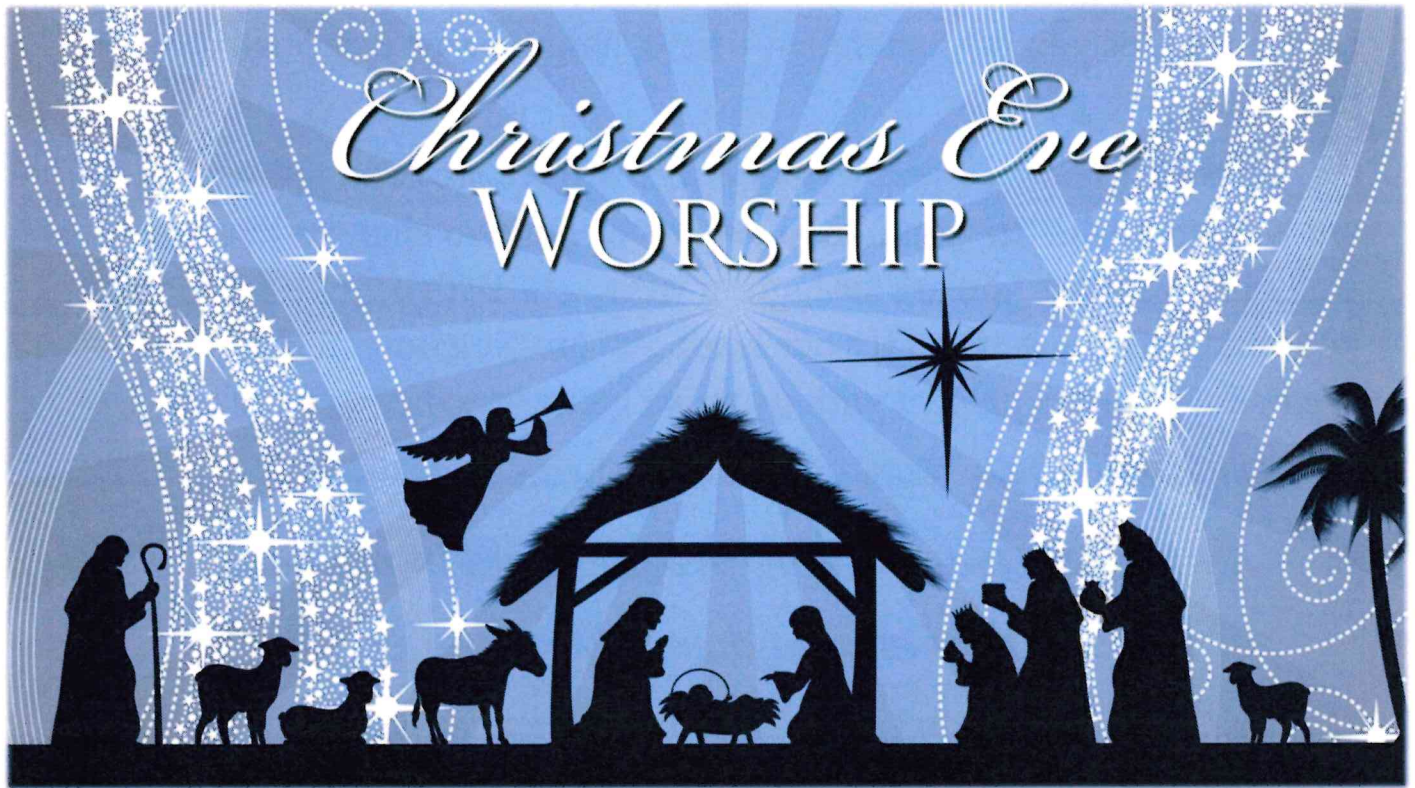


**DECEMBER 24, 2025**  
**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**



11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244  
**Church Office:** 609-927-3082 **Food Pantry:** 609-927-9982  
**Website:** [www.GraceLutheranSPNJ.org](http://www.GraceLutheranSPNJ.org)  
**E-mail:** [office@GraceLutheranSPNJ.org](mailto:office@GraceLutheranSPNJ.org)

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo, Interim Pastor ✝  
Scott J. Breiner, Music Director  
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

**We welcome you to worship at Grace!**

## WELCOME TO GRACE'S FAMILY OF FAITH

We welcome you this holy night as we prepare our hearts for what God may be up to in this world. We hope you feel comfortable in this place, and we invite you to come again soon! Everyone is welcome here - whether you are a member, friend, neighbor, or just plain curious how we worship here.

