

The Time in Between *A Time for Faithful Service*

Pentecost 25
November 19, 2023



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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{Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod}
5600 W. Palmyra Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85301
Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 AM
623-937-2010

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WELCOME...

- *May the Word of God bring you comfort in Christ alone.*
- *Check our website at www.graceglendale.org for more information.*
- *Please reserve **the BACK PEWS for parents with SMALL CHILDREN.***
- *Ask an usher to receive a **RECEIVER** if you need hearing assistance.*

THE SERVICE: Setting 1, p. 154

HYMN: 739 FORTH IN YOUR NAME, O LORD, I GO

Forth in your name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labor to pursue,
determined only you to know
in all I think or speak or do.

The task your wisdom has assigned,
O let me cheerfully fulfill;
in all my works your presence find,
and prove your good and perfect will.

May I find you at my right hand;
your eyes see truly what I do.
I labor on at your command
and offer all my works to you.

Give me to bear your easy yoke
and ev'ry moment watch and pray
and still to things eternal look
and hasten to your glorious day.

For you I joyously employ
whatever you in grace have giv'n;
I run my daily course with joy
and closely walk with you to heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, abr., alt.

Text: Public domain

(Stand)

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

For allowing us to gather in worship not out of duty but with joy and
delight:

We praise you, Lord!

For bringing us to a place where you promise to meet your people in
Word and Sacrament:

We praise you, Lord!

For the blessing of gathering as your holy Church and the mutual
encouragement found in one another:

We praise you, Lord!

For being with us in all places and through all situations, and for bringing
us together as the Arizona-California District of the Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Synod:

We praise you, Lord!

CONFESSION

CW 155

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 155

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

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 BE TO GOD ON HIGH

CW 157



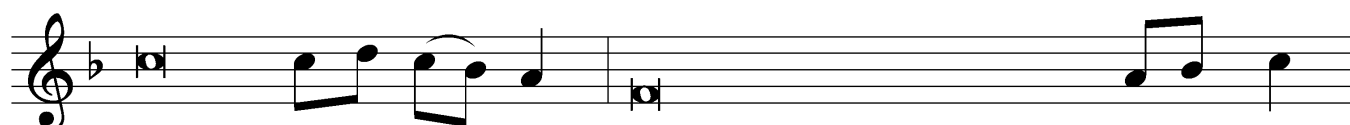
Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



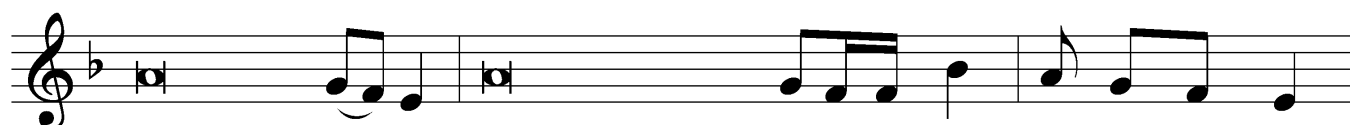
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



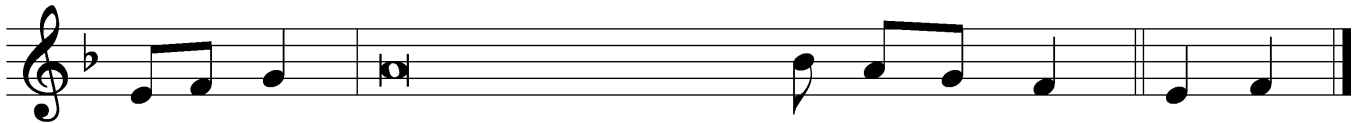
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Be seated)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 1:10–18

Reluctant, grudging service is not faithful service.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom;

listen to the instruction of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!

¹¹“The multitude of your sacrifices—
what are they to me?” says the LORD.

“I have more than enough of burnt offerings,
of rams and the fat of fattened animals;

I have no pleasure
in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.

¹²When you come to appear before me,
who has asked this of you,
this trampling of my courts?

¹³Stop bringing meaningless offerings!
Your incense is detestable to me.
New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—
I cannot bear your worthless assemblies.
¹⁴Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals
I hate with all my being.
They have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.
¹⁵When you spread out your hands in prayer,
I hide my eyes from you;
even when you offer many prayers,
I am not listening.

Your hands are full of blood!

¹⁶Wash and make yourselves clean.
Take your evil deeds out of my sight;
stop doing wrong.
¹⁷Learn to do right; seek justice.
Defend the oppressed.
Take up the cause of the fatherless;
plead the case of the widow.

¹⁸“Come now, let us settle the matter,”
says the LORD.
“Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ADULT CHOIR WHEN IN OUR MUSIC GOD IS GLORIFIED

10:30

SECOND READING: ROMANS 12:1–8*Romans 12:1–8****Faithful service comes from lives transformed into living sacrifices.***

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Revelation 2:10*

Refrain



Al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone

Be faithful, even to the point of death,
and I will give you life as your vic - tor's crown.

Refrain

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GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:14–30

Matthew 25:14–30

What faithfulness and unfaithfulness looks like to Jesus.

¹⁴“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

²¹“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²²“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

²³“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²⁴“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

²⁶“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸“ ‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

(Be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY: 751 O GOD, YOUR HAND THE HEAVENS MADE

O God, your hand the heavens made
and all that they contain;
the world appeared at your command,
and in it now you reign.
The restless sea, the land, the sky
your handiwork declare;
the touch of your creative pow’r
is present ev’rywhere.

