



Grace Lutheran 1883-2023

*Baptism of Our Lord ~ January 7, 2024*  
**Grace Lutheran Church Welcomes You to Worship**

*Contemporary Service ~ 11 am*  
*202 Second Street SE, Watertown, South Dakota*  
**Web Site: [glcwn.org](http://glcwn.org) ~ [gracelc@midconetwork.com](mailto:gracelc@midconetwork.com)**  
*Church Office: 605-886-5737*  
*Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett ~ 605-237-1501*

**PRELUDE**

**Congregation responses in Bold Print**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*inspired by Mark 1:4-11*)

The heavens open. The Spirit descends. **Jesus emerges from the water.**  
And a voice echoes through the blue expanse.

**"This is my child, the Beloved, with whom I am well-pleased."**

Jesus is named. Claimed.

**We come to the water. We remember we are named. Claimed.**

Can it be so? What a thing to be named. Claimed.

**Let us worship the one who names and claims us still.**

**GATHERING SONG: "Baptized in Water" ELW 456**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Baptism of Our Lord** (*Inspired by Mark 1:9-11*)

We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires.

**Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance.**

**Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (*Inspired by Mark 1:9-11*)

The love of God is always offered to you, freely, joyfully, for all eternity.

Rejoice, dear friends, this is the Good News of our Lord that was poured over you in your baptism. You are forgiven, a child of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Let us pray... **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. Amen.

**SHARING OF THE PEACE:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you. *(We greet you all in peace.)*

**OFFERING FOR THE MISSION AND MINISTRY of Grace Lutheran Church**

**SONG of OFFERING:** "Song of Offering"

**OFFERING PRAYER:**

Let us pray... **Almighty God, who made us who we are, we offer all of ourselves to You. Take our talents, our energy and our joy, and use us to share Your love to bring Your healing to the world. Take what we have gathered here, and magnify the gifts we offer before You today, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen**

**FIRST READING:** Genesis 1:1-5 Pew Bible p 1

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 40: 1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

**PRAISE SONG:** "Alleluia (*I am the Light*)

**SECOND READING:** Acts 19:1-7 Pew Bible p 903

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S TIME

**GOSPEL LEAD-IN: ALLELUIA** (DR p 101 Blue)

**GOSPEL: Mark 1: 4-11**      **Pew Bible p 812**

*Response Before: Glory to you, O Lord. After: Praise to you, O Christ.*

## MESSAGE

**SONG OF THE DAY:**      “Child of the Water”

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Jesus stays with us in the Spirit, who renews our hearts, moves us to faith, leads us in the truth, stands by us in our need, and makes our obedience fresh and vibrant. The Spirit's gifts are here to stay in rich variety—fitting responses to timely needs. We thankfully see each other as gifted members of the fellowship which delights in the creative Spirit's work. He gives more than enough to each believer for God's praise and our neighbor's welfare.**

### PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

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

**PRAYER SONG: “Lord Listen to Your Children Praying”**

**ELW 752**

### PRAYER PETITIONS:

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Move the hearts of those contemplating ministry to hear your call. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, God of life and death. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized and enable us to trust your baptismal promise. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

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,  
**receive our prayer.**

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 Rhys, Roy, Esther, Shannon, Allen, Danny, Dennis, Dick, Harper, Ted, Carol, Kristi, Sylvia, Lavern, Elvira, Jada, Rick, Roger, Lynn, Tracy, Deb, Kaisley, Raef, Ashlea, Robert, Sandra, family of Harry E. Roberts, Sr, those in Care Center, Assisted Living or are homebound. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

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,

**receive our prayer.**

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,

**receive our prayer.**

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.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER SONG: "Lord Listen to Your Children Praying"**

**ELW 752**

**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.**

**BENEDICTION:**

Go in peace; love and care for one another in the name of Christ; and may the Spirit of God which filled John and Jesus, fill your hearts, souls and minds; may the power of God which upheld them, strengthen you for each day; and may the love of God which directed their every action be your guiding light and your shining star, both now and forevermore. **Amen**

**SENDING SONG: "Rejoice and Celebrate"**

**SENDING:** Go in peace... You are God's beloved. **Thanks be to God. We Will!**

***Thank you for worshipping with us today!***

## Announcements for January 7<sup>th</sup>

### ***Keep in your prayers - Those dealing with Health Issues:***

Rhys Arnold, Roy Arnold, Shannon Beck, Allen Benson, Danny Brekke, Dennis Carlson, Dick Everson, Harper Evjen, Ted Frost, Carol Henrichs, Kristi Herting, Sylvia Larson, Lavern McPeek, Elvira Moen, Jada Mohror, Rick Raml, Roger Rust, Lynn Schaefer, Tracy Schaefer, Deb Schlenner, Kaisley Schulz, Raef Stolp, Ashlea West, Robert Wittrock, and Sandra Wittrock, those in Care Centers, Assisted Living, or who are Homebound. Pray for members of the Armed Forces and their families, transportation personnel, Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters, EMT and all First Responders.