We are all human. We are not perfect and we are each unique. You are welcome whether you like to sing or worship in silence. You are welcome whether you are struggling with your faith or love the God of your understanding with all your heart. All are welcome in this place. We believe God is present with us as we come together to worship especially on this holy night when we celebrate Jesus' birth.

*For where two or three are gathered in my name,  
I am there among them. Matthew 18:20*

Pastor Wendolyn also invites you to contact her (see page 13) with your prayer requests or needs, or for information about our faith, worship style, or our Church. **Please sign our Visitor Book located in the lobby** before you leave tonight. We, here at Grace, extend to you wishes for a **Joyful Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!**

## **This bulletin is your worship guide.**

Congregation responses are in **bold** print.

Hymns are in the red book in your pew.

Please feel free to remain seated even as others stand.

Any special needs can be conveyed to our ushers.

## GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE

*Greensleeves*

by Richard Purvis

CHORAL PRELUDE

*Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*

by J. S. Bach

*Please stand as you are able.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

*from the prophecy of Isaiah*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

*The Christmas tree is lit.*

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who invites us into your Kingdom through the Holy Spirit; you are our God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH  
AND CHRIST CANDLE WITH PRAYER**

GATHERING HYMN

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ELW # 283

**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. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of your Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence, and on the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

*Mary Had A Little Lamb*

**WORD**

**A hymn to invite us into the Story:**

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

**ELW #289**

**Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo  
GLORIA in excelsis Deo!**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7**

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. This Old Testament promise from Israelite history is one in which we hear of the coming Messiah in a new testament (meaning promise).*

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14, from the New Testament of the Bible**

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

**ELW #289**

**Come to Bethlehem and see! Him whose birth the angels sing.**

**Come, adore, on bended knee—Christ, the Lord, the newborn king!**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo**

**GLORIA in excelsis Deo!**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20**

*In lieu of reading written words here, we invite you to hear the story told to you by a Pastor who wants you to know the surprising love of God!*

*At this reading's conclusion:*

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Our response to the Gospel:

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

**ELW #289**

**Sages, leave your contemplation: brighter visions beam afar!**

**Seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo  
GLORIA in excelsis Deo!**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

*Please stand as you are able.*

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**OFFERING**

*We are thankful for however you are able to support our ministry at Grace. Financial offerings may be received in person, through the mail, church office, or Simply Giving online. We are also grateful for offerings of*



*volunteer time, of shared skills, and of prayer. Please call the church office if you would like to get involved, need assistance with Simply Giving, or have any questions or concerns. We praise God through joyful giving!*

**OFFERTORY**      *Whence Is The Goodly Fragrance Flowing?*  
arr. by Richard Shephard

*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**      *What Child Is This*      ELW# 296  
VERSE 3

**OFFERING PRAYER:**

Let us pray. God of glory, **great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**      Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

*Pastor:* Inspired by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need. *Brief silence.*

