

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

April 23, 2023–April 30, 2023

Third Sunday of Easter 4/23/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM **Earth Day Celebration and
Guest Flutist: Pamela Whitman**
with Children's
Sunday School
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 4/24/23

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

TUESDAY 4/25/23

9:00-11:30 Food Pantry
10:00 AM Worship and Music
Committee Meeting
1:30PM-4:00PM Pastor Continuing Ed
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
7:00 PM Church Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY 4/26/23

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

THURSDAY 4/27/23

9:00-11:30 Food Pantry
1:30PM-4:00PM Pastor Continuing Ed
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 4/28/23

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

SATURDAY 4/29/23

No events

Fourth Sunday of Easter 4/30/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service
8:45 AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship with
Children's Sunday School
**New Member Installation and
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

April 23, 2023

Third Sunday of Easter

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION



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

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!

Introduction

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, you are the river of life and the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and we are made new.

We praise you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. We are thankful for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Sunday, May 21, 2023 Pentecost Party & Worship

*with Special Prayers and Music
from around the world at 10:15am*

Join us as we celebrate the Holy Spirit
coming to the disciples and the
birthday of the church.



WEAR RED, ORANGE, or YELLOW

AIN'T NO PARTY LIKE A HOLY GHOST PARTY! *(look up the song)*

The party will continue with food and **Fellowship Hour**

Please note, Pastor Althea is beginning a summer class on *Fundraising in Religious Institutions* on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The course begins Tuesday, April 18, 2023 and runs through June 15, 2023. Her office hours will be adjusted accordingly.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MON-WED 10:00AM-3:00PM

FRI 10:00AM-2:00PM

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

MON-WED 10:00AM-2:00PM

THURS varies

April Worship Assistants:

4/30 Ruth Bowden

May Worship Assistants:

5/7 Edna Cordery

5/14 June Jordan

5/21 Kevin Thomas

5/28 Mary Ann Gring

BABY SHOWER

for Shore Memorial NICU

will be at Grace Lutheran Church

Friday, May 19 at 12:00 PM

Lunch will be served for Shore

Medical nurses and guests.

Donations needed: New clothing (preemie-2T),

diapers, knitted and crocheted clothing and blankets

Deadline for donations: Friday, May 12



Bayfest Volunteers Needed!

We still have time slots available to volunteers for our table at Bayfest on **Saturday, April 29.**

This is a great opportunity to share information about our church with the community!

Time slots are: 7:45am-10am, 10am-12pm, 12pm-2pm, 2pm-5pm

Pastor would like 2-3 people to join her in each time slot as we represent our church. Please call the church office or look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex (lobby in the rear of the sanctuary).

Please join us next **Sunday, April 30** right after the 10:15 AM Worship Service for **Fellowship Hour** as we welcome new members into our family of faith at Grace!

You are holy and mighty for giving us the gift of the waters of baptism, and for the outpouring of the Spirit as we are refreshed and made new. Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask all these things through Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

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

THIS IS THE FEAST

front of the red ELW hymnal page 149

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 1: 1-13, 24-27

At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

²⁴And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers:

Members of Grace: Debbie K., Renee P., Carol F., & Carole T.

Our family and friends: Donna, Freddy (Pastor), Eileen (Ruth T.), Stephanie B. (Roberta B.), Marilyn, Margie (Ruth B.), Max S., Rinata, family and friends of Donald (Clare B.), Bob, Kim (Jim F.), Annmarie (June J.), Shirley (Debbie K.), Bob & Lou (Dale K.), Lindsey, Jim, Vicki, Elliot (Meg L.), Janice & Keyara (Diana M.), Bernadette, Lou, Ron, Berl, Cindy, Eric, Donny, Carol (Renee P.), Catherine, Sal, Ana, Mark (Corinne R.), Karen (Sue R.), Bob, Donna (Brenda T.), Bill, Sally, Harry (Jill W.), Eleanor (Roberta B.), Rob, Dorrie (Marlene D.), Family and friends of Robert, Family and friends of Carl Platt

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

Our members at home: Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Lois Reardon

Villa Raffaella: Barbara Johnson **Woodview Estates:** Lorraine Moore

The Shores at Wesley Manor: Eleanore Guire

Please notify Pastor Althea or the church office of any changes or additions to our prayer list, so we can keep it as updated as possible for you.

May the peace of the Lord be with you always! We are glad for your presence today. We hope you come again soon!



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.

**We thank all those serving in worship today:
Reader: Shirley Blankenship**

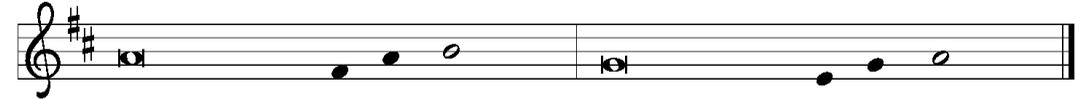
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our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

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

PSALM 8



¹O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!—
²**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of in-
fants and children;**
you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the
foe and avenger.
³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
⁴**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?**
⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.
⁶**You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:**
⁷all flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts of the field,
⁸**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**
⁹O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SECOND READING: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has

made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW hymnal page 151

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 24th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 24: 13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

¹³Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God

the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING BLESSING

The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

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

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
Thanks be to God!

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW hymnal page 152

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW hymnal page 153

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.
We thank you, O God.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

and all the people,²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.”²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children are dismissed after the Pastor's message for Sunday School and they will return for communion.

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright
Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

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

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *Create in me a Clean Heart* WOV page 732

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *Brief silence.*

A: Ever-present God, you make yourself known in the breaking of the bread and in the bonds of community. Reveal yourself to us in the faces of all we meet. Strengthened by your body and blood, let us boldly live out your good news. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: As we know you in the breaking of the bread, we know you in the grains of the field and the flowing waters. Care for the earth you lovingly create. Strengthen those who safeguard threatened land and water. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: You are the authority to whom we dedicate our lives. Help us keep the needs of those most vulnerable at the forefront of our community. Move us to care for any who are disregarded or oppressed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Mothering God, you feed and comfort those who hunger. Open the hearts of those who hoard resources and lead them to share your abundance. We pray for anyone hungering for your comforting presence this day *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: You pour out your love on those who are oppressed. Support and comfort anyone who is marginalized or persecuted because of their gender, race, sexuality, or faith. Form this community to listen faithfully to the stories of others and speak honestly in our ministry together. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: We remember with thanksgiving all your beloved saints. As you have raised them to eternal life, abide with us in your promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**