### **On the CALENDAR** For the week of January 7 thru 14<sup>th</sup>

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Today      | 8:30 am – Traditional Worship Service<br>9:30 am – Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall<br>With Meet and Greet Olena Shevliakova<br>9:45 am – Sunday school<br>11 am – Contemporary Worship Service<br>1 pm – Service at Edgewood |
| January 8  | <b>ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE</b><br>5:30 Banquet meal<br>5:30 pm Grace Foundation meets  |
| January 9  | 5:30 pm Fellowship & Outreach Committee meeting<br>6:30 pm Cub Scouts meet  |
| January 10 | 10 am – Service at HiRise<br>5:30 to 6:15 - Wednesday meal<br>6 pm – Dinner Church and Wednesday school opening<br>6:30 to 7:30 pm – Wednesday school<br>6:30 to 7:30 pm – Confirmation<br>7:30 to 9 pm – Youth Group             |
| January 11 | 10 am – Service at Stoneybrook<br>1 pm – GLCW Exec Board meets in Conference Room<br>5 pm Finance & Stewardship committee meets<br>6 pm Grace Council meets   |
| January 14 | 8:30 am – Traditional Worship Service w/ Holy Communion<br>9:30 am – Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall<br>9:45 am – Sunday school<br>11 am – Contemporary Worship Service w/ Holy Communion                                    |

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- January 8<sup>th</sup> – Annual Reports are Due at the Office
- January 11<sup>th</sup> – GLCW Exec Board Meets at 1 pm in the Conference Room.
- January 20 – 11 am Chili Cook-off tasting begins.
- January 21<sup>st</sup> – Annual meeting at 11:30 am  
Sunday school at 9:30

One Worship Service at 10:30 am.  
Noon – Potluck meal in Fellowship Hall  
February 10<sup>th</sup> – Celebration of Love Banquet for all members and non-members.  
February 14<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday

### **MEET & GREET Olena Shevliakova, TODAY**

A Ukraine refugee, Olena Shevliakova, arrived in South Dakota on December 20<sup>th</sup> and is staying with host family Ty and Jen Moos near Webster. Olena is from the city of Pavlograd. On April 30, 2023, after a night missile attack, her apartment suffered destruction and she was forced to leave Ukraine. She has a Master's degree in Primary Education, Lecturer of Pedagogy and Methods of Primary Education and been a Primary School Teacher for 12 years. A meet and greet is planned TODAY - Sunday morning January 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am during coffee. We invite everyone to come out to meet Olena and welcome her to our community. She is currently seeking employment in Watertown and an apartment. To get her started in her new life, we will put together a list of items you can donate for her apartment. Stocking her food shelves and monetary donations are welcome as are gift cards for her to purchase items she will need in her first months. Grace Lutheran has a separate account to make donations for our refugees to help them get established. You can give online at [glcwn.org](http://glcwn.org) or mail to the Ukraine Fund at Grace Lutheran, 202 2nd St, SE, Watertown, SD 57201.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the Narthex.** Offering envelopes are numbered weekly envelopes use for recording your regular donation so you can receive an annual report for your financial records at the end of the year. Please pick them up as it saves on the cost of mailing. If you can take one to someone, please do so.

### **Outreach and Fellowship Committee Planning Fellowship Events “Just for Fun” CHILI COOK-OFF January 20<sup>th</sup>**

The Fellowship and Outreach Committee of Grace Lutheran is sponsoring a Chili Cook-off on Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be prizes for the best chili. Judging will be by the tasters and a panel of judges. There is no cost to enter the chili competition and just \$5.00 to taste all the chili beginning at 11 am. For more information call or text Denise Biller at 605-377-5106.

### **CELEBRATION OF LOVE February 10<sup>th</sup>**

Enjoy a night of food, dancing, fellowship, and time to celebrate the season of love on February 10<sup>th</sup> at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Station. The evening of fellowship for all couples and singles will begin with a social hour at 5 pm and serving of the meal at 5:30 pm. No formal attire is required. Tickets for this First Annual Celebration of Love are \$30 for single and \$50 for two and available at the church office. You must purchase prior to February 4<sup>th</sup>. We especially encourage newly married and long-time married couples to come and let us celebrate you. The committee is looking for those who could provide rides for our elderly members or any who may not drive during the evening. If you are able, please let the office know.

### **YOUTH FUN NIGHT SCHEDULED FOR January 19**

Youth in grades 7<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> are invited to a fun night on Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 10 pm

at Grace Lutheran. The evening will begin with a meal, include games and several fun activities to be determined. Parents are asked to help with the night. If you are able, please contact Pastor Cheryl, 605-237-1501.

