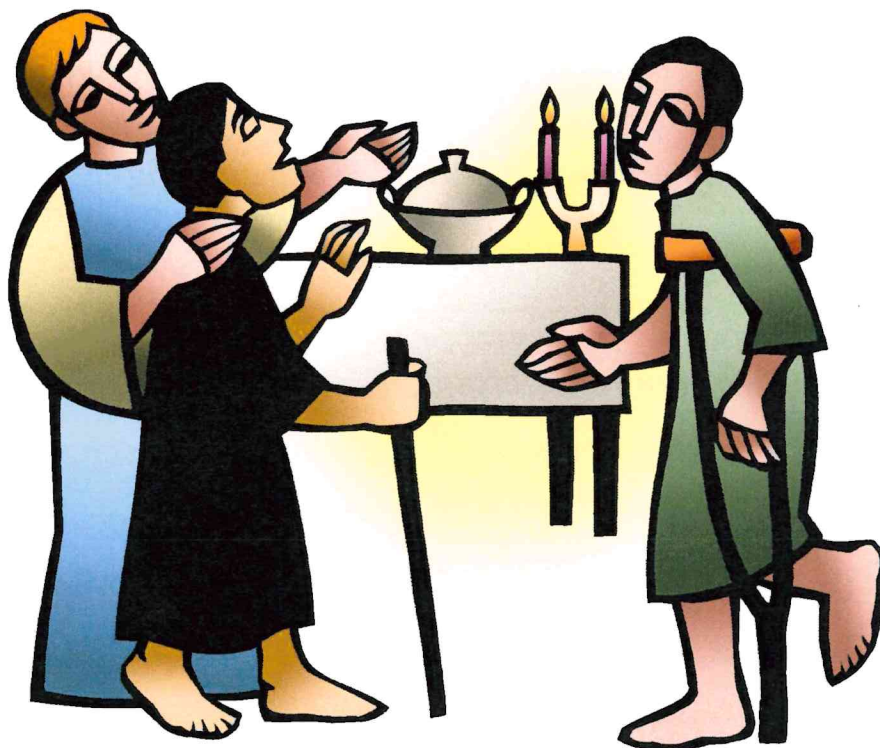


August 31, 2025

12th Sunday After Pentecost



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

Church Office: 609-927-3082 **Food Pantry:** 609-927-9982

Website: www.GraceLutheranSPNJ.org

E-mail: office@GraceLutheranSPNJ.comcastbiz.net

Interim Pastor ✝ Wendolyn Trozzo, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

We welcome you to worship here at Grace!

*Note that all text written in **bold** is for congregation participation.*

*Our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship
red hymnal found in the pews.*

GATHERING

Thank you for joining us as we worship our Lord together!

INTRODUCTION

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God’s grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ’s banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Glenn Schoenberger

PRELUDE *Now We Join In Celebration* setting by Aaron David Miller

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, you free us to love others, you lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, and you surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity. And yet, O Merciful God, we turn aside to our own paths, and we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God’s beloved children. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

O God Beyond All Praising

ELW #880

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.**

KYRIE

ELW page 203

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW page 204

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Take a brief moment to share the peace by greeting someone sitting near you. Verbal greetings are appropriate if you are not comfortable shaking hands or touching.

Please be seated.

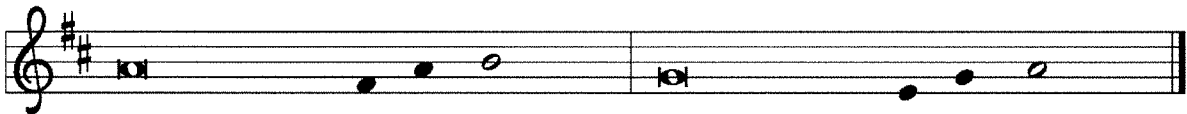
FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

- ⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 112



- ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who [|] fear the LORD
and have great delight in [|] God's commandments!
² **Their descendants will be mighty [|] in the land;**
the generation of the upright [|] will be blessed.
³ Wealth and riches will be [|] in their house,
and their righteousness will [|] last forever.
⁴ **Light shines in the darkness [|] for the upright;**
the righteous are merciful and full [|] of compassion.