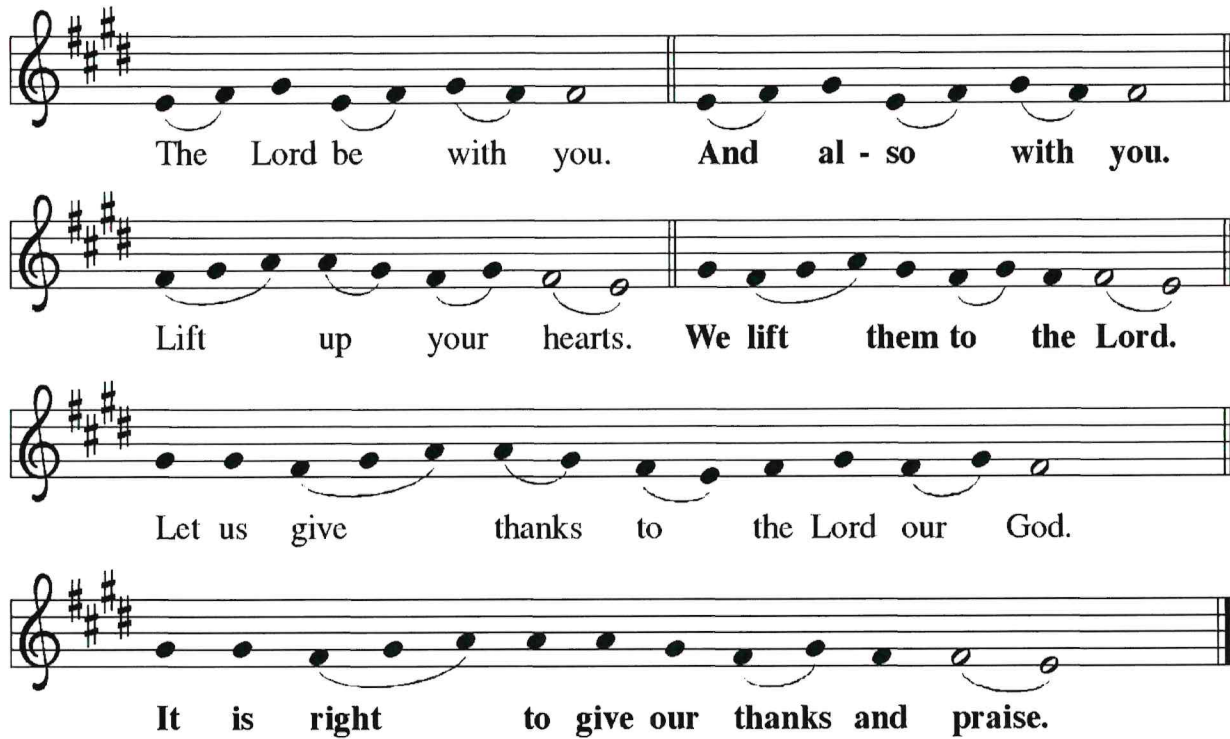
*Response to each prayer:* Lord, in your mercy...**Hear our prayer.**

*Pastor:* With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we entrust our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*EVERYONE IS INVITED to come down the center aisle at the direction of the ushers. If you are unable to come up to the front, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children or those who have not received a first communion are welcome to come for a blessing. White grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING : PREFACE



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HYMN**      *Angels We Have Heard On High*      *verse 1*      **ELW #289**

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o're the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo  
GLORIA in excelsis Deo!**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy God, you have filled all of creation with light and life. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. You are faithful to your people in every age and sent the gift of your Son, Jesus, so that we may not die, but live because of your grace and love.

On the night before Jesus would face suffering and death he sat with his



disciples, gave thanks, broke bread, and said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus 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.

**God of all time, as we celebrate Jesus' birth in this Christmas meal, we pray for the gift of your Spirit to be among us in our gathering, among your people, and throughout the world.**

Let us pray:

Blessed God, shed your grace brighter than starlight on us, that we may bear your good tidings to all and renew the wary world in your name: the name of Emmanuel, God-With-Us, to whom we give honor and glory in joy, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

*Communion will be offered continuous at the chancel step. Please come forward down the middle aisle at the direction of the ushers to receive the bread and wine (white grape juice will be in the center ring of the tray). You may then return to your seats using the outer aisles.*

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

### **COMMUNION MUSIC**

*Gesu Bambino*  
Andrew Ehrhardt: Flute

Pietro A. Yon

*Sing Noël!*

arr. by Mark Schweizer

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## CELEBRATION OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

### HYMN

*Away In A Manger*

**ELW #277**

*The light is passed, candle to candle; for safety please dip UNLIT candle into other candle's flame.*

### GOSPEL READING: John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**HYMN** *Silent Night* Text: Joseph Mohr; tr. John F. Young **ELW #281**

