

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

September 1, 2024—September 8, 2024

15th Sunday of Pentecost 9/1/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 9/2/24

Labor Day – Office Closed
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 9/3/24

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 9/4/24

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
6:00PM Alateen
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 9/5/24

12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 9/6/24

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

SATURDAY 9/7/24

Good Old Days-Kennedy Park

16th Sunday of Pentecost 9/8/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service
8:45AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship
Blessing of Backpacks
Fellowship Hour Sponsored by
Worship & Music Committee
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

1924 - 2024



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Tues 10:00AM-3:00PM

Thurs-Fri 10:00AM-3:00PM

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

September 1, 2024 15th Sunday of 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.comcastbiz.net

Vice Pastor † Wendolyn Trozzo, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant
Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

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

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE

Andante Religioso

by Louis Vierne

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, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **we confess that we are in bondage 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**

WELCA invites all women to join them for lunch on September 10 at 12:00 noon in the lounge. Please RSVP to Roberta Blumenthal at 609-927-1654.

If you are able to help at the **Good Old Days Festival at Kennedy Park** on **Saturday, September 7**, please sign up in the narthex for a time that works for you. This is a great opportunity to get our name out there, hand out items, fliers, and advertise our upcoming events!

100th ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Join us on Saturday, September 21 at 6:30 pm for an evening of entertainment and fun with The Playmates!

Flutist Pamela Whitman
Pianist Scott Breiner
Bassist Rich Kurtz
Drummer Jason Koenig

This will be a benefit concert for the **Ocean City Humane Society** and the **Beacon Animal Rescue**. Checks can be made out to either organization or to Grace Lutheran Church for distribution. Meet and Greet with light refreshments following the concert!

Oktoberfest 2024 will take place at Grace Lutheran Church on **Friday, September 27 from 5:00 PM-8:00 PM,**

featuring the German band "Not Another Oompah Band"! **Tickets are on sale today** in the narthex: \$30 for adults, \$15 for youth, and children 5 and under are free. You may also call the church office to purchase tickets. There is a limited number, so the sooner you purchase, the better!

Oktoberfest Food Prep Needed

If you are able to donate a red cabbage or help prepare food for the Oktoberfest, please pick up a recipe in the narthex for what you would like to make and sign up on the sign-up sheet to let us know what you are making and how much. If you would like to contribute but do not have the time to make something, monetary donations are certainly appreciated, as well.



The flowers sponsor this week is: Brenda Traa, in honor of her daughter, Karen Traa's birthday!

The wine and bulletins sponsor this week is: Clare Brick, giving thanks to God for her great-granddaughters, Marleigh and Karleigh!

Home Reading of the Week:

Second Reading: James 1:17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday, September 8, will be Blessing of Backpacks Sunday!
Best wishes to all students, teachers, administrators, and school staff in this new school year!

mercy on us. Forgive us, renew 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.

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun ELW #557
VERSE 1, 3, 5 ALL, VERSE 2 WOMEN, VERSE 4 MEN

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.**

KYRIE

white booklet page 1

PRAYER OF THE DAY

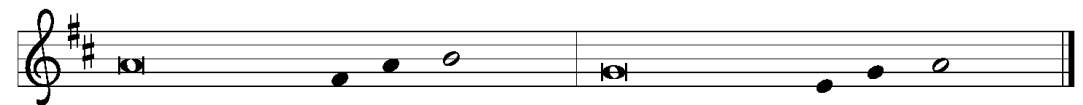
O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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.



PSALM 15

¹LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do¹ what is right,
who speak the truth¹ from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil¹ to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up-¹ on a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who¹ fear
the LORD.**

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take¹ back their
word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes
a-¹ gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be¹ overthrown.

READING : Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

*The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided
guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey
the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to
teach the law to their children and their children's children.*

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am
teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land
that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither
add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but
keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging
you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom
and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will
say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what
other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever
we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as
just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the
things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the
days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's
children.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with
dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace
with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord Bless you and keep you; The Lord's face shine on you and
be gracious to you; The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace,
in the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Savior, Again to Your Dear Name*

ELW #534

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

POSTLUDE *Carillon De Westminster* by Louis Vierne

DISMISSAL Go in peace and follow Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

*We are glad for your presence today.
We hope you come again soon!*

**We thank all those serving in worship today:
Reader: Corinne Rhodes**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY*white booklet page 4***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

We give thