



Grace Lutheran 1883-2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 18, 2022
Grace Lutheran Church Welcomes You to Worship

Traditional Service ~ 8:30 am

202 Second Street SE, Watertown, South Dakota

Web Site: glcwn.org ~ gracelc@midconetwork.com

Church Office: 605-886-5737

Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett ~ 605-237-1501

PRELUDE

Congregation responses in Bold Print

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones.

As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you.

Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek.

Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears.

We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior. **Amen.**

Four candles of the advent wreath are lite as the congregations sings.

HYMN: ***“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” ELW 240 vs 4***

- 4 Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!

Advent Prayer

Let us Pray... **Dear Lord God, awaken us, that we may be ready when your dear Son comes, that we may receive him with joy and serve you with pure hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Psalm 80: 1-7. 17-19*)

How good are we at watching for signs of God's presence in the world—in our lives, our homes?

Advent God, **forgive us when we pay more attention to satisfying our own needs, than seeking you and your will for our lives—for being more interested in possessing the material things of life, rather than your spiritual gifts. Turn our lives around so that we are looking in the right direction - towards you. Only then can we hope to recognize the signs of your presence in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ you have been enriched in every way—in everything you say and in everything you know. In addition, through God's grace you do not lack any spiritual gift as you wait with anticipation for Jesus to be revealed. He is the one who will keep you strong to the end, so that you shall be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor.1:5-8)

Thanks be to God.

GATHERING HYMN: *“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”* **ELW 275**

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

4 All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

GREETING:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE *ELW p 147 – 148*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *“Glory to God in the Highest”* *ELW p 148 & 149*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

**we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let us pray... **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16 Pew Bible p 554

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,**

the one you have made so strong for yourself.

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING: Romans 1: 1-7 Pew Bible p 913

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Children's Sermon

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

ELW 172

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

GOSPEL: Matthew 1: 18-25 Pew Bible p 783

The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew, the third chapter.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel

of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” ELW 257

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and high:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.

Refrain

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Refrain

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,

and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

5 O 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.

Refrain

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Refrain

7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new.

Refrain

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**

APOSTLE'S CREED....

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

And also with you.

OFFERING FOR THE MISSION AND MINISTRY of Grace Lutheran Church

SONG of OFFERING: *“You Little Ones, Dear Lord”* **ELW 286**

1 Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.

3 Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,
and to us all your grace accord;
true faith and love to us impart,
that we may hold you in our heart.

2 With songs we hasten you to greet,
and kiss the ground before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night
that gave you birth, our soul's delight.

4 Until at last we too proclaim,
with all your saints, your glorious name;
in paradise our songs renew,
and praise you as the angels do.

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**

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION: ADVENT

As we await our Lord's coming, let us seek an awareness of the hope we have in Christ, that we might be ready and eager to share it, as we pray for others.

PRAYER SONG: *“Hear Our Prayer”*

ELW 178

Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole: peace to all people, hope for each soul. God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

PRAYER PETITIONS:

Loving God, our spirits rejoice in all your gracious acts towards us, most of all, the event we so look forward to—the wonderful and precious gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks for the willingness of Mary to believe that the impossible could and would happen. Help us to have faith like Mary as we wait for your coming.

Accompany us, God, through the waiting.

Open our hearts and minds to believe that your promises can come to surprising fulfillment. Show us how we can best serve you with mercy and in humility, empowering people to live lives of dignity and worth. Fill us with your spirit to discern with wisdom your Holy scriptures as we wait for your coming.

Accompany us, God, through the waiting.

As we look at our television screens and read accounts of people throughout the world who are being made powerless because of the greed and violence of others, remind us of the great possibility of prayer to effect changes for good. Raise up leaders in every nation who desire freedom and justice for all people as we wait for your coming.

Accompany us, God, through the waiting.