### **ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR January 21**

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> in the church Sanctuary following the 10:30 am worship. There will only be one worship service that day to allow for the 11:30 am meeting. Important business of the church will be discussed, including the budget. To vote and pass the budget, a certain number of members must be present, so please plan to be in attendance. If you are unable to attend, a ZOOM link will be available as we need the numbers to have a vote.

**Caramel Rolls** will be available on January 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 9:30 am to eat in or take out. All proceeds go to the youth trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

**ZOOM Link for Annual Meeting:** If you are not able to attend the annual meeting, email Pastor Cheryl for a ZOOM link to be sent to you **prior to** the meeting. You will need to download the ZOOM app on your computer or phone prior to the time. Instructions can be sent to you if additional help is needed PRIOR to the meeting – NOT during. Email Pastor by Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup> at: cherylgracelc@midconetwork.com to receive a ZOOM link.

### **Potluck Meal following Annual meeting**

There will be a potluck meal at noon on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> following the Annual Meeting. We encourage you to take time to participate by bringing a dish to pass and staying to visit and get to know your family at Grace Lutheran. Fellowship is an important part of being a member of the church family and we look forward to spending time with you and your family.

### **WATERTOWN FRUITS BY GRACE SALES**

Our fruits, nuts, snacks and candy items are always available at the office Monday thru Thursday, 9 am to 5 pm and Wednesday until 7 pm. All proceeds go to Grace Lutheran

A **RADIO BROADCAST** of the Sunday morning worship service can be heard at 10:05 a.m. each Sunday on KWAT (95 AM). **The RADIO BROADCAST** is given in loving memory of Roy & Doris Schmeling from the Schmeling Radio Fund. Your gifts are greatly appreciated for the mission and ministry of Grace Lutheran inside and out of our walls. If you would like to help with these special weekly needs, a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board to sponsor the radio broadcast or altar flowers, stop at the office, call the office, or send your donation to:

***Grace Lutheran, 202 Second Street SE, Watertown, South Dakota 57201***

**GRACE LUTHERAN FOUNDATION GRANTS** are due February 15<sup>th</sup>. Grant forms are available in the office. Please pick them up and completed prior to the due date.

### **MISSION OF THE MONTH Ukrainian Refugee Efforts**

During the past year, Grace Lutheran has sponsored 5 refugees from Ukraine. Vasyl Molod and Igor and Luv Tokariev and boys Davyd and Ramir. All have settled into their apartments, jobs, and school in Watertown.

Currently a new refugee, Olena Shevliakova, arrived in South Dakota on December 20th and is staying with host family Ty and Jen Moos at Webster. She will be moving to Watertown in the coming weeks as she obtains employment and an apartment.

The statewide "Freedom's Haven for New Americans Workforce" set a goal in 2023 of 1,000 Ukrainians for Watertown, SD. Winter is setting in hard in Ukraine, and Russia is targeting the electricity, water, and other infrastructure systems. Ukrainian's coming to the US must have a sponsor. Lutheran Social Service and Codington County Social Services provide many programs of assistance. They are allowed to work as soon as they arrive in the US. Volunteer assistance is needed to provide transportation for the first weeks they are here so they can apply for employment. Currently there are 6 families plus two singles in Watertown and another family coming this month.

Grace Lutheran has a separate account to make donations for our refugees to help them get established as they come. You can give online at [glcwn.org](http://glcwn.org) or mail to the Ukraine Fund at Grace Lutheran, 202 2nd St, SE, Watertown, SD 57201. Gift Cards are also welcome. For more information or if you can help, contact Pastor Cheryl.



**Your support is appreciated for Grace Lutheran Church.**

**You can GIVE online by using the QR code to the left  
or visiting [glcwn.org/give](http://glcwn.org/give)**

**You can give to General, Refugee, Flower,  
Memorial, Radio, Youth Trip, Parking Lot,  
Multipurpose Room or other on that page.**

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ASSIST IN OUR WORSHIP:**

**PASTOR:** Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett

**READER:** Adam Wientjes

**KEYBOARD:** Isaak Montemayor

**ACOLYTE:** Maria Lima

**USHERS:** Melody Schulz & family, Adam and Jensen Wientjes

**PRIASE TEAM:** Becky Sprouse, Riley Sprouse, Leigh Carstensen, Krisma DeWitt, Karen Kasperson, Rhonda Lorenz

**SOUND/VIDEO TECH TEAM:** Paul Henrichs, Wyatt Sprouse, Larry Picht, Gary Rukstad, Anthony DeHaan, & Dylan Jordan

**Pastoral Calls: You can reach Pastor Cheryl at 605-237-1501(cell or text) or  
by E-mail: [cherylgracelc@midconetwork.com](mailto:cherylgracelc@midconetwork.com)**