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| EPIPHANY 1 / BAPTISM OF OUR LORD | | JANUARY 12, 2025 | | |
| BAPTISM IS THE CURE FOR AN IDENTITY CRISIS | | | | |
| A white building with palm trees  Description automatically generated | | | | |
|  | | |  | |
| **GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL** | | | |
| 5600 West Palmaire Ave  Glendale, Arizona 85301  tel: 623-937-2010  email: info@graceglendale.org  web: https://www.graceglendale.org | A blue and white logo  Description automatically generated | | |

WELCOME TO GRACE!

We’re glad you’re here! May the Word of God bring you comfort in Christ alone. You can follow along with the service using this worship folder or using the screens above the chancel. If you’re new here, below is some helpful information about our sanctuary and our worship…

* Please reserve the **BACK PEWS** for parents with **SMALL CHILDREN**.
* A **PARENT’S ROOM** with private changing area and restroom is available through the door at the back of the middle aisle. Windows from the room allow you to still watch the service and speakers allow you to hear as well. A volume control is available on the wall by the door.
* Ask an usher to receive an **AUDIO RECEIVER** and **HEADSET** if you need hearing assistance in the sanctuary or Fellowship Hall.
* **RESTROOMS** are available in the Narthex. Exit out of the north doors from the Sanctuary and go to the left. They are located in the alcove behind Luther’s Seal.
* **LARGE PRINT** bulletins are available. See an usher to receive one.
* Visit our **WEBSITE** at **http://www.graceglendale.org** for additional information about our ministries and upcoming events.

**CONTACT US…**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Feel free to reach out directly to our office staff via email or telephone.  Call 623-937-2010 and use the extension to the right. | Rev. Mark Jacobson **pastorjacobson@graceglendale.org** | x321 |
| Rev. Jasper Sellnow **pastorsellnow@graceglendale.org** | x303 |
| Principal Joel Walker **jwalker@graceglendale.org** | x302 |
| Office Manager, Debbie Petersen **officemanager@graceglendale.org** | x322 |
| School Office Manager, Monica Assaker **massaker@graceglendale.org** | x326 |
|  | Church Secretary **secretary@graceglendale.org** |  |

**AT TODAY’S SERVICE…**

**Preaching Minister:** Pastor Sellnow

**Liturgist:** Pastor Jacobson

**Senior ushers:** 8:00 AM – Bruce Rademacher

10:30 AM – Alan Borchardt

**Pianist:** Stacey Hill

**A/V Team:** 8:00 AM – Jon Scheel / Mark Breiling

10:30 AM – Paul Sullivan

ABOUT THE THEME

*“Who is Jesus?” For the longest time, people thought the answer to that question was, “Mary and Joseph’s son” or “a carpenter from Nazareth.” While true enough, those answers do not adequately describe Jesus. But when Jesus was baptized, God the Father spoke, declaring Jesus true identity. Jesus was the dearly loved Son of God, chosen to be the Savior of the world.*

*“Who are you?” someone asks. Perhaps you would answer by providing your name. Maybe you would add additional information—where you are from or what you do for a living. Perhaps, in some dark corner of your mind, you would answer negatively. “I’m no one.”*

*We need to understand that none of those things really describes who we are. To answer that question—Who are you?—we must look to our baptism. Baptism is the cure for an identity crisis. There, just like he did with Jesus, our Father declares us to be his dearly loved child. Moreover, in baptism God anointed us with power for a life of selfless service. May God grant us this epiphany moment!*

ORDER OF SERVICE *Setting 2 (CW 172)*

**HYMN: BAPTIZED INTO YOUR NAME MOST HOLY** *CW 680*

*Please stand*

**INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**CONFESSION**

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

**DECLARATION OF GRACE** *CW 173*

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

**LORD, HAVE MERCY** *CW 174*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

**GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST** *CW 176*

**SALUTATION**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; 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*

**FIRST READING** *1 Samuel 16:1–13*

***David was the youngest of eight brothers and a shepherd. Yet, at his anointing, the Lord declared his true identity—future king of Israel.***

1The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

2But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.”

The Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ 3Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”

4Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

5Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.”

7But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

8Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.” 9Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the Lord chosen this one.” 10Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.” 11So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

12So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

13So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**JUNIOR CHOIR (8:00)** *“When Jesus Comes to Jordan’s Stream”*

**SECOND READING** *Titus 3:3–7*

***In the eyes of the world, baptism appears to be just a religious ceremony. St. Paul explains baptism is so much more—a second birth that gives you the identity of God’s child and heir.***

