

# Nativity of Our Lord



## Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

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December 24, 2021

8:00 pm

## Welcome to Grace

We give thanks that you have come to Grace to worship in God's house.

To our guests — We invite you to worship with us often and consider our family of faith yours.

Everything you need for worship is printed in this bulletin. Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Our facility is equipped with a hearing assistance system to accommodate hearing difficulties. Please ask the sound technician for a receiver.

Please turn off or silence your personal communication device.  
We also ask that you not bring food or drink into our worship space.

We are a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). The NALC embraces four core values: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded and Congregationally Focused. The NALC is focused on living out Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples in North America and around the globe. We invite you to learn more about our congregation and the NALC.

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## Christmas Eve

*On this holy night we hear the familiar story of Jesus' birth in a stable filled with animals. Into a dark and lonely world the Christ-child came; not into a sterile maternity ward, but into the messiness of human life, so that we might know the power of his forgiveness and mercy in our lives. God revealed the nativity news to some shepherds who then came to worship him.*

### **Cover Image:**

*Nativity, 1644*

*Georges de La Tour (1593-1652, French [Lorraine])*

*Oil on Canvas, 1 meter x 1.3 meters*

*Louvre*

*Paris, France*

# The Nativity of Our Lord

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## **PRELUDE MUSIC**

**(Linda Hoch - Organ)**

“Carol Prelude on O Little Town of Bethlehem” – *arr. Peter Pindar Stearns*

“Cradle Carol” – *arr. Robert J. Powell*

“A Carol Fantasy” – *arr. Franklin D. Ashdown*

**(String Quartet)**

“Wachet Auf” – *arr. J. S. Bach*

“Air on a G String” – *J. S. Bach*

“Carol of the Bells” – *arr. Stuart Carlson*

**(Grace Singers Chancel Choir, String Quartet, Linda Hoch – Organ)**

“Gloria” - *Vivaldi*

## **Invocation**

*Please Stand.*

## **Proclamation of the Birth of Christ**

### **John 1: 1-14**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## The Gathering

### GATHERING HYMN “Once in Royal David’s City”

- ALL:** 1. Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

### DIALOGUE

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

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- A** Let us pray. Almighty God,  
**C** **you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.  
Grant that here on earth we may walk in  
the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day  
wake to the brightness of his glory;  
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## LESSONS AND CAROLS

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### LESSON 1 GENESIS 3: 8-15 THE FALL

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” He answered, “ I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” The man said, “The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you

have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me and I ate." So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel."

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"**

- ALL:**
1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.
  2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

### **LESSON 2: GENESIS 12: 1-3 THE BLESSING OF THE NATIONS**

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "O Come, O Come Emmanuel "**

- ALL:**
1. O Come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
  4. O Come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits by your advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel

### **LESSON 3: ISAIAH 9:2-7 OUT OF THE DARKNESS, LIGHT!**

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, and the rod of their oppressor.

Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, and will be fuel for the fire. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"**

- ALL:**
1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,  
it came, a flow'r so bright,  
Amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.
  2. Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love a right,  
she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

**LESSON 4: ISAIAH 60:1-6 HIS GLORY REIGNS!**

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

**CONGREGATION RESPONSE "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"**

- ALL:**
1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
  4. For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling;  
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

## **LESSON 5: LUKE 1:26–38 THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD**

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.

**MUSIC RESPONSE: "Mary, Did You Know?" – arr. Jay Rouse** (Linda Hoch – piano)

## **LESSON 6: LUKE 2:1, 3–7 OUR LORD EMMANUEL**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

**MUSIC RESPONSE: "Away in a Manger" - arr. Gilbert Martin** (Jeff Daubenmire – piano; Linda Hoch – organ)

## **LESSON 7: LUKE 2:8–14 FEAR NOT!**

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will be of great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you, he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great

company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

#### **MUSIC RESPONSE**

**"The First Noel" – arr. Stuart Carlson (String Quartet)**

#### **LESSON 8: LUKE 2:15–20 O NIGHT DIVINE**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

#### **MUSIC RESPONSE**

**"O Holy Night" – arr. Paul Shin (String Quartet)**

#### **LESSON 9: MATTHEW 28: 16-20 INSTITUTION OF BAPTISM**

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

#### **CONGREGATION RESPONSE "Go Tell It on the Mountain"**

**ALL: REFRAIN:** Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere!  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. **Refrain**
3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

