



GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

**The First Sunday of Christmas
December 27, 2020**

8:30 a.m.

WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you as we hear God's holy Word. We are blessed by your presence, just as you are. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome God's people of all races, social statuses, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities to be together in Christ – to love, to grow, and to serve. We worship online in an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and encourage you to follow along in this document as you also watch or listen to the live stream of our service. May the Lord bless our worship this day.

Flowers

The flowers are given by Bob and Kathryn Jandeska and Bob and Margaret Burke in honor of the 90th birthday of Susan Messerli.

Grace Council Statement on Racism

The events that have unfolded in our nation in recent months have reawakened us to the deep divides that still exist within our country. Racism, manifested in individual acts and present throughout systems, continues to prevent us from being the beloved community that God intends. Our faith in the crucified and risen Christ compels us to speak. We speak against the sin of racism. We speak in solidarity with Black people and all people of color, each of whom is precious to God. We stand with and for Black people within our church and school and in the larger community.

We commit ourselves to following Jesus Christ into the world in the hope that, by the Spirit's power, God's Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven. We look with hope and anticipation to a season of growth and change as Grace becomes a more faithful witness to God's wide welcome in Christ. We see this as the beginning, not the end, of the conversation. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us, and for the courage to follow.

As We Gather

On this first Sunday of Christmas, we join Simeon and through the eyes of faith we, too, see that the salvation of God has come near to us. In Holy Baptism the Spirit rests upon us and the promises foretold in Scripture become promises for you and me. We were those once under the law and enslaved to sin who have been redeemed and made children of God, even crying "Abba Father." We are the ones clothed with the garments of salvation and covered with the robe of righteousness; these garments, of course, are Jesus Christ himself. No wonder our only response is to join the sun, moon, stars, women and men, young and old together, wild animals, and even angels in heaven in proclaiming with the psalmist "Praise the Lord!"

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Wilbur Held

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation,
come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit
that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness,
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

**In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
things we have done and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**


Amen.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.
In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

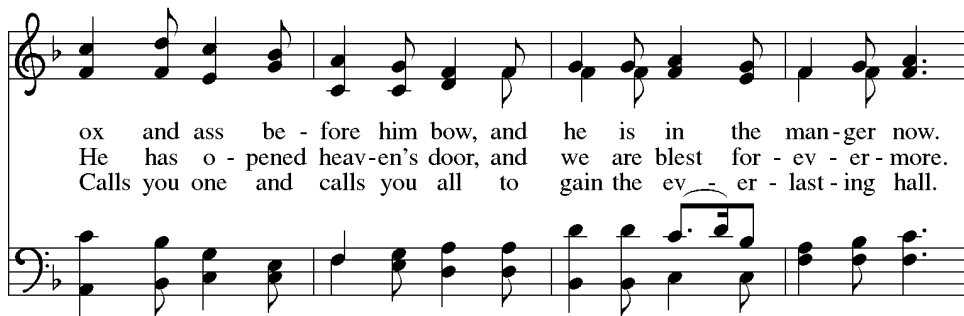
(green) LBW #55



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

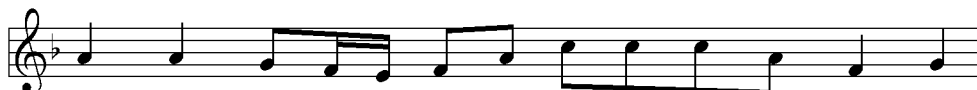
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE: Glory to God in the Highest



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature
and yet more wonderfully restored it.

In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity,
Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10–62:3

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.
^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148

ANTIPHON: The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven.

Robert Hobby

- L** Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;*
praise him | in the heights.
- C** Praise him, all you an- | gels of his;*
praise him, | all his host.
- L** Praise him, | sun and moon;*
praise him, all you | shining stars.
- C** Praise him, heav- | en of heavens,*
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.
- L** Let them praise the name | of the LORD;*
for he commanded, and they | were created.
- C** He made them stand fast forev- | er and ever;*
he gave them a law which shall not | pass away.
- L** Praise the LORD | from the earth,*
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
- C** fire and hail, | snow and fog,*
tempestuous wind, do- | ing his will;
- L** mountains | and all hills,*
fruit trees | and all cedars;
- C** wild beasts | and all cattle,*
creeping things and | winged birds;
- L** kings of the earth | and all peoples,*
princes and all rulers of the world;
- C** young | men and maidens,*
old and | young together.
- L** Let them praise the name | of the LORD,*
for his name only is exalted, his splendor is over | earth and heaven.
- C** He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his | loyal servants,*
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4–7

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ℒ Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

☐ REFRAIN (*below*)



ℒ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts
and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

☐ REFRAIN

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:22–40

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

☐ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☐ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: Eyes That Behold the Salvation of God

Pastor Troy E. Medlin

Isaiah 61:10–62:3, Galatians 4:4–7, Luke 2:22–40

HYMN OF THE DAY: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ELW #272



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599

NICENE CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

ANTHEM: From Heaven Winged

Henry V. Gerike

From heaven winged, angels are singing. Gloria!

With joyful tidings, peace now abiding. Gloria!

