

**PRAYER SERVICE  
NOVEMBER 29, 2020  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



**+ ANNOUNCEMENTS +**

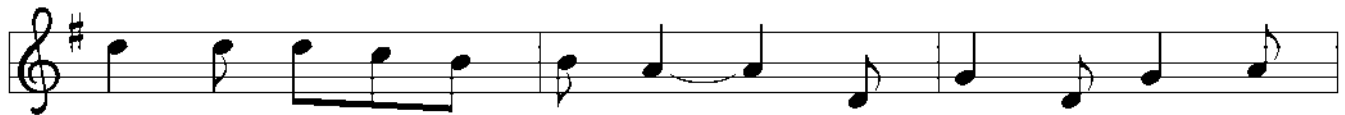
God loves you all the time  
**And all the time God loves you.**

**+ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH +**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,  
ruler of the universe.  
You call all nations to walk in your light  
and to seek your ways of justice and peace,  
for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.  
Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.  
Rouse us from sleep,  
that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes  
and welcome him into our hearts and homes,  
for he is our light and our salvation.  
Blessed be God forever.  
**Amen.**



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - jice, re - jice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing,  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

**+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS +**

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure  
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess  
that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God,  
**we confess that we are held captive by sin.**  
**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.**  
**We have not welcomed the stranger;**  
**we have not loved our neighbor;**  
**we have not been Christ to one another.**

**Restore us, O God.**

**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.**

**Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:

by God's endless grace

your sins are forgiven, and you are free—

free from all that holds you back

and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.

May you be strengthened in God's love,

† comforted by Christ's peace,

and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**+ OPENING DIALOGUE+**

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 +**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day,  
**for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

+ **FIRST READING:** Isaiah 64:1-9 +

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

<sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.

<sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

<sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

<sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

+ 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.

<sup>17</sup>**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.

<sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

+ SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 +

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**+ GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37 +**

The holy gospel of Mark beginning at the thirteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>“In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**+ THE MESSAGE +**

**+ PEACE +**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

+ APOSTLES' CREED +

**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 into hell.**

**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 +

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world.

Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near.

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it.

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed,

with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. (*Local feeding or housing ministries may be named*). Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds.

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses (*especially*). Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**+ OFFERTORY PRAYER +**

Generous God,  
you have created all that is,  
and you provide for us in every season.  
Bless all that we offer,  
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.  
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

**Amen.**

**.+ DIALOGUE +**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**It is right to give God thanks and praise**



**+ WORDS OF INSTITUTION +**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

**+ THE LORD'S PRAYER +**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**+ BLESSING +**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
✠ now and forever. Amen.

**+ DISMISSAL +**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
 3 No more dy - in' there,  
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
 no more dy - in' there,  
 soon and ver - y soon

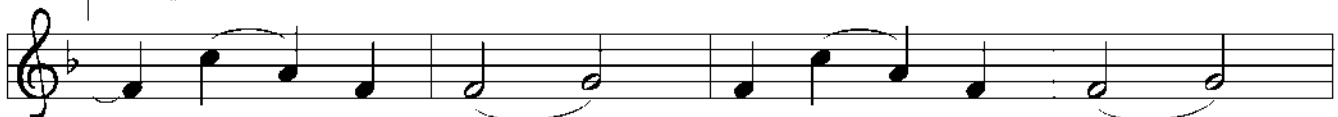


soon and ver - y soon  
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
 no more dy - in' there,  
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**Prayers of the Faithful for Week of November 29**

**TODAY we pray for:**

Pat Kizuka  
Carl Hewlett  
Polly Gillis  
Family & friends of Dorothy Hammond as they mourn her death  
Allen Whitley  
Kathy Long  
Louise Ench  
Christina  
Stacy Dambaugh, Tim Dambaugh & family  
Gener Ernst  
Sue, friend of JoAnne Deaton  
Roger Camp  
Krisida Alberto  
Diane Kiefer daughter of Margie Betley  
Barbara Hewlett, daughter-in-law of Kathy Long  
Russ & Joan Snyder  
- all in our hearts and minds today.

**WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:**

Scott, Chris, Denise, Clare Benz and Lynda Martinez, Barbara Lynn Grabher; daughter in law of Erika and Ed Burke, Kyle, Bill Smith; step-father of Rebecca Koreck, Lena, Leslie, friend of Diane Teig, Jack Baskow, Claudia and Geof Bromfield, Connie and family, Scott & Lia Wycoff, The Fenner family, John Worrell—brother in law of Bill Baur, Mike Goyda, Lis Verbeck, Lois Snyder

David & Angie Wasgatt, John Deaton, Joan Sandstorm, Delores Sipe, Doug Price, John Maurer, Bob Waller, Kent Hardel, Gretchen Platz, Ellen Hall, Nanci Hunsinger, Betty Magoon, Claire Schoening, Tyler, Bill Howerin, Marcia Burton, Gina Clay

For our bishops; Elizabeth Eaton, Bill Gohl

For the Dean of the Delmarva Conference; Barbara Melosh

For our staff; Pastor Tara, Susan Allen, Jordan Irazabal, Louis Jones

For leaders & congregations of the Delmarva Conference;

For all pastors and church leaders

For our country; the United States, leaders and citizens.

