

January 1st, 2012

Circumcision and Name of Jesus

PHIL. 2:9

NAME ABOVE
+ JESUS
EVERY NAME

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI ~ SYNOD
308 Byrne Street
Smithville, TX 78957
512-237-2108

Pastor Timothy Appel



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We give thanks that our gracious Lord Jesus Christ has gathered us together here for his Divine Service. Today again our Lord comes to serve us and lavish us with his gifts of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Rejoicing in those wonderful gifts, we sing with David in Psalm 84: "How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere."

In our readings today: Circumcision, the covenant God made with Abraham and his Seed, sealed His promises and blessings in the flesh, but it also signified the burden of the Law. When the Lord Jesus came in the flesh to redeem His people, He subjected Himself to that Law in order to fulfill the Law and release all people from its bondage. "*He was called Jesus*" (Luke 2:21), because He came to save His people from their sins. Jesus first shed His blood on our behalf when "*He was circumcised*" (Luke 2:21), thus foreshadowing His shedding of blood as He sacrificed Himself upon the Cross. We are "*justified by faith*" in His blood (Gal. 3:24). Therefore, we "*are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise*" (Gal. 3:29), not by the circumcision of our flesh, but in the flesh and blood of Christ Jesus, the true Seed of Abraham. "*Baptized into Christ,*" we belong to Him and are clothed and covered by His righteousness (Gal. 3:27). Holy Baptism is the true circumcision made without hands, by which the Lord Jesus puts His Name on us and blesses us (Num. 6:22, 27).

Requests, please give written requests to be included during our "Prayers of the Church" to an usher or an elder before worship service.

Hearing, Ask an usher for one of the wireless hearing assistance units.

Communion, As Lutheran Christians we believe that all those who repent of their sins, trust in Christ as their Lord and Savior, believe that the true body and blood of Jesus Christ are in the bread and wine as they receive them, and seek to be one with those with whom they commune, they are prepared to commune in a worthy manner.

Attendance Registration cards are located in the Hymnal racks of each pew. We ask all members and our guests to complete one and pass it to the center aisles. An usher will collect them after the offering is taken to the altar. The cards are important as they enable our secretary to track members' attendance as well as guests interested in joining our church. Thank you for your help.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME

The Old Year Now Hath Passed Away

TLH #125

1. The old year now hath passed away,
We thank Thee, O our God, to-day,
That Thou hast kept us through the year,
When danger and distress were near.

2. We pray Thee, O Eternal Son,
Who with the Father reign'st as One,
To guard and rule Thy Christendom
Through all the ages yet to come.

3. Take not Thy saving Word away,
Our souls' true comfort, staff and stay;
Abide with us, and keep us free
From errors, foll'wing only Thee.

4. Oh help us to forsake all sin,
A new and holier course begin,
Mark not what once was done amiss,
A happier, better year be this:

5. Wherein as Christians we may live,
Or die in peace that Thou canst give,
To rise again when Thou shalt come,
And enter Thine eternal home.

6. There shall we thank Thee, and adore,
With all the angels evermore;
Lord Jesus Christ, increase our faith
To praise Thy name through life and death!

Stand

Invocation (*God has given us our beginning in Baptism, so the Divine Service begins in His Name.*)

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Confession: (*We cannot come into the presence of our holy God on our own. We recognize our sinfulness and plead for mercy on account of Christ.*)

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution: *(God speaks His words of forgiveness to us through His servant, the pastor.)*

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit: *(Forgiven by God, He invites us into his presence as we speak words from the Psalms.)*

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;

may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but you have given me an open ear.

Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

Then I said, "Behold, I have come;

in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

I desire to do your will, O my God;

your law is within my heart."

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;

may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

Gloria Patri



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

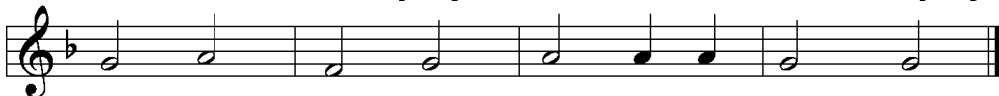


as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Kyrie: *(Shortened form of the Greek "Kyrie eleison," meaning "Lord, have mercy." In the presence of Jesus, we plead for His mercy and help in our time of need.)* LSB 186



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



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

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187



♩ Glory be to God on high: **♩** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



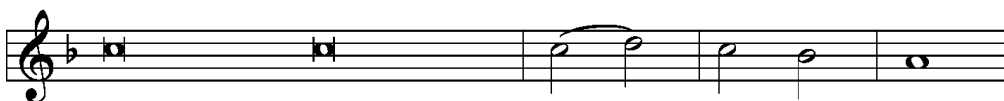
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation: *(The pastor and congregation greet each other in the Lord's presence.)*

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.

