

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GRACE OF GOD

December 24, 2017 ♦ 9:00 am



GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who comes to wake us from sleep,
who leads us into the light of grace.

Amen.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord
by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God of all time,
**we confess that we have not prepared
for your merciful reign among us.
We ignore our neighbors in need
and fail in the labor of justice and peace.
In your mercy forgive us.**

**Grant us wisdom to welcome your light
and to seek the things that will endure
until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

In † Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven
and all things are made new.

Rejoice in this good news!

Amen.



PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Joy to the World"

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth.

Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh.

Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

ADVENT WREATH SONG *(today we sing all four verses!)*



1 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And wait for Christ to
2 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And thank the Lord for
3 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And sing with cheer - ful
4 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And share the won - drous



come. With hope, we trust the pro - mise That
rest. With peace, we know our Je - sus Has
heart. With joy, we spread the mes - sage That
Word. With love, we tell of Je - sus Till




He will bring us home. Our hope is in our
come to be our guest. This peace be - yond all
God would us im - part. Our joy is nev - er
all a - round have heard. God's love is for all



Sav - ior Who wins for us God's fav - or.
know - ing With - in our hearts is glow - ing.
end - ing; The Son to us is send - ing.
na - tions Through - out His whole cre - a - tion.

Refrain



We wait with grow - ing light Till
God makes all things right!

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.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

With your abundant grace and might,

free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy,

that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world,

for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIRST READING I Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant

David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

SECOND READING Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles,

according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1st chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob

forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

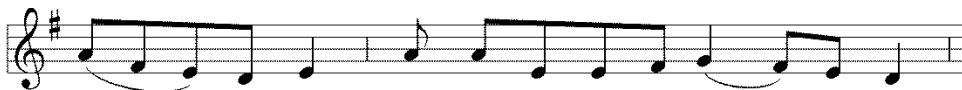
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's
 4 Oh, come, blest Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your
 5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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**

PRAYER

(Response to each petition)

Stir up your power and . . .
Come, Lord Jesus

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.
**Savior of the nations, come.
Make your home here in us.
Feed us with your love,
that our faith shine ever new
and our lives reveal your light. Amen.**

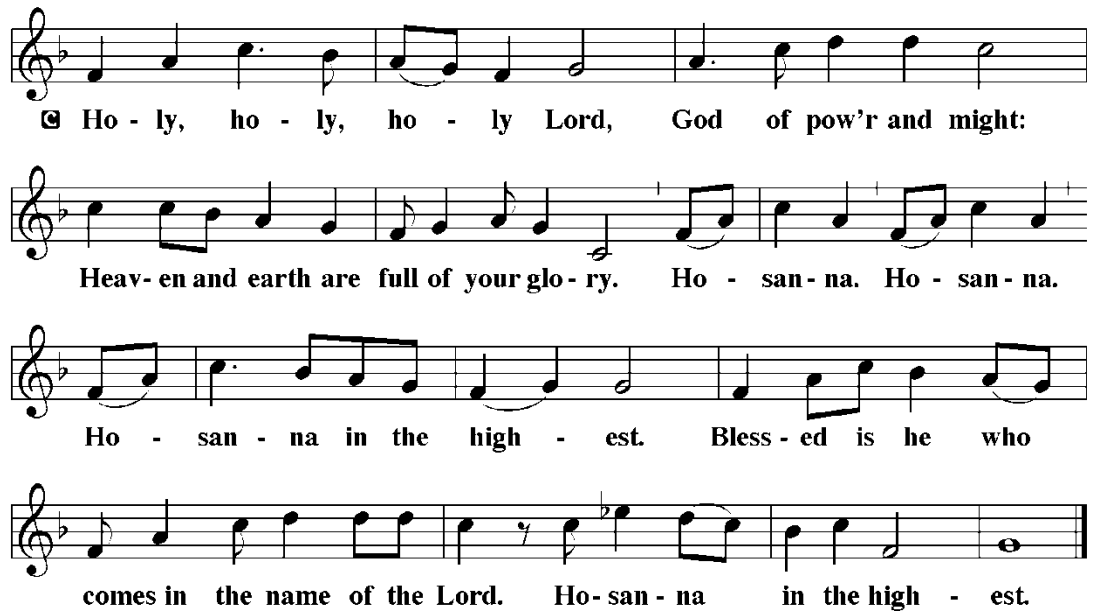
SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also 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 good and right for us to give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might greet him with faithful hearts when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS ("Holy, holy, holy")

