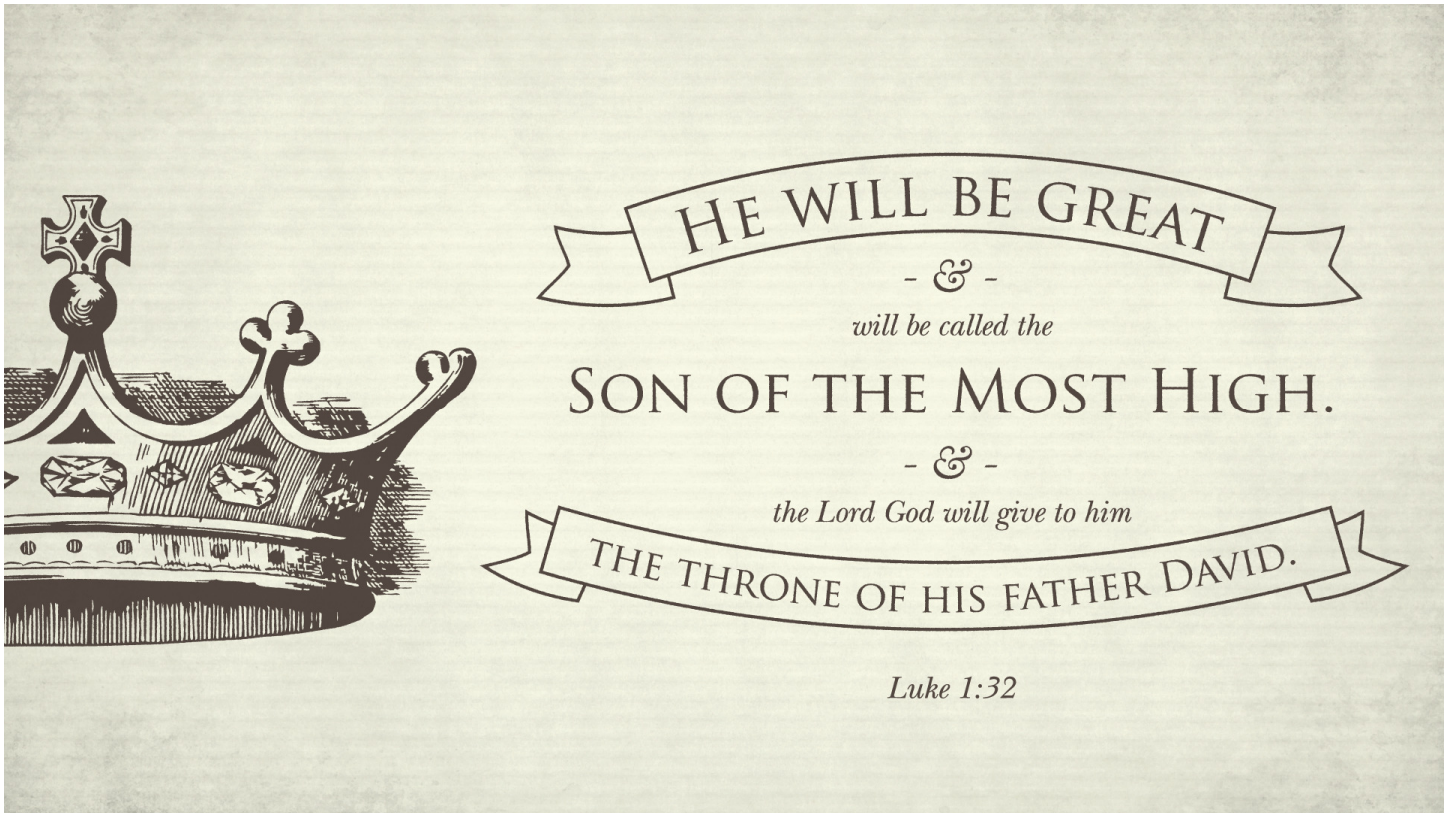


A Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
830 N. 1st Avenue Tucson, AZ 85719
December 24, 2017

A Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent

Today marks a transition from Advent, the season of waiting and watching, to our celebration of the Savior's birth beginning with Christmas Eve. Our service this morning is patterned after the traditional Advent Carol Service held at King's College in Cambridge, England.

WELCOME

Please stand

OPENING SENTENCES

Minister: O Lord, open my lips.

Cong.: And my mouth shall declare your praise.

M: Hasten to save me, O God.

C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.

M: Behold the King comes: let us worship him.

C: Amen.

