

WELCOME

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY | LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST

To our visitors We are glad you have joined us to share in the gifts of our gracious Lord as we worship Him together in spirit and truth by receiving His Word and Sacraments. We invite you to pick up information and our Wittenberg Way newsletter at our welcome desk. If you have questions concerning the Christian faith or the Lutheran tradition, please let us know as our pastor would love to speak with you.

Children are welcome in our services Grace is a church family and we believe like any family we learn by doing things together. Bulletins are available for children that coincide with the liturgical calendar and scripture readings. We encourage parents to guide their children throughout the service, helping them to learn the language of the faith through the liturgy. A nursery with sound is located in the hallway outside the sanctuary to the right just before the glass door to the courtyard.

Holy Communion Our fellowship in the Lord’s Supper follows the Lutheran tradition grounded in the teaching of Holy Scripture. As one baptized into the Name of our Triune God and confessing the real presence of Christ’s body and blood in the Supper for the forgiveness of sins you are warmly invited to join us around the table for Holy Communion. If you are not communing but wish to be blessed, then simply cross your arms at the rail and you will be blessed by the celebrant.

Giving to Grace

- Your weekly envelopes or those in the pews
- Online from your bank website
- Scan the QR code to the right
- On the Grace Giving Page at gracesandiego.com
- Time & Talents - contact Pr. Brian



Please silence cell phones and be mindful of those preparing for worship.

Restrooms are available in the hallway outside the sanctuary.



AS WE GATHER

Holy Innocents Day tells the truth we often try to avoid: God does not save us by standing far away from our pain. He saves us by stepping into it. The children of Bethlehem are remembered not because their suffering made sense, but because God refuses to forget them—and refuses to abandon a broken world. Today, we don’t explain suffering. We bring it to Jesus. And we trust that the One who fled Herod’s sword, carried our griefs, and was nailed to a cross is the same One who promises that death will not have the last word.

Collect

Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with Your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Matthew 2:13-18

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

DIVINE SERVICE	
Setting 1	
Settings of " <i>Now Sing We, Now Rejoice</i> "	
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Kyrie	152
Gloria	154
Salutation and Collect	156
Reading	Jeremiah 31:15-17
Gradual	
Reading	Revelation 14:1-5
Alleluia	156
Gospel	Matthew 2:13-18
Children’s Homily	
Anthem	arr. Paul Manz
<i>Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising</i>	
Sandi Garcia, recorder; Renee Thompson, clarinet	
Sermon	Rev. Brian Thomas
“Out of Egypt I Called My Son”	
Matthew 2:13-18	
Nicene Creed	158
Prayer of the Church	
Offertory Hymn	
<i>By All Your Saints in Warfare</i>	517
<i>(verses 1, 9, 3)</i>	
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Memorial Acclamation (2x)	
Christ has died,	
Christ is risen,	
Christ will come again.	
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Eucharist	
Psalm 54	
<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	393
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Post Communion Collect	166
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<i>Now Sing We, Now Rejoice</i>	386
<i>Swiss Noel</i>	Louis Claude D’quin
* bold indicates standing	

Worship Assistants	
Pastor	Rev. Brian Thomas
Director of Music	Dale Sorenson

Serving Today	
Elder	Ted Nilsen
Altar Guild	Jack and Judy George
Crucifer	Greta Rucks
Lector	Carl Lehman
Acolytes	Johnathan & Tobias Sorrels
Cantor	Jeremy Fullam
Usher	Harold Nichols
Serving 1/4/26	
Elder	Jeremy Fullam
Altar Guild	Michael Tow
Crucifer	Spencer Huntley
Acolytes	Peter Gertz & Leopold Fullam
Lector	Jeremy Fullam
Cantor	John Barber
Usher	Jackson Huntley

Prayer List
<p>For Strength and Healing Dave, Arleen, Eddie, Michelle, Mark, Kristi, Jacque, Dave, Phyllis, Aubrey, and Floyd</p> <p>For Our Missionaries & Seminarians Rev. Dr. Tardelli Voss, Vicar Rowan Turner, and Vicar William Baker</p> <p>For Our Military Members Rev. Mario Ancira, Micah Burge, Hannah Downey, Nathan Farish, Gavin Robillard, Joshua Simmons, and Jeff & Jordan Gruetzmacher,</p> <p>For Those Unable to Attend Joyce Rochester, Herb & Marge Foelber, and Janice Keitel</p>

Announcements

Please stick around next Sunday, January 4th, to help break down and store our Christmas decorations!

The Holy Innocents

December 28, 2025

9:00 am

Proclaiming the Good News of God's grace in Jesus Christ

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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