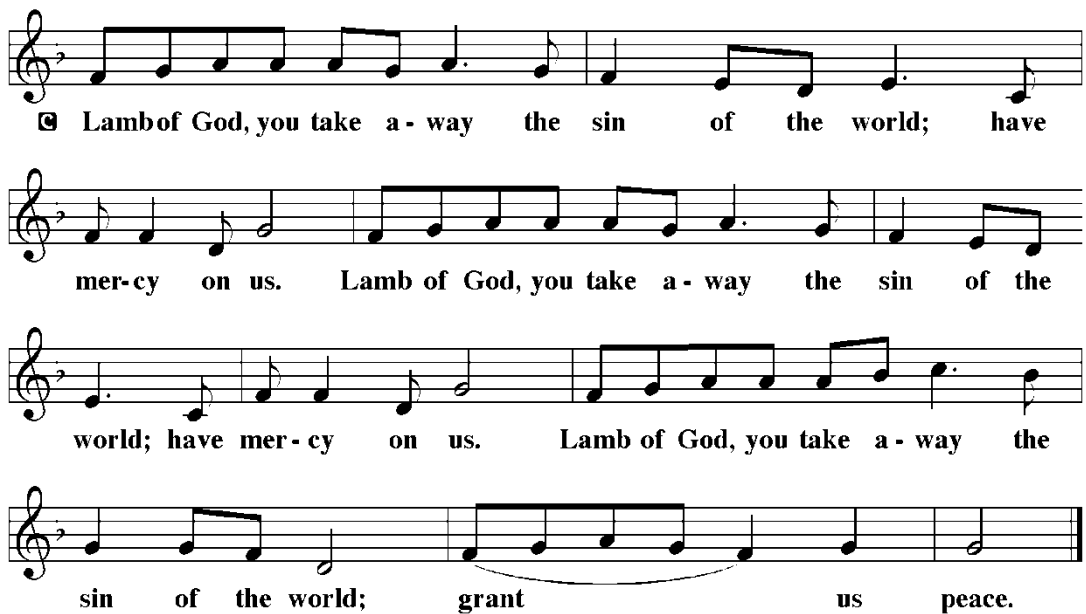


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

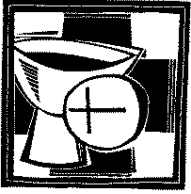
All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

AGNUS DEI "Lamb of God"



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION



Scripture says, “Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” 1 Corinthians 11:26. Martin Luther’s Small Catechism says, “Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and drink.” All baptized Christians who have been instructed in this confession of faith and who share our belief in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament for the forgiveness of sins are invited to the Lord’s Table today. Children who have not received their first communion are invited to come to the table and receive a blessing.

As you approach the table down the aisles, receive an empty cup from the cart.

- Proceed to the left or the right and gather around the altar.
- After each gathered group has communed, they are dismissed in peace.
- As you return to your seat down the side aisles, place your cup in the racks on the tables to your left or right.
- **Non-alcoholic wine** is offered in pre-filled cups for those who cannot drink alcohol. These cups are marked in the rack.
- **Gluten-free** (and dairy-free and nut-free) **wafers** are offered in the small white bowl on the communion cart for those who prefer this option.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS “Emmanuel” (sing twice)



“Lo, How a Rose is Growing”

1 Lo, how a rose is grow - ing, a bloom of fin - est grace;
 2 The rose of which I'm sing - ing, I - sa - iah had fore - told.
 3 The shep - herds heard the sto - ry the an - gels sang that night:
 4 This flow'r, so small and ten - der, with fra - grance fills the air;
 5 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt all hu - man woe;

the proph - ets had fore - told it: a branch of Jes - se's race
 He came to us through Mar - y who shel - tered him from cold.
 how Christ was born of Mar - y; he was the Son of light.
 his bright - ness ends the dark - ness that kept the earth in fear.
 O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who tri - umphed o'er our foe:

would bear one per - fect flow'r here in the cold of
 Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to us was
 To Beth - le - hem they ran to find him in the
 True God and yet true man, he came to save his
 bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of

win - ter and dark - est mid - night hour.
 giv - en at mid - night calm and still.
 man - ger as an - gel her - alds sang.
 peo - ple from earth's dark night of sin.
 heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German, 15th cent.; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Köln, 1599

“Wait for the Lord” (repeat *ad. lib.*)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The image shows two systems of musical notation. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The first system has lyrics: 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' The second system has lyrics: 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!'. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first system ends with a double bar line and a sharp sign. The second system ends with a double bar line and a sharp sign.

SENDING

DISMISSAL

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep us in his grace.

Amen

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God for whom we wait,
you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share.
Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts,
and send us forth to be your people in the world,
announcing your coming among us
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

BENEDICTION

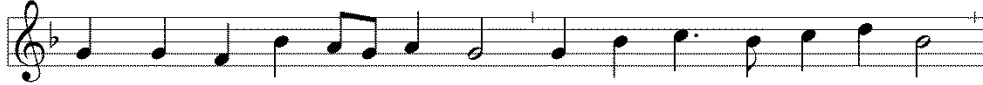
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen

Go in peace. Christ lives in you.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN "Savior of the Nations, Come"



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, by the Spir - it of our God
3 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the vir - gin un - de - filed!
4 God the Fa - ther is his source, back to God he runs his course;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
Might - y God and man in one, ea - ger now his race to run!
down to death and hell de - scends, God's high throne he re - as - cends.

