

Is it too early for a gift?



“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her. Her warfare really is over. Her guilt is fully paid for. Yes, she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins” (**Isaiah 40:1-2 EHV**).

*A video feed of the service may also be viewed in the basement.
In the entryway quiet bags are available for children.*



Grace Lutheran Church and School

Advent Sunday 3 • December 14, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP:

Usher Team B: *Dale Bernthal, David Maas, Jerry Knuth,
Micah & Jonah Maas (understudies)*

HYMN 63

THEMATIC INTRODUCTION

PRAYER

INVOCATION:

We worship in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

Amen!



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let us pray ...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen!

3 In those days, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, ²“Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!” ³Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight.”

⁴John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him. ⁶They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore produce fruit in keeping with repentance! ⁹Do not think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰Already the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance. But the one who comes after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

²²I will declare your name to my brothers.
In the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

²³You who fear the LORD, praise him!

All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!

Stand in awe of him, all you descendants of Israel!

²⁴For he has not despised nor detested the affliction of the afflicted.

**He has not hidden his face from him,
but when he cried out to him, he heard.**

²⁵You are the source of my praise in the great congregation.

I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who fear him.

²⁶The poor will eat and be satisfied.

**Those who seek him will praise the LORD—
may he live in your hearts forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations will bow down before you.

**²⁸For the kingdom belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.**

²⁹All the rich of the earth will eat and bow down.
All who go down to the dust will kneel before him—
those who cannot keep themselves alive.

³⁰Descendants will serve him.

For generations people will be told about the Lord.

³¹They will come and proclaim his righteousness
to a people yet to be born—
because he has done it.

LETTER READING 2 Timothy 4:5-8 (EHV)

⁵As for you, keep a clear head in every situation. Bear hardship. Do the work of an evangelist. Fulfill your ministry.

⁶You see, I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on, there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness. The Lord, the righteous Judge, will give it to me on that day, and not only to me but also to everyone who loved his appearing.



These are our readings for today. Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty.
From there He will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

40 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her.

Her warfare really is over.

Her guilt is fully paid for.

Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice is calling out:

In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD.

In the wasteland make a level highway for our God.

⁴Every valley will be raised up,

and every mountain and hill will be made low.

The rugged ground will become level,

and the rough places will become a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,

and all flesh together will see it.

Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

⁶A voice was saying, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry out?"

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside.

⁷Grass withers, flowers fade,

when the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Yes, the people are grass.

⁸Grass withers, flowers fade,

but the Word of our God endures forever.

"Is it too early for a gift?"

God comforts sinners: Your debt is double paid!

So none miss out, God commissions a construction project to lift the despairing, and

level the prideful. Reminding us all of our

mortality, he calls us to shelter in Christ, forever.



The peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly

Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of

Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

OFFERING

PRAYERS

THE 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.**

BLESSING:

The LORD bless you and keep you.
 The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The
 LORD look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen!



Weekly Calendar: December 14-December 21, 2025

Today	8:00 am	Peace WORSHIP in Mission
	9:30 am	Grace SUNDAY SCHOOL/BIBLE CLASS in Valentine
	10:30 am	Grace WORSHIP in Valentine
		Snow Removal Volunteer Meeting

- Choir Practice
- 3:00 pm Cherry Hills Devotion
- 5:00 pm Ladies' Aid Christmas Party @ the Cardinals
- 5:00 pm Catechism Class in White River
- 6:00 pm St. Paul's **BIBLE CLASS/SUN. SCHOOL** in White River
- Wed 7:00 pm Advent **WORSHIP** in Valentine
- Sat 9:00 am Grace Christmas Eve Practice
- Next Sun. **Communion Sunday:**
 - 8:00 am Peace **WORSHIP** in Mission
 - 9:30 am Grace **SUNDAY SCHOOL/BIBLE CLASS** in Valentine
 - 10:30 am Grace **WORSHIP** in Valentine
 - 5:00 pm Catechism Class in White River
 - 6:00 pm St. Paul's **BIBLE CLASS/SUN. SCHOOL** in White River

Coming up... Grace School Christmas Break (No School Dec. 24-Jan 6.)

