Following Jesus' teachings, Grace seeks to educate, lead, and partner with all people through discipleship to worship, service, and faith celebration.

Second Sunday in Advent

December 8, 2024 8:30am Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa Pastor Stephanie Wood † Pastor Kirsten Lee



Welcome! We are so happy you have joined us! Congregational response in bold.

Prelude

Savior of the Nations, Come.....setting Johann Walther

Announcements

Call to Worship

Heart & Voice Choir Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Gathering

God who is powerful, has done great things for us.

Songs of thanks resonate among us, for the one who saves us from sin.

Continually remind us that the heart of our God is full of loving-kindness, **And a light from heaven will shine on us.**

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.** God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin. (Silence is kept for reflection.)

Everlasting God, you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to

you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. Amen.

Opening Hymn

All Earth is Hopeful..... ELW 266

- All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
 Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
 this, the labor of people who struggle to see
 how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.
- People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
 "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
 she conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth restores hope and courage to children of this earth.
- Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; new highways opened, new protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!
- We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
 This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 Spanish text © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Liturgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

Advent Candle Lighting

During these weeks of waiting and expecting, where people live in fear of the unknown, **We pray for peace.**

Where people are confused about your will for their lives or for the world, **We pray for clarity.**

Most of all, when the world longs for you,

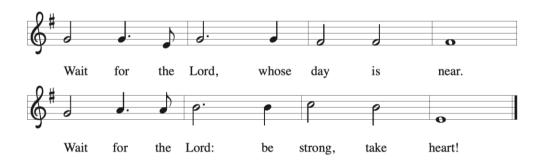
We pray you help us respond with glad tidings of comfort and joy.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus, our long-expected Savior. Amen.

Your light shines in the midst of the darkness. With the lighting of this candle may you ignite peace within our hearts and our world. (The second candle is lit.)

Advent Hymn

Wait for the Lord ELW 262



Text: Taizé Community
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
Text and Music ©1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Children's Message

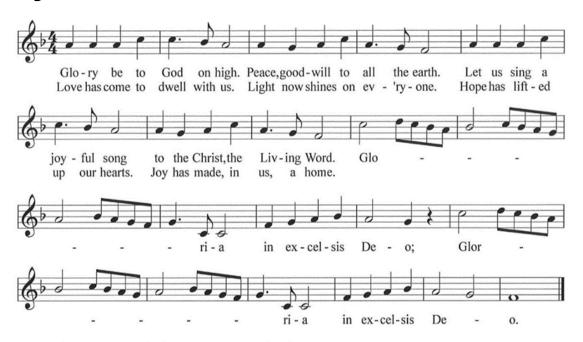
Kyrie

To the tune of "O Come All Ye Faithful"

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for this holy house and the unity of all for all who worship and praise God today, let us pray to the lord. Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison on our world today

- For the lost and the hurt, for the hungry and the poor, that we may respond with your love throughout the world, that we may live out truth and justice and grace let us pray to the lord. Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison on our world today
- For peace in our heart, for peace in our homes, for friends and family, for life and for love, for our work and our play, for your spirit to guide us let us pray to the lord. Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison on our world today

Hymn of Praise



WORDS: David Eck, copyright © 2011. TUNE: Angels We Have Heard On High

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God,

when we lose hope, when your good news seems impossible, speak to our aching hearts. Grant us courage as we wait, trusting that you are with us in times of clarity and confusion. Fill us with a song to magnify you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Heart & Voice Choir Anthem

Advent Blessing Roger Summers

Come into the world with blessing. Come, fulfill the prophecy.

Come Emmanuel, as promised, and set your people free.

Come into the world with blessing, light of mercy, light of grace.

Shine upon our world of chaos, warming hearts with love's embrace.

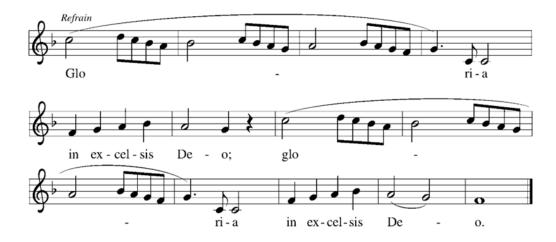
Veni (Come), Jesu! Gloria, alleluia! Veni Jesu! Gloria, gloria, alleluia!

Come into the world with blessing, praising, praying without cease. Come Redeemer, we await you, Son of God and Prince of Peace.

