# Fourth Sunday of Advent Service of Holy Communion December 21, 2025

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Traditional Worship 9:30 a.m.

\*-the congregation is invited to stand

#### **WELCOME TO GRACE**

**A warm welcome** to all who are worshiping with us in this season of preparation as we wait to celebrate the coming of Jesus, the Word of God Incarnate. If you are visiting with us, please fill out a guest card which is found in the pews. Following the service, please introduce yourself to the pastor.

We hope that this bulletin will help guide you through our worship service.

#### INTRODUCTION

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

God gathers us in unity.

**GATHERING** 

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

# LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin.

As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,

let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.

During the prelude music, the Advent wreath candle(s) is/are lighted.

#### **PRELUDE**

Away in a Manger

arr. Hartman

Youth Chime Group

The assembly stands as able.

### \*GATHERING HYMN

*Prepare the Royal Highway* 

ELW#264

#### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\pm$  one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

#### Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

## Long-expected God,

we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.

Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.  $\pm$  You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

#### Amen.



#### \*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.

#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung, and preached.

WORD

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

- <sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- <sup>2</sup> In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.
- <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>O LORD God of hosts,

how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

- <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears;
  - you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- <sup>6</sup>You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

<sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

- 17 Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.
- <sup>18</sup> And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- 19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

#### **SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

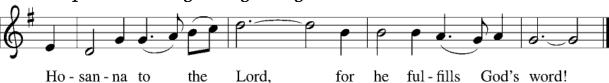
## Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands as able.

## \*GOSPEL GREETING

*Prepare the Royal Highway* 

ELW#264 - Refrain



## \*GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

## Glory to you, O Lord

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an

angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a

son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from

which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus. The Gospel of the Lord.

## Praise to you, O Christ.

*The assembly is seated.* 

#### **SERMON**

The assembly stands as able.

#### \*HYMN OF THE DAY

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

ELW#265

#### \*APOSTLES CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### \*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Leader prays for the church/world and all in need. Each prayer concludes:

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

#### \*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

## And also with you.

A greeting of peace is shared among the assembly.

#### **OFFERING**

We respond to the grace given us by sharing our gifts with others through the offering. Today's regular offering supports the ongoing ministry of Grace church. You can give online, by cash, or by check.

#### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

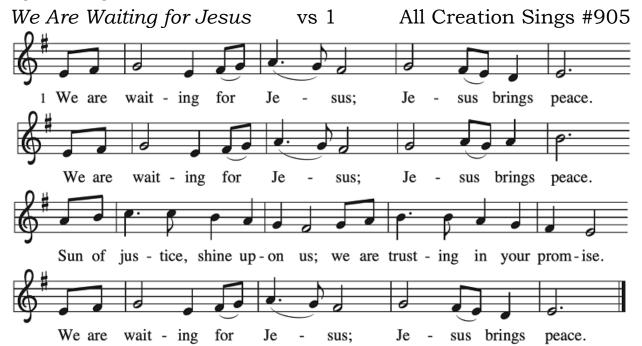
Lloyd Larson

Grace Chancel Choir

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

**MEAL** 

#### \*SETTING THE TABLE



#### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

#### Amen.

#### \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

## And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

#### We lift them to the Lord.

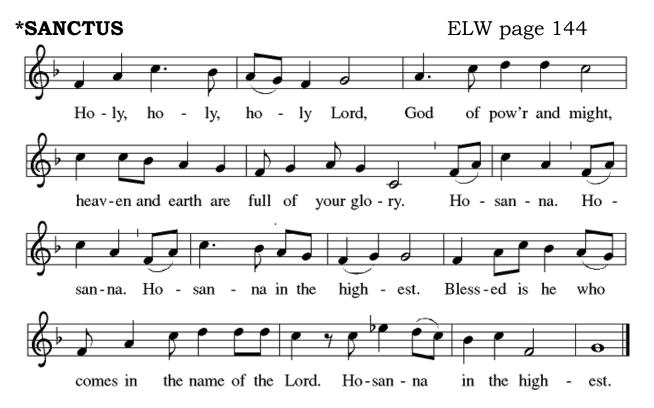
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

## It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

The heavens tremble and the mountains quake at your presence. Although we have forsaken you, you have never forgotten us: you are the potter and we are the clay, the work of your hand.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:



#### \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are holy, O God of majesty,

and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Christ Jesus is our grace and peace,

the Word that we proclaim,

the source of all our strength,

and the giver of every good gift.