For all of our global neighbors, stricken by the covid-19 virus.

**To request a prayer, or update prayers, please call the church office  
(302-239-6481)  
or email [office@glcde.org](mailto:office@glcde.org).**



## DRIVE THRU COMMUNION SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 FROM 10:00AM TO 12:00PM

I know that it has been a long time without the opportunity to feel the connection of Holy Communion with one another. On Sunday, November 29th (that's right after Thanksgiving) from 10 AM to 12 noon. Grace will have the opportunity to come and receive communion in their vehicles. The gluten free bread and wine/grape juice are pre-packaged and will be consecrated at worship and distributed by me to people as they drive up in their cars. All are welcome, no reservations required. The Lord bless you and keep you. In Christ, Pastor Tara

### Opportunities to give back this season

There are so many opportunities to share of ourselves and our resources and information on these opportunities are in this newsletter but we wanted to share it in a condensed format so that you can look for where you interests and passions lie:

- **Hilltop Christmas gifts**—tradition at Grace for many years—shopping for children of Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood ministry
- **Mosaic** is the ministry partner for Rejoicing Spirits. This year, the annual drive for gifts and toiletries for Mosaic home residents in a sponsoship of gifts organized by Mosaic.
- **Alternative Gift Market** reach out to any of the sponsored ministries—internationally and locally—through AGM
- **Drive Thru Live Nativity**—we are working on a tentative plan for a socially distanced live nativity. If you would like to be a part of this ministry opportunity, please contact Pastor Tara.



## Greeting Mosaic Friends!

Due to the global pandemic, we will be changing up our Holiday Angels and Toiletry Drive program in order to keep everyone safe including donors, volunteers, staff and the people we support. With this in mind, instead of adopting individuals for Christmas this year and getting items from a wish list, Mosaic will be ordering the gifts for each of the people we love and support. The gifts will be delivered safely by “Santa” to each of the homes.

Each person we support will be getting a Mosaic Tote Bag filled with wonderful goodies that are sure to keep them warm and toasty through the holiday and winter months. Each bag will cost \$25.

We have several ways for you to stay involved this year as a **Holiday Angel**:

1. **Sponsor** one or more people, by making your online donation of \$25 or more by using a credit card online at this link (<https://www.mosaicinfo.org/donate/>). Be sure to type DELAWARE CHRISTMAS in the comment box and select Delaware as the agency of choice OR if you would like to write a check please make the check payable to “Mosaic” and write “Christmas” in the memo line. The check can be mailed to Mosaic. Attn/ Angi McCloskey, 261 Chapman Road/ Stockton Suite 201, Newark DE 19702.
2. **Donate a gift card** in the amount of \$10 to one of the following restaurants; WaWa, Chick-Fil-A, Royal Farms, Friendly’s, Red Robin, Boston Market, 7-Eleven, McDonalds, Seasons Pizza or Pat’s. Gift cards can be mailed to Angi McClosky at address above.

**Deadline for donations is Saturday, December 12. Any Questions, please contact Angi at 302-379-5913 (cell) or [angela.mccloskey@mosaicinfo.org](mailto:angela.mccloskey@mosaicinfo.org).**

## Advent and Christmas Blessings from Lutheran Campus Ministry!

On so many levels, 2020 has been a challenging year, yet we rejoice in our Lord’s constant grace and faithfulness. The students of Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD have continued to gather weekly via *Zoom* for Tuesday evening worship and discussion, as well as for mutual support and vibrant community during these months of COVID-19 and social distancing. Together, we’ve reflected on Scripture and discussed a variety of topics, including service to one’s neighbor, Christian community, spiritual and emotional health, angels, relationships, and holy laughter and humor. Our weekly Bible study members have also journeyed together through Philippians; Ephesians; I, II, and III John; and Philemon!

We continue to be deeply grateful for the synodical, congregational, and individual support that we receive. Though our Tuesday dinners at the chapel will have to wait for a brighter day, we give thanks for the many prayers lifted on our behalf, as well as for the generous contributions that have been given in support of LCM this year. Though we couldn’t gather in person for a fall fundraiser as in years past, we pray that the devotional booklets that have been sent out to our supporters will prove a source of blessing and encouragement during these hard days, just as you are a blessing to us! : )

Though our holidays and celebrations will look very different this year, the students, staff, and volunteers of LCM at UD join me in wishing you a blessed and holy Advent, filled with anticipation, good health, grace, and hope. In spite of the year’s many hurdles and constraints, may your Christmas still shine brightly with the light of Christ. As Jesus is born once again into our hearts, we praise Him for loving us, fiercely and tenderly, every day!



