

WELCOME

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY | LENT | EASTER | TRINITY

To our visitors

We are glad you have joined us to share in the gifts of our gracious Lord as we worship Him together in spirit and truth by receiving His Word and Sacraments. We invite you to pick up information and our Wittenberg Way newsletter at our welcome desk. If you have questions concerning the Christian faith or the Lutheran tradition, please let us know as Pastor Brian would love to speak with you.

Children are welcome in our services

Grace is a church family and we believe like any family we learn by doing things together. Bulletins are available for children that coincide with the liturgical calendar and scripture readings. We encourage parents to guide their children throughout the service, helping them to learn the language of the faith through the liturgy. A nursery with sound is located in the hallway outside the sanctuary to the right just before the glass door to the courtyard.

Holy Communion

Our fellowship in the Lord's Supper follows the Lutheran tradition grounded in the teaching of Holy Scripture. As one baptized into the Name of our Triune God and confessing the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the Supper for the forgiveness of sins you are warmly invited to join around the table for Holy Communion. If you are not communing but wish to be blessed, then simply cross your arms at the rail and you will be blessed by the celebrant.

Giving to Grace

- Your weekly envelopes or those in the pews
- Online from your bank website
- Scan the QR code at the bottom
- Text the amount to 84321
- On the Grace Giving Page at gracesandiego.com
- Time and talents—please see Pr. Brian



Please silence cell phones and be mindful of those preparing for worship.

Restrooms are in the hallway outside the sanctuary chapel.

AS WE GATHER

The Epiphany of our Lord brings the twelve days of Christmas to an end and begins a season that will focus on God's revelation in Jesus. The day is filled with surprises, mysterious visitors, and exotic gifts. God's story leads us through unexpected twists and turns, where former outsiders are now welcomed as insiders. Today is a Christmas for the rest of us.

Collect:

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

DIVINE SERVICE

SETTING 1

<i>Gentle Mary Laid Her Child</i>	Manz
<i>As With Gladness Men of Old</i>	Burkhardt
<i>As With Gladness Men of Old</i>	397
Confession & Absolution (kneel)	151
This is the Feast	155
Salutation and Collect	156
Reading	Isaiah 60:1-6
Gradual	
Epistle	Ephesians 3:1-12
Alleluia	156
Gospel	Matthew 2:1-12
Anthem	Parish Choir
	<i>The Star Carol</i> Alfred Burt
Sermon	Pastor Brian
	"Christmas for the Rest of Us" Matthew 2:1-12
Nicene Creed	158
Prayer of the Church	
Offertory Hymn	
<i>Hail, O Source of Every Blessing</i>	409
Preface	160
Sanctus	161
The Words of Our Lord	162
Memorial Acclamation (2 X)	
Christ has died,	
Christ is risen,	
Christ will come again.	
Lord's Prayer	162
Pax Domini	163
Agnus Dei	163
Eucharist	
Psalm 72:1-11	
<i>Gentle Mary Laid Her Child</i>	374
Thank the Lord	164
Post Communion Collect	166
Benediction	166
Songs of Thankfulness and Praise	394
<i>Praise God, the Lord Ye Sons of Men</i>	Walther

* bold indicates standing

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Pastor Rev. Brian Thomas
Director of Music Dale Sorenson

SERVING TODAY AT 9:00 AM

Elder Steve Hollman
Altar Guild Jack & Judy George
Crucifer Spencer Huntley
Lector Mark Jordan
Cantor Randy Houts
Usher Harold Nichols

SERVING 1/12/25 AT 9:00 AM

Elder Ted Nilsen
Altar Guild Kelley Clark
Crucifer Bennett Lee
Lector Mark Jordan
Cantor Richard Segarra
Usher Harold Nichols

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:15 – 11:00 AM
St. Mark Classroom, Nursery, & Den
Resumes on 1/12/25

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

10:00—11:00 am
St. Mark Classroom
Resumes on 1/15/25



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

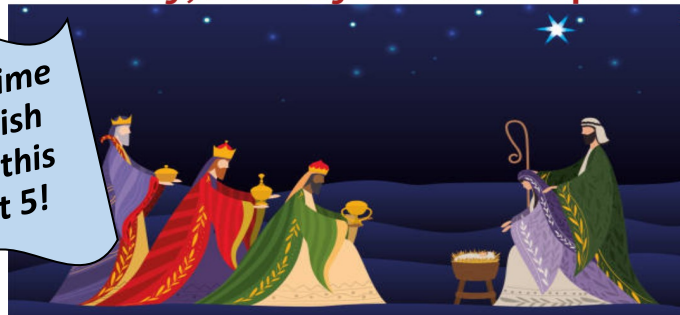
ADVENT MIDWEEK OFFERINGS We raised \$1,000 in support of Pr. Job's son, Carlitos. Thank you.

2025 ENVELOPES ARE IN YOUR MAILBOXES! If you don't have a mailbox with envelopes, please contact Gretchen in the church office at: gjordan@gracesandiego.com

CHRISTMAS UN-DECORATING If you are available to help take down decorations and put everything away, please come to the church on Monday 1/6/25 at 3 pm.

E P I P H A N Y
International Pot Luck
Sunday, January 5th at 5:00 p.m.

*There is still time
to make a dish
and join us this
evening at 5!*



The Gospel is for all nations. Join us as we kick-off the Epiphany season with a global dinner celebrating the culinary diversity of God's goodness in creation.
Sign-up at the Welcome Desk

PRAYER LIST

FOR STRENGTH AND HEALING

Dave, Mike, Heidi, Arleen, Pr. Ken, Laura, and Carlitos

FOR OUR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Elsy Lehman

FOR OUR MISSIONARIES & SEMINARIANS

Rev. Dr. Tardelli Voss and Vicar Rowan Turner

FOR OUR MILITARY MEMBERS

Micah Burge, Henry Casey, Nick Collum, Nathan Farish, Matthew Morgan,
Jeff & Jordan Gruetzmacher, Joshua Simmons, and Thomas Spencer

FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND

Joyce Rochester, Herb & Marge Foelber, Janice Keitel

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

(Observed)

January 5, 2025

9:00 am



Proclaiming the Good News of God's grace in Jesus Christ