> Veni, Jesu! Gloria, alleluia! Veni Jesu! Gloria, gloria, alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation

Refrain from Angels We Have Heard on High ELW 289



Gospel | Luke 1:26-45

(The congregation responds in bold.)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said,

"Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her,

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The 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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then 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.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry,

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Blessed Assurance (refrain)



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915 Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Scripture Song | Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;

indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Blessed Assurance (refrain)





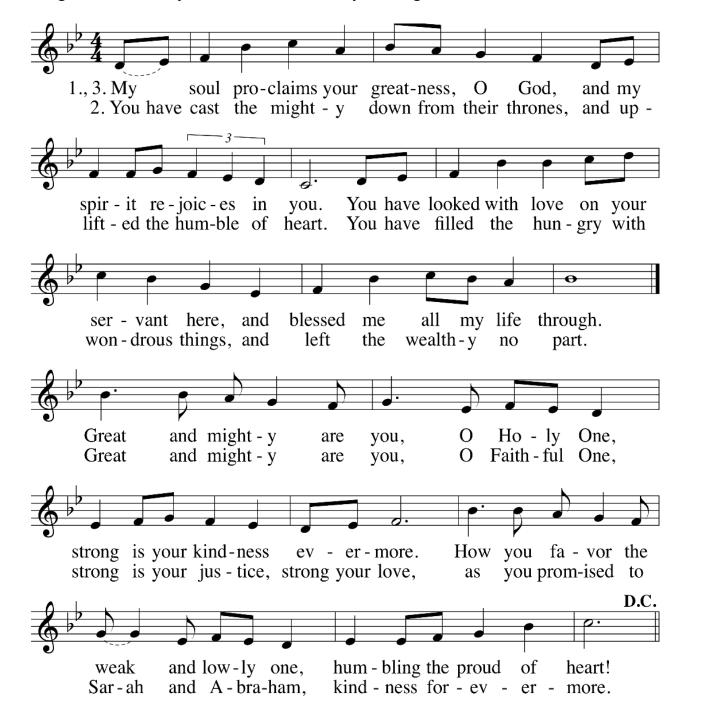
this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915 Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Magnificat (This hymn is based on Mary's Song)......Text & Music by Marty Haugen



Prayers of the People

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Peace

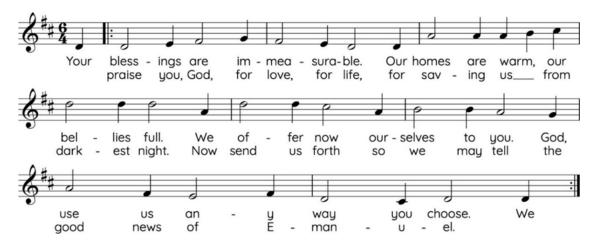
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Call to Offering

For the wondrous ways this offering will breathe hope into our community and for the ways it will help us live out God's mission, let these gifts strengthen our call to carry out God's justice and mercy.

Offering Hymn To the tune of "On Jordan's Bank the Baptists Cry"

Your Blessings Are Immeasurable.....setting by David Eck



Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. God our provider,

by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

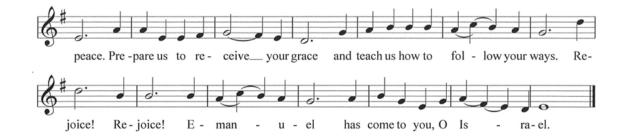
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Blessing

May the peace of God accompany your waiting, the light of † Christ warm your hearts, and the joy of the Spirit fill you with hope. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers..... ELW 244

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear; the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
 The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
 Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.
- The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near; go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.

 The marriage feast is waiting;

the gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.

- The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore, shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.

 Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold; in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.
- Our hope and expectation,
 O Jesus, now appear;
 arise, O Sun so longed for,
 o'er this benighted sphere.
 With hearts and hands uplifted,
 we plead, O Lord, to see
 the day of earth's redemption
 that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

Sending

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

And the Glory of the Lord......G.F. Handel

Interested in Joining Grace?

Please contact the church office <u>office@gracewelcomesyou.org</u>, for information about joining Grace Lutheran Church. All are welcome and we would be overjoyed to have you engaged in the worship, ministries, and congregational life at Grace.

Sparkhouse Magazines

Children's Sparkhouse Magazines are available in the Narthex. We encourage families to take home a copy and enjoy the pictures and stories about ways we live as children of God.

Do You Receive the Weekly Update Email?

Every Thursday we email out the Weekly Update with current announcements, links, birthdays, anniversaries, Synod/ELCA updates, and more. If you would like to be added to our email list, please contact Annie in the church office.

Junior Bible Study | Today: Christmas Program Practice

Each week we will hear familiar Bible stories and enjoy the beautiful illustrations from THE STORY for Kids and Little Ones. We meet after the children's message at both Sunday services.