Collect: *(Many of these prayers have been used in the church for over 1,500 years. They "collect" the Gospel theme for the day.)*

P Let us pray.

P Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Sit

Scripture Readings: *(Jesus speaks to us in His Word as our crucified and risen Savior.)*

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 6:22-27

²²The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³“Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

²⁴The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

²⁷So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Epistle

Galatians 3:23-29

²³Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:21

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²¹And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Creed: *(God works faith in us by His Word that we hear in Scripture. We confess that faith using one of three creeds that the church has used throughout the years and across the world.)*

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

Hymn of the Day: *(This hymn especially relates to the Gospel theme for the day. Each hymn provides a way for us to hear God's Word set to music.)*

Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

LSB 900



1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,
2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid - en moth - er told,
3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en of the earth
4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child



Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Kneel - ing in her low - ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.
For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall His peo - ple save."
When the cup of hu - man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.

5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n
Under all the mighty heav'n
Whereby those to sin enslaved
Burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Sermon "The Blood of Jesus, Shed for You"

Luke 2:21

(Based on one of the Scripture readings, the pastor proclaims God's Word of Law and Gospel for our lives today.)

Votum

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

G Amen.

Stand

Offertory: *(The congregation responds to God's forgiveness with a sacrifice of praise.)* LSB 192



G 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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Sharing of the Peace

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).

Sit

Offering: *(The congregation responds to God's forgiveness by bringing Him the first fruits of what He has given.)*

Stand

Prayer of the Church: *(The congregation joins together to pray for ourselves, for the Church, and for people throughout the world.)*

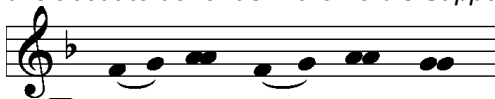
- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

Close of the Prayers

- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface: (*The Service of the Sacrament begins with praise and thanksgiving for what God has done and is about to do for us in the Lord's Supper.*) LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus: (*Latin for "holy." The division between heaven and earth is gone, and we cry out to God with the heavenly host, "Holy, Holy, Holy!" to welcome our Savior Jesus (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9.)*) LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer: *(We pray the words that Jesus gave us to pray, trusting that our Father will hear and answer us.)*

P 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.

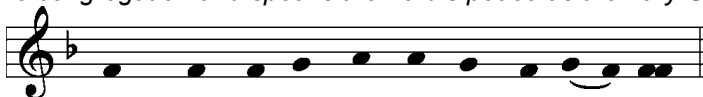
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Our Lord: *(We hear Jesus' words that in the Sacrament He gives us His very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine.)* LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini: (Latin for “The peace of the Lord.” The pastor holds the body and blood of Jesus before the congregation and speaks the Lord’s peace as the very Gospel.) LSB 209



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei: (Latin for “Lamb of God.” As John the Baptist cried (John 1:29), so we sing to Christ, our Lamb who was sacrificed for our sins.) LSB 198



C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Distribution

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

LSB 733



- 1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

Jesus, Name Above All Names

AGPS 145

1. Jesus, name above all names
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us,
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.
2. Jesus, loving shepherd
vine of the branches, Son of God
Prince of Peace, Wonderful counselor
Lord of the universe, Light of the Word.
3. Jesus, Way of salvation,
King of kings, Lord of lords,
the way the truth, and the Life,
Mighty creator, My Savior and friend.

I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

LSB 618



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
 2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
 5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
 bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art.
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.



Refrain
 Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.
- C** Amen.

Stand

Post-Communion Cantic: *(Having received Christ in our mouths and into our lives in the Sacrament, we give thanks and go forth in peace.)*

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *(We thank God for His gift of His incarnate Son Jesus and ask Him to give what He has promised in the Sacrament.)*

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect: *(We thank God for all He has done in the Sacrament and ask that it would show forth in our lives.)*

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

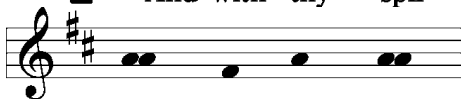
Benedicamus



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

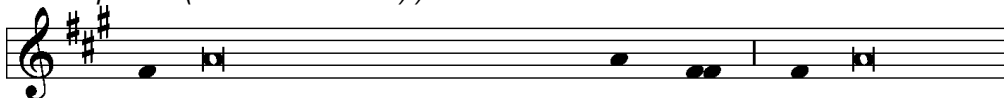


A Bless we the Lord.