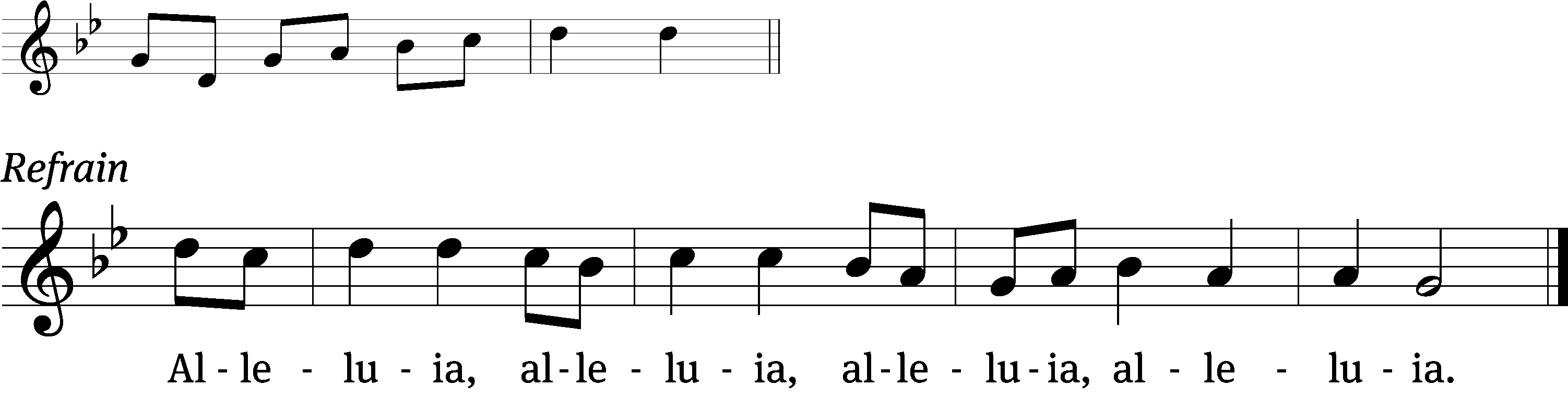
3At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

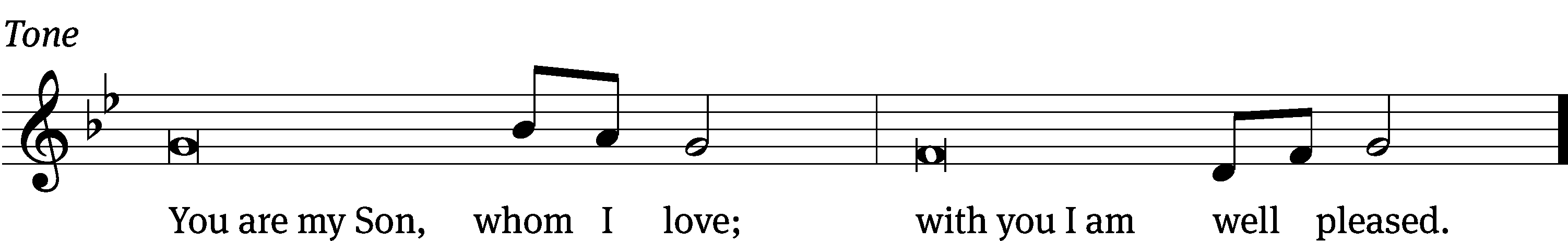
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Mark 1:11*





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**GOSPEL** *Luke 3:15–17,21-22*

***People wondered if John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was a powerful preacher who lived a unique life. But at his baptism, Jesus was identified by his Father as the Anointed One.***

15The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. 16John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

21When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened 22and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Please be seated*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*At this time, children are invited to the front of the church to hear a special children's message from the Pastor.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: TO JORDAN’S RIVER CAME OUR LORD** *CW 377*

**SERMON** *Titus 3:4-7*

***CHRIST APPEARED TO SAVE US***

*Please stand*

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.**

*Please be seated*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

**Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.**

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

**Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.**

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

**Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.**

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

**Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.**

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

**Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.**

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

**Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.**

*Special Intercessions*

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

**In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

**OFFERINGS OF LOVE TO OUR LORD**

*Please fill out the “Welcome to Grace” register in your pew at this time!*

**JUNIOR HANDBELLS (8:00)** *“The Church’s One Foundation”*

**HYMN: CHRIST, YOUR FOOTPRINTS THROUGH THE DESERT** *CW 379*

*Please stand*

**PRAYER**

**Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**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.**

**BLESSING**

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 T give you peace.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**HYMN: ALL WHO BELIEVE AND ARE BAPTIZED** *CW 692*

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:**

Worship: 8:00 AM – 163 – 10:30 AM – 121

Communion: 8:00 AM – 114 – 10:30 AM – 103

Sunday School: Adults: 112 – Children: 23

Midweek Bible Class: Tue: 19 – Wed: 9 – Fri: 13

**HOSPITALIZED OR RECUPERATING AT HOME:**

Karen Barber – 3512 E Helena Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85032-2040

Don Bollmeier – 12610 W Flower St, Avondale, AZ 85392

Carlene Junas – 6735 W Golden Ln #209, Peoria, AZ 85345-4372

Tracey Moreland – 6801 N Ocotillo Rd Apt 1089, Glendale, AZ 85303-3111

**SCRIPTURAL GREETING CARDS…** are available for purchase before Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall. Cards are $6.00 per box or $1.00 per card. Proceeds support the ministry of Grace Ladies' Aid.

