

Welcome ~ Thank you for joining us!

Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa | Pastor Stephanie Wood

November 29, 2026 † 8:30am

*Please stand as you are able **Congregational response in bold.**

Large Print

Prelude Music

Hark the Glad Sound ..... Setting by Kevin Hildebrand

Announcements
Ringing of the Bells
Silence for Reflection

Confession & Forgiveness*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who calls out to the weary, whose word endures forever. **Amen.** A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord!" We are called to confess our sin and turn back toward God's love. Comforting God,

we are your people, but we have neglected to call on your name. We are your people, but we have not remembered your ways. We are your people, but we have forgotten your hold on us. We are your people, but now we fade like a leaf, and our sins, like the wind, take us away. Restore us as your people. Cleanse us from our sin and clothe us in your righteousness. Amen.

"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God, who has clothed you with the garments of salvation and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness. God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. In the name of † Christ, your sins are forgiven: Rejoice in the Lord! Rejoice in the Lord!

Amen. Thanks be to God!

Opening Hymn*

Hark, the Glad Sound! ..... ELW (back of Red Book) **239**

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.

2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

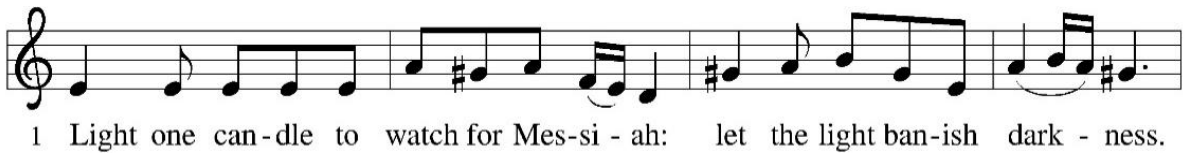
Hark, the Glad Sound! Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

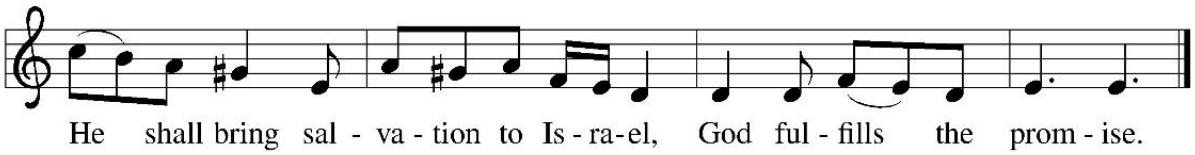
Greeting*

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

Advent Hymn*

Light One Candle (verse 1)..... ELW (back of red book) **240**





Text: Wayne L. Wold b. 1954; Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish Folk Tune; Text © Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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.

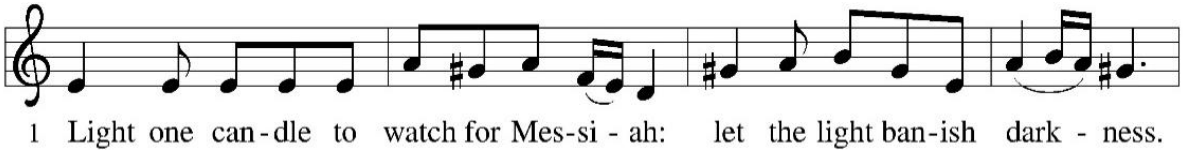
Most of all, when the world longs for you,
We pray you help us respond with glad tidings of comfort and joy.

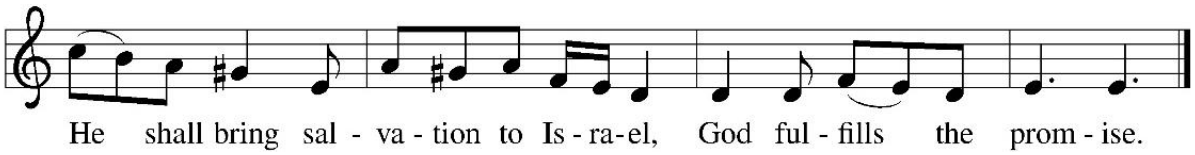
We pray all this in the name of Jesus, our long-expected Savior. **Amen.**

