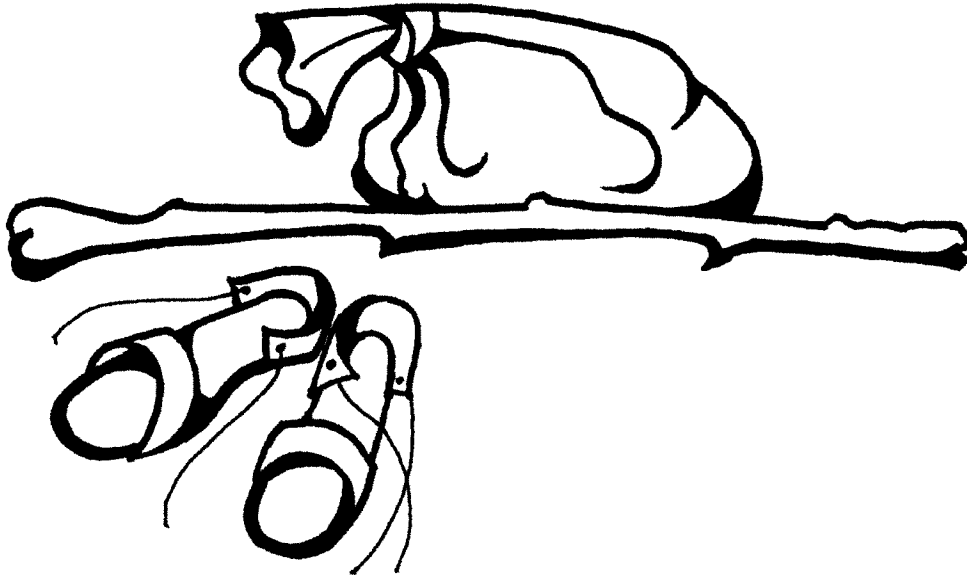


September 7, 2025

13th 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](http://www.GraceLutheranSPNJ.org)

**E-mail:** [office@GraceLutheranSPNJ.comcastbiz.net](mailto: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

*Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.*

### WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

### PRELUDE

*Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus*

arr. by Georg G. Boltze

*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.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### OPENING HYMN

*Take My Life, That I May Be*

**ELW #685**

Verses 1, 4, 6 ALL, Verse 2 WOMEN, Verse 3 CHOIR, Verse 5 MEN

**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**

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through 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.*

**PSALM 1**

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel<sup>1</sup> of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats<sup>1</sup> of the scornful!
- <sup>2</sup> **Their delight is in the law<sup>1</sup> of the LORD,**  
**and they meditate on God's teaching<sup>1</sup> day and night.**
- <sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due  
season, with leaves that<sup>1</sup> do not wither;  
everything they<sup>1</sup> do shall prosper.
- <sup>4</sup> **It is not so<sup>1</sup> with the wicked;**  
**they are like chaff which the wind<sup>1</sup> blows away.**
- <sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when<sup>1</sup> judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council<sup>1</sup> of the righteous.

**<sup>6</sup> For the LORD knows the way <sup>1</sup> of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall <sup>1</sup> be destroyed.**

**READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

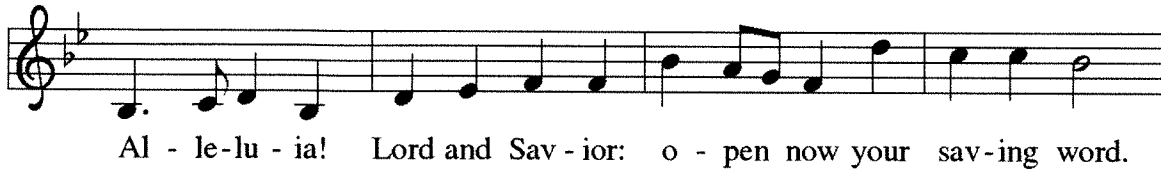
*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the LORD; or choose death by following other gods.*

<sup>15</sup> “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

### GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

*Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

<sup>25</sup> Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and



asks for the terms of peace.<sup>33</sup> So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

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

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

*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.*

## **JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING**

*Our monthly special noisy offering for the month of August is The Seaman’s Institute.*

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY**

*Blessed Is The Man*

by Jane M. Marshall

*Blessed, blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,  
Nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
But his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
And on his law he meditates day and night.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS** *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

**WOV #732**

## OFFERING PRAYER

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need. *Brief silence.*

*At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "God of grace," please respond with "receive our prayer."*

P: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. 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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

### COMMUNION HYMN

*Lamb of God*

ELW page 208

### COMMUNION HYMNS

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*

ELW #810

*Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus*

ELW #802

## 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

**O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

## SENDING

## BENEDICTION

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

*Lead Me, Guide Me*

ELW #768



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

**POSTLUDE**      *Recessional Grand March*      by Samuel B. Whitney

**DISMISSAL**    Go in peace. Do not lose heart.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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

**We thank all those serving in worship today:**  
**Worship Assistant: Ruth Bowden**



**The flowers sponsor this week is: Roberta Blumenthal,**  
wishing all teachers and students a successful year of teaching  
and learning as the new school year begins!

**The candles and bulletins sponsor is: Clare Brick, in honor of Karleigh's  
3rd birthday!**

## PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers:

**Members of Grace:** Debbie K., Renee P., Bettie C., Diana M., Bruce H., Bonnie C., Ruth K., Lois R., Barry L., Don B., John Sa., Brenda T., Family of Chris D., Bob K., Ruth B., Scott B, Linda S., Donna M., John St., Jonelle, Karl S.

**Our family and friends:** Alex, Jeff, Skip, Donna, Tom (Ruth T.), Ric, Jeanne, Cody, Logan, David (Ruth B.), Marilyn, Houston (June J.), Ronna, Nadine, Todd, Drew (Corinne R.), Carrie (Ray H.), Linda, Dana (Edna C. & Patty D.), Bruce (Brenda T.), Jody M., Audrey M. (Mary Ann G.), Karen H. (Mary G.), Tyler, Megan (Carol G.), Terrol J. (Linda S.), Barbara B., Hank (Vickie C.), Bridget K. & Patrick, George M., Ronald G., Rossanne and Ronald (Renee P.), Abril, Kyle (Chris D.), Sally S. (Roberta B.)

**Those serving our country:** Matthew Bilello, ANG, Cainan Johnson, USAF, & Daniel Casner, 3rd USN, Liam Johnson, USN

**The Shores at Wesley Manor:** Eleanore Guire

*Please notify the church office of any changes or additions to our prayer list.*

## Announcement from WELCA:

All women are invited to attend the WELCA meeting

**Tuesday, September 9 at 12:00 PM in the lounge.**

Lunch will be provided.

**Please plan to join us for a  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
to discuss finances and stewardship.  
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.

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**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.*

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**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

## September 7, 2025-September 14, 2025

### 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**

### MONDAY 9/8/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
 7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### TUESDAY 9/9/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
 6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous  
**12:00PM WELCA**  
 7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### WEDNESDAY 9/10/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
 11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge  
 6:00PM AA Book Study  
 6:30PM Compassionate Friends  
 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous  
**7:00 Financial Support Meeting**

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**This week:**

**Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00**

**Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00**

### THURSDAY 9/11/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
 2:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous  
 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal  
 6:00 AA 12-Step  
 7:00PM Antique Collector's Club  
 7:00PM Al-Anon

### FRIDAY 9/12/25

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

### SATURDAY 9/13/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

### 14th Sunday of Pentecost 9/14/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
 8:45AM Adult Forum  
 10:15AM Traditional Worship

### 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