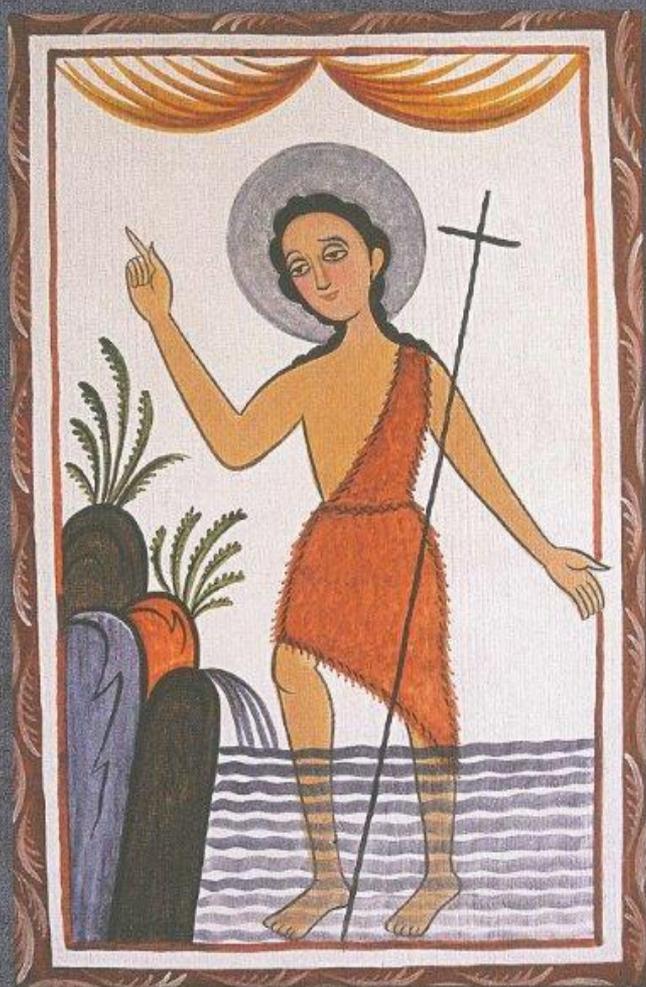


*John came to
testify to the light*

JOHN 1:8



Welcome to Worship

at

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to bring the good news of God's saving grace, through Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection to all to be free to be the people of God.

Welcome! Please sign the Attendance Registrations sheets which are found in each pew. Visitors, please sign the guest book at the Welcome Center, and please join us for coffee and education hour activities between services.

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers.

The nursery is available for newborns - age 3. The nursery is staffed by Grace Kids Care staff members for children who become restless during the service. If there is no one in the nursery, check in the daycare office. The service is broadcast in the Gathering Hall. To entertain your children during the service there are purple busy-bags with books and coloring materials for children just outside the sanctuary.

***Communion** – We welcome all people to the Lord's table to receive Holy Communion. Children ages 3 and above are welcome at the parents' discretion, after meeting for instruction with the pastor. Children not instructed are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you are not able to come forward to take communion, please notify an usher before the service. Then try to sit by the aisle and the pastor will commune you in your pew.*

***When by intinction:** Receive the host (wafer), then dip the host into the chalice (cup) to receive wine (red) or grape juice (clear); depart by the side aisle. Gluten free wafers and a separate glass chalice are available by request on the pulpit side (left when facing altar).*

***When by pouring chalice:** Receive a cup. Receive and eat the bread. Proceed to the wine or grape juice. Communion bread is gluten free.*

***Stephen Ministry** is a one-to-one care giving ministry for those experiencing personal problems such as grieving or crisis situations. If you would like to be connected to a Stephen Minister, please contact the office for assistance.*

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2014

8:15 a.m

Prelude “Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” arr. by Robert Powell

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

L: We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

Opening Hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #257 vs. 1-3
(Light the first three candles.)

Greeting

P: 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

C: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Please be seated

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of the Lord, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

L: the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Anthem

"Prepare the Way"

Chancel Choir, Grace Bells, Organ

Psalm: Psalm 126



The LORD has done great things for us.

