

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

February 5, 2023—February 12, 2023

5TH SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY 2/5/23

10:15AM Traditional Worship
with Children's Sunday School

ANNUAL MEETING

4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 2/6/23

9:00-11:30AM Grace Place
Food Pantry

10:00AM SS Clergy Bible Study

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 2/7/23

9:00-11:30AM Food Pantry

5:00PM Dream Team

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 2/8/23

9:00-11:30AM Food Pantry

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge

7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

7:00PM Financial Support Meeting

February Worship Assistants:

2/12 June Jordan

2/19 Meg Markkanen

2/26 Shirley Blankenship

THURSDAY 2/9/23

9:00-11:30AM Food Pantry

5:00PM Choir Rehearsal

6:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 2/10/23

10:30AM Grace Stitchers

7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 2/11/23

No events

6TH SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY 2/12/23

8:00AM Worship

8:45AM Adult Forum Group

10:15AM Traditional Worship
with Children's Sunday School

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

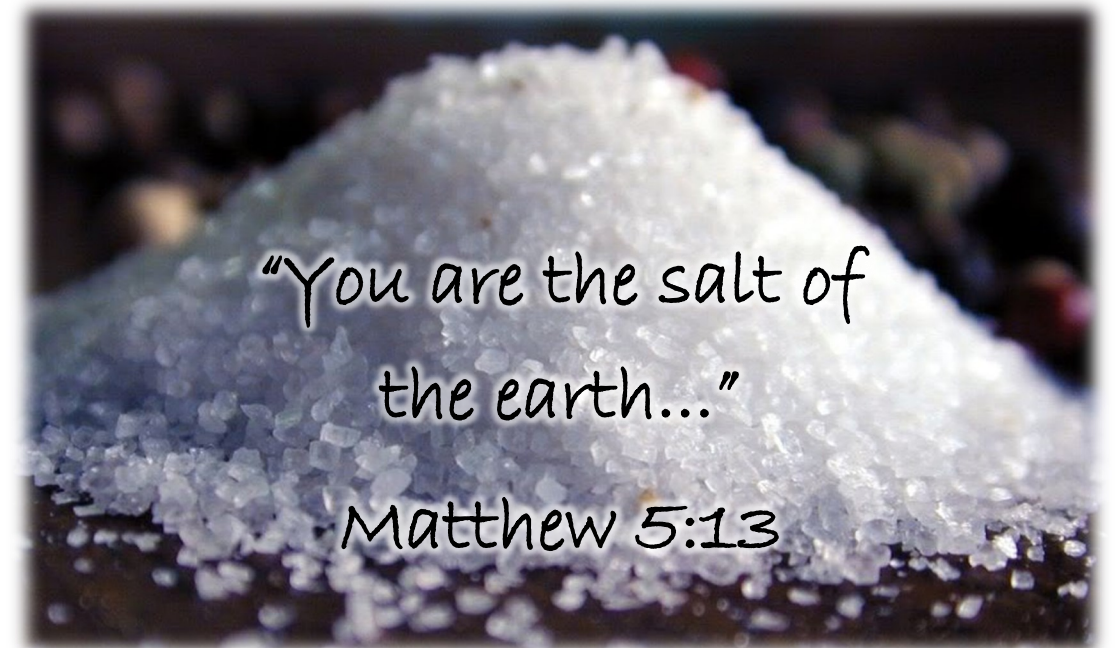
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

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

February 5, 2023 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



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

Rev. Althea Albright, Pastor ✝ Scott J. Breiner, Music Director

Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

Betty's Cleaning Service, Facility Cleaning Company

Atlantic Media Productions, Audio and Livestreaming Video

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 with us as we worship our Lord together!

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.



WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE *O Thou, The True and Only Light* by Felix Mendelssohn

Ash Wednesday Service

February 22, 2023



12:00PM (Brief prayer service and imposition of ashes)



& 6:30PM (Imposition of
ashes and Holy Communion)

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

an intergenerational opportunity for ALL members, friends,
and neighbors of Grace to have some fun together
JOIN US FOR FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP!

