

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

422 Valhi Boulevard  
985-879-1865

Houma, Louisiana 70360  
[WWW.GRACEHOUMA.ORG](http://WWW.GRACEHOUMA.ORG)

*Pastor - Richard D. Rudnik*  
*Church Secretary - Lisa Giroir*

*President - Brandy Lirette*  
*ECC Director - Sofie Arceneaux*

*Accompanists- Mila Anikina & Mike Cape*

## Today

*Service Elder - Joe Deane*  
*Acolyte - Ethan Spolarich*  
*Scripture Reader - Rich Rudnik*  
*Offering Stewards - Bonnie Dupre*  
*Altar Guild - Mary Lou & Donna V.*

## Next Sunday

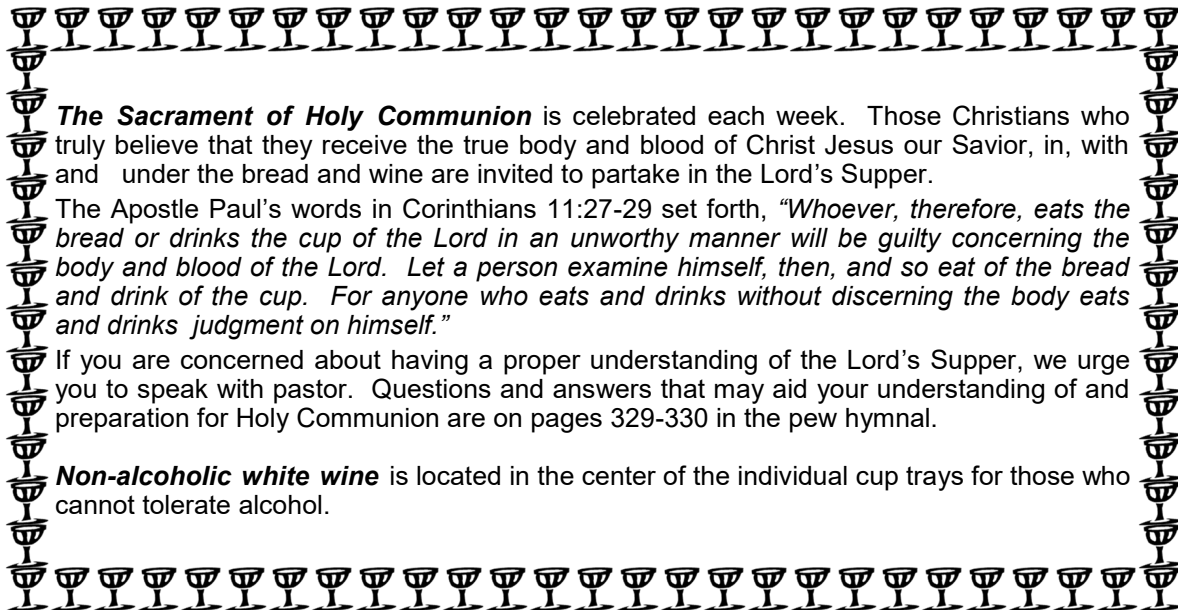
*Joe Deane*  
*Bailee Giroir*  
*Rich Rudnik*  
*Bonnie Dupre*  
*Marilyn & Jerrie*

Third Sunday in Advent

December 12, 2021

Welcome to God's house! Please allow us to keep in touch with you by signing the register in the foyer/narthex. Thank you!

**Altar Flowers** are placed today to the glory of God in celebration of John & Patsy Wegner's wedding anniversary today.



**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is celebrated each week. Those Christians who truly believe that they receive the true body and blood of Christ Jesus our Savior, in, with and under the bread and wine are invited to partake in the Lord's Supper.

The Apostle Paul's words in Corinthians 11:27-29 set forth, "*Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.*"

If you are concerned about having a proper understanding of the Lord's Supper, we urge you to speak with pastor. Questions and answers that may aid your understanding of and preparation for Holy Communion are on pages 329-330 in the pew hymnal.