THE BOARD OF UD CAMPUS MINISTRY

In Christ, Mindy †  
*Mindy Holland, Chaplain*  
Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD  
302-368-3078; [chaplain@lcmde.org](mailto:chaplain@lcmde.org)



## What is an Alternative Gift?

It's a more meaningful way to celebrate an occasion. So, this Christmas, instead of giving Uncle Harry a gadget, plant a tree or provide a book or a meal to honor his and Christ's birthday!

### GRACE HAS A MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO GIVE ONE

Shop using our local market shopping list or our list from Alternative Gifts International. When we receive your order, we will give you cards for your gifts and inserts describing the program you are giving.

(Additional information about the Alternative Gifts International programs can be found by going to the website [alternativegifts.org](http://alternativegifts.org). Click on or touch GIFTING. There you can read about their causes.)

**Fill it out the form (s) with the gifts you want to give. Write the number of cards and inserts you would like to receive. If you don't have a form, contact Nancy Goyda (number below).**

Make a check out to Grace Lutheran Church with AGM in the memo line for the amount of the gifts. If you are using both lists, one check for the total amount will be fine.

Mail the list(s) and check to Grace Lutheran Church, 2033 Graves Road, Hockessin, DE 19707  
Attention: Nancy Goyda

Once your order is received, you will be contacted about delivery options. Please include your email address, if you have one, to make contact easier.

### ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 13

Questions: Contact Nancy Goyda Phone: 302-235-7112  
Email: [ngoyda@comcast.net](mailto:ngoyda@comcast.net)



## The Need is Great

“Christmas won’t quite be the same this year.” There’s the understatement of the year! With COVID cases still on the rise, causing limits on family gatherings, and unemployment at levels not seen in over a decade, Christmas will be tough for many families this year. The hardship is especially troublesome in the Hilltop area of Wilmington where the economy is always tough. However, there is hope. The Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center is once again collecting Christmas gifts for some of the needy children who attend the Center. What’s unusual is the number of requested gifts is a bit higher than normal. So we who have been blessed with so much are being asked to dig a little deeper this year and see if we can’t help where help is needed so much.

Of the 135 children for whom Hilltop is providing gifts, Grace has volunteered to supply gifts for 20 children. That translates to 40 gifts – clothing items and a play item for each child.

Instead of a chart in the Narthex, as in previous years, with the names of children and the gifts they request, we will be using an electronic method. Please review the list and sign up to purchase new items, wrap them, place the name of the child on the gift, and bring it to church on or before **Sunday, December 20**.

There will be a bin marked for Hilltop Christmas gift donations in the library across from the Church Office.

Many thanks in advance for your generosity.

Questions: Jane Foskett, [jandjfoskett@aol.com](mailto:jandjfoskett@aol.com), 302-239-4311

Access to the Sign up genius sight & 2020 Hilltop Gift list:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054badab29a2fc1-2020>





## **TREAT THE TROOPS THANK YOU!**

Thanks to everyone who baked cookies or donated fillers - including a whole Rubbermaid storage tub of Halloween candy! And thanks also to those that donated postage to get the boxes to our troops. It was great to combine all your gifts with those people who bake for my monthly cookie packings.

Together we sent twelve boxes of cookies to nine different soldiers. Each box had at least 10 dozen homemade cookies and then was filled with candy, granola bars, fruit snacks and other goodies. That means we had 127.5 dozen cookies! Yes you did the math right - that's 1,530 cookies!!!

One of the soldiers mentioned in her request that she was asking for the cookies because she organized the birthday celebrations for her unit and that they didn't have cake mixes or frosting so some cookies would help them celebrate. What??? So I contacted her and asked if sending cake mixes would be helpful and she replied yes. In addition to the twelve boxes of cookies I also sent three additional boxes with cake mixes, confectioners sugar, tubs of frosting and birthday candles. In her

***Hi Lynne! That's great news!!!! Thanks you so much for all your hard work baking and getting the extra goodies. Please give our thanks to your group. I'm excited to let everyone know we have homemade sweets coming lol. Like kids in a candy store....big smiles on their faces :)***

Thank you again for supporting our soldiers and showing God's love to them with your participation and prayers. We might not see the smiles on their faces but I am just imagining them receiving a little pick me up in the midst of their deployment. If anyone is interested in being included in my monthly packings - I am happy to pick up cookies at Grace - just let me know! The more the merrier - and the more cookies for our soldiers!

God's peace. Lynne Luetgen

