

CHRISTMAS EVE



December 24, 2024,

10:00am

Land Acknowledgment

We recognize that we gather on the ancestral lands of the Ojibwe, Ho Chunk, and Dakota. We acknowledge their leaders, past, present, and emerging.

GATHERING

Prelude

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve
Love Has Come
Berceuse

Stephen Gabrielsen
Christopher Uehlein
Alexandre Guilmant

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 98)

Sing to God something brand new!

For God has done wonderful things!

God has not forgotten to love us all!

Even the ends of the earth have heard!

Make a joyful noise!

Break forth in song!

With voice and bells,

sing praise to the Holy One!

With the roaring sea and everything in it!

With all the land and everything in it!

The floods clap their hands.

The hills sing for joy.

Thank God! God is coming to set everything right:

Justice for everyone, everything fair.

Sing to God something brand new!

For God has done wonderful things!

Opening Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1, 3, & 4)

#283

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

WORD

Children's Message

Family Choir Away in a Manger

The First Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 9

²The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
 on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
 you have increased its joy;
 they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
 and the bar across their shoulders,
 the rod of their oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
 and all the garments rolled in blood
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.
 He will establish and uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness
 from this time onward and forevermore.
 The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Still, Still, Still

Still, still, still
 One can hear the falling snow.
 For all is hushed,
 The world is sleeping,
 Holy Star its vigil keeping.
 Still, still, still,
 One can hear the falling snow.

arr. Mary McDonald

Sleep, sleep, sleep,
 'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.
 The night is peaceful all around you,
 Close your eyes,
 Let sleep surround you.
 Sleep, sleep, sleep
 'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

Dream, dream, dream,
Of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number
Watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream,
Of the joyous day to come

The Second Reading is from Titus, chapter 2

¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Pacibells *What Child Is This?*

arr. Jason W Krug

The Gospel for today comes from Luke, chapter 2

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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!"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Holy Baptism

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Who presents Iva Amal Touma for baptism?

We do.

Do you promise to help this child grow in the Christian faith and life? If so say, we do.

We do.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God? If so say, we renounce them.

We renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into those who are here baptized. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Iva Amal, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain *Iva Amal* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Iva Amal, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Let your light so shine before the world that they see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Prayers of the Church

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

... God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

MEAL

Offering Hymn It Came upon the Midnight Clear

#282

Offering Prayer

God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

Amen.

Words of Institution

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.**

Communion

Our communion bread is gluten free and the communion cups with clear liquid have grape juice instead of wine.

Prayer After Communion

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

Amen.

Candlelighting and Silent Night

Verse 1

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Verse 2

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Verse 3

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

SENDING

Blessing

Dismissal

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

On this Day Earth Shall Ring

Robert J Powell

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Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Assisting Minister: Pete Lokken

Reader: Annie & Quinn Ram

Organist: Elaine Mann

Choir Director: Diana Cataldi

Pacibells Director: Karen Lionberger

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (22nd)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

TUESDAY

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Service – 4:30pm

WEDNESDAY

Christmas Day

Office Closed

Other groups using the building this week: ADRC, Jonah, Scouts, ECWiT, EC Theater Guild

THURSDAY

Retired Rostered Leaders Potluck – 10am
Pacibells – 6pm

SUNDAY (29th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

MONDAY (30th) — THURSDAY (2nd)

Church closed



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

2024-12-24

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Habitat & Building Sale Update

The Habitat sale continues to have unexpected obstacles pop up, the most recent was again caused by HUD regulations. Habitat was told they would need to do an environmental study before moving forward. And when they did it, HUD responded that it had to be even more thorough (a level 3 rather than a level 1 study). That study is now in process. Unfortunately, since funds cannot be released until that box is checked, the asbestos abatement work scheduled for right now could not be done. The contracting company has no more openings until late January. Related to this, the Habitat board will not be ready to sign a contract until those funds are officially available to them. So the study process continues and they seek funding sources for about \$300,000 more needed for construction's first phase. We remain convinced this will all eventually happen, and appreciate everyone's continued patience as we await for resolution of these issues.

Donating to the Habitat project

Several people have asked how they might contribute to the Habitat veteran project. Monetary donations can be made via mail-in check or by donating online. When donating, you can add "Fund to Grace Lutheran build". When they receive a restricted donation, the funds will be deposited into their Restricted Funds account and kept track of in their accounting software by project until the funds are needed.

Online donations can be made here: <https://www.cvh4h.org/donate/>

Check donations can be sent to our mailing address at:

145 N. Clairemont Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Thanks for your interest.

Sunday School

Sunday School continues next year. Check out the following schedule for the first half of 2025.