In Christ's body,

we have received fellowship with you, our God.

*In the night in which he was betrayed,* 

our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,

we take from your creation this bread and this wine

and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,

as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you

to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:

## Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us

and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,

that the bread we break and the cup we bless

may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit, unite us with Christ

and with your church in all the world.

Keep us awake until the hour of Christ's coming,

when the sun and moon and stars will fall from heaven and you will gather up the faithful from the ends of the

earth.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,

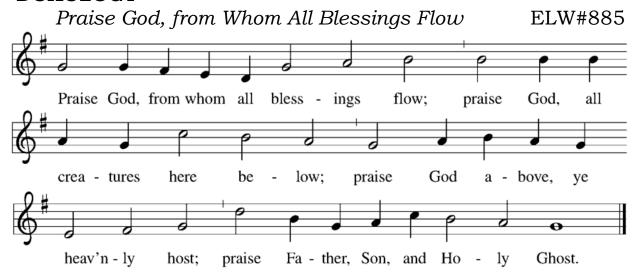
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

#### \*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.

#### \*DOXOLOGY



#### \*INVITATION

Here is life. God is with us.

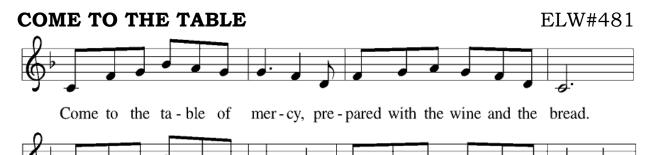
Come, receive what God has promised.

#### Thanks be to God.

*The assembly is seated.* 

Those communing in their seats and at home are invited to prepare their elements then to be led through eating and drinking the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine.

#### **DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**



All who are hun-gry and thirst-y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re-ceive from his nail-scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

The assembly stands as able.

#### \*BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

#### Amen.

Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

#### Amen.

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

**SENDING** 

#### \*BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

#### \*SENDING HYMN

People, Look East

ELW#248

#### \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

#### **POSTLUDE**

People, Look East

Besançon

#### **SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP**

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Chad Butz
Assisting Minister	Jared Weber
Lector	Michelle Knight
Acolyte	Zach Weber
Communion Assistants	Jill Manlove, Ben Galle
Sound	Tom Pautz
Director of Music	Kristopher Hartman
Organist	Emily Hartman
Technology Operator	Chris Jury

### This Week at Grace: December 20-26, 2025

The altar flowers are given by Brian & Lori Small in honor of Lori's father, Robert Greenly's 90th birthday.

The Bulletins & Mailings are given by Janet Gordon in memory of husband Duane and daughter, Gynnilee.





Connect with Us

#### EVENTS

#### We hold in prayer especially this week....

Cheryl A., Elaine & Ed Klemmer, Russ Weber, Wendell Mortenson, Howard Lauver, Halie Osswald, Barry Fenicle, Beverly Earhart, Amy Vogel, Alice M., and Dean Jury.

#### **Holiday Closings**

Grace's Giving Pantry will be closed on Wednesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 31. There will be no Quilting Ministry or Bible Study on Tuesday, December 23 and Tuesday, December 30. The Church office will be closed Wednesday, December 24, Thursday, December 25, Wednesday, December 31 and Thursday, January 1, 2026. Pastor Chad will be out of the office Monday, December 29 – Friday, January 2 but will be available for pastoral emergencies.

