

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 involved in this annual highlight of our school year. The candle lit cross (actually flashlights for safety purposes) formed by the 5th – 8th grade students will begin the service for the 76th 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. The tradition lives on in the hearts of students even after they graduate from Grace and brings alumni back year after year. If your child has not been part of this service in the past, we strongly encourage you to participate this year.

After reading the following information, let us know about your child(ren)'s participation in the Christmas Eve service using our ONLINE FORM here: <https://forms.gle/rCpappCwio83hHru8>
Please fill in the online form, whether or not your child is participating, by November 12. 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 A–L will sing for the 4:15 p.m. service, and M–Z 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.
- 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.

Each child receives a copy of the words for Christmas Eve music. The word sheets for all grades will be available for download from the Grace website by December 1, as will recordings of the songs.

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://youtu.be/hGa_NBgpwws?t=565. We hope this inspires you to be part of the Christmas Eve service this year.

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

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
Pastor Michael D. Costello, Cantor
Johanna Johnson, Music Teacher