Your light shines in the midst of the darkness. With the lighting of this candle may you illuminate our hope in the midst of our fear. ***(The first candle is lit.)***

Advent Hymn*

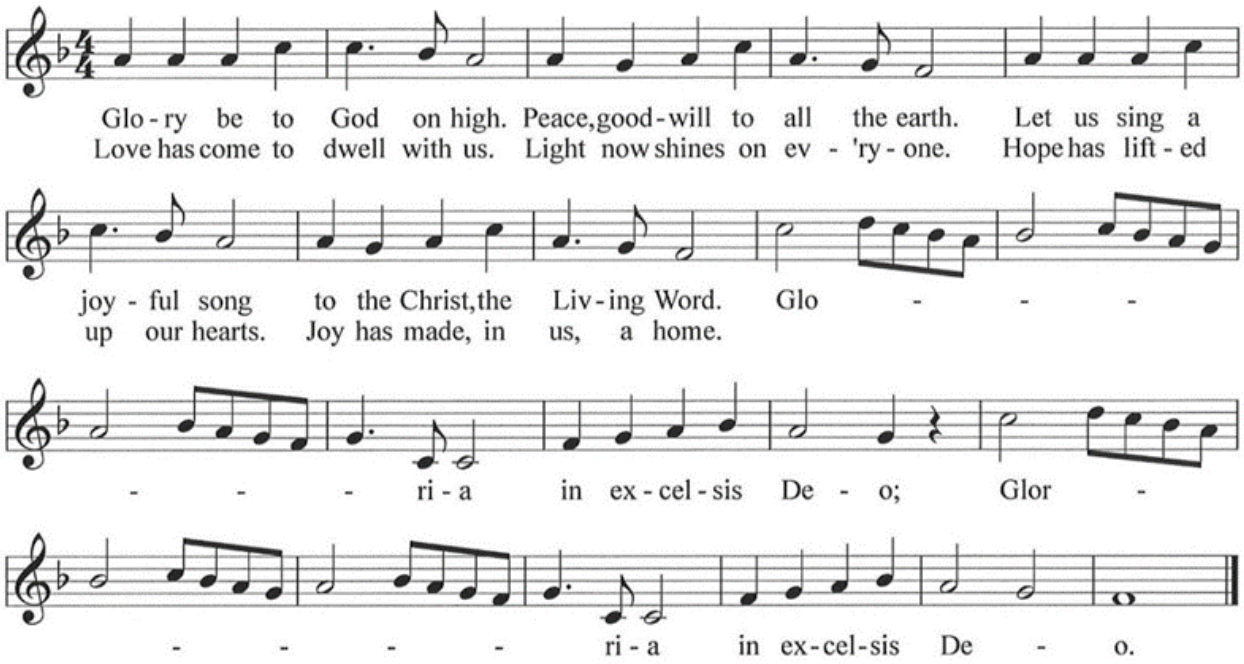
Light One Candle (verse 1)..... ELW (back of red book) **240**





Hymn of Praise*

Glory be to God on High (Tune: Angels We Have Heard on High) ..... Words: David Eck © 2011



Prayer of the Day*

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. **By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Message

Scripture Reading | Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Restore us, O God; let your face
shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
**O Lord God of hosts, how long will your
anger fume when your people pray?**

