

## HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

May 14, 2023—May 21, 2023

### HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! 5/14/23

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

### MONDAY 5/15/23

9:00-11:30AM Food Pantry  
12:00PM 100th Anniversary  
Committee Meeting  
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### TUESDAY 5/16/23

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

### WEDNESDAY 5/17/23

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

### THURSDAY 5/18/23

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

### FRIDAY 5/19/23

10:30AM Grace Stitchers  
**12:00PM WELCA Baby Shower  
for Shore Memorial NICU**  
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### SATURDAY 5/20/23

*No events*

### PENTECOST CELEBRATION!

5/21/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service  
8:45 AM Adult Forum Group  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
with Special Music and Children's  
Sunday School

**Joyful Noise Offering**

**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

May 14, 2023

Sixth 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](http://www.gracelutheranspnj.org)

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

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## GATHERING

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**Thank you for joining with us as we worship our Lord together!**

### Introduction

*Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.*

### WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

**PRELUDE** *Introduction and Toccata in G Major* by: William Walond

*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, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.

## 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.), 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.), Carrie (Ray H.), 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 Condcliff, 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.

### May Worship Assistants:

5/21 Meg LaSpina

5/28 Edna Cordery

### June Worship Assistants:

6/4 Mary Ann Gring

6/11 Corinne Rhodes

6/18 Meg Markkanen

6/25 Shirley Blankenship



Pastor Althea wishes joy to all who celebrate this day. We give thanks for all the people in our lives who have been mothers or mother-like figures to us. Pastor holds in prayer all those who struggle with their family relationships and all who have lost their mothers or children.

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Will vary until May 29, 2023, due to our Administrative Assistant being on vacation. Pastor Althea and volunteers will be checking the office phone regularly for messages. Please call Pastor Althea directly for any urgent matters and pastoral concerns.

#### PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

MON & WED 10:00AM-2:00PM  
TUES & THURS varies due to pastor's class

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**      *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*      ELW #631

#### 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

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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*

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#### WORD

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#### FIRST READING: Acts 17: 22-31

*In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom*



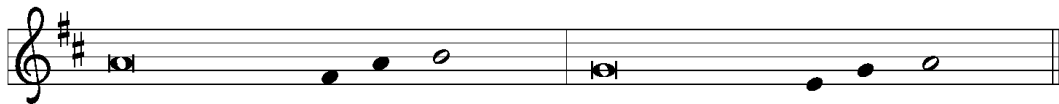
*God has raised from the dead.*

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

## PSALM 66: 8-20



<sup>8</sup>Bless our | God, you peoples;  
let the sound of | praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup>**Our God has kept us a- | mong the living  
and has not allowed our | feet to slip.**

<sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have | tested us;  
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

## Congregational Meeting



**June 11, 2023**

There will be no 8:00 AM worship service that Sunday.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend our 10:15 AM worship service which will be an abbreviated service and we will be celebrating the baptism of Kinsley Anne Bori.

**Immediately following the 10:15 worship service, we will have a brief**

**congregational meeting** to finalize plans and financing for our church renovations.

## LOOKING AHEAD...

### CHAT AND CHEW Weekly Bible Study



**Thursdays from 12PM-1PM  
beginning June 22**

Bring your lunch and enjoy an hour of informal scripture study and discussion led by Pastor Althea.

### COMMUNITY SUMMER SPLASH DAY!



**Saturday, July 22: 11AM-2PM**

Families from our church and community are invited to participate in outdoor water games and activities and enjoy food and ice cream here at Grace!



## 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.

**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**  
immediately following  
10:15am worship.

- <sup>11</sup>**You brought us in- | to the net;  
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**  
<sup>12</sup>You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.  
<sup>13</sup>**I will enter your house | with burnt offerings  
and will pay | you my vows—**  
<sup>14</sup>those that I promised | with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.  
<sup>15</sup>**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;  
I will give you ox- | en and goats.**  
<sup>16</sup>Come and listen, all you | who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.  
<sup>17</sup>**I called out to God | with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**  
<sup>18</sup>If I had cherished evil | in my heart,  
the Lord would | not have heard me;  
<sup>19</sup>**but in truth | God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**  
<sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing | love from me.

## SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3: 13-22

*The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even  
in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to  
act in accordance with what is right.*

<sup>13</sup>Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even  
if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what  
they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as  
Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from  
you an accounting for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and  
reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned,  
those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to  
shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be  
God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins  
once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.  
He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also

he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

*In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL

*The children are dismissed for Sunday School and they will return for communion.*

**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!*

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**We thank all those serving in worship today:**  
**Reader: Kevin Thomas**

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**The flowers sponsors today are:**  
Stephen and Mary Ann Gring, in honor of Mary Ann’s mother and in memory of Stephen’s mother and Aunt Ruth.



**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.

**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.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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SENDING

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*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**      *The Day of Resurrection!*      *ELW #361*

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

**POSTLUDE**      *The "Gigue" Fugue*      *by J. S. Bach*

### **SERMON**

Rev. Althea Albright

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      *Loving Spirit*      *ELW #397*  
VERSES 1, 4, 5 ALL, VERSE 2 WOMEN, VERSE 3 MEN

### **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**      *If Ye Love Me*      *by: Caleb Simper*

*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: God our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants, and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song. Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to all who are oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or grieving *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, children estranged from their mothers, anyone grieving the death of a mother, and mothers who have lost a child. We ask your support and compassion to be with all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Almighty God, you give life and breath to all things. We give thanks for the apostle Matthias and all your saints. Sustain us by your love until we join the saints in glory. 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.**

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## HOLY COMMUNION

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### 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**