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

³The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb. R**

⁵Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. R**

Please stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the First Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: John 1:6–8, 19–28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you

do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated

Sermon Advent Survival Guide - Starting a Fire

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" # 815

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.**

Prayers of the People

L: Let us pray

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

All: God of love, have mercy on us. Pour out your Spirit upon us. Center us in worship. Hold us in grace. Strengthen us in love. Send us forth in mission. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all,

C: **And also with you!**

Please be seated

Announcements

The Offering

Offertory

“An Advent Introit”

by Tom Birchwood

Please stand as you are able

Offering Prayer

P: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

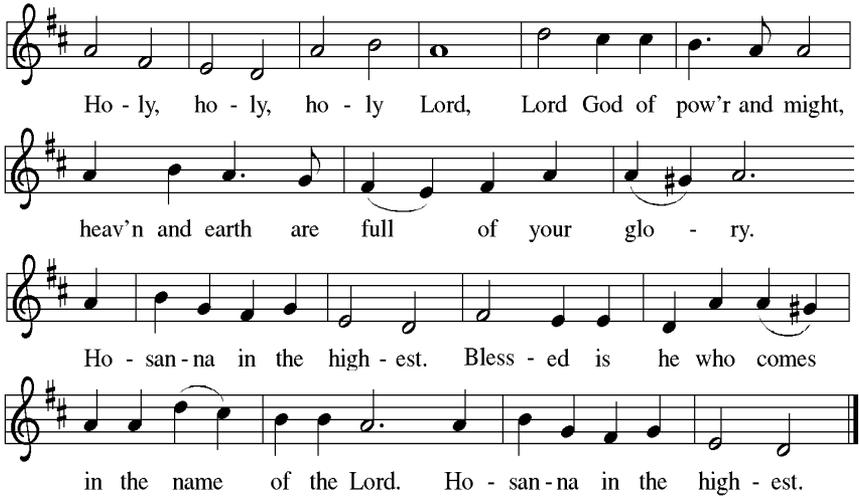
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim our Lord's death until he comes.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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**

Invitation to Communion

P: Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Come to Christ, who comes to us in this holy supper.

Please be seated

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution Hymns: 793, 595, 272

Prayer after Communion

P: Lord God, we give you thanks that you have fed us even now with the banquet that is yet to come. Keep us alert for signs of your presence in the world around us. Send us as healing oil and sheltering comfort to those in need, and make us bold in testifying to the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Sending of Communion

Gracious God, whose mercy endures from generation to generation: As Mary set out to visit Elizabeth before she gave birth to her son, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion, that through the body and blood of your Son we may all know the hope of your promised coming in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: "There's a Voice in the Wilderness" #255

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The Lord is near.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude "Sortie on "Conditio Alme Siderum" by Alexandre Guilmant

(10:45 only) 2014 Sunday School Christmas Program: "A Night Like No Other"

Opening congregational hymn:

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

#283 – vs. 1, 3, 4

Scene 1:

A Time Like No Other: God Creates the World

Speaker 1, grades pre-K - 2

Song: "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands"

Grades pre-K - 2

Scene 2:

A Promise Like No Other: The Promise of a Savior

Grades pre-K - 2

Praise Bells: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Scene 3:

An Announcement Like No Other: The Savior Will Be Born
Speaker 2, Angel, Mary, Joseph

Scene 4:

A Night Like No Other: Jesus is Born!
Speakers 2 and 3
Song: “Away in a Manger”
Grades 3-5

Scene 5:

News Like No Other: Angels Tell Shepherds the Good News
Speakers 2 and 4

Song with Congregation: “Angels We Have Heard on High” #289
vs. 1 children only, vs. 2-3 congregation

Scene 6:

A Gift Like No Other: Jesus is the Savior of the World
Speaker 2
Song: “Silent Night”
Children, Kyler Medhurst, Mary Freimuth Helt, Joyce Lewis, Carol Woodruff

Scene 7:

A Message Like No Other: God Helps Us Share His Love
Speakers 1, 3, 4, 5
Song: “Go Tell It On the Mountain”
All children

Song with Congregation: “Joy to the World” #267
All children and congregation

Many thanks go out to the pageant volunteers and Sunday School teachers who have made the program possible:

Karri Brandsfield, Mary Freimuth Helt, Kristina Hutton, Chuck Denton, Beth Flannery, Stacie Holst, Matt Jordahl, Joyce Lewis, Ashley Lund,

Kathleen Uehling, Deanna Weber, Carol Woodruff, Jennifer Wohlenhaus-Bloomberg. **A special thank you** goes out to families for supporting your children's growth in the faith. Advent and Christmas blessings to all!

Cast:

Speaker 1: Kiley Brandsfield

Speaker 2: Drake Carney

Speaker 3: Charla Preston

Speaker 4: Mira Voelker

Speaker 5: Jamie Briggs

Angel: Maya Lint

Mary: Laynne Weber

Joseph: Jamie Briggs

Preschool class (ages 3-4): Vanessa Bloomberg, Finnegan Holst, Piper Hutton, Elijah Lund, Zara Preston, Madison Robbins, Jaxson Travor

Grades K-2: Kiernan Hutton, Catherine Lewis, Ava Lund, Allison Olson, Adilyne Reyes

Grades 3-5: Kiley Brandsfield, Jamie Briggs, Drake Carney, Elizabeth Lewis, Maya Lint, Charla Preston, Mira Voelker, Laynne Weber

Praise Bells: Lydia McCleary, Kayleigh Medhurst, Kyler Medhurst

Pianist: Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg

Good Morning and Welcome to Grace!