To us are given gifts divine,
all talents you have sent;
inspire us now to use them well
your kingdom to extend.
We hold each gift a trust from you
nor claim it as our own;
we gratefully acknowledge, Lord,
all things are yours alone.

Deliver us from selfish aims,
true stewards we would be;
endow us with a deep desire

to live unselfishly.
A full accounting we must give
and see you face to face;
let us approach your throne with joy,
supported by your grace.

Text: Frank L. Cross, 1904–2001

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SERMON

Matthew 25:14-30

PUT GOD'S TREASURE TO WORK

- 1. Faithfully**
- 2. Joyfully**
- 3. Immediately**

(Stand)

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

(Be seated)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labor. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

OFFERING

(Stand)

PREFACE

CW 165

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

CW 167



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n 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,
bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

CW 169

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in a single system. Both staves are in the treble clef and have a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,". The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music is written in a simple, clear style suitable for a church service.

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

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: 814 JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA

Just as I am, without one plea
 but that thy blood was shed for me
 and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not
 to rid my soul of one dark blot,
 to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
 with many' _a conflict, many' _a doubt,
 fightings and fears within, without,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
 sight, riches, healing of the mind,
 yea, all I need, in thee to find,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Text: Public domain

(Stand)

THANKSGIVING

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

HYMN: 930 GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING

Go, my children, with my blessing,
never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing,
you are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished,
closer to me;
grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;
here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished,
joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you
and give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you
and give you peace;
I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, my children; I will keep you
and give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Worship attendance: 8:00 AM – 160 10:30 AM – 191
Sunday School attendance: Adults – 88 Children – 22
Midweek Adult Bible Classes: 43
Senior ushers – 8a: Nick Lincoln/Bruce Rademacher
10:30a: Owen Beilke/Dean Rovey
Organist: Jeff Wegner
Trombone: Rachel Kulhanek Trumpet: Aaron Huxtable

HOSPITALIZED OR RECUPERATING AT HOME:

Sandy Lamb
Janet Brussman
Dixie Carpenter
Sandra Lederer

THIS WEEK AT GRACE:

TODAY: Communion Service, 8:00 & 10:30a, Bible Class & Sunday School,
9:30a, Special Voters' Meeting immediately following 10:30
service
MON - Handbells, 6:15p; Choir Practice, 7p
TUE - Bible class, 2p; Church Council Meeting, 6:30p
WED - LES Grandparents Day, 8:25a; LES early release, 11:30a
THUR - Thanksgiving Service at 9a, PK-8 grades sing
FRI - School and Church Offices Closed
SUN - Worship Service, 8:00 & 10:30a; Bible Class & Sunday School,
9:30a; Women's Advent by Candlelight, 5p

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. *Forward in Christ* and October Bible-reading and activity calendars are in the Narthex and south entrance to the church.
2. Thank you to the crew that cleaned the church last week. The cleaning crew for November 25th will be captained by Rebekah Frear with Jason Frear and Aiden Frear, Tom and Candi Allen, Eric and Kristi Dahl, Gracee Dahl, Olaf Dahl, Mike and Annalise Vallee, and Matt and Jada Wightman.

ATTENTION YOUTH PARENTS...Teens currently in grades 8-12 will have

the opportunity to attend the WELS International Youth Rally in Colorado Springs, this summer. To defray the cost to families, Grace will hold a parking fundraiser in the church parking lot on 11/24 and 11/25 during the Glendale Glitters event. The lot will be open 4:30-10:30p. Students may come for all, or part of the time and parents are welcome to stay to assist. Please contact Chris Kallies to sign up.

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT... Christmas will be here before we know it! What better way to start the Advent season than preparing our hearts with Advent by Candlelight on Sunday, November 26 at 5:00 p.m. All ladies are invited to come! If you are willing to host a table, be a reader, share your musical talents, or plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

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.

THANKSGIVING ALTAR FLOWERS... If you would like to make a \$10 donation to help purchase our Thanksgiving altar bouquets, please sign the sheet in the narthex and enclose payment in the pink envelope (make checks payable to "Grace Ladies Aid") You may drop the envelope in the offering plate. Please mark if you would like to take some flowers after the service. An Altar Committee member will be in the sacristy to help split the bouquets.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS...The church will be decorated for Christmas after the 2nd service on November 26th. Everyone is invited. Please consider this opportunity to fellowship and help prepare for the Advent and Christmas seasons. You may contact Steve or Patty Bischoff if you need more information.

ABC...Adult Breakfast and Coffee Group will meet on December 6, 8:30a at

Village Inn, 9490 W Northern Ave. For more information please text Pat Walker, 480-717-0131 or email at patwalker1950@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

2024 SCRIPTURAL WALL CALENDARS... are available for purchase in the Fellowship Hall before Bible Class for \$9.00 each. The proceeds support the Grace Ladies' Aid.

SCRIPTURAL THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS, & 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.

ALRC ADVENT SERVICES...Arizona Lutheran Retirement Center (1928 W. Orangewood Ave., Phoenix, 85021) will be hosting Advent services on Wednesday mornings at 10a, beginning 12/6. The theme for the season is "The Clothing of the King". Services will be in the activity room.

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. 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.



FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Need amounts are based on a goal of **\$947,436.00** by **6/30/2024**.

Week ending 11/12/2023: **YTD 7/1/2023 through 11/12/2023:**

Weekly Need:	17,000.00	YTD Need:	345,300.00
Weekly Actual:	13,332.00	YTD Actual:	337,756.68
Weekly +/-:	-3,668.00	YTD +/-:	-7,543.32