Awaken us to aid those who cry out to you, to lift up the lowly; to fill those who are hungry and to drive away those who profit by the weakness and ignorance of others. Be with all those who feel that life holds no hope and help them and us to truly believe O God, that with you, nothing is impossible as we wait for your coming.

Accompany us, God, through the waiting.

May we be awakened to the grieving and weeping of this world, those who need a second birth, and all who have tender faith and suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially Rhys, Roy, Shannon, Joyce, Dennis, Jerry, Dick, Judy, Darla, Sharlee, Sylvia, Janelle, Lavern, Elvira, Ronald, Rick, Carolyn, Roger, Tracy, Raaf, Caden, Todd, and Robert, those in Care Center, Assisted Living or are homebound. Bless the humble and powerless with your tender touch and healing word as we wait for your coming.

Accompany us, God, through the waiting.

Awaken us to the words of promise and hope, to be as Joseph, obedient even in the midst of personal embarrassment and shame, sharing the blessing of the long-awaited for Jesus, as we give thanks for those who now rest in you have and shared their faith with us... as we wait for your coming.

Accompany us, God, through the waiting.

In faith, we place our trust in you, help us to believe in the glory you have revealed and look expectantly to the fullness of your glory as we wait for your coming. We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

PRAYER SONG:

“Hear Our Prayer”

ELW 178

Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole: peace to all people, hope for each soul. God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

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:

As we leave this place, and scatter back out into the world, may the God of hope— who loves you and gave himself for you— fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, today and throughout the coming week, so that in believing, you may abound in hope, through the love of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG:

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

ELW 290

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace... God fulfills His promises.

Thanks be to God. We Will!

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Announcements for December 18th
Keep in your prayers - Those dealing with Health Issues:

Rhys Arnold, Roy Arnold, Shannon Beck, Joyce Brever, Dennis Carlson, Jerry Dipprey, Dick Everson, Judy Everson, Darla Gilman, Sharlee Kjellsen. Sylvia Larson, Janelle Marx, Lavern McPeek, Elvira Moen, Ronald Newell, Rick Raml, Carolyn Ronke, Roger Rust, Tracy Schaefer, Raaf Stolp, Caden Thompson, Todd Wilson, and Robert Wittrock, Becky Nelson, those in Care Centers, Assisted Living, or who are Homebound. Pray for members of the Armed Forces and their families, our Law Enforcement personal, Fire Fighters, EMT and all First Responders.

On the CALENDAR - For the week of December 18th – 25th

Today	8:30 am Traditional Worship service 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship 9:45 Sunday school 11 am Contemporary Worship service 6 pm – Las Posadas
Monday	1-4 pm Dorcus Quilters 5:30 pm Banquet Meal
Tuesday	6 pm Choir Practice – all are welcome
Wednesday	10 am Service at Townview 10:30 am Service at Jenkins NO Wednesday school NO Confirmation Class 6 pm Blue Christmas Service NO Youth Group
Saturday	4 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/ Holy Communion 6 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/ Holy Communion
Sunday	10 am Christmas Day Worship service w/ Holy Communion 11 am Start of Christmas Luncheon Delivery Noon – doors open for inside serving Christmas luncheon

Upcoming Events:

January 6th – Prairie Coteau Youth Gathering – 7 pm to Midnight
January 29 – Grace Lutheran Annual Meeting

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ASSIST IN OUR WORSHIP:

PASTOR: Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett **READER:** JoAnn Spartz
USHERS: Clarrisa Raigoza & Kimberly Raigoza **GREETER:**
PIANIST: Isaak Montemayor **SONG LEADER:** Leigh Cartensen
SOUND/VIDEO TECH TEAM: Paul Henrichs, Wyatt Sprouse, Larry Picht
Gary Rukstad and Dylan Jordan.