- January 5
- January 19
- February 2
- February 16
- March 2
- March 16
- April 6
- May 4

Sunday school takes place right after the Children's Time during the service. See you there!

Church Closed after Christmas

The church will be closed the entire week after Christmas, December 30 through January 2. If you have any questions or concerns that need to be addressed before the end of the year, please contact Andrew in the office before the office closure.

Annual Meeting

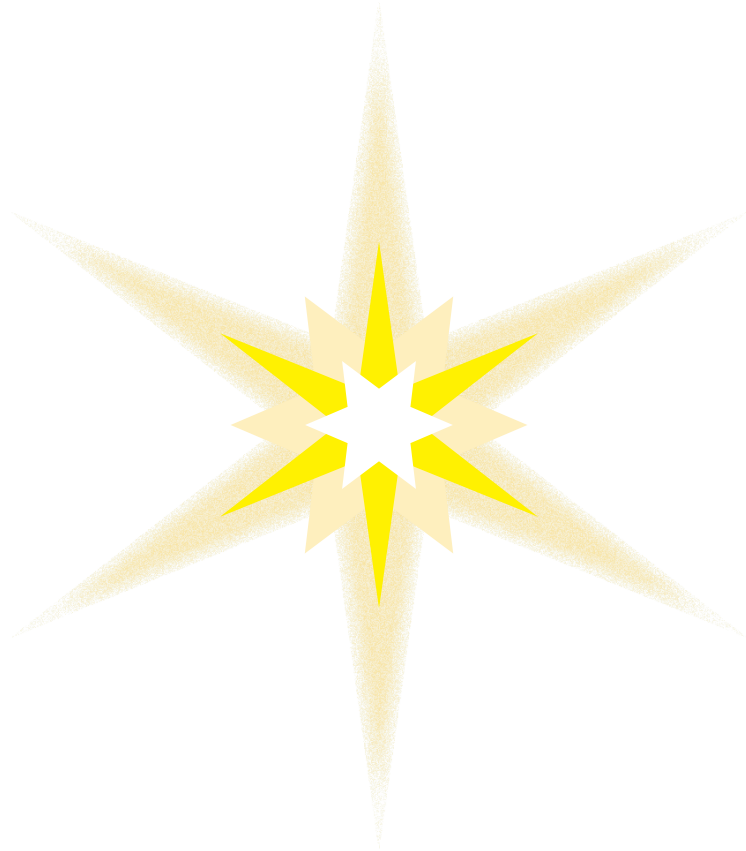
The church's annual meeting is only a few months away and will take place on February 2. In the first weeks of January, Andrew will be assembling the Annual Report that will be presented at the meeting. If you are a member of one of our ministries, please try and send your ministry report to him as soon as possible. We understand that it is the holidays, which is why we are passing on this reminder so early in the season. The sooner all the reports are sent in, the easier it will be to assemble the final report. Even though the church will be closed the week after Christmas, feel free to email any report to Andrew and he will look at it when he gets back. Thank You.

Good Gifts

To those who are thinking of donating to Good Gifts this holiday season, here are the best ways to give. The first is directly through their website: goodgifts.elca.org. If that doesn't work, you can send your check to the church. Please make the check out to **ELCA** and list on the memo line that it is for Good Gifts and what you are purchasing. That way we can pass the check on directly. Thank you.

Memorials

Roger & Heidi Anderson gave in memory of Jean Christenson. Mitchell Chistenson gave in memory of Jean Christenson & Tim Christenson. Elizabeth Barideau gave in memory of James Baribeau and in honor of Mary Tharp. Jeff & Deb Heath gave in memory of Russell Jones & Amanda Bowe. Jackie & John Krumenauer gave in memory of George Madsen. Roger & Diane Pomplun & Tammy Tannler gave in memory of Roland Krause. Red & Julie Steffen and their family gave in memory of Anne Krogstad Klawiter. Mark Whelan gave in memory of Jean Christenson.



Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

Email: info@grace-church.org

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones: pastorphil@grace-church.org

Services are live streamed Sundays at 10am on:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheraneauclaire/>
- Youtube embedded in our website: <https://grace-church.org/our-ministry> *Bulletins may also be found on the same page.*

Recordings of worship services are broadcast Sundays 10:30am on WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)

Past services are posted at “Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin” YouTube page — <https://bit.ly/49WLWPj>



Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Wednesday by 2:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at info@grace-church.org or by calling the office at 715-832-9713

