



My eyes have seen
your salvation

LUKE 2:30

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 First Sunday of Christmas

Lessons and Carols

December 28, 2014
8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m



Prelude

“I Wonder As I Wander”

Traditional
arr. by Cindy Berry

Welcome

Please stand as you are able

Gathering Song

“Love has Come”

#282

Dialogue

L: Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C: By day and night he shines for all to see.

L: Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

C: that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

L: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C: so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

L: Jesus is the light of the world.

C: Jesus is the light of our lives.

L: Sing to God a new song!

C: A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

Opening Prayer

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

C: Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness— a beam of light that shines through Jesus.

Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts.

Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Genesis 1:1–5, 14–18

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

First Carol

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

#272

*Verses 1 and 4***Second Reading: Micah 5:2–5a**

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

Second Carol

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#279

*Verses 1 and 4***Third Reading: Luke 1:26–35, 38**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in

your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Third Carol

“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”

#286

Verses 1 and 2

Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18–25

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.

Fourth Carol

“Infant Holy, infant Lowly”

#276

All verses

Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8–20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a

sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Fifth Carol "Angels, From the Realms of Glory" #275
Verses 1, 2 and 4

Sixth Reading: Matthew 2:1–11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Seventh Reading: John 1:1–14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Seventh Carol“The First Noel”
Verses 1, 2 and 4

#300

Passing of the Peace

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

C: And also with you!*Please be seated***Announcements****The Offering**

“In the Town”

15th Century French
arr. by Edward Broughton*Please stand as you are able***Offering Prayer**

L: Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the

field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Responsive Prayer

L: It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

C: Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

L: In his light, draw all to the manger

C: to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

L: In his light, draw all to the manger

C: to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

L: In his light, draw all to the manger

C: to sing for joy with the angels.

L: In the brightness of his life

C: cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

L: It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

C: In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

The Lords 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**

Blessing

L: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

C: Praise God, all creatures here below!

L: You are the shepherds telling the story.

C: We tell it in the streets and across the land.

L: You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

C: We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

L: You are the angels announcing peace.

C: We live with joy and go now in peace.

L: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” #288
All verses

Postlude “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” Traditional
arr. by Jan Sanborn

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Good Morning and Welcome to Grace!

In our prayers: Betty Hirschauer, Bill Jensen, Diane Jessen, 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.



Altar Flowers

Flowers on the altar glorify God and are given by the Voelker family in memory of Donald Voelker.

Quarters placed in the offering plate today and every fourth Sunday are for Msindo.

Happy Anniversary to: Robert and Dorothy Jensen, Donald and Gloria Moon

Happy Birthday to: Ryan Randolph, Linda Rundle, Kevin Krause, Robin Randolph, Marion Nehmer, Drake Carney, Verda Swanson, Jean Thompson, Tina Bickel, Nicholas Best, Betty Hirschauer, Elizabeth Dungan, Theodore Tussing, Bob Gweah, Penny Hansen, Andrew Allen, Nicholas Jessen, Conrad Thompson, Jay Wangerin, Eric Weber, Emily Scholten

Education Opportunities

Sunday School classes will break over the holidays and will resume on Jan 4. Sunday School meets at 9:30 on Sunday mornings: Preschool and elementary both start in room 101, with preschool ending in room 105.

Adult Bible Study will break for the holidays and will resume January 7. Bible study meets Tuesday mornings from 8:45–10:15a.m. in Grace Hall II. Pastor Mike leads.

Upcoming Sunday morning adult learning opportunities, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Grace Hall

- **Jan. 4** – What’s the Big Deal about Epiphany? Pastor Doug Johnson
- **Jan. 11** – Drawn from the Waters: An Exploration of Baptism, Pastor Schmidt
- **Jan. 18** – Congregational budget presentation, Finance Committee



Are you interested in learning more about Grace Lutheran and our community? The next **New Member Class** will meet Sunday January 12 from 1-2 p.m. in the Gathering Hall with Pastor Mike.

Worship Volunteers

The online Service Volunteer Sign-up Sheet now includes the January and February 2015 services. If you are available and inclined to serve, please go to <https://www.volunteersignup.org/BAKWD> and click on "sign up."

Upcoming Youth Events

NYG meeting dates

Youth attending the National Youth Gathering this coming July will begin meeting monthly in January! Please write these dates on your calendar! Parents, you will receive an email and/or letter soon. Chaperons would appreciate your assistance, especially at this first meeting.

Jan 18 noon-3 p.m. Pizza and drinks will be provided. There is much to discuss, please make sure you attend. Parents welcome.

Feb. 15 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

March 29 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

April 12 Noon – 3 p.m.

May 17 Noon – 3 p.m.

June 7 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.



Flower Chart

The 2015 Flower Chart is in the Gathering Hall on the brick wall. Cost for altar flowers is \$38.00 again this year.

If you would like a special date, check as soon as possible! The calendar is filled up quickly.

2014 Year End Office Deposit

Please make sure any contributions that are mailed or left at the church office for deposit in 2014 are in by **11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 30th.**

Men in Mission

The January 8 meeting will be a Supper and Discussion about Men in Mission. 6:00 p.m.

Crock Pots!

Hope for the Hungry and ISU Extension are looking for just a few more crock pots as there are 11 families signed up for the slow-cooker class in Spanish coming up Feb. 5 and they only have 6 pots available. The current needs, if you have a pot to donate, are: one 2 quart pot and four 5 quart pots. Please bring them to the office or contact Mary Helt. Thank you!

Luther Park Community Center invites you!

Please join us in commemorating the 40th anniversary of Chaplain Marcus Engelhardt's ordination. Hi Open House will be Sunday, December 28 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Luther park Apartments Community Center. Pastor Peter Wegner will speak at 2:30 p.m. Please call cathy at 262-5639, Ext. 161 with questions.



For your convenience, the current and updated calendar can be found online at www.gracedm.org, in the entry hall and in the hallway just outside of Grace Hall near the Fair Trade coffee display.

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

10:45 – Mark Stumme, Bill Jensen, Tom McCleary

Acolytes – 8:15 Maya Lint 10:45

Liturgist – 8:15 Paul Kallenbach 10:45 Mary Helt

Lector – 8:15 Karen Taylor 10:45 Alex Davik

Altar Guild – Carol Woodruff, Sue Anderson

Counters – 8:15 Chuck Denton and Carter Woodruff

10:45 Alex Davik and Mark Stumme

Coffee – Karen Taylor, Kathleen Uehling



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