Praise to God the Father sing,
praise to God the Son, our king,
praise to God the Spirit be
ever and eternally.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Worship leader	Jon Marxhausen
Elder	Errol Bartz
Piano	Kathy Rehbein
Lector	Dan Evenson
Ushers	Jerry Corson/ Bruce
Acolyte/Crucifer	Ella Fahey
Greeter	Errol & Cindy Bartz

DON'T FORGET YOUR 3-MINUTE MINISTRY



WELCOME TO GRACE OF GOD

Thank you for worshipping with us today.
Please fill out a welcome card and place it in the basket on the table in the entryway.
Help yourself to a welcome packet that will tell you more about the ministry at Grace of God.
You are always welcome at Grace of God.



GRACE OF GOD MISSION STATEMENT

Grace of God is a Christ-centered community gathered around Word and Sacrament, preaching Christ crucified, serving our neighbor and discovering what it means to live under the grace of God.

SMALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP AT GRACE OF GOD

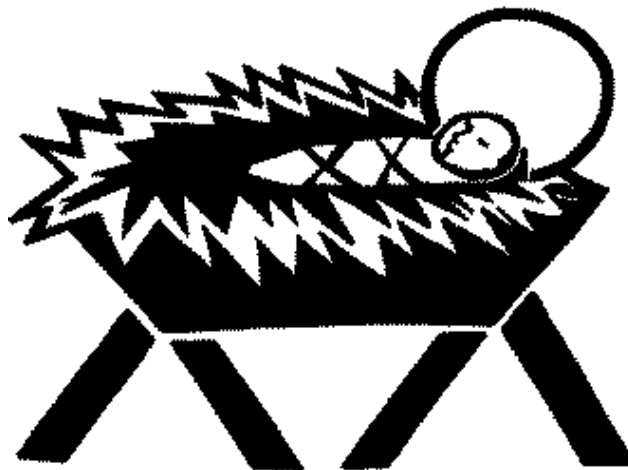
“Busy bags” for young children are available in the classroom adjacent to the worship space near the doors.
That room also has a speaker to hear the worship service.



Christmas Worship at Grace of God

Sunday, December 24 at 6:00 pm CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Monday, December 25 at 9:00 am CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY COMMUNION



grace happens

December 24 - 31, 2017

Sunday, December 24

9:00 am ADVENT 4

6:00 pm CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS and CAROLS

Monday, December 25

9:00 am CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, December 31

9:00 am CHRISTMAS I

Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about. Don't let Choice Dollars expire.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2018 to direct any remaining 2017 Choice Dollars. Help support Grace of God.

Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more.

Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

GRACE OF GOD WEEK at HOPE FOR THE JOURNEY HOME

Grace of God is serving at Hope for the Journey Home (the homeless shelter at Guardian Angels) the week of

January 14-20, 2018.

We will need about 40 volunteers!

Youth and kids may serve with an adult.

Overnight volunteers are two same gender volunteers or couple.

Please sign up today to serve one of three shifts and indicate your availability.

See Pastor Jon if you have questions.



SERVING IN WORSHIP

DATE	ELDER	ACOLYTE	LECTOR	USHERS	GREETERS
12/24/17	Errol Bartz	Ella Fahey	Dan Evenson	Jerry Corson/ Bruce Gilman	Errol & Cindy Bartz
12/25/17	Errol Bartz	Kiernan Benson	Matt Onken	Jenny Hanson/ Derek Nutzman	Pat Randall
12/31/17	Errol Bartz	TJ Richter	Bruce Gilman	Matt Onken / Byron Epland	Janice Henderson
1/7/18	Errol Bartz	John Frelix	Pam Fallert	Darrel & Noel Smith	Angie McMorrow
1/14/18	Errol Bartz	Jake Richter	Chris Fallert	Jerry Corson / Tom Schoenberg	George & Kathy Rehbein



The Story of Jesus

THEMES FROM THE GOSPEL OF

MARK

Grace of God Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

NEW Adult Bible Study beginning SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 at 10:15 am

This study, led by Pastor Jon, will explore the literary and theological themes in the Gospel of Mark. Mark was the original story-teller of Jesus' life and his Gospel influenced all the others! We will be hearing Gospels from Mark this year, and this study will help us understand these Gospels better and appreciate their unique contribution to the Gospel message!

CLEANING CREW SCHEDULE

Dec. 28- 30	TEAM 3 Cami Hartleben/Darla Constable
January 4 - 6	TEAM 4 Roxanne Cleary/Jeff & Jill Olofson/ Allen & Sally Warren
January 11-13	TEAM 5 Randy & Janice Henderson/ Bruce & Audrey Gilman/ Janice Roth

Safe Environment Training – Sunday, January 7 During the Sunday School Hour

A 30 minute safe environment video training will be presented. As a part of serving at Hope for the Journey Home we need to document you've completed this training.

Any congregation member who serves here at Grace of God or serves as a volunteer elsewhere in our community is invited to attend this training!

If you plan to volunteer at Hope for the Journey Home and are unable to attend this session please contact Audrey Gilman at 651-352-2888 or aggilman@comcast.net

GRACE OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

420 Hayward Avenue North • Oakdale, Minnesota 55128
651.730.4900 • www.graceofgodlutheran.com
Jon Marxhausen, pastor

