

NEWSLETTER

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

PASTOR RICH RUDNIK
GRACEHOUMA.ORG

GRACE TO GO
December
2025



Thanks to all who volunteered to “Green the Church” for Advent and Christmas.

SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
Monday Bible Class 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Class 1 p.m.
Wednesday Midweek Advent
Worship Service 6 p.m.

ALTAR GUILD

12/07: Jerrie & Stacie
12/14: John & Rana
12/21: Pastor Rich & Bridgette
12/24: Pastor Rich & Bridgette
12/25: Pastor Rich & Bridgette
12/28: Mary Lou & Lorie

LECTORS

12/07: Mona LaCour
12/14: Shelby Giroir
12/21: Pastor Rich
12/28: Bonnie Dupre

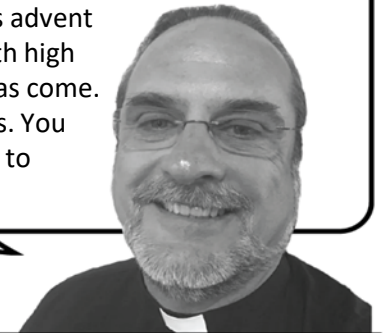
Pastor's Corner

Emmanuel, the Truth Above the Fiction

Although most folks think it a Christmas song, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” technically belongs to Advent. The hymn is based on the chants of 8th or 9th century Benedictine monks during the seven days leading up to Christmas properly known as “The Great ‘O’ Antiphons”.

It’s somewhat ironic and depressing that this Advent season in which Christians of the past spiritually prepared to celebrate the coming of the Christ child has today been eclipsed by folks materially preparing for the coming of Santa—the Gospel truth shadowed by a fiction. But the prophecy stands fulfilled: “*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us).*” (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23) The Savior is with us and we must guard ourselves not to let the materialism, chaos and stress of the season rob us of that joy. It is still all about Jesus with us.

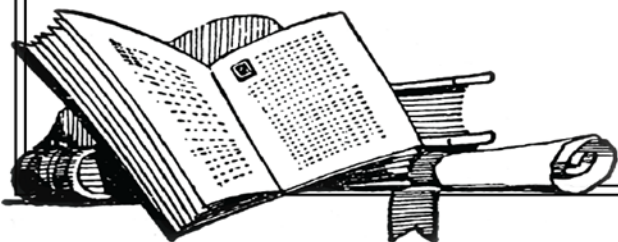
It’s also about His coming, not in our past, but in our future. Our greatest joy is the certain hope of His advent upon earth on the Last Day. Hold this truth high above the silly fiction of these days. He has come. He has completed His work of forgiveness. You are His. He is with you. And He is coming to gather you to Himself.



LECTIONARY READINGS

December 07, 2025 (Blue) 2nd Sunday in Advent
December 14, 2025 (Blue) 3rd Sunday in Advent
December 21, 2025 (Blue) 4th Sunday in Advent
December 28, 2025 (White) First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12
Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-11, Matthew 11:2-15
Isaiah 7:10-17, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25
Isaiah 63:7-14, Galatians 4:4-7, Matthew 2:13-23



IN THE PALM OF GOD'S HANDS...



PRESSING HEALTH CONCERNS: Mary Jane Schouest.

BATTLING CANCER: Alyssa Rogers, Beau Bourgeois, Charlene Shroyer, Helen Duplantis, Michael Hamilton, Mike Moss and Nileen Nemeth.

RECOVERING FROM SURGERY/INJURY: Lola Ledet, Lynn Cinnater and Tom Kinsella.

CHRONIC CONDITIONS & ELDERLY: Bob Dieterian, Charles Calloway, Connie Oswald, DeAnn Barrios, Donna Bass, Donna Von Burgsdorff, Elroy Ledet, Frank Alessio, Harla Lemmerman, James Hillman, Jackie Webb, Jaxon Greene, Jeanne Norman, Jim Lemmerman, John Partain, John Wegner, Josephine Hebert, Kim Cape, Marilyn Beach, Mike Wallace, Nancy Kuffel, Richard LaCour and Toni St. Amant.

MOURNING A LOSS: The family of Laura Robson and Tommy Hebert.

NEW & EXPECTING MOTHERS: Karoline and Khyler Anthony, Lei'Lyn Hebert and Arthur and Nikki and baby Boudreaux.

SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES & THEIR FAMILY: Haize Shroyer, Jason Reid-O'Neill, Jaxx Dardar, Julia Shroyer, Kyle Turcott, Lei'Lyn Hebert and Noah Scheufens.

COLLEGE STUDENTS: Alyssah Kinsella, Jonathan Dahl, Nicholas Scott, Niyah Shroyer, Victoria (Shroyer) Alcantara and Victoria Thalheim.

As we observe Advent, we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

One such preparation is ordering Poinsettias to beautify our worship space during Christmas as our expression of joy and to the Glory of God!

If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia, please fill out one of the forms either in the bulletins or on the table in the narthex.

Poinsettias cost \$10.00 per plant and you can pick them up Christmas Day after the Worship Service.

KIWANIS COATS FOR KIDS

IF YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE A NEW OR GENTLY USED COAT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE, PLEASE PLACE IT ON ONE OF THE TABLES IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL BY DECEMBER 14TH.

Confession and Absolution

After invoking the name of God, the gathered do what sinners are bound to do when coming into His holy presence; beg for His mercy! While private confession is today still available from the pastor, our Sunday corporate confession brings us together as what we are—poor miserable sinners with no merit before God—seeking His pardon for the sake of Christ. The word of absolution then spoken by the pastor flows from the authority and promise of Christ and thus is heard as forgiveness coming from the mouth of Jesus Himself. Assured we stand justified before our Creator, we joyfully and thankfully commence His worship.



GRACE'S MISSION

Building one body in Christ through Worship, Witness, Stewardship, Service, Love, Teaching and Friendship.

422 VALHI BLVD. HOUMA, LA 70360 - 985-879-1865
SECRETARY@GRACEHOUMA.ORG