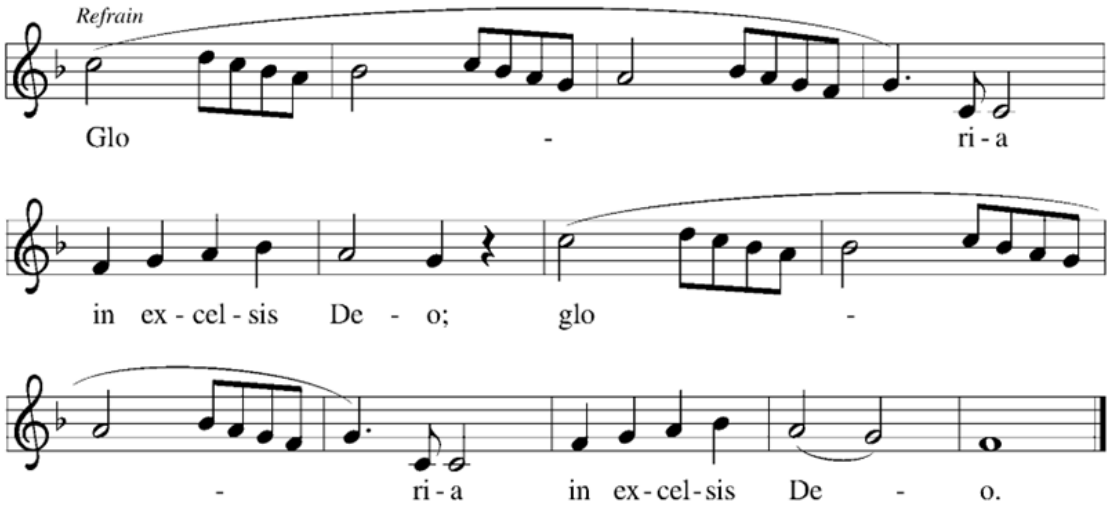
You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face
shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation*

Refrain from Angels We Have Heard on High ..... ELW (back of red book) **289**



Gospel Reading* | Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering. "In those days, after that suffering, the sun

will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day*

All Earth is Hopeful ..... ELW (back of Red Book) **266**

1 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.

2 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.

3 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!

4 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.

Prayers of the People*

Response: God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Lord's Prayer*

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

Peace* *(Please be seated after sharing the peace.)*

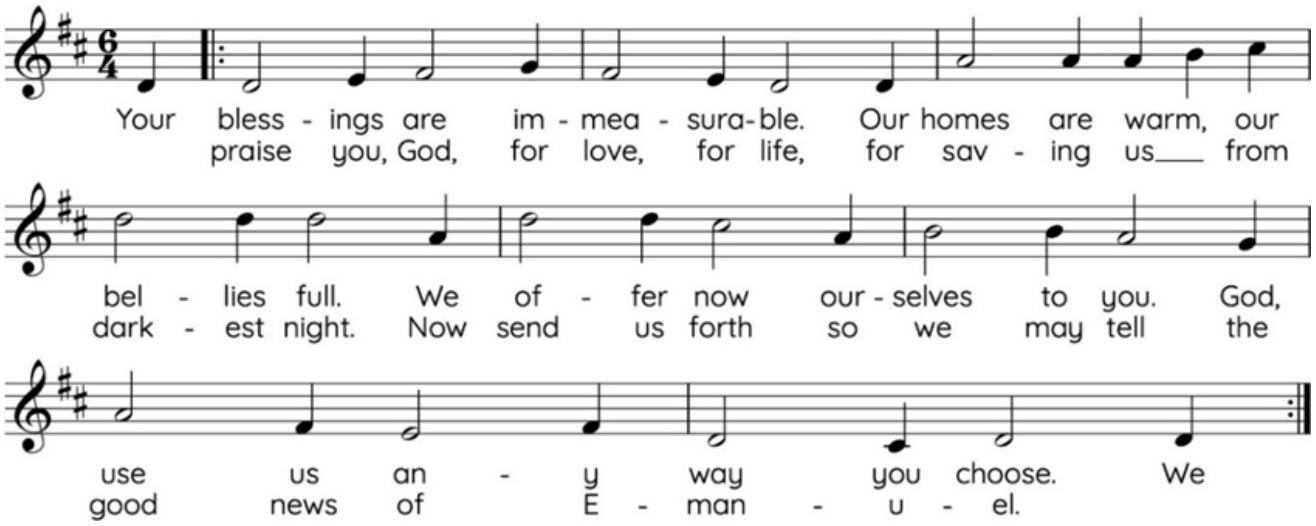
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Call to Offering

(The offering plates will be passed along the pews.)

Offering Hymn

Your Blessings Are Immeasurable..... setting by David Eck
To the tune of "On Jordan's Bank the Baptists Cry"



Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Holy Creator, **we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing*

God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn*

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers.....ELW (back of Red Book) **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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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!