EXHORTATION

M: Dear people of God, in the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy child, Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, for the people in our country and in this city, and especially for the brothers and sisters in our synod and in our own congregation.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, and the aged and the little children as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us praise God for the faith of Mary, mother of our Lord, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one forevermore.

To sum up all these petitions, let us pray as Christ himself taught us.

ALL: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

M: The almighty God bless us with his grace, Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and may the King of angels bring us all to the fellowship of the citizens above.

C: Amen.

The Lord Creates Adam and Eve

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens. Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the

knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.” The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

HYMN

Stanza 1: Women, Stanza 2: Men, Stanzas 3-4: All

Songs of Praise the Angels Sang

Christian Worship #222 st.1-4

LESSON

Genesis 3:1-24

Adam and Eve Disobey and Are Banished from the Garden

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the

woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God

called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I

commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

HYMN

Stanza 1: All, Stanza 2: Choir, Stanzas 4-5: All

When Sinners See Their Lost Condition

Christian Worship #32 st. 1-2, 4-5

LESSON

2 Samuel 7:8-16

The Lord Promises to Build a House for David

"Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. "The LORD declares to you that

the LORD himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.'"

CHOIR ANTHEM

Come, Thou Long -Expected Jesus

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Come, O come, Emmanuel! Come, O come, Emmanuel!*

*Born your people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now your gracious kingdom bring.
Come, O come, Emmanuel! Come, O come, Emmanuel!*

Come, come O Jesus, come, come O Jesus, come, O come, Emmanuel!

LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-15

The Lord Promises a Son Who Will Be Emmanuel

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the

patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right.

HYMN

Sung by the congregation

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel
Christian Worship #23

LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

The Lord Comforts His People and Calls Them to Prepare

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass

withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

HYMN
Sung by the congregation

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes
Christian Worship #12

LESSON

Micah 5:2-4

The Ruler Over Israel Will Be Born in Bethlehem

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in

labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

HYMN
Stanza 1: Choir, Stanzas 2-4: All

Come, O Precious Ransom, Come
Christian Worship #8

LESSON

Luke 1:5-25

The Birth of the Messiah’s Forerunner Is Announced by the Angel

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old. Once when Zechariah’s division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will

bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.” Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak. When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

OFFERING

Oh, Come, Oh, Come
Arranged by Cindy Berry

Members of Grace respond to their Savior’s love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation’s work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God’s kingdom.

Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the row and pass it along. Thank you!



If you prefer, use your smart phone to give online by scanning this QR code.

Please stand

PRAYER

M: O God, you make us glad with the expectation of the coming of your one and only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant that we, who with joy receive him as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he will come to be our judge, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Comfort, Comfort
Arranged by Mark Sedio

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

- Worship Leader Pastor Tim Patoka
- Accompanist..... Katie Patoka
- Worship Choir Director..... Teri Guenther
- Acolyte Naomi Kassulke
- Ushers Jon Dongoske, Jake Kassulke, Danny Koehler
Jacob Miller, Jon Miller, Dustin Pauley
- Sound, Recording & Video Tech..... Jeremy Snavely

TODAY

Welcome Grace Guests!

If you are a guest at Grace today, we are very happy to have you worship with us! If you would like more information about Grace or have questions about becoming a member of our congregation, please visit the Welcome Table in the courtyard. If this is your first time at Grace, please stop there to pick up a gift just for being our guest this morning.

We hope you will come back later this evening for our Christmas Eve Candlelight service beginning at 7:00 PM in the Grace-Tucson sanctuary.

You Are Invited

You are invited to a coffee fellowship this morning in the courtyard following the service hosted by Nancy Miles and Sally Littau. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to greet your brothers and sisters in Christ.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Services Sunday, December 24

4:00 PM at Grace-Vail
7:00 PM at Grace-Sahuarita
7:00 PM at Grace-Tucson

Christmas Day Services Monday, December 25

10:00 AM at Grace-Sahuarita
10:00 AM at Grace-Tucson

New Year's Eve Worship — All Site Service Sunday, December 31

7:00 PM at Grace-Tucson

NEXT SUNDAY

Next week's Scripture Lessons for Devotional Reading this Week

Isaiah 45:20-25
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:25-40

Sermon Text

Luke 2:25-40
Keep Celebrating Christmas

Divine Call Extended

On December 4, our congregation extended a Divine Call for Pastor Matt Westra from Morristown, TN to serve as our pastor at Grace-Benson and Grace-Vail. Over the next weeks, he will spend time in prayer and discussions with leaders at Grace and with his members in Morristown as he considers whether to accept the Call to Grace or to remain in Tennessee. Please keep Pastor Westra in your prayers along with his wife Rachel, their two children, and his congregation, Living Promise Lutheran Church.

