

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

April 30, 2023—May 7, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter 4/30/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship with
Children's Sunday School
**New Member Installation and
Fellowship Hour**
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 5/1/23

10:00AM Clergy Bible Study
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 5/2/23

1:30PM-4:00PM Pastor Continuing Ed
5:00PM Dream Team Meeting
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 5/3/23

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 5/4/23

5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 5/5/23

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

SATURDAY 5/6/23

No events

Fifth Sunday of Easter 5/7/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service
8:45 AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship
with Children's Sunday School
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

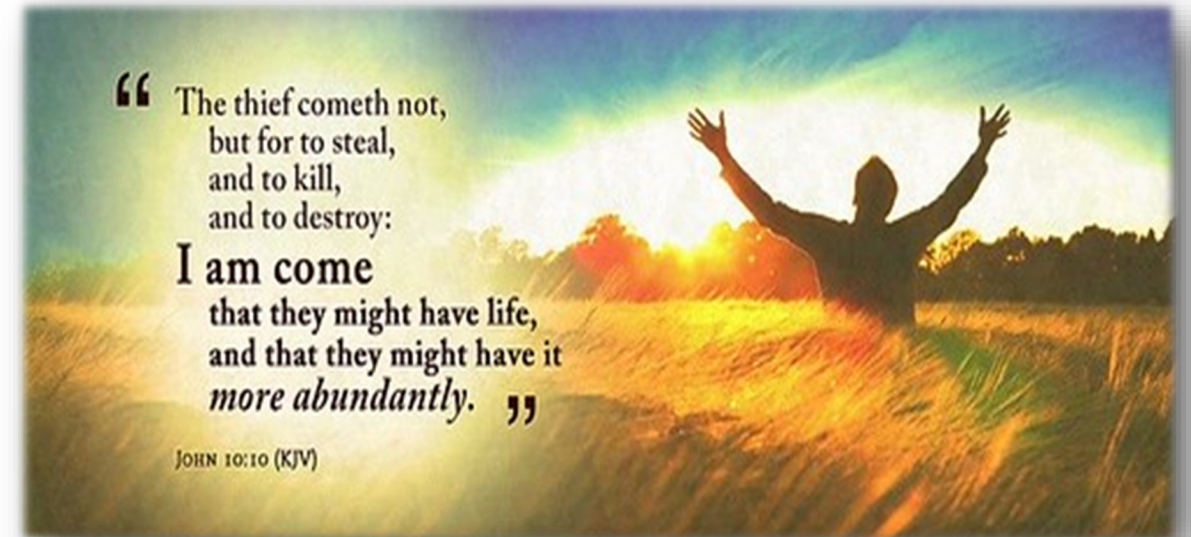
SHORE DINER

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 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter



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 is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Aria
Andrew Ehrhardt: Saxophone

by: Eugene Bozza

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **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, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,

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, Rinata, The Martin Family (Clare B.), Bob, Kim (Jim F.), Annmarie (June J.), Shirley (Debbie K.), Bob & Lou (Dale K.), Lindsey, Jim, Vicki, Elliot (Meg L.), Tim & Leah (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.

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

May Worship Assistants:

5/7 Edna Cordery

5/14 Kevin Thomas

5/21 Meg LaSpina

5/28 Mary Ann Gring

June Worship Assistants:

6/4 Edna Cordery

6/11 Corinne Rhodes

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

If planning to attend, please RSVP to Bettie Cross (609) 646-4495

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**



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 you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *I Know That My Redeemer Lives!* ELW #619
VERSES 1-4

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 our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on

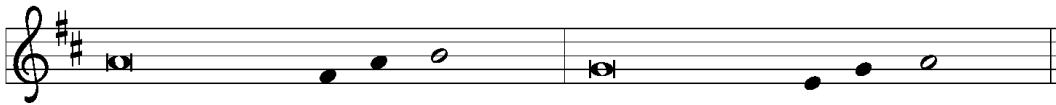
God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

⁴²The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

PSALM 23



¹The LORD¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not¹ be in want.

