

October 19, 2025

19th 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.org

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

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

WELCOME

Chris Dennis

PRELUDE

Jesus, Still Lead On

by Paul Manz

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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Day By Day

ELW #790

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, 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.

First Reading: Genesis 32:22-31

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet

my life is preserved.”³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

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

PSALM 121



- ¹ I lift up my eyes | to the hills;
from where is my | help to come?
- ² **My help comes | from the LORD,**
the maker of heav- | en and earth.
- ³ The LORD will not let your | foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.
- ⁴ **Behold, the keep- | er of Israel**
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;
- ⁵ the LORD watches | over you;
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;
- ⁶ **the sun will not strike | you by day,**
nor the | moon by night.
- ⁷ The LORD will preserve you | from all evil
and will | keep your life.
- ⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,**
from this time forth for- | evermore.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷

so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 18th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a

widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Chris Dennis

HYMN OF THE DAY

Give Me Jesus

ELW #770

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

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***I will Lift Up Mine Eyes*

by Leo Sowerby

*I lift mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.*

*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: Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation. *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 offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS*Please stand as you are able.*

SENDING

BLESSING

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

Jesus, Still Lead On

ELW #624

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

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary

by Henry Purcell

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

*We are glad for your presence today.
Special thank you to Chris Dennis for leading us in
worship today!*

We thank all those serving in worship today:
Worship Assistant: Kevin Thomas



**The flowers sponsor this week is: Ingeborg Carlson, in memory
of our beloved mother and grandmother, from the Carlson,
Fetter and Svinland Family.**

There are baskets in the narthex for **Christmas at Sea** donations and **Feed the Northeast** donations. These donations will be collected throughout the month of October.

**Please pick up a list in the narthex of items needed for the seafarers.
Donations for Feed the Northeast should all be non perishable items.**

CAPE SHORE CHORALE

proudly presents

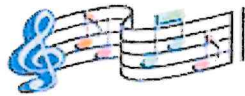


From Ragtime to Swingtime™



with the Vintage Jazz Band

A musical tour of American
popular song from 1910 to 1940



Take a musical trip back in time with the Vintage Jazz Band, a 6-piece group that plays popular music standards of bygone eras. Songs include: Bei Mir Bis Du Shein, I Double Dare You, Toot-Toot-Tootsie Goodbye, Manhattan, I've Heard That Song Before, and more!

Instruments include guitars, banjos, clarinet, saxophone, upright bass, drums and a female vocalist. Between songs, a short backstory about the song or the composer of the next tune is given, providing an interesting and entertaining presentation.

Saturday, November 8, 2025 (6:00-9:00 P M)
Grace Lutheran Church @ 11 East Dawes Avenue
Somers Point, N. J. 08244

A \$50.00 donation per person includes Hors d'oeuvres,
 desserts, beverages, and a night filled
 with musical entertainment.

*for more information and to reserve,
 contact Claire Theis @ (609) 214-5323
 or clairetheis@hotmail.com*

18th Annual Christmas



Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 13th

9:00 am until sold out!



**FRESH
SCONES**

**Also
Gently used
Christmas Decorations**

Decadent Hot Cocoa

**Grace Lutheran Church
11 East Dawes Ave.
Dawes Ave. & Shore Road
Somers Point, NJ 08244
609-927-3082**





We are in need of bakers for our 18th Annual Christmas Cookie Walk on December 13! If you are willing and able to bake for this, please sign up in the narthex before or after church so we know what we can expect. We need cookies galore, as it usually sells out within the first hour!

Last year the White Elephant table nearly sold out, so we are greatly in need of an inventory replenishment. If you have any gently used Christmas decorations or kitchenware you no longer need or want, we can definitely use them!

Helpers are needed the day before the Cookie Walk to receive and organize trays of cookies and baked goods. Helpers are also needed the day of the event. If you or anyone you know would be interested in a vendor table, please let us know. Only \$25 per table!

If you have any questions or wish to reserve a vendor table, please contact Heidi Toth 609-233-4156 or Sandy Piskun 609-226-5591.

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

October 19, 2025-October 26, 2025

19th Sunday of Pentecost 10/19/25

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

MONDAY 10/20/25

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

TUESDAY 10/21/25

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

WEDNESDAY 10/22/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
6:00PM AA Book Study
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 10/23/25

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

FRIDAY 10/24/25

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

SATURDAY 10/25/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

Reformation Sunday 10/26/25

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

This week:

Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00

Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00