

GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
& SCHOOL

Dear Parents of Grace Lutheran School,

The Grace early evening worship services on Christmas Eve are led by the children of Grace Church and School. All children in grades 1–8 are encouraged to be involved in this annual highlight of our school year. The illuminated cross formed by the 5th – 8th grade students will begin the service for the 75th consecutive year. Students prepare carefully for the responsibility of leading worship and look forward to sharing the joy of Christ’s birth on Christmas Eve. This tradition lives on in the hearts of students even after they graduate from Grace. Alumni return year after year to experience the beauty of this service. If your child has not been part of Christmas Eve at Grace in the past, we invite him/her to participate this year.

After reading the following information, please let us know about your child(ren)’s participation in the Christmas Eve service using our online form. You will find the link to the form in e-mails from Grace about the Christmas Eve service and also on the website at the top menu under “Christmas Eve.” **Please fill in the online form, whether or not you are participating, by November 11. If you have multiple children, a separate response is needed for each child.**

There are two services on December 24, 4:15 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Children in Grades 1-4

- Children in grades 1-4 may participate in one service or both. This year, families with last names beginning M-Z will sing for the 4:15 p.m. service, and A-L will sing for the 6 p.m. service.

Children in Grades 5–8

- Children in Grades 5–8 have the option to participate in the choir *or* in the costumed pageant.
- Members of the Choir and the School Handbell Choir (Strike Team) **must be present for BOTH services.** If participation in both services is not possible for your child, being in the pageant for one service is an option. If there is a special circumstance that you would like to discuss, please email Mrs. Underhill.
- Students in the School Handbell Choir will ring during the service and will also participate in Grace’s traditional Christmas Cross.
- Children in the pageant participate in one *or* both services.
- 8th grade students may also be readers at one or both services, as assigned. They rehearse with Ms. Gwen Gotsch, times to be arranged.

If you have questions about the services or your child’s participation, please email your child’s classroom teacher Mrs. Underhill or Johanna Johnson at jojohnson@graceriverforest.org.

For those new to Grace School or who have not been part of the Christmas Eve service in the past, we invite you to view this 5 minute clip [Grace Lutheran Christmas Eve Rehearsal 720p.mp4](#) from a past rehearsal. It provides a glimpse of this wonderful service our students lead every year. If you would like to view the full service from last year, here is a link to it as well. <https://www.youtube.com/live/YFfH0vckcn0?si=gecczqeNVfKQwY1B> We hope this inspires you to be part of the Christmas Eve service this year.

Your help and support make it possible for this tradition of leading Christmas Eve worship to continue at Grace. We pray that your child's participation in these services helps them grow in faith and knowledge of God's love, shown to us in Christ's birth.

In Christ,

Dr. Taylor-Imani Gates, Principal, Grace Lutheran School

Pastor Michael D. Costello, Cantor, Grace Lutheran Church & School

Johanna Johnson, Music Teacher, Grace Lutheran School