For sinners given the Son from heaven. Gloria!

Christ promised of old is born here, behold! Gloria!

God's Son so lowly, infant so holy. Gloria!

Join we the chorus – God's love is for us. Gloria!

Hymn and thanksgiving to God the living. Gloria!

With all creation, for our salvation. Gloria!

Henry V. Gerike

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,

Trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

C 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.

✚ SENDING ✚

BENEDICTION

☐ Almighty God: Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☑ Amen.

SENDING HYMN: Go Tell It on the Mountain

(green) LBW #70

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Dietrich Buxtehude

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. David R. Lyle, presiding minister
The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, preaching minister
The Rev. Karl Reko, assisting minister
Jeremy Zimmer, organist
Ellen Pullin, soprano
Bill Pullin, baritone
Eunice Eifert, videographer
Julie Hinz, sound board operator

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LET US PRAY. . .

Those who are sick and recovering from illness

Rose Mary Anderson
Tina Baird
Annalise Balock
Cathy Barker
Ruth and Jim Barker
Anne-Marie Bogdan
Ed Borg

Marilyn Gotsch
Carl and Donna Gruendler
David Gruendler
Kathy Hayes
Patricia Herendeen
Joan Koerber
Jerry Koenig

Margaret Kruse
Beth Smoots McClanahan
Karen McMahon
Jennifer Murtoff
Chrissy Nelson
Paul Nelson
Tim Sandvoss
Marge Sanger
Pat Scala
Carl Schalk
Ron Serpico
Madison Staples
Rich and Bonnie Stasack

Ellis Allinson (*brother-in-law of Carolyn Garber*)
Felipe Altamirano (*friend of Cathy and Paul Schnittker*)
Mardie Anderson (*friend of Christie Nelson*)
Valerie Anderson (*friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke*)
Bob Andree (*friend of Deb Maxwell*)
Vera Leora Barnett (*friend of Paul Eichwedel*)
James Beglin (*cousin of Cathy Schnittker*)
Karen Berglund (*friend of Carol Stanger*)
Ira Birnbaum (*friend of Sandy and David Lentz*)
Stephanie Bogue and Elva (*friends of Pat Anderson*)
Mike and Beth Bullock (*parents of Keith Bullock*)
Jim Cozzi (*friend of Diana Sicuro*)
Linda DeMeyere (*friend of Randy and Ellie Schnack*)
Peggy Dickenson (*mother of Paul Eichwedel*)
Dorcas Doering (*sister of Carol Prinz*)
Jane Duda (*friend of Karen Eckstein*)
David Eastman and family (*brother of Pat Anderson*)
Patti and Neal Enslin (*friends of Marilyn Heppner*)
Joan Fudala (*mother of Greg Fudala*)
Ray Garmatz (*son of Margaret Garmatz*)
Stacy Gibb and family (*friends of Kristin Vogen*)
Mike Guss (*friend of Lance and Stephanie Wilkening*)
Jerry Haase (*friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke*)
Jill Hanssen (*niece of Ann Mason*)
Sue Heinze (*sister of Pat Gulik*)
Harry Heppner (*brother of Ken Heppner*)
John Hunt (*friend of Ken and Marilyn Heppner*)
Mia Rose Jones (*granddaughter of John and Loretta Lattyak*)
Doug Kelner (*friend of Irmgard and Al Swanson*)
Don Kersten (*brother of Phyllis Kersten*)
Sally Kindsfater (*sister of Mary Jane Endicott*)
Andrew Korcek (*friend of Eunice Spurgat*)
Ron and Jeanette Koski (*parents of Jill Koski*)
George Kozuchowski (*friend of Timothy Douma*)
Arnold Krubsack (*brother of Irmgard Swanson*)
Kathryn Krubsack (*niece of Irmgard Swanson*)
Marty Krueger (*cousin of Irmgard Swanson*)
Maxx Kuser and family (*friends of Deb Maxwell*)
John Larson (*father of Morgan Anderson*)
Maria Laskowski (*friend of Joe Modrich*)
Lily (*friend of Carrie Douma*)
Elsie Locke (*grandmother of Troy Medlin*)
Karen Luebbe (*mother of Jenny, sister of Stan Reddel*)
Joyce and John Lunde (*friends of Susan Messerli*)
Kari Lyle (*sister-in-law of Dave and Erika Lyle*)
Jim Maggio (*brother of Joe Maggio*)