Sending*

Go in peace. Bring good news the brokenhearted.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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

Grace Happenings

Scan to view the current Weekly Update Email

Be a Blessing Stewardship Appeal

You are a blessing! We have received 47 pledges this year. Within our pledges, no one has decreased their giving, and 29 households have increased their giving by a collective $294 a week. While still a bit short of our goal, we are so thankful for your generosity. Together we will continue to be a blessing to our community. **Were you still hoping to turn in a pledge? It's not too late!** Every pledge is appreciated and helps us plan. If you would like to still turn one in you can do so online (link in the weekly email) or by bringing/mailing it to church.

Tuesday! Exciting Giving Opportunity with Thrivent

For one day only – Tuesday, December 1, 2026 – Thrivent will match gifts made through their giving platform from a shared pool of up to $3 million in matching funds. ➔*In other words, every dollar you give is matched and given back to Grace*➔.

- **When** Tuesday, December 1, 2026 ONLY – midnight to 11:59pm in the donor's time zone
- **Who can give** Anyone – you do not need to be a Thrivent member or client to donate
- **How** Go to **choice-org-search.apps.thrivent.com/details/100244194980** to access the Grace Lutheran Church giving page (or use the link sent in the weekly update).

IMPORTANT NOTES

→ Donations must be made December 1, online only at the Grace link above.
→ Donations can only be made using credit/debit card (fees covered by Thrivent).
→ For more information and details go to: **thrivent.com/offers/giving-tuesday**

The Heart that Grew Three Sizes

December 6 & 13 | Between Services

Devotion This advent you are invited to find faith in the story of the Grinch in the book by Matt Rawle, "The Heart that Grew Three Sizes." Each chapter will invite you to reflect on the most famous green grump and the ways in which Christmas may not go as planned and where you can find joy in the season. You can purchase the book on your own or you may pick up a copy at church for $10.

Grinchfest On December 6, between services, we are going to have a watch party and some fun! All ages are invited to come together eat some tasty snacks and watch a 30 min video of the Grinch. Afterwards, we will have an activity and some conversation.

Conversation On December 13, between services, you are invited to join us for a deeper conversation about the devotions we've been reading in The Heart that Grew Three Sizes. Sharing what questions, thoughts and ideas the first few weeks of Advent has stirred within us.

Bonfire Church

Wednesday, December 9 | 6-8pm

Tentative Location: **Devils Glen Park**

Grace members in their second quarter of life (20s, 30s, 40s) are invited to join other members from local Quad Cities ELCA churches for a bonfire. We will have snacks and great conversation. Feel free to bring a friend! Pastor Stephanie can answer any questions.

Pictures Into Memories

Sunday, December 13 | Between Services

Join Joel Lorentzen and Paul Lewellan for the Christmas Edition in the library between services on December 13th. Think ugly sweaters, baby Jesus in the manger, and generous pours of brandy in your eggnog. Bring your favorite photo to share even if you have not attended prior sessions. There are so many stories to tell, so little time.

Short Stories by Jesus

11am Thursdays through December 10

This fall we will dive into Jesus' short stories, his parables, by looking at the cultural context they were rooted in and how the original Jewish audience understood them. This study will follow along with Amy-Jill Levine's book *Short Stories by Jesus*, (book not required). She will be our resident expert as a scholar in New Testament and Jewish Studies. Contact Pastor Stephanie with any questions.

Christmas Day Dinner

Please RSVP by December 14← **@ Grace December 25**

You are invited to join our Grace family for Christmas Day Dinner. As we plan, it would be helpful to know how many people may be interested. Please contact the office or if you are interested. If you'd like to help, you may reach out to Ruth McAndrews or Carol Keller.

Junior Bible Study

Next Sunday During Worship

This year we are using *Wonder on the Go* inviting children to wonder about the characters in Bible Stories and what we can learn about God.

Ongoing Ministries

See the next *ongoing ministry meeting dates and times in the "Looking Ahead" section below and grab an ongoing ministry pew card. Feel free to get in touch with the group contacts with any questions.