#### **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

**Pastor Nicholas Hopman**

**ANTHEM BY GRACE CHANCEL CHOIR**  
**“And The Glory of the Lord” - Handel**

*Please stand.*

**PREFACE**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

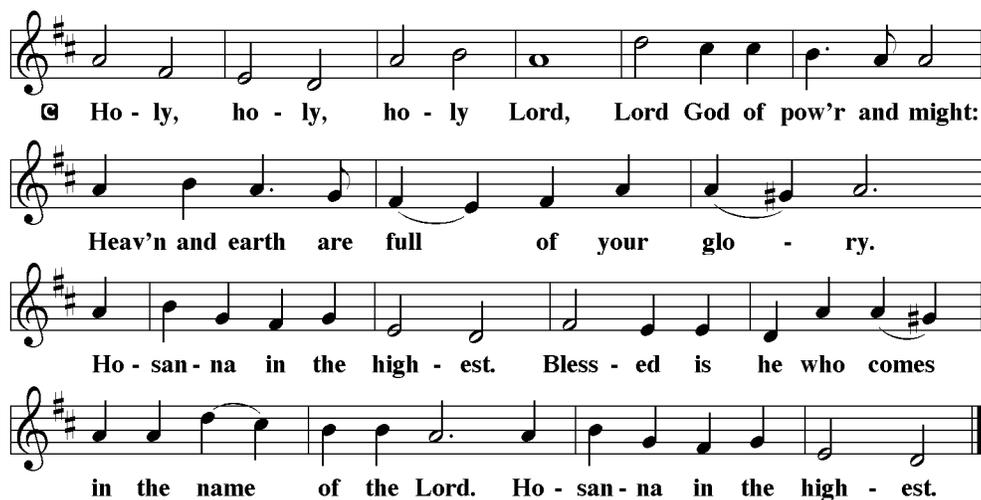
**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is indeed right and salutary . . . *The Presider continues with the preface, concluding:...*we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

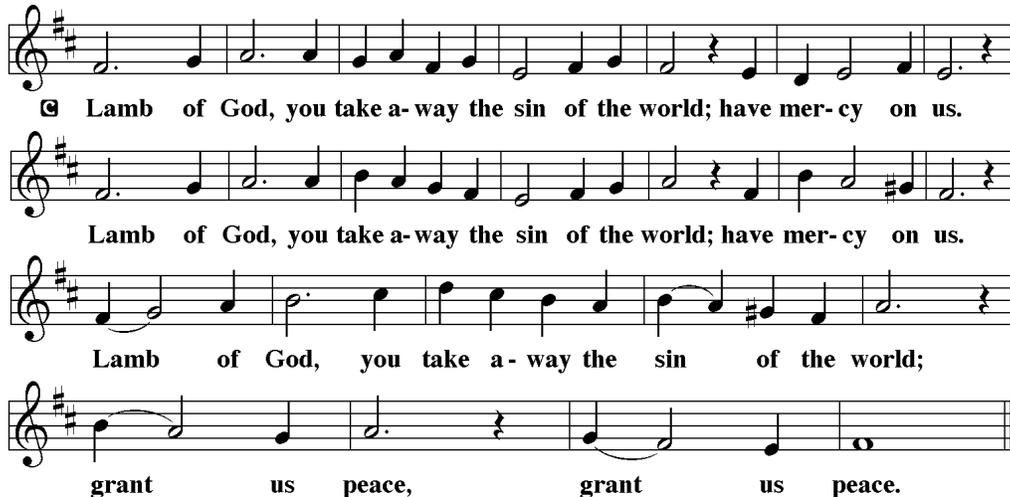
## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he also took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and said, "Take and drink it all of you. This cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

*Please be seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.