BRING A GAME!

We will also have Bingo and prizes.

March 1, 2023 6:00-8:00PM
in the Fellowship Hall



FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

CHECK



EXPIRATION DATES



Grace Place Food Pantry greatly appreciates all food donations that help us feed those in need in the communities of Somers Point, Linwood and Northfield.

Please be mindful that we

**CAN NOT ACCEPT ANY FOOD PRODUCTS
THAT HAVE EXPIRED / OUTDATED DATES
OR ANY OPENED PRODUCTS.**

We ask that before donating food to the pantry,
please check dates on all items to be sure they can be given to our clients.

THANK YOU,
FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS



Some items which are needed at the pantry:

Ramen noodles, peanut butter, Chef Boyardee cans,
Knorr sides, Rice-A-Roni sides, cereal, cooking oil,
paper towels, tuna fish, coffee, shampoo and conditioner

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life, **you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

People of God, hear the good news: God's mercy makes us refreshed and new. In + Jesus, we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Gather Us In

ELW #532

VERSES 1 & 4 ALL, VERSE 2 MEN, VERSE 3 WOMEN

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.**

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Take a brief moment to greet someone sitting near you. Verbal greetings are appropriate, no need to feel pressured to touch or shake hands.

KYRIE *front of the red ELW hymnal on pages 147-148*

HYMN OF PRAISE *This is the Feast ELW hymnal on page 149*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and courage to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:2-12

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

Day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.
“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?



We thank all those serving in worship today:
Reader: Ruth Bowden
Altar Guild: Brenda, Clare, Marleigh, and Ruth

Our Altar Flowers Sponsor today:
The altar flowers are given by Corinne Rhodes to the glory of God.

WELCOME VISITORS!

If you are a visitor please fill out a VISITOR CARD in the pews if you are new to our church. Pastor Althea would love to meet you and get in touch with you.



WEEKLY SPONSORSHIPS

Please note we continue to need altar flower sponsors and other various sponsorships. We have envelopes in the narthex and envelopes downstairs by the office at the bulletin board.



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Althea Albright

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING BLESSING

May God bless you and keep you. May Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

My Lord of Light

ELW #832

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

POSTLUDE *O Christ, Our True and Only Light* arr. by U.S. Leopold

DISMISSAL Go in peace and follow the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God!

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We hope you will stay for our Annual Congregational Meeting as we need as many in attendance as possible. Please take a brief break and our meeting will start as soon as possible.

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?
Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the Lord
and have great delight in | God's commandments!
**Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;
the generation of the upright | will be blessed.**
Wealth and riches will be | in their house,
and their righteousness will | last forever.
**Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.**
It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.
**For they will nev- | er be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.**
They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the Lord.
**Their heart is established and | will not shrink,
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.**
They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast
forever;
they will hold up their | head with honor.
**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and |
perish away;
the desires of the wick- | ed will perish.**

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

ELW hymnal page 153

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we
proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again. Amen.**

Gathered in unity, let us pray as our Lord taught us:

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.

Come, all are welcome at the table of the Lord. **Amen.**

Lamb of God

ELW page 154

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to come forward at the direction of the ushers. If you are unable to come to the altar, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children may come forward to receive a blessing.



have tolerated and practiced injustice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed or paid unfair wages. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless conflicts and wars, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted or experiencing illness in any way all in need especially all those whom we name now or in our hearts... *(Take a moment to name people on your heart aloud.)* Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: We bring to you all of our needs and hopes, O God, trusting in your wisdom and your great power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW hymnal page 152

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, almighty and ever-living God.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,

what God has prepared for those who love him”—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

“For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God’s commandments.

Jesus said: “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL *The children are dismissed at this time for Sunday School and they will return for communion.*

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

This Little Light of Mine

ELW #677

THE APOSTLES’ 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 ANTHEM

Eye Hath Not Seen

arr. by Paul Bliss

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *Create in Me a Clean Heart ELW page 186*

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the prayers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *Brief silence for reflection.*

A: Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we