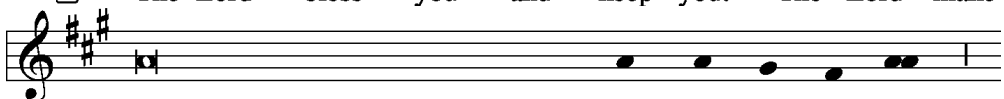


C Thanks be to God.

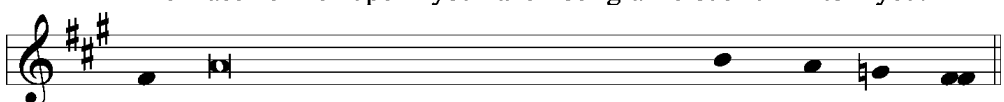
Benediction: *(Just as the Divine Service began, so it ends. We go forth with our Lord's blessing and His name upon us (Numbers 6:22-27).)*



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Sit

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

LSB 922



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing, Nev - er a - lone.
2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Clos - er to Me;
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, Joy - ful and free. Here My
I the Lord will smile up - on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you Mine for - ev - er.
heard My dear Son's sto - ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo - ry.
Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here His ten - der com - fort stilled you.
Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and Broth - er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing— You are My own.
Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Joy - ful and free.
Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

Silent Prayer After Worship

Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

January 1st, 2011

The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to joyfully and enthusiastically Model and share the gospel with the lost.

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Serving the Lord During Today's Worship Service

Jan. Elders:	Jim Duty James Landon	Organist(s):	June Parker Esther Wolff (Sub)
		Jan. Altar Guild:	Nelda Rohde Wendy Rohde
Readers:	Jan. 1 Sheryl Pollard Jan. 8 James Landon Jan. 15 Alvie Tinberg Jan. 22 James Sanders Jan. 29 John Stelling		
Acolytes:	Jan. 1 Rose Caldwell & Reece Kasper Jan. 8 Chad Catron & Jocelyn Kadlecek Jan. 15 Nicholas Nitsche & Colin Kasper Jan. 22 Harlye Bonorden & Dusty Randle Jan. 29 Kaylee Claiborne & Brody Bennight		

VISIT WITH PASTOR

If you need to contact Pastor Appel, his home phone is: 512-237-9664, his email address is: timothyappel@gmail.com, or contact the Office at 512-237-2108. Pastor Appel is normally in the office between 9:00am and 12:00 noon, Mon thru Thurs. He will be available in the afternoons as well, but often uses that time to make nursing home, hospital or home visits. If unable to reach Pastor, please contact your Elder (Elders list on bulletin board outside of Office).

SERMONS ONLINE

Grace Lutheran Church now has the ability to record the worship services through our audio system. Each week's sermon is now being placed online; go to www.glcs.org and follow the link on the front page to listen to Pastor Appel's sermons. This is a great resource if you miss a service, want to hear a sermon again, or help witness to a friend. If you would like a CD copy of the sermon or the entire service for yourself or to give to someone else, please let the church office know.



NEWSLETTER/BULLETINS

Also online: we now have the newsletter as well as our bulletin in PDF format for your viewing. Go to www.glcs.org and click on “Newsletter/bulletins” and then click on the PDF file to access.

The Lord's Supper:



The Lutheran Difference

CONGREGATIONAL BIBLE STUDY ON THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

This study will identify what Lutherans believe about the Lord's Supper and demonstrate from Scripture why we believe what we do. The Board of Elders and Pastor are encouraging all members of the congregation to go through the study together so that as a congregation we can continue to grow in our understanding, appreciation, and trust of what the Lord's Supper is for us as Christians and how we can most faithfully receive it together here at Grace. This study will take place on Sunday mornings during the Bible study hour (8:45 AM – 9:45 AM) for about 8 weeks. Please come and learn more about the precious gift that the Lord gives in his true body and blood with the bread and wine in this Sacrament, even if you haven't been coming to adult Bible study recently. Pastor will also offer this study on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm.



LWML will meet Thursday, January 5th, 6:00pm

GLLC CHAPEL INVITATION

Pastor Appel leads chapel for the children at the Learning Center every **Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM**. Even though the time is geared toward teaching the children about what Jesus has done for them, everyone is invited. Please join us for this short chapel service as you are able. This is a wonderful opportunity to show the children at GLLC that they are an important part of our community. Young and old—we are all children of God!