#### **Christmas Eve Play Rehearsal**

Rehearsal for the Christmas play at the 4pm Christmas Eve service will be immediately following worship on Sunday December 21. All young ones are welcome to attend, no pre-signup necessary.

#### Breakfast at Bethlehem - Saturday, December 20 at 9am

All are Welcome! Enjoy a hot breakfast, Kid's crafts, Karaoke, and visit Santa and receive a printed photograph. For more information contact Julie Flook at flook66@gmail.com or 717-514-7451.

#### **Christmas Eve at Grace**

Join us for one of three Christmas Eve services on December 24! At 4pm we will have a Family Service, at 7pm we will have a Jazz Service and at 9pm we will have a Traditional Candlelight Service with Special Music Prelude. All three services will be available via Live Stream or YouTube.

#### **Christmas Poinsettia**

If you sponsored a poinsettia, you are welcome to take it home after the 9pm Christmas Eve service on December 24 or following worship on Sunday, December 28. If you would prefer to have your poinsettia delivered to one of our homebound members instead, please kindly inform the office by 9am on Monday, December 29. Thank you very much for your kindness and cooperation..

#### **ELCA Good Gift Ornaments**

The **ELCA Good Gift Ornaments** in a price range from \$10-\$150 located on the Christmas Tree in the Narthex will be available through the 2nd Sunday of Christmas, January 4, 2026. Just remove from the tree in the narthex and return it with payment in the offering or drop in the mail slot in the church office door. *Payment for the ELCA Good Gift Ornaments cannot be made online.* 

#### **Family Promise at Grace**

Family Promise will be at Grace the week of December 28 – January 4, 2026. During that week volunteers are needed to provide meals, host meals, and drive the van from the church and Day Center. If you are interested in helping you can find out more about what is required for each of these duties and sign up to volunteer on the website at <a href="https://www.gracecamphill.org/events/family-">https://www.gracecamphill.org/events/family-</a>

<u>promise-grace/2025-12-28</u>. For more information regarding Family Promise please contact Susan Ryder at <u>susan@familypromisehcr.org</u>.

#### **Alert! Suspicious Text Messages and Emails**

Over the last month some suspicious emails and texts have been sent out from someone claiming to be Pastor Chad. There have been multiple attempts of someone impersonating Pastor Chad asking for Macy's gift cards. This is not Pastor Chad, please do not respond or purchase these gift cards, it is a **SCAM**. Pastor Chad has not been hacked; someone is creating multiple different Gmail accounts using Pastor Chads name and title. If you ever feel like an email is suspicious, please talk to Pastor Chad directly in person or via phone before responding via email.

Please remember Grace Lutheran Church will never ask for your personal information, discreet favors, money, bank transfers, gift cards, etc. over email or text. Thank you!

#### **End-Of-Year Giving Reminder**

Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our ministries this year! As the end of the year is approaching, please note that all contributions intended for 2025 tax-year credit need to be either received at the church or postmarked by December 31, 2025.

Online giving needs to be entered by December 31, 2025. With your support we can continue to share Christ's love, serve our neighbors, and strengthen the Church for God's mission in the world.

#### **Check out the new Merchandise Store for Grace**

Looking for some Grace swag? Check out our new merchandise store at <a href="https://www.bonfire.com/store/grace-camp-hill-merch/">https://www.bonfire.com/store/grace-camp-hill-merch/</a> or use the QR code. You can find hats, clothing (with Grace's purpose on the back) and water bottles. What a great way to support Grace and start a conversation.



Give Now



GRACE LUTHERAN MERCHANDISE

#### **Welcome to Our Church Cards**

If you are visiting with us today, please take a moment to complete one of the "Welcome to Our Church" cards found in both narthexes, the library and the pews. We'd love to hear from you.