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

LAS POSADAS TONIGHT

COME ON A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY AS WE CELEBRATE

A special Christmas celebration will be held Sunday, December 18 with a Las Posadas, the Christmas journey at Grace Lutheran beginning at 2 pm. Clarrisa and Kimberly Raigoza, two of our confirmation students, will lead this Central American tradition of singing and walking from house to house to re-enact the journey of Mary and Joseph. This is a family event during which all will be singing, walking from place to place throughout the church to knock on doors following our own Mary and Joseph. The event will finish with a piñata, traditional foods, hot chocolate, games, and treats. We are thankful to bring this tradition to share at Grace as we learn to be an agile church of the future. We hope you will invite your friends and family to come to Grace to experience a beautiful tradition and welcome our neighbors from Latin America.

CHOIR PRACTICE

All are invited and encourage to join the choir. They will be practicing on Tuesday evenings at 6 pm for the Christmas Eve services. If you are a singer, please consider helping with your talents for these special services.

MISSION OF THE MONTH ~ Grace Lutheran Christmas Dinner

This year meals will be served inside over the noon hour on Christmas Day as well as delivers for those who are unable to attend. Volunteers are needed for cooking, drivers to give rides and deliver, to serve the food, and clean up afterwards. Those who start cooking early in the morning appreciate fresh help to clean up after the hours of getting the meals out. If you are unable to help with these activities, you can donate to the Christmas dinner as supplies are needed. A separate list is inserted. This is a wonderful Christmas tradition put on by Grace Lutheran each year and a special service to those who are alone at Christmas, have no family, or can no longer cook a traditional meal. It truly shows how grace is experience here daily through the Mission and Ministry of Grace Lutheran. Worship service is at 10 am and deliveries begins at 11 am. Sit down begins at 12. Please consider giving this gift of your time to this very important work. The phone number for to order a meal for delivery is: 605-303-4103. You can also text the number or leave a voicemail BUT be sure your full name, phone number, number of meals and complete address with the color of your house to easily find it is given.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE WEDNESDAY EVENING - DECEMBER 21ST

A special "Longest Day" or what is called Blue Christmas service will be held at 6 pm on Wednesday, December 21st. If you are grieving someone you shared past

Christmases with which causes intense feelings of loss, loneliness and sadness, you are encouraged to come. This time of year can be very painful for those who suffer due to death, divorce, health issues, unemployment, business loss, broken relationship, life altering operations, family trauma or any type of loss, even more traumatic as COVID-19, RSV, and influenzas complicates our lives.

A Blue Christmas service creates a safe place for those who struggle with loss or mourn a loved one. It is a time to join together with others burdened by grief for emotional encouragement and receive spiritual support.

Any who have suffered this past year or continue to suffer from years gone by are welcome to come to this nondenominational service and hear God's word of hope and healing shine through the darkness calling you forward to the bright shining light of spring when new life returns.

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 by in loving memory of Roy & Doris Schmeling from the Schmeling Radio Fund. The Altar flowers today are from Darcy Raethz & Denise Biller in loving memory of their mom's birthday (Sharon Johnson) on the 16th. 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

REGISTRATION IS DUE FOR PRAIRIE COTEAU YOUTH MINI-GATHERING

Youth in grades 7 thru 12 and Youth Directors throughout the Prairie Coteau have been invited to a Prairie Coteau Youth Mini-Gathering on January 6th, 2023 here at Grace Lutheran.

Beth Koch St Martin of Milbank, SD will be the speaker. Her talk is called Ryan's Story and tells the story of a family dealing with the addiction of a child and the pain and grief in the loss of a loved one. The goal of Ryan's Story is trying to erase some of the stigma around drug addiction and to get people to understand it can happen to anyone. St Martin tells the story from the non-addict view and then talks about grief, coping with grief, and what she does to cope with grief.

Youth registration begins at 7 pm and due by December 16th, to plan food and supplies ready for activities. You may email bsprouse@iw.net with a number attending and any questions you may have.

St Martin will speak at 8 pm in the sanctuary. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend the speaker presentation but not required to register.

**Check us out on our website at glcwtm.org
And Grace Lutheran Watertown FaceBook.**