**²The LORD makes me lie down¹ in green pastures
and leads me be-¹side still waters.**

³You restore my ¹soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways ¹for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence¹ of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is¹ running over.

**⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days¹ of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the¹ LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ

CAPE SHORE CHORALE

presents

Spirituals & Folk Songs

June 4th, 2023 @ 3:00 P M

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

30th & Bay Ave., Ocean City, N. J.



Paul Spencer Adkins

guest tenor



Scott J. Breiner, director

free will offering & lite refreshments



Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/
Department of State, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Cape May County Board
of County Commissioners through the Cape May County Division of Culture & Heritage.



The flowers sponsor today is: John Staples, Jr,
in memory of John and Katherine Staples.



The candles sponsors today are: Linda, Diana,
Amy, Mya, Madyn, & Nora, in memory of our
sweet Mom, Gram, and GG, Ruth Rutherford,
who passed away 15 years ago today!

Welcome

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.

Monday, May 8, 2023 at 12:00 PM
First Meeting of the
100th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE!
Lunch will be provided here at Grace.



*is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God,
particularly amid adversity.*

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while
suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong,
what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it,
you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ
also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in
his steps.

²²“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did
not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He
himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we
might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For
you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the
shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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 John the 10th chapter. **Glory to you,
O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point
about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant
life.*

Jesus said:¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the
sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a
bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The
gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his
own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his
own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know
his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him
because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of
speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

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 *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us* ELW #789

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Today we welcome Melissa Kleva, Johanna Reilly, Robert Klingensmith, Frank Golden, James and Wendy Dolan, Victoria Costello, Dale Rader, Carol Gallagher, and Carol Landes as new members of our community of faith. When baptized, Christians are received into membership, they may mark the beginning of their participation in a new community of faith by making public affirmation of their baptism.

Welcoming new members to Grace is significant to the growth of our ministry and the diversity of our fellowship with one another.

Paul reminds us of the importance of each of our gifts as the Body of Christ. In First Corinthians, chapter 12, Paul writes:

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit,

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 *I Know That My Redeemer Lives!* ELW #619
VERSES 5-8

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

POSTLUDE *Sinfonia* by J. S. Bach, Arr. By Homer Whitford

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

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

We thank all those serving in worship today:
Reader: Ruth Bowden

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 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.**

to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many... ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

We welcome you all into the family of Grace Lutheran Church. We are thankful for your presence. We look forward to serving our Lord together and we welcome your family and friends to join us in worship and service anytime.

Let us pray. Almighty God, by the love of Jesus Christ you draw people to yourself and welcome them into the household of faith. May we show your joy by embracing new brothers and sisters as we bear your creative and redeeming word to all the world. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others, following the example of Jesus Christ, our servant and Lord. **Amen.**

Our service continues as we confess our faith together with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* by: Harry Rowe Shelley
Solo Quartet: Ruth Bowden, Corinne Rhodes, Scott Breiner, Andrew Ehrhardt

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: You are the shepherd who gathers us in your mighty and loving arms. Help your church to listen for your voice, especially when the voices of sin, idolatry, and oppression threaten to overpower us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: The green pastures, still waters, and dark valleys of this earth all belong to you, O Lord. Sustain your creation with a love that is both mighty and just. Where there is destruction, bring healing. Where there is

desolation, bring abundance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: You proclaim shepherding love, comfort, and protection for all people and all of creation. Direct leaders to learn from your example and instruction. Give us all servant hearts, that we may generously seek the good of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: You journey with us wherever our paths may lead. We pray for those feeling overwhelmed by anxiety or depression or suffering in any way *especially all those we name now or in our hearts...* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: You are the shepherd that gives safety to your beloved flocks. Provide protection for refugees, victims of domestic violence, those who are imprisoned, and all people who are vulnerable to violence and mistreatment. 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.**

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.