#### Winter Weather Policy

During the work week, Monday thru Friday, Grace follows the closings of the West Shore School District. If the school is closed, the office and all activities that day are closed and cancelled. Weekend worship cancellation are determined by the Pastor and Council President. Cancellations will be posted on CBS 21 and ABC 27, as well as Grace's Facebook page and website.

#### **Pastoral Assistance or At Home Communion**

If you need pastoral assistance or to request At Home Communion, please contact Pastor Chad (717-737-0439x10 or pastorchad@gracecamphill.org). If you need a pastoral emergency outside of normal working hours you can contact Pastor Chad on his mobile phone at 610-297-2514. A pastoral emergency would be a death, or life-threatening circumstances.

Good News from Grace articles are due by 12noon on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for the next month's newsletter. Grace Notes information is due by 12noon on Tuesdays. Email to ddeppen@gracecamphill.org

#### Calendar

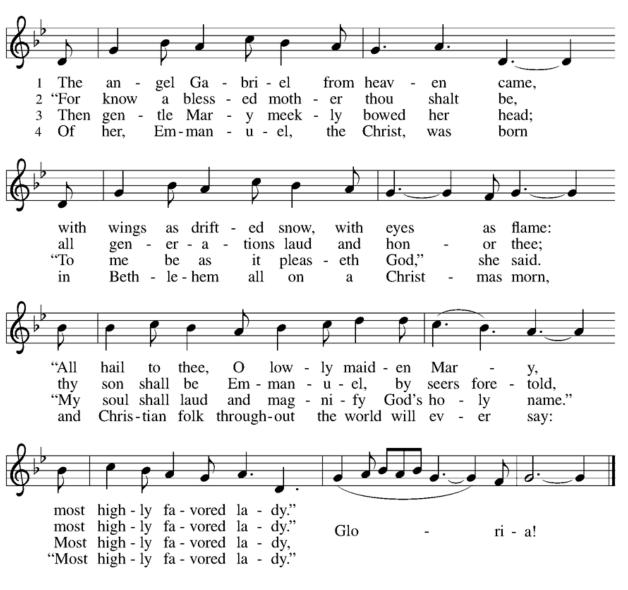
12/20	9:00am	Breakfast at Bethlehem	
	5:00pm	Sabbath Service of Holy Communion in Barkley Chapel	
12/21	9:00am	Coffee Hour w/Property Team	
		(After worship from 10:30 – 11:00am, too)	
	9:30am	Service of Holy Communion in Sanctuary	
	4:45pm	Confirmation and GYG Christmas Party	
12/22	7:00pm	Scout Troop 54 & Cub Scout Pack 54 Meeting	
12/23	9:00am	Quilting Ministry in Quilting Room	
		NO Bible Study	
12/24		Grace Office Closed	
	4:00pm	Family Christmas Eve Service w/Children's Play	
	7:00pm	Jazz Christmas Eve Service	
	9:00pm	Traditional Christmas Eve Service w/Special Music Prelude	
12/25		Merry Christmas	
		Grace Office Closed	

## Prepare the Royal Highway



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

## People, Look East



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.
Arr. © 1999 Novello & Company Ltd., London, United Kingdom. All rights reserved. International copyright secured.

### **Our Story**

Matthew 25:35-40: For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'"

# The purpose of Grace Lutheran Church is to make a difference by serving others through God's love and our faith

Grace Church Staff		
Senior PastorThe Rev. Chad Butz 610.297.2514 (cell); pastorchad@gracecamphill.org		
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry Ethan Lentz Ethan.Lentz@gracecamphill.org		
Director of Music		
Organist Emily Hartman K.E.Hartman 1 1@gmail.com		
Office Administrator/Sexton		
cjury@gracecamphill.org Administrative Specialist		
ddeppen@gracecamphill.org		
To contact the church office: 717.737.0439; office@gracecamphill.org		
Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m12:00 noon  Grace Lutheran Church * 1610 Carlisle Road *  Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011		

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