Looking Ahead

*Men's Lunch Noon Wednesdays at Church
*Centering Prayer Mondays at 4:30pm
November 24-30 Pr. Stephanie vacation
November 30 Pray & Play
December 2 *Grief Support Group 5:30pm
December 3 Short Stories Bible Study
December 6 Food Pantry
December 6 & 13 Fair Trade Sales
December 6 & 13 Grinchfest
December 8 *Naomi Circle 11:30am *offsite*
December 8 & 9 *Quilters
December 9 Bonfire Church
December 10 Short Stories Bible Study
December 11 Kids Club!
December 13 Candles & Carols 6:30pm
December 14 Christmas Dinner RSVP Deadline
December 16 *Grief Support Group 5:30pm
December 20 Children's Christmas Joint Svc
December 24 Office Closes at Noon
December 24 Christmas Eve 5pm & 7pm
December 25 Christmas Dinner at Grace
December 27 Christmas Hymn Sing Joint Svc

Online Giving

Supporting Grace is easy with e-giving. Go to **bit.ly/GraceGivingOnline** or scan this QR Code to donate one time or to set up recurring gifts. Your offerings support and nurture ministries at Grace along with support for local and global organizations. We appreciate and thank you for your generosity!

Interested in Joining Grace?

Please contact the office for information about joining Grace. All are welcome and we would be overjoyed to have you engaged in the worship, ministries, and congregational life here at Grace.

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'd like to be added to our email list, please contact Annie in the church office.

Calendar

Sunday, November 29
Pastor Stephanie Vacation
8:30am Worship & Livestream
9:30am Coffee Hour
10:30am Contemporary Worship

Monday, November 30
Pastor Stephanie Vacation
8:30am Pray & Play to 4:00pm
4:30pm Centering Prayer – Zoom

Tuesday, December 1
10:00am Pastor's Text Study – PBH
1:30pm Personnel Meeting – PBH
5:00pm Property Meeting – Narthex
6:00pm CYF Meeting - PBH

Wednesday, December 2
12:00pm Men's Lunch Group
5:30pm Grief Support Group – PBH
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 3
11:00am Short Stories Bible Study – PBH

Friday, December 4

Saturday, December 5

Sunday, December 6
Food Pantry Sunday
8:30am Worship & Livestream
9:30am Coffee Hour
9:40am Grinchfest Devotions
10:30am Contemporary Worship

Monday, December 7
10:30am Staff Meeting
4:30pm Centering Prayer – Zoom
5:00pm Worship Meeting

Tuesday, December 8
9:00am Quilters
10:00am Pastor's Text Study – PBH
11:30am Naomi Circle @ Outing Club
1:30pm Social Ministry Meeting – PBH
2:30pm Outreach & Welcome Mtg - PBH

Serving in Worship

Senior Pastor ..... Pastor Stephanie Wood
Preaching & Presiding Today: Director of Outreach & Youth Ministry ..... Pastor Kirsten Lee
Assisting Minister ..... Paul Lewellan
Acolyte & Crucifer ..... Matt Levsen
Greeters ..... Kathy Higgins, Jackie Cain
Ushers ..... Mike & Deb Kirby
Sound System ..... Russ Finkler
Livestream Tech ..... Dan Carney
Prayers ..... Sundays & Seasons
Altar Guild ..... Jackie Cain
Heart & Voice Choir Director ..... Sally Meier
Organist ..... Susan Senn
Pianist ..... Kathi Parrish
Coffee Hour ..... Jim & Gloria Lange

Please complete an attendance card located in the pews or at the usher's table.

Grace Lutheran Church

1140 East High Street, Davenport, IA 52803
563-322-0769 | office@gracewelcomesyou.org
YouTube: Grace Lutheran Davenport
Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/GraceWelcomesYou

- *Hark, the Glad Sound!* Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751
- *Light One Candle*; Text: Wayne L. Wold b. 1954; Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish Folk Tune; Text © Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress
- *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*; Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907
- *All Earth is Hopeful*; 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.

From sundaysandseasons.com all rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23188. NRSV, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under OneLicense copyright A-711016. All rights reserved. CCLI Copyright license 359372. CCLI Streaming license 20503478.