**1** Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*At this time, we invite you to create memories to celebrate by quietly taking photos of the sanctuary, of your family, of this moment. You may use phone cameras or simply take pictures in your mind. We conclude this time by singing verse 1 of Silent Night once more.*

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

## SENDING

**SENDING PRAYER:** Let us pray. Dearest Lord Jesus, in this time of holy worship you have refreshed us with your holy Word. We find hope and joy again because of Your love come down in Jesus. Send us forth now as witnesses of the Good News of your birth, that we also may be light for the world, in the name of Jesus, our Messiah. **Amen.**

*Please extinguish your candles at this time.*

## BLESSING

The triune God of history, mystery, and majesty, + bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

ELW # 270

*Please be seated for the postlude.  
Take this precious time to listen to the music  
and contemplate the Christmas Message.*

## POSTLUDE

*Adeste Fideles*

by Marcel Dupré



## **DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest! **And peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in peace. **Thanks be to God!**

*We are glad for your presence tonight.*

*We hope you come again soon!*

**We thank all those serving in worship:**

**Worship Assistant:** Heidi Toth

**Altar Guild:** Brenda Traa, Clare Brick

**Ushering Team:** John Staples, Jim Foreman, Ruth Traa,  
& Stephen Gring



## **WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS!**

**If you are a visitor** please fill out a  
*VISITOR CARD* in the pews if you are new to  
our church. We would love to meet  
you and get in touch with you.

## **SPONSORSHIPS:**

**Our candles, wine, and bulletins sponsor is:** Michelle Zelig,  
in memory of Martha June Becker,  
in memory of Thomas Stewart,  
And in memory of Margaret & Charles Gogel  
from Michele, Rick, Brooke, Bryce, and Camryn Zelig.

**Our Music Sponsor is:** Brenda Traa,  
"In honor of our anniversary on December 26<sup>th</sup>."

## PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers:

**Members of Grace:** Debbie K., Renee P. & sister, Bettie C., Diana M., Bruce H., Bonnie C., Ruth K., Lois R., Barry L., Don B., John Sa., Brenda T., Family of Chris D., Bob K., Scott B., Donna M., Sally S., Jonelle, Joe M., Meg L., Jorge P.

**Our family and friends:** Alex, Jeff, Skip, Donna, Tom (Ruth T.), Ric, Cody, Logan, David (Ruth B.), Marilyn, Houston (June J.), Ronna, Nadine, Todd, Drew (Corinne R.), Carrie (Ray H.), Linda, Dana (Edna C. & Patty D.), Bruce (Brenda T.), Jody M., Audrey M. (Mary Ann G.), Karen H. (Mary G.), Tyler, Megan (Carol G.), Barbara B., Hank (Vickie C.), Bridget K. & Patrick, George M., Ronald G., Rossanne and Ronald (Renee P.), Abril, Kyle, Randy, the Garmin Family (Chris D.), Jason (Meg L.), Donna Bishop-Chaporino

**Those serving our country:** Matthew Bilello, ANG, Cainan Johnson, USAF, & Daniel Casner, 3rd USN, Liam Johnson, USN

**The Shores at Wesley Manor:** Eleanore Guire

*Please notify the church office of any changes or additions to our prayer list.*

You may contact Pastor Wendolyn at (wendofish@gmailcom)  
or phone (609-286-4533).

First Sunday of Christmas  
Sunday, December 28, 2025

Worship will be in person and livestreamed online at

**10:15am ONLY (no 8:00 AM)**

We will have a service of Readings and Carols.



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The poinsettias in the sanctuary are available for  
purchase after the service for \$15 each.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP WITH US HERE AT GRACE!**

**Regular Sunday Worship times:**

**8:00 AM Spoken Worship**

(casual, no music)

*(Location: Lounge near Church Office)*

**8:45 AM Adult Sunday School**

(discussion forum)

*(Location: Conference Room near Church Office)*

**10:15 AM Traditional Worship**

**with choir**

*(Location: Main Sanctuary)*

*This worship service can be viewed online at:*

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgW5\\_3afURfRRvd3P2VFxLw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgW5_3afURfRRvd3P2VFxLw)

*Or search Grace Lutheran Church Somers Point, NJ*

**HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE**

**WELCA IS COLLECTING WINTER ITEMS  
FOR LOCAL CHILDREN!**

The WELCA (women of Grace) are calling on everyone to help collect winter HATS, GLOVES, AND MITTENS for local students. Please make sure to donate brand NEW items.