In our prayers: Bill Jensen, Betty Hirschauer, Dorothy Singh, and the others we name before you...

Praying for one another is an important part of the life of a community of faith. In order to do this it is important that the prayer list be as current as possible. If you or a relative would like to be included in the prayers please contact the church office. Thank you.

Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Barb Tussing in memory of loved ones.

Happy Anniversary to: Gregory and Doris Honnold

Happy Birthday to: Stacie Holst, Anthony Garcia, Mo grotheer, Norman Iverson, Matt Ziska, Helen Fanning, Paul Weaver, Payton Lawson, Katja Rahjes, John Farver, Richard Naney, Shirley Shiffler, Nathan Bickel

Education Opportunities

Sunday School classes meet at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Today, the classes will meet in the Sanctuary for Christmas Program practice. Sunday school will break over the holidays and will resume on January 4.

Adult Bible Study meets Tuesday mornings from 8:45–10:15 a.m. in Grace Hall II. Pastor Mike leads.

New Member Class: There will not be a new member class in December due to the Bells and Brass concert. If you are interested in learning more about Grace, or in becoming a member, please contact the office.

Under Wraps: “God is Jealous”

Third of four parts exploring the nature of God’s love through the gift of Jesus. It’s not too late to join the journey! Today, Grace Hall, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Advent Sermon Series

Does life feel like you are in the wilderness without a GPS? Let the Advent Survival Guide sermon series lead you to God’s path.

* **December 21:** Advent Survival Guide: Signs of Life

Help Needed!

Acolytes for the December 28, 10:45 service (one) and January 4, 8:15 service (two). Please contact the office if you can help. **Coffee servers** are needed for the December 21 and 28 services. Thank you for all who signed up. You are very much appreciated!

Upcoming Grace Events

The Second Annual Bake Sale is today!

The Companion Congregation Committee is selling goodies in honor of our relationship with Msindo and Mararo and to support the scholarship fund for needy students. **Everyone come to buy Christmas goodies!**

Christmas Eve Music: If you previously signed up, PLEASE check the signup sheets at Volunteer Central, as one sheet went missing. We want to make sure we don't miss anyone. Thank you for your understanding.

Bells and Brass Concert

This afternoon at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please join us and invite a friend! Our own Grace Bell Choir and Grace Brass will be performing. Christmas cookies, coffee, tea and hot chocolate will be served following the concert.

If you will be bringing treats for the reception, please place them in the Conference Room with a label that says for Bells and Brass Concert, so as not to confuse with the CCC's Christmas bake sale being held this morning. Thank you.

Grace Kids Care Christmas Program

Thursday December 18

7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

All are invited to hear our Little Angels sing.

2015 Flower Chart The new flower chart for 2015 is hanging on the brick wall in the Gathering Hall. Cost for 2015 flowers will remain at \$38.

Would you like to deliver poinsettias to our homebound members ? A sign-up sheet is at Volunteer Central. You may pick up the poinsettias anytime after the Christmas Day worship service. Please deliver them within a week of Christmas Day if possible. Thank you for your ministry.

Carter and Carol Woodruff, along with Evelyn Knudsen and our family, want to express our deep appreciation for all that the Grace Congregation has done for us on the loss of our brother/son, Paul Knudsen. Your thoughts, prayers, and kind words have meant more than you can know to us. Thank you also to the Congregational Care Committee for the food and paper products. They were appreciated. The Lord is truly walking along beside us during this time through the Holy Spirit as well as the caring community of Grace.

God's peace,

Carter, Carol, Evelyn and Family

Welcome to Grace!

Ministers – The People of God

Pastor – The Rev. Michael Schmidt

Director of Laity Ministries - Stephanie Johnson

Director of Music Ministries – Emma Stammer

Organist - Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg

Grace Kids Care Director - Heather Nelson

Office Administrator - Jacquelyn Holmes

Office Assistant - Michelle Voelker

Custodian – Todd Haugen

Ushers – 8:15 – Linda Biegger, Dee Hummel, Tim Nelson, Larry Nordeen

Acolytes – 8:15 Sarah Voelker

Liturgist – 8:15 Matt Jordahl

Lector – 8:15 Carla Peterman

Altar Guild – Carol Woodruff, Sue Anderson

Counters – 8:15 Jeff Farrell and Carter Woodruff

Coffee – Jane and Ed Ridnour

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Pastor Michael Schmidt

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worship@gracedm.org

www.gracedm.org