



Grace Lutheran 1883-2023

4th Sunday of Advent~ December 18, 2022
Grace Lutheran Church Welcomes You to Worship

Contemporary Service ~ 11 am

202 Second Street SE, Watertown, South Dakota

Web Site: glcwn.org ~ gracecl@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

Awake, and wait for the Lord,

like those who hope in God's mercy.

Awake, and watch for God,

like those who eagerly wait for the morning.

Awake, and hear God's hopeful words,

for God's steadfast love endures forever.

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.**

HYMN:

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" ELW 240 vs 4

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.**

GATHERING SONG: "Peace Came to Earth" ELW 285

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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.

Thanks be to God.

KYRIE

“Glory to God”

WOV 640

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.**

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: ***“Oh Come, All Ye Faithful”*** **ELW 283 vs 1 & 4**

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: Isaiah 7:10-16 **Pew Bible p 554**

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in the Living God

who is directly involved in the affairs of the world.

**I believe that God chooses the meek and the poor,
like Joseph, to fulfill His plan for our redemption.**

**I believe in the incarnate Word,
leaping in a woman's womb, cradled in poverty.**

**I believe in Jesus, true son of Mary, true Son of God, who came among us in
weakness, that we might come to know the profound strength available to
common people who turn to God in trust and with love.**

**I believe salvation came through a child born in a manger, died on the cross,
and on the third day God rose Him from the dead so that we can be saved.**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE FOR 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: "Lord Listen to Your Children Praying"

ELW 752

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: "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.

CLOSING 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:

"Joy to the World"

ELW 267

SENDING: 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

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

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 experienced 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.

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.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ASSIST IN OUR WORSHIP:

PASTOR: Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett

READER:

KEYBOARD: Tim Frewing

USHERS: Allison Henrich

PRIASE TEAM: Becky Sprouse, Riley Sprouse, Leigh Carstensen, Judy Everson, Krisma DeWitt, Kayla Mohling, Marian Raml

CHOIR MEMBERS: Becky Sprouse, Leigh Carstensen, Judy Everson, Kayla Mohling, Riley Sprouse, Marian Raml, Krisma DeWitt, Karen Kasperson

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

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

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