Lutheran Witness subscriptions have increased to \$12.00 a year. Please make checks payable to: Grace Lutheran Church and submit to the office by December 15, 2011

JOHN 3:16 CARDS

The Board of Evangelism would like to announce that John 3:16 cards are available through the church office. These cards were introduced to us during our Equipping to Share conference. They are a great way to share the good news of salvation through Jesus with a friend by placing their name into the Gospel message given in John 3:16. The other side of the card has Grace's contact information as well as Bible study and worship times. If you would like some of these cards as a way to share the Gospel with others in your life, please contact the church office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

On this First Sunday after Christmas, the Sunday School lesson focuses on "The Presentation of Jesus." In the Divine Service, we join with Simeon and Anna, the angels and archangels, and the great cloud of witnesses in heaven and on earth hailing Christ as the fulfiller of the Law. *Parents might ask, "Where do we sing our praises to God? How has Christ fulfilled the Law for us?"*



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PRAYER LIST

If you are missed in our prayer list, or if there are changes (addition, deletions or corrections) to our prayer list, please let us know. **On the first of the month we will be updating names**, so if you wish to add names, or continue to leave names on the list, please call the church office (237-2108) or write a note on the back of the attendance card.

In the Nursing Home:

Charlene Franke (sister of Ann Schroeder), **Dorothy** Heptner, **Teresa** Slusher, **Dora** Wehmeyer, **Bertha** McGinnis, **Thelma** Bunte

Long Term Health Concerns

Lawrence Goertz (Nancy Young's uncle), **Reggie** Cheak, **Alex** Metzler

Battling Cancer:

Nikki Rivera(4 yrs. old) & **Luke** Rivera (2nd grader)-friends of Kim Kunz, **Chris** Gould, **Shirley** Wilhelm (friend of Rose Pietsch), **Theresa** Deuley Gallbraith, **Devon Rose** Michalik (friends of Mary Ann Duty), **Keith** Whatley (friend of Jim Sanders), **Mary** Knippa (Charles Knippa's mother), **Sharon** Reyna (Brenda Sander's friend), **Bob** Larson (Alvie's son-in-law), **Barbara** Geller (friend of the Langer's), **Patt** Langer, **Joe** Navarro (friend of Allan Riddle), **Patricia** Landon (James Landon's mother), **Pete** Luna (3rd grader with brain tumor), **Lula** Jones, **Jewel** Stark (friend of GLC) and **Tommy** Prochaska.

Recent Health Concerns:

Antone & Marie Delesandre (Rod Langer's cousins), **Holly** Supak (daughter of Smithville's Chief of Police), **Bill** Herbrick (Nancy Fritsche's brother) **Thomas** Kinsey (in-law of Dorothy Heptner), **Ken** Long, (Barbara Pauley's brother), **Eugene** Randle, **Leland** Prove, **Harvey** Franke (Ann Schroeder's cousin), **Joyce** Aplin (Brenda Sander's Sister), **Bobbie** Aplin (Brenda Sander's Mother), **Kenny** Wood (Sandy Kadlecek's father), **Richard** Bennatt (friend of the Langer's), **Easton** Earp (friend of Juanita Bertsch), **Charley** Rae Furr (friend of Donna Zimmerhanel), **Evelyn** Tinberg (Alvie's sister-in-law), **Bernice** Behrend, , **Floyd** Meeks, **Alton** Voight (father of Carolyn Riddle), **Martha** Rasor, **Will** Gordon (Robin Nitsche's brother), **Joe** Reyna (husband of

one of our GLLC teachers), **Christopher** Harms (friend of the Metzlers), **Sandra** St.John (co-worker of Chrissy Becker), **Bill** Moberg (friend of M.W. Kasper).

In the Military: **James** Staton (grandson of Ed & Marilyn Randle), **Dusty** Organ & **Daniel** McIntyre (friends of James Staton), **Steven** Guedry (friend of Millie Fritz), **Ryan** Teague, **Richard** Gamboa, **David** Bienek, **Robert** Klinger (nephew of Jim & Mary Ann Duty), **Beck** Williams Helmcamp (George Helmcamp's grandson).