**Non-alcoholic white wine** is located in the center of the individual cup trays for those who cannot tolerate alcohol.

## This Week at Grace

Today 9:00 a.m. **Worship**  
Coffee and baked goods  
10:45 a.m. **Sunday School**

Tues. 1:00 p.m. **Bible Study**  
4:00 p.m. **Confirmation Class**

Wed. 6:00 p.m. **Potluck Fellowship**  
6:45 p.m. **Midweek Advent Worship**

Sunday 9:00 a.m. **Worship**  
Coffee & Youth biscuits follow  
10:45 a.m. **Sunday School**

### For the week of December 12 - 18, 2021

Birthdays	Wedding Anniversary
Dec. 14 Kristen Gouaux	Dec. 13 John & Patsy Wegner
Lainey Vogel	17 Tom & Brigitte Kinsella
17 Breiyah Kinsella	

### In the palm of God's Hands...

**HEALTH CONCERNS:** Andrea Dupre, Angelo Michel, Belinda Thibodaux, Burt Hebert, Hunter Moore, Mary Deane, PC Cummins, Tina Williams & William Bruce Hillman Jr.

**BATTLING CANCER:** Cindy Gorham, Jay Cruse, John Adams, Karen Curtis, Nan Ashley Hebert, Penny Emling & Ursula Breaux

**CHRONIC CONDITIONS & ELDERLY:** Brian Hoover, Camile Adams, Cindy Deane, Connie Oswald, Edna Marie Sevin, Helen Hoover, Jackie Webb, Kim Cape, Lisa Ledet, Rana DaSilva Moise, Richard LaCour, Sue Ackett & Virginia Cunningham

**MOURNING A LOSS:** the family of Bobby Torbert, Gary Follis, Georgette Savoie, Raymond Labat & Timothy Bilello.

**NEW & EXPECTING MOTHERS:** Amye Jakob & Stephen Carl Jakob, Jacey Corbitt & Kai Dwayne, Kara Trahan & Sutton Paul and Lori Prugh & Calvin David Prugh.

**SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES & THEIR FAMILY:** Andrew Winn, Haily Crawford, Heather Darce, Jack Hansen, Kyle Turcott, Leo Lampinen, Matthew Spolarich, Natalie Turcott, Nigel Koorie, Todd Mueller, Tom Hemminger, Victoria Shroyer & Zhain Shroyer

**COLLEGE STUDENTS:** Adriana Vitrano, Annie Reaves, Armand Erhart, Blayne Barras, Brandon Cinnater, Brooks Thomas, Emma Thomas, Donovan Domangue, Fielden Baker, Gabbie Corbitt, Hannah Cuneo, Hannah Norman, Harleigh Dahl, Isabella Appenzeller, Jared Moise, Karly Kyzar, Madeleine Boudreaux, Peyton Kraus, Ross Reaves, Sophia Miller & Victoria Thalheim

### Sunday Morning Worship & Fellowship

Just a reminder to leave the sanctuary, narthex and temporary fellowship area tidy on Sunday mornings - or any other time you may use them. Make sure bulletins are picked up and put into the green recycle bin in the narthex, pew envelopes and pencils are in place, fellowship tables are wiped off with disinfectant spray and any food around the chairs is picked up. Thank you for your cooperation.

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

We rejoice, O Lord, and thank You that in Christ's body and blood we now receive forgiveness of our sins, life rooted in Christ, and salvation both now and forever; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION *Philippians 4:5-7; Numbers 6:24-26*

Pastor: The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN "Hark the Glad Sound" LSB #349

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**Advent III** **Philippians 4:5-6**  
– **"The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."** Wouldn't you like to be free from worry and anxiety? Isn't it worry and anxiety that often keep us from living the generous life God has called us to? St. Paul contrasts anxiety with prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving in making our requests known to God. In other words, when you are tempted to anxiety and worry, pray to the Lord with a thankful heart and pour out your supplications before Him.

**Stewardship News**  
**Attendance last Sunday: 39**

<b>Last Sunday GF Offerings: \$4103.00</b>	<b>GF Offerings YTD: \$165,594.00</b>
<b>Weekly 2021 Budgeted Expenses: \$3,019.53</b>	<b>2021 Budgeted Expenses YTD: \$141,214.91</b>

**Giving Deadline for 2021**

All offerings and donations to Grace Lutheran Church or GLC's Early Childhood Center must be received in the church office or postmarked **no later than December 31, 2021** to be include on GLC's contribution statement for 2021. Any funds received after this date will be posted as 2022 contributions on GLC or GLC's Early Childhood Center records. Contact Bonnie Dupre if you have any questions.

**Grace's Mission**  
**Building one body in Christ through Worship, Witness,  
Stewardship, Service, Love, Teaching, and Fellowship**

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 12, 2021

**HYMN** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" LSB #338

*Stand*

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES *Zephaniah 3:14a, 15b; 16b-17, 20*

Pastor: Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart.