Special Services Coming Up...

- 2:00 pm Christmas **WORSHIP** in White River*
- 6:00 pm Christmas Eve **CHILDREN'S SERVICE** in Valentine
- 9:00 am Christmas **WORSHIP** in Mission*
- 10:30 pm Christmas **WORSHIP** in Valentine*
- 7:00 pm Tri-Parish New Year's Eve **WORSHIP** in Valentine

*Same service

ADULT BIBLE CLASS happens every Sunday at 9:30 am in Valentine, and repeats at 6:00 pm in White River. Today we'll be studying the book of **Malachi (3 of 4)**. See last week's bulletin for more details.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? We've been pausing to meditate on names for the Baby in the manger: **Jesus. Christ. Immanuel.** Our last Midweek Advent Service at Grace will take place at **7:00 pm this Wednesday.**



ILC CHRISTMAS CONCERT ONLINE: The choirs of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will be presenting Light Born From Light (O Nata Lux de Lumine) on Friday, December 19, 2025 at Messiah Lutheran Church, 2015 N Hastings Way, Eau Claire, WI 54703. The evening will begin at 7:00 p.m., with the strings, band, and flute choir presenting several songs prior to the choral service. It is open to the public and admission is free. The service will also be streaming live at youtube.com/@ilcvideos

WHITEWATER WINTER CAMP

2026: Each year in January, our sister congregation (Immanuel Mankato, MN) hosts a winter camp in the beautiful bluffs of southern Minnesota. Young adults (High School thru 2nd year of



college) gather at Whitewater State Park near St. Charles, MN to play in the snow, hike the bluffs, relax by the lodge fire, play games, study God’s Word, and just be together. Pastor Caleb will be serving as one of the chaperone this year. Camp happens Fri-Sun, January 23-25. Cost will be around \$83 per camper. Other male and female chaperones will be attending from the Mankato congregation. Registration is a solid January 18, 2024. Payment (to Caleb Schaller) will be due before departure (cash, check, PayPal, or Venmo).

SALT+LIGHT SERMONS PODCAST: Each week our services are live-streamed to Grace Church’s YouTube Channel. This is a great resource to use when you are unable to attend worship in person. In addition to this resource, the Salt+Light Sermons Podcast is a “weekly audio sermon archive”. Search for “Salt + Light Sermons Caleb Schaller” on your podcast platform (Spotify, iTunes, Amazon Podcast, YouTube), or follow this link to Spotify podcast... <https://tinyurl.com/saltandlightsermons>

MUSICIANS: Carol Ahrens, Jeanie Hoffman, Stephen Krause, Anna Maas, Louise Mayhew. **VIDEOGRAPHERS:** Dale Bernthal; David Maas.

LAST SUNDAY (12/7): 67 in attendance. **OFFERING:** \$2,200.12 (General) + \$1,740 (School Tuition) + \$175 (Debt Retirement) = \$4,115.12 **MIDWEEK SERVICE (12/10):** 50 in attendance. **OFFERING:** \$607.35 (General) + \$25 (Eduk8 Fund) + \$50 (Debt Retirement) + \$600 (Pastor Sharing) = \$1,282.35

CONGREGATION CHAIRMAN: Dale Bernthal 402-322-9063

ELDERS: Jerry Sharp, Dan Morrison, Burnell Nieuwenhuis

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Andrew Roehl (5th-8th)..... 715-544-7555

TEACHERS: Louise Mayhew (History), Stephen Krause (3rd-5th), Noah Ohlmann (1st-3rd), Candice Ohlmann (PreK-1st)

SYNOD AFFILIATION: Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) clclutheran.org



Grace Lutheran Church and School

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