All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

*Children who do not commune are invited forward to receive a blessing.*

*You may receive the Communion Wine by taking a communion glass from the tray as it is offered to you.*

*As always, the common cup is offered for those who desire to use it, everyone is also welcome to use the individual cups.*

*Grape juice is available in the center of the communion tray.*

***After you have received, please place the empty communion glass in the basket provided***

*(Gluten-free hosts are available by telling the person giving the host)*

**COMMUNION MUSIC**

**Jeff Daubenmire – piano; Linda Hoch – organ**

“Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mild” – *arr. Lani Smith*

“O Jesu Sweet, O Jesu Mild” – *arr. Lani Smith*

“Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella” – *arr. Lani Smith*

*After all have communed, please Stand.*

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** **Amen.**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**P** We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through  
the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you  
would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent  
love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**The Candle Lighting**

*The ushers will distribute light from the processional candles.*

*The person taking flame from a candle shall tilt his/her candle toward the lighted candle.*

*Once lighted, hold your candle upright so that the next person may take light from you.*

*(Each child has been given a battery-run candle for their safety.)*

**CONGREGATIONAL CAROL “Silent Night” (String Quartet and Linda Hoch- organ)**

- ALL:** 1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!
3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiant beams from your holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at your birth, Jesus Lord, at your birth.

*Please extinguish candles.*

## THE SENDING

### BLESSING

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ grant you peace.
- C **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN “Joy to the World!”

- ALL 1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and Heaven and nature sing, and Heave and nature sing,  
and Heaven and Heaven and nature sing.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

### SPECIAL MUSIC “Hallelujah Chorus (from Handel’s *Messiah*)” - G.F. Handel

*The congregation participants who wish to join the choir are invited to the choir loft. Music will be provided.*

### DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE **Jeff Daubenmire – piano; Linda Hoch – Organ** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” – arr. Joel Raney

**Offering:** A basket will be placed by the baptismal font for offering. Offerings can be placed in the basket before or after the service.

## SERVING TONIGHT

PREACHER/PRESIDER	Pastor Nicholas Hopman
ASSISTING MINISTER	Molly King, Commissioned Lay Minister
ORGANIST/PIANIST	Linda Hoch
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Jeff Daubenmire
STRING QUARTET	Nic Lacy, Violin I Nik Repka, Violin II Daniel Winfield, Viola Jane Van Voorhis, Cello
GRACE CHANCEL CHOIR	Natalie Arthur, Karen Bale, Heather Bush, Marge Cepek, Jean Claflin, Eloise Collier, Dorothy Crain, Ken Crist, Martha Crist, David Doll, Stephanie Foes, Julie Hotchkiss, Peggy Jones, Rela Kehl, David Kile, Stephen Kile, Sue Mahrt, Shirley Moleno, Dan Morrison, Fred Pfanz, Sue Ross, Larry Schaller, Becky Seifert, Larry Seifert, Tami Stone, Chris Troutman, John Troutman
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Tami Stone, John Westenhaver, Bill Kulju, Ted Ray
SOUND TECHNICIANS	Chris Banks, Dann George, Paul Grant, Eric Bush
GREETERS	Mike & Beverly Grubb
USHERS	Mike & Beverly Grubb

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***Thank you to everyone who purchased poinsettia plants for the sanctuary.  
Plants may be picked up following the service this evening, Sunday, or  
during office hours next week.***

***We will have one service Sunday, December 26 at 9:30 am.  
The church office will be closed Monday, December 27th.***



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## Acknowledgements

Artwork and portions of the liturgy from SundaysandSeasons.com.  
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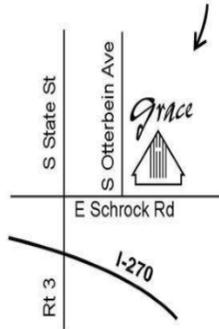
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**You're invited! Here's how to find us.**



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<http://www.facebook.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranWesterville>

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm, Fri 9am-Noon

**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church** has been serving the Westerville community for more than 108 years, supporting local ministries such as the Westerville Area Resource Ministry, Westerville Partnership Habitat for Humanity, and Westerville CROP Walk. Grace also supports Lutheran Social Services programs like Faith Mission and provides weekly meeting space for Boy Scout Troop 007 and four AA groups.

**Vision Statement:** We envision Grace to be a welcoming Christ-centered community of faith, inviting all, growing in discipleship, sharing in ministries.

**Mission Statement:** Our mission is to reach out with the love of Jesus to grow disciples and serve our community.