Serving in Worship

Director of Outreach & Youth Minister	Pactor Virgton Loo
Assisting Minister	Fasior Kirsten Lee
Assisting Minister	
Communion Assistants	
Communion Bread	Sally Meier
Acolyte	Janice Gibbs
Acolyte	NEEDED
Greeters	Sherry McCarty, Jackie Cain
Ushers	Mike & Deb Kirby
Jr Bible Study	Pr. Kirsten, Jane Rock
Sound System	Russ Finkler
Prayers	Nancy Boehme
Altar Guild	Gloria Lange
Jr Bible Study Sound System Prayers Altar Guild Heart & Voice Choir Director	Sally Meier
Organist Pianist	Susan Senn
Pianist	Kathi Parrish
Worship Tech & Praise Band Leader	Vey Rodriguez
Coffee/Cookies/Snacks	Sue Janssen, Jackie Cain

Grace Lutheran Church

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YouTube: Grace Lutheran Davenport

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/GraceWelcomesYou

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WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 8

8:30am Traditional Worship & Livestream

9:45am Coffee Hour

10:30am Contemporary Worship

Monday, December 9

10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer

Tuesday, December 10

9:00am Quilters

10:00am Pastor's Text Study

11:00am Naomi Circle (@The Outing Club)

1:30pm Social Ministry Meeting 2:30pm Outreach & Welcome Meeting

7:00pm Worship & Music (tentative)

Wednesday, December 11

9:00am Quilters

12:00pm Men's Lunch @ Grace 1:00pm Nominating Committee

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 12

Happy Birthday Pastor Stephanie!

10:00am CYF Meeting

7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal

Friday, December 13

11:00am Council/Committee Reports Due

Saturday, December 14

8:30am Page Turners (Offsite)

Sunday, December 14

9:30am

Christmas Program Joint Worship

10:30am Christmas Cookie Party

Monday, December 16

10:30am Staff Meeting

4:30pm Centering Prayer on Zoom

5:00pm Sweet Arts Club 6:30pm Deborah Circle 7:00pm Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 17

10:00am Pastor's Text Study - PBH

Wednesday, December 18

12:00pm Men's Lunch @ Grace
5:30pm Longest Night Service

6:30pm Grief Support Group (Offsite)

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 19

3:00pm Hymn Sing at Luther Manor 7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal

You Can Watch Us Online and Follow us on Facebook!

YouTube: Grace Lutheran Davenport Facebook: facebook.com/GraceWelcomesYou

Your offerings support and nurture ministries at Grace along with support for local and global organizations. Online giving is available at bit.ly/GraceGivingOnline.

Looking Ahead

- **December 15** Christmas Program Joint Worship 9:30am
- December 15 Candles & Carols
- **December 18** Longest Night/Blue Christmas
- December 24 Office Closes at Noon
- **December 24** Christmas Eve Worship 5pm & 7pm
- **December 25-26** Office Closed for Christmas
- **December 29** Christmas Hymn Sing Joint Worship 9:30am
- January 1 New Years Day, Office Closed
- January 11 Spiritual Growth Event (TBD)
- January 16 ImpactLife Blood Drive
- January 26 Joint Worship 9:30am and Annual Meeting

Scan for our digital Weekly Update



Children's Christmas Program | Next Sunday!

9:30am Joint Worship followed by a Christmas Cookie Party!

Cookies Needed: The Children, Youth, and Family committee would love some Christmas cookie donations for next Sunday's Christmas Cookie Party! You can bring your donations during office hours next week or that morning (December 15). Thanks so much!

Candles & Carols | **December 15**





You are invited to an evening of reading and song at our beautiful service of Candles and Carols. This lovely evening will include anthems, hymns, scripture, and prayers that are sure to uplift your spirit as you travel through the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Come relax and enjoy, as we reflect upon and treasure God's holy gift of Jesus.

Longest Night (Blue Christmas) | **December 18**

Wednesday, December 18 | 5:30pm at Grace Lutheran Church



Join us for a service of prayer and lament for anyone who finds that the holidays can be difficult with depression, grief, loneliness, sorrow, and stress. In gathering as a community, we acknowledge our varied emotions and recognize that, despite struggles, God's love offers us hope and grace in challenging times.

Grief Support Group | **December 18**

On December 18, the Grief Support Group will meet following the Longest Night/Blue Christmas service at the home of Cindy Lee (3221 Woodland Ct, Davenport) for a smorgasbord .

The Grief Support Group meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month 5:30pm in Pat Bell Hall. Please join us! Anyone is welcome at anytime, and please be assured our conversations are kept in confidence. Questions? Contact: Cindy Lee 563-370-5386.

Christmas Hymn-Sing | **December 19**

Thursday, December 19 | 3:00pm

Join Susan Senn, Jane Rock, and the residents at **Luther Manor** (3118 Devils Glen Rd, Bettendorf) for a Christmas Hymn sing at 3:00pm. Even if you're not a strong singer, your voice will be appreciated - All are welcome!