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. The January Bible-reading and activity calendars are in the Narthex and south entrance to the church.
2. There was no cleaning crew scheduled yesterday. The cleaning crew scheduled for January 18 was Team 2, but they traded with Team 1 which is led by Stan & Kathy Gotschall with Maegan Kitzmann, Kim Buchholz, Tim Bottcher (*who is looking to make a trade with someone*), and Pastor & Sarah Sellnow.

**ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP SHEETS…** Please sign up for altar flower donations by filling out the Altar Flower binder in the narthex. Altar bouquets cost $35 each. Enclose payment in a pink envelope (checks payable to Grace Ladies Aid) and place it in the collection plate.

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE:**

**TODAY** : **WORSHIP, 8:00 & 10:30 AM**Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:30 AM

**Ladies Aid, 11:30 AM; Sunday School Teacher Meeting 11:30 AM**

MON - Handbells, 6:15 PM; Choir, 7:00 PM

TUE - Bible Class, 2:00 PM; All Meeting Night

WED - ABC Breakfast @ Grace 8:30 AM; Bible Class, 7:00 PM

FRI - Bible Class, 10:00 AM

SUN - **COMMUNION** **WORSHIP, 8:00 & 10:30 AM**  
Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:30 AM

*(FH = in Fellowship Hall)*

**OTHER EVENTS COMING UP…**

**ABC: ADULT BREAKFAST & COFFEE – May 15th at 8:30 AM…** We are a group of Grace members and friends who enjoy gathering for breakfast twice a month on Wednesdays. Everyone is welcome and we all pay for our own meals when we eat out. On the third Wednesday, we attend Chapel at Grace and have breakfast after in the Fellowship Hall! Sign up to join us by contacting Pat Walker by text, voice or email at numbers and address below. You may also sign up on the registration sheet in the narthex. When registering please include the names of all those who wish to attend. If this is the first time you will be attending please include a mobile phone number which may be used for text messages, or include a landline.

**Pat Walker - 480-717-0131 - patwalker1950@gmail.com**

**SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING - JANUARY 21 AT 6:30 PM…** A Special Call meeting will be held to call a Principal and a Preschool Teacher on Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM. All Grace members are invited to attend.

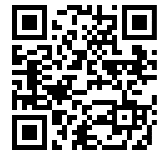
**QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING – FEBRUARY 2…** The 2nd Quarter Voters meeting listed on the calendar on January 26 has been rescheduled to February 2. A light lunch will be served immediately following the 10:30 worship service and the meeting will begin at noon. All Grace members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Voting members are men ages 18 and older, who have signed our Constitution.

**JOIN THE FIESTA ON** **MARCH 29, 2025…** Arizona Lutheran Academy is hosting its 14th annual Gala on Saturday, March 29, 2025, to raise funds for our Building Tomorrow campaign. Consider donating an item for our auction, perhaps a basket filled with themed items or gift cards for a favorite restaurant and activity near you! Learn more and find ideas at ALAcoyotes.org/gala.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

Need amounts are based on a goal of **$968,775.00 by 6/30/2025.**

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| **Week ending 1/5/2025:** | |  | **YTD 7/1/2023 through 1/5/2025:** | |
| Weekly Need: | 23,525.00 |  | YTD Need: | 503,775.00 |
| Weekly Actual: | 17,255.67 |  | YTD Actual: | 439,025.55 |
| Weekly +/-: | **-6,269.33** |  | YTD +/-: | **-64,749.45** |

**DONATE FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE…** Scan this image using your phone’s QR code reader! Contact Debbie at ext. 322 if you have any questions or need help with setting this up. Automatic or one-time deductions for offerings may also be accessed from the graceglendale.org site with the “Click Here to Donate Online” button. A phone app is also available for donations: install Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement and search Organizations for Grace Ev Lutheran Church. *Please use checking or savings account information rather than a credit or debit card to save the processing fees.*

*A drawing of people standing in front of a cross

Description automatically generated****Grace Groups***

*Gathering Together Around God’s Word*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CHRIST APPEARED TO SAVE US | *Titus 3:3-7* |

Epiphany means “appearing.” How did Christ appear to save us at his baptism? How did Christ appear to save us at our baptisms?

How is Paul’s description of our sinful nature in verse 3 an accurate and scary picture not just of other people’s sin, but of our own sinful nature and its desires?

How do we explain and reconcile the Bible’s teaching that God both hates and loves sinful people.

How is the before and after picture of our spiritual state changed in a way that is different from physical transformations we might make to our bodies?

Why is the Lutheran (biblical) teaching that baptism saves a proper way to describe baptism? How would you explain it to someone who says that only Jesus saves?