Jane Martin (*mother of Justin Martin*)
Anne Matthys (*mother of Susan Curran*)
Leone, Gracie, and Brian Maxwell (*cousins of Tom and Deb Maxwell*)
Denny McClerren (*cousin of Stephanie Wilkening*)
Christopher Miller (*friend of Bob and Kathryn Jandeska*)
Monika Nash (*daughter of Don and Verna Offermann*)
Joan Nelson (*mother of Julie Modrich*)
Mary Kay Olson (*friend of Paul and Cindy Koester*)
Rosie Parker (*mother of Cameron Parker*)
Jacob Pletan (*great-nephew of Ruth Rehwaldt & Gick Schmidt*)
James Powers (*friend of Al Swanson*)
Susan Prather (*cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott*)
Zach & Ellie Radosevich (*grandchildren of Ginny & Frank Swaba*)
Phillip Rice III (*friend of Pat Anderson*)
Ronald Riley (*friend of Al Swanson*)
John Rohleder (*friend of Sandy Grams*)
Florence Saeger (*friend of Karl and Ruth Reko*)
Shirley Moyers Schnack (*sister-in-law of Randy Schnack*)
John Schuurman (*friend of Timothy Douma*)
Lindsay Shaner (*brother of Bob Shaner*)
Mary Lu Shipstad (*friend of Marilyn Heppner*)
Ken and Lori Shoup (*friends of Marilyn Heppner*)
Zina and Huxley Shoup (*friends of Marilyn and Ken Heppner*)
Ruth Soppet (*friend of Bob and Kathryn Jandeska*)
Nancy Stelling (*friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten*)
Lee Stephens (*brother of Tony*)
Jennifer Sylvester (*daughter of Janet Sylvester*)
Martin A. Thieme (*brother of Susan Franzone*)
Jan Thomson (*sister-in-law of Christine Phillips*)
Donald Tremper (*brother of Virginia Walker*)
Wes Van Dell (*brother of Emily Hartung*)
Rev. Mark Van Scharrel (*friend of Karl and Ruth Reko*)
Mary Lou and Ron Wagoner (*sister and brother-in-law of Stan Reddel*)
Brian Walden (*relative of Pat Gulik*)
Verna Walsh (*aunt of Dan and Deanna Marotz*)
Sonja Wandro (*sister of Al Swanson*)
Bob Weaver (*husband of Gretchen*)
Lucy White (*friend of Mary Beth Logas*)
Fr. Dennis Woerter (*friend of Grace E. Marotz*)
Elise Wojack (*niece of Pat Gulik*)
Kathie Wolff (*friend of Tim Duoma*)
Randi Woodworth (*sister of Tammy Bretscher*)
Veronica Zuirowski (*mother of Tom*)

Benevolence ministries

Center for Christian Education, Martin, Slovakia

Thanksgiving for

The baptism of **Wyatt James Carletti Simpson**, son of Joshua & Valeria Simpson, grandson of Carrie and David Simpson.

The 90th birthday of **Susan Messerli**

For those who mourn

Janice Wilson (*cousin of Bob Jandeska*)

Those serving in the armed services

Timothy Berghaus (*grandson of Len and Judy Berghaus*)

Kevin Buss (*nephew of Christa Krout*)

Reid Beveridge (*son-in-law of the Schnacks*)

David Danford (*son of John and Karen*)

E. Michael Garcia Goetting (*son of Mary Goetting*)

Matthew Garmatz (*grandson of Margaret Garmatz*)

Bradley Larson (*cousin of Rhea Sprecher*)

Sonny Putman (*nephew of Susan Franzone*)

Rusty Robb (*grandnephew of Margaret Kruse/Roberta Gillespie*)

Jason Brown (*nephew of Tim and Sue Sandvoss*)

Matthew Shinkwin (*friend of Eunice Spurgat*)

Christopher W. Sylvester (*grandson of Janet Sylvester*)

Those in the foreign service

Julie Kmet (*friend of Ed and Susan Schumacher*)

Kari Paetzold (*niece of Jim and Sharman Galezenski*)

Those studying abroad

Colleen Lattyak (*Germany*)

Drew Krueger (*England*)

Those who are homebound

Barbara Bunjes

Christopher Davis

Marie Gierke

Ronald Gresens

Gloria Hillert

Carolyn Martin

Joanne Nelson

Barbara Rinnan

Kathleen Wrobel

Those who need encouragement

Bruce Burnside (*friend of Bob and Margaret Burke*) in Oakhill Correctional Center

Cheryl Luchetta (*friend of Joan Koerber*) in Logan Correctional Center

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

We are glad that you are worshipping with us!

If you are visiting us for the first time or would like to learn more about Grace, please complete this form, detach, and place it in the offering plate.

NAME(S) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

Check all that apply:

- ☐ I am visiting Grace for the first time.
- ☐ I would like to know more about Grace Church.
- ☐ I am interested in a path toward membership.
- ☐ I would like to know more about Grace School.
- ☐ I would like to receive Grace’s weekly e-mail,
Sunday Is Coming.
- ☐ I would like one of the pastors to contact me
via (check one) ☐ Phone or ☐ E-mail.

GRACE
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CHURCH
& SCHOOL

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gracechurch@graceriverforest.org

Bring in, build up, and send out disciples for Jesus Christ

David R. Lyle, Senior Pastor
Troy E. Medlin, Associate Pastor
F. Dean Lueking, Pastor Emeritus
Michael D. Costello, Cantor
Jeremy Zimmer, Assistant Cantor
William Koehne, Principal
Gerald Koenig, Principal Emeritus
Pat Gulik, Parish Nurse
Julie Modrich, Children’s Ministry Coordinator
Gwen Gotsch, Communications Coordinator
Jim McClanahan, Director of Administration & Finance
Rich Brooks, Facilities Manager