Deadline for these donations is January 11, 2025.

**January 11, 2026**

**Youth Re-Launch**

10:15 Service - Sunday School grades K-12

12:00-2:00 Youth Pizza Lunch and Photo Service  
Project at Grace-Grades 6-12



**January 18, 2026** we will be distributing the new budget for the 2026 year.

**January 18, 2026      United in Praise Choir Festival**  
3:00 PM here at Grace

A praise experience of music and meditations shared by choirs and pastors of local churches.

**Book exchange throughout the month of January**  
There will be a table in the Social Hall for you to bring in and place any books you no longer want. You may exchange them for any books on the table you haven't read which capture your interest!

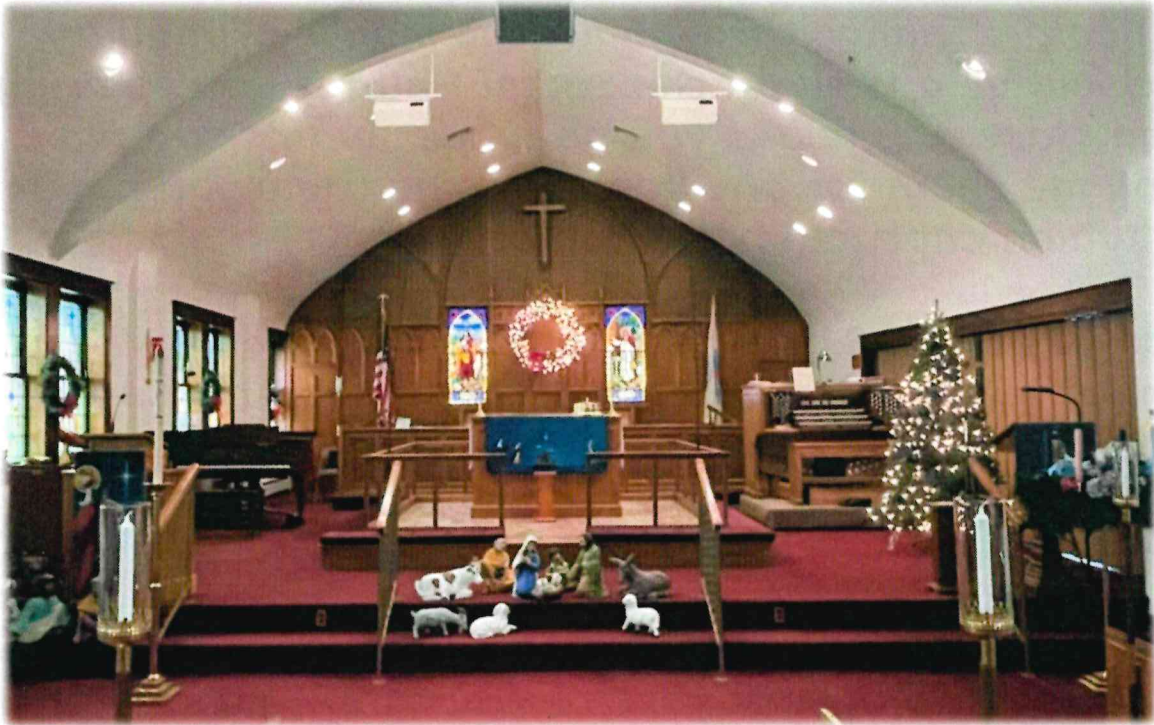
**February 1, 2026** is our **Annual Congregational Meeting** immediately following the 10:15am worship service.

**Join us for coffee hour and fellowship**  
**January 11 and February 8!**

If you would like to be added to our weekly email list or you need us to update your contact information, please call or email the church office at:  
609-927-3082  
office@GraceLutheranSPNJ.org

# Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Thank you to all those who helped  
prepare the sanctuary for Christmas.  
We are blessed to host all who participated in  
our worship service.



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