for the joy of being saved and for the privilege of living our lives for you. And we thank you, that from the mouths of children this morning, we could hear again the precious story of your birth, and rejoice again in the heavenly peace announced by the angels.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Benediction

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.

Closing Hymn: "Joy to the World" (CW 62)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let ev'ry heart prepare him room

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ,

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows 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.

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.