People: **The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.**

Pastor: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

People: **The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;**

Pastor: He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love;

People: **He will exult over you with loud singing.**

Pastor: I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

People: **We worship You, O Lord!**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Three Advent candles are lit.*

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalms 25:6-7*

Pastor: Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

*A time of silence is observed.*

Pastor: We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have wandered from You. Our wonderings have at times turned into doubts that drew us away from You.

**People: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

**People: according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

**HYMN** “Kyrie for the Four Sundays in Advent” (Tune: LSB #357)

Forgive us, Lord, for times when joy was lost,  
And moments when we never thought to laugh,  
For times when we obsess and despair  
And all forget Your steadfast love and care.  
Forgive, forgive, forgive us all our sins  
And help us live in joy that never ends.

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Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### † WORD †

**INTROIT** *Psalm 146:5–8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

**People: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

Pastor: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

**People: who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.**

Pastor: The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

**People: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

### SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI** (p. 210 in hymnal)

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

*Sit*

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” LSB #849

“Shout To The North” (*with guitar*) *Martin Smith*

**Men of faith, rise up and sing of the great and glorious King  
You are strong when you feel weak, in your brokenness, complete.**

*(Chorus)*

**Shout to the north and the south! Sing to the east and the west!  
Jesus is Savior to all, Lord of heaven and earth!**

**Rise up women of the truth; stand and sing to broken hearts,  
Who can know the healing power of our glorious King of love?**

*(Repeat Chorus)*

**We've been through fire, we've been through rain;  
We've been refined by the pow'r of His name;  
We've fallen deeper in love with You; You've burned the truth on our lips.**

**Rise up church with broken wings; fill this place with songs again  
Of our God who reigns on high; by His grace again we'll fly.**

*(Repeat Chorus to finish)*

1995 Curious? Music UK CCLI #1562261

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness” LSB #636

*Stand*

**POST-COMMUNION HYMN** “Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord” LSB #935, verse 2

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Mighty and merciful Lord of all, we give You all thanks, praise, and worship for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who gave sight to the blind, who made the lame walk, who restored hearing to the deaf, who cast out demons, who raised the dead. By these signs, You point to Christ's future coming for which we yearn, when all things will be made new. In this bread and cup, Christ's body and blood, You beckon us to glimpse the world to come, when You will restore all creation. We give You thanks, praise, and worship for speaking Your Word to us, that we may live in Your kingdom now in these days and forever worship and adore You in the kingdom to come. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: 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."

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 covenant 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."

## PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: **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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

You, Lord Jesus, caused the blind to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the possessed to be free, the dead to be raised.

People: **By Your death and resurrection, You promise to raise us to new life.**

Pastor: You are the One who alone can answer all our wonderings.

People: **You alone are the Way to abundant life.**

Pastor: Fill us with the joy that comes from You alone

People: **that our lives may radiate Your joy in this broken world;**

Pastor: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

*Sit*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING *Zephaniah 3:14–20*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM *Psalms 85; antiphon: v.2*

Pastor: You forgave the iniquity of Your people;  
You covered all their sin.

People: **LORD, You were favorable to Your land;  
You restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

Pastor: You forgave the iniquity of Your people;  
You covered all their sin.

People: **You withdrew all Your wrath;  
You turned from Your hot anger.**

Pastor: Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away Your indignation toward us!

People: **Will You be angry with us forever?  
Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?**

Pastor: Will You not revive us again,  
that Your people may rejoice in You?

People: **Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us Your salvation.**

Pastor: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.

People: **Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,  
that glory may dwell in our land.**

Pastor: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**People:** Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

**Pastor:** Yes, the LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.

**People:** Righteousness will go before Him  
and make His footsteps a way.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Pastor:** You forgave the iniquity of Your people;  
You covered all their sin.

**EPISTLE** *Philippians 4:4–7*

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People:** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**VERSE** *Matthew 11:10b*

**Pastor:** Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**People:** Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Pastor:** Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,  
**People:** who will prepare Your way before You.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 7:18–28*

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.  
**People:** Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

**Pastor:** The Gospel of the Lord.  
**People:** Praise to You, O Christ.

**CREED** *Apostles' Creed*

**People:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
And 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.  
On the third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence 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.

*Sit*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" LSB #803

## SERMON

## MEDITATION

*Stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*(After each petition...)*

**Pastor:** O Lord, in Your mercy,  
**People:** hear our prayer.

## † SACRAMENT †

**PREFACE** *2 Timothy 4:22*

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.  
**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.  
**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**People:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## PROPER PREFACE

**Pastor:** It is truly good, 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, who alone fills our hearts with joy both in good times and bad times. 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** (p. 208 in hymnal)

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!