Equal Exchange Christmas Gifts!

We have chocolate bars, hot cocoa mix, coffee, tea, and more available for purchase in the narthex. For more information about Fair Trade products and/or to purchase any of their additional products for yourself go to shop.equalexchange.coop.

Grace Lutheran Church

1140 E High St | Davenport IA 52803 563-322-0769

www.gracewelcomesyou.org office@gracewelcomesyou.org

ADMIN STAFF

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pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org

Annie Nau, Office Administrator

office@gracewelcomesyou.org

Jason Halkias, Custodian

custodian@gracewelcomesyou.org

Claudia Wood, Treasurer

treasurer@gracewelcomesyou.org

Vey Rodriguez, Worship Tech & Praise Band Leader

worshiptech@gracewelcomesyou.org

COUNCIL

Deb Kirby

President
Personnel Committee Chairperson

Cindy Lee

Vice President
Outreach & Welcome Committee
Memorial Committee
Grief Support Group Coordinator

Paul Lewellan

Secretary Social Ministry

Claudia Wood

Treasurer Finance Committee

Jim Bayles

Property Committee

Jackie Cain

Outreach & Welcome Ministry

Janice Gibbs

Children, Youth, & Family

Deb Gustafson

Finance Committee

Laura Toland

Worship & Music Ministry



Social Ministry Christmas Tree

The Grace Social Ministry Team is collecting hats and gloves (all sizes) for our local elementary schools. These items can be new or very gently used, should be unwrapped, and can be placed on or under the tree in the narthex. Thank you for helping with this important ministry!

Compassion Kits

As the weather turns colder and with local shelters already overloaded and/or closing, there will be more unhoused and unsheltered persons on the streets needing warmth and comfort. We would love for you to take a few Compassion Kits (located in the narthex) to keep in your car or share with someone who may need them. These bags are meant to share, so let's share Christ's love through this very practical way.

End-of-Year Giving

All year-end offerings (including Required Minimum Distributions from retirement accounts) need to be received in the office by **Monday, December 30**, in order to be counted for 2024. Thank you for your continued support of our missions!

Annual Reports

Annual Reports are due to the office no later than Friday, January 3, to have time to prepare for distribution on January 12 (two weeks before the annual meeting). They can be sent anytime before and up to January 3, in any format convenient for you, as they will be reformatted for consistency. Please email office@gracewelcomesyou.org with any questions.

Blood Drive Updates

The number of blood donations from Grace members through November is 82. In-house blood drives for next year will be held January 16, May 15, and September 19.

THE STORY Bible Study

The morning class is on hiatus for December.

Mornings - Weekly on Wednesday, 11am; **Evenings** - Monthly on the first Thursday, 7pm THE STORY Bible Study continues, and anyone who is interested is welcome to join us at anytime during the series. THE STORY helps people understand God's Word and engages with Bible reading like never before. Pr. Stephanie can answer any questions.

Men's Lunch | Noon Wednesdays

Men's "Lunch & Conversation" meets every Wednesday at Noon - and now that the weather has turned colder, we will meet at Grace. You can bring a lunch from home or pick something up from a local restaurant. Contact Dennis Boehme at 563-320-2661 or boehmed@aol.com to be added to the email list.

Centering Prayer | Mondays 4:30pm

Mondays 4:30pm via Zoom In the Christian tradition, Contemplative Prayer is considered to be the pure gift of God. It is the opening of mind and heart--our whole being to God, the Ultimate Mystery, beyond thoughts, words, and emotions. Cheryl Kritsch facilitates the group which meets via Zoom every Monday (except holidays) at 4:30pm (link emailed in the Weekly Update). Please contact Cheryl with any questions at 563-343-0135.

Live Nativity at St. James | **December 14**

Experience the excitement of the very first Christmas at the Live Nativity hosted by St.



James Lutheran Church (1705 Oak St, Bettendorf).
There are four performances, and you are invited in for soup and more in the fellowship hall between performances. Donations to the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet are also most welcome!



Grace Lutheran Church | 1140 E High St | Davenport, IA

Children's Christmas Program*

Sunday, December 15 9:30am Joint Worship

Candles & Carols*

Sunday, December 15 | 6:30pm

Longest Night (Blue Christmas)

Wednesday, December 18 | 5:30pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 24 | 5:00pm (Family Friendly)

Christmas Eve Worship*

Tuesday, December 24 | 7:00pm (Traditional)

*Livestreamed on our YouTube Channel: Grace Lutheran Davenport

Christmas Hymn-Sing*

Sunday, December 29 9:30am Joint Worship



Grace Lutheran Church Davenport, IA

JUNIOR BIBLE STUDY

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM!

Sunday, December 15 | 9:30am Joint Worship



Join us for a Christmas Cookie Party following the service!