- ⁵ It is good for them to be gener-¹ous in lending
and to manage their af-¹fairs with justice.
- ⁶ **For they will nev-¹er be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlast-¹ing remembrance.**
- ⁷ They will not be afraid of any¹ evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting¹ in the LORD.
- ⁸ **Their heart is established and¹ will not shrink,
until they see their desire up-¹on their enemies.**
- ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands¹ fast
forever;
they will hold up their¹ head with honor.
- ¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and¹
pine away;
the desires of the wick-¹ed will perish.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that

confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet,

do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Glenn Schoenberger

Please stand as you are able.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God* by Michael Larkin

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.
And all these things shall be added to you, Alleluia, alleluia.
Knock and the door shall be opened.
Seek and you shall find.
And it shall be given you. Alleluia, alleluia!
Please stand as you are able.*

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *Create in Me a Clean Heart* **WOV #732**

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near. *Brief silence.*

At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "Hear us, O God," please respond with "Your mercy is great."

P: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT 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.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW page 207

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Together, we pray as our Lord taught us, saying:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

ELW page 208

COMMUNION HYMNS

Now We Join In Celebration

ELW #462

As We Gather At Your Table

ELW #522

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We will have continuous communion in front of the steps today. EVERYONE IS INVITED to come down the center aisle at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats via the side aisle. There is white grape juice in the center of the circular tray and red wine in the outer part of the tray. If you are unable to come up to the front, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children or those who have not received a first communion are welcome to come for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, you gathered us to your table and we were filled with your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *If You But Trust In God To Guide You* **ELW #769**

*Please be seated. Enjoy the postlude music.
and meditate on how God spoke to your heart today.*

POSTLUDE *"Allegro" from Violin Sonata* by Arcangelo Corelli
arr. by Kevin Norris

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

*We are glad for your presence today.
We hope you come again soon!*

*Special thank you to Rev. Dr. Glenn Schoenberger for
leading us in worship today!*

**We thank all those serving in worship today:
Worship Assistant: Mary Ann Gring**

**The flowers sponsor this week is: Brenda Traa, in honor of her daughter,
Karen Traa's birthday!**



Good Old Days Festival

Our church is planning to have a booth again this year at the
Good Old Days Festival at Kennedy Park
September 6 from 11 AM-6 PM.

This is always a great opportunity to get our name out in the community, meet our neighbors, and share about our faith, ministries, and upcoming events our church provides.

If you have any time to spare on that day, we could really use your assistance. All you need to do is show up with a bright smile and the love Christ in your heart! Those who helped last year had fun helping to hand out fliers, brochures and give-away items, and assisting with our prayer tree and craft.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for anyone who wishes to be part of this wonderful event.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

**1st and 3rd Monday of each month, beginning September 15
at 6:30 PM**

Group and one-on-one peer support will be available.

All who are grieving the loss of a family member, friend, pet, job, etc. are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please contact Meg La Spina 609-335-9514.

**Please plan to join us for a
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, October 5 at 11:00 AM**

This meeting will follow a shortened worship service. Coffee and tea will be available. Consider bringing a dessert to share.

**Lutheran Social Ministries Workshop:
Navigating Senior Living**

Sunday, October 12 at noon here at Grace. Lunch will be provided. This workshop discusses different types of care communities. Walk away with 5 key items to look for when choosing a retirement or healthcare community.

Please RSVP so we have a headcount for lunch.

**OKTOBERFEST
Friday, October 17, 2025
Grace Lutheran Church
5:00-7:00 PM**

*Tickets may be purchased online
through this QR code or in person by
calling the church office at
609-927-3082*



Tickets are also on sale in the narthex on Sundays.

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

August 31, 2025—September 7, 2025

12th Sunday of Pentecost 8/31/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
10:15AM Traditional Worship

MONDAY 9/1/25

Labor Day: Office Closed

No Food Pantry this week

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 9/2/25

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 9/3/25

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
6:00PM AA Book Study
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 9/4/25

2:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
6:00 AA 12-Step
7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 9/5/25

10:30AM Grace Stitchers
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 9/6/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers
11AM-6PM Good Old days
Kennedy Park

13th Sunday of Pentecost 9/7/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum
10:15AM Traditional Worship
Joyful Noise Offering:
Seaman's Institute

SHORE DINER

Present this bulletin on a Sunday
and Shore Diner will donate 20% to Grace
Lutheran Church. Present this on
any other day, and we will donate 10%.

Shore Diner
6710 Tilton Road
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
609-641-3669

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

This week:
Tues, Thurs, Fri
10:00-3:00