Divine Call Received

Pastor Kassulke has received a Divine Call to Grace Lutheran Church in St. Joseph, Michigan to serve as their second (associate) pastor. This means that he now holds two calls, one to Grace, Tucson and one to Grace, St. Joseph. In the coming weeks, under prayerful consideration, he will make a decision about where the Lord would have him serve at this time. He welcomes any input that the friends and members of Grace might wish to share with him. You can reach him by email at RevNPK@GraceLutheranSAZ.org or by phone either at the Church Office (520-623-6633) or on his personal phone (520-260-4453). He also appreciates prayers offered on behalf of him and his family during this deliberation as well as for both congregations as they consider the ministry before them.

New Year's Eve All-Site Worship

Every New Year's Eve we gather one last time as a church family to reflect on the Lord's faithfulness and many blessings to us over the last year. An important part of that service is remembering those Grace members who were called home to heaven during the year. We hope that you will join us on Saturday, December 31 for this special communion service at 7:00 PM at Grace-Tucson.

Memorial Service

Merlin Nielsen was called home to heaven on Monday, November 6. There will be a memorial service for him at Grace-Tucson on Friday, December 29 at 10:00 AM with a luncheon to follow. A memorial fund has been established in his name here at Grace.

Holiday Schedule

Many of our Bible studies, music rehearsals, and other activities will not be taking place this last week of 2017 or in the first week of the new year. Please watch for more information about these activities. Please note, the church office will be closed on Monday, December 25. The administrative assistants plan to be in the office from 9:00am-3:00pm this week on Tuesday through Friday.

Ordering Altar Flowers

If you would like to help beautify the Sunday worship services by signing up to order flowers, the flower binder is in the front entryway under the glass sign board. Information about ordering is located on the front cover. You may call the church office if you have questions at 623-6633.

Bible Studies

Midweek Bible studies at Grace-Tucson will not meet over the holiday season. The Wednesday Church History Bible Study (10:00am and 7:00pm) will resume on January 10. Women's Bible Study on *Key Words of the Bible* will resume on Thursday, January 18 at 9:00am.

REGULAR SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

At Grace-Benson

451 W. Duane St

7:30 AM Worship Service

At Grace-Sahuarita

17675 S. La Cañada Dr

7:45 AM Worship Service
10:00 AM Worship Service

At Grace-Tucson

830 N. First Avenue

7:45 AM Worship Service
10:00 AM Worship Service

At Grace-Vail

Worshiping at Esmond Station School
9400 S. Atterbury Wash Way

10:00 AM Worship Service



Grace is one congregation
at **FOUR** places!

Enjoy worship, Bible study and activities
at Grace locations in
Benson, Sahuarita, Tucson and Vail.

This Week at Grace • Dec 24-Dec 31

TUCSON

Today CHRISTMAS EVE

Worship Service 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00p

Monday CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas Day Worship 10:00a

Thursday

NO Women's Bible Study
NO Handbell Choir Practice
NO Worship Choir Practice

SAHUARITA

Today CHRISTMAS EVE

Worship Service 10:00a
NO Coffee Fellowship
Christmas Eve Worship 7:00p

Monday CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas Day Worship 10:00a

Sunday

Worship Service 10:00a
NO Sunday School
NO Adult Bible Study
Coffee Fellowship following worship
New Year's Eve Worship at Grace-Tucson 7:00p

Friday

Merlin Nielsen's Memorial Service 10:00a

Sunday

Worship Services 7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following both services
Children's Sunday School 8:45a
Lifeliners (High School Group): *Jesus in the OT* 9:00a
Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):
• *Church-Mission-Ministry* 9:00a
New Year's Eve Worship 7:00p

VAIL

Today CHRISTMAS EVE

Worship Service 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship
Christmas Eve Worship 4:00p

Sunday

Children's Sunday School 9:00a
Adult Bible Study: *Jesus in the Old Testament* 9:00a
Worship Service 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship
New Year's Eve Worship at Grace-Tucson 7:00p

BENSON

Today CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Service 7:30a

Thursday

Bible Study: *Witnessing to Mormons* 6:30p

Sunday

Worship Service 7:30a
New Year's Eve Worship at Grace-Tucson 7:00p

**Grace Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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Grace Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), a group of nearly 400,000 men, women, and children in nearly 1,300 congregations across the United States and Canada united by a common faith in Christ's saving love. We are committed to a common calling—encouraging each other in our faith and sharing God's gift of a Savior with the rest of the world.

For more information about our synod and what we believe visit: www.wels.net