Other Prayer Requests: **Judy** Murphy (friend of Rose Pietsch), **Nicholas** Harwell, **Mark & Margie** Peres, **The Wolff** family and the **Smithville Volunteer Fire Dept.**

In Mourning:

AT GRACE THIS WEEK

<u>Sun. Jan. 1</u>	<u>Mon. Jan. 2</u>	<u>Tues. Jan. 3</u>	<u>Wed. Jan. 4</u>
CIRCUMCISION AND NAME OF JESUS 8:45a Bible Class 10a Worship/Communion			10a GLLC Chapel Regular Mid Week Schedule Resumes (see schedule below)
<u>Thurs. Jan. 5</u>	<u>Fri. Jan. 6</u>	<u>Sat. Jan. 7</u>	<u>Sun. Jan. 8</u>
6p LWML 7p Lord's Supper Bible Study	Pastor Away-Family Day		8:45a Bible Class 10a Worship 6:30p Youth Group

MIDWEEK MEALS

We are in need of **volunteers** to cook for midweek meals again during 2012. A sign-up sheet has been placed on the bulletin board next to the office in the Narthex. Individuals, families, and groups are encouraged to sign-up to provide a simple meal for the children and adults who gather each week to learn more about Jesus through Bible study. Thank you to everyone who provides this labor of love!

*MID WEEK SCHEDULE
5:45p Mid Week Meal
6:30p Mid Week Bible Class – All ages
7:30 – 8:30p Jr. High & High School Youth

Sunday Worship (12/24) 241
(12/25) 112

FINANCIALS – as of December 25th, 2011

	Dec. 4	Dec. 7	Dec. 11	Dec. 14	Dec. 18	Dec. 21	Dec. 24	Dec. 25
General	5,551.00	379.00	2,933.00		3,032.00	143.00	594.00	2,102.00
Sun School	36.00		23.00		25.40			
Spcl. Missions	50.00							
Mem./Edna Randle	150.00		25.00					
Lutheran Witness	24.00		65.00		12.00	12.00		
Footprints		76.00	500.00					
GLLC donation	425.00		25.00	626.30	50.00			
Poinsettias	72.00	8.50						
New Van	1,000.00		50.00		55.00			
Custodian	10.00							
Organ			10.00			20.00		25.00
Van Repair	100.00							
TOTAL	7,418.00	463.50	3,631.00	626.30	3,174.40	175.00	594.00	2,127.00

12/11/2011 **Sunday School Door Offering for Christmas bags \$326.85



Greetings Grace members! We are starting a new year. And what better way to do so than to start greeting our own folks and visitors at the door. Yes, I know. It has been done before but died. What a shame. Research indicates that initially the top two components that seem to bring people back for a second visit is 1) the effectiveness of the pastor, 2) the friendliness of the people. Research also indicates that when members greet members it makes for a closer church; breaking the ice, putting names with faces, etc. Do you know every one by name in our church? I don't. So join with me and sign up to be a greeter. It is an easy way to serve and only takes about 20-30 minutes Sunday morning. The more we get the less you will get to do it; unless you just want to hog it! We will probably have a meeting before we get started. See me, **Jim Sanders**, or sign up in the Narthex. Now, don't make me come after you!

IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE TO FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

Every so often, we at Grace Lutheran Church have the opportunity to provide the service of providing meals to one of our fellow members who has recently come home from the hospital or has another situation that makes it difficult for them to prepare every meal. While it may seem like a simple or trivial thing to do, such service is truly God-pleasing because He himself has given it for us to do. In the 5th Commandment, we learn God has given us the holy task to "help and support [our neighbors] in every physical need." Jesus Christ has freed us from our self-centered sinfulness to live in such service, not because any good works save us, but because the love that Christ has showed us simply overflows into such good works. That's what we see in Matthew 25:31-40. Those whom the Lord has made righteous by faith, his sheep, are surprised when he tells them that they served him in so many ways. Jesus says to them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." Service to others is simply what Christ's sheep do. Because they have already been made holy by his death and resurrection, they serve others, in such simple ways as feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, and visiting the sick. Though these tasks look simple and often go unnoticed by the world around us, they do not go unnoticed by our Lord Jesus Christ. Though it may seem that there are more "holy" things that you could do, nothing is more holy than what God has given. That's why Martin Luther says in his Large Catechism, "Know, however, that these works, commanded by God's Word, are the true, holy, and divine works in which he rejoices with all the angels." Please consider helping with this important and worthwhile service to your fellow members of the Body of Christ here at Grace. If you are interested in doing so, please talk to Mary Ann Duty, our hospitality coordinator, or let the church office know so that you can be contacted when such a need arises.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

January 8th. 2012

The Baptism of Our Lord

Divine Service Setting 3

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

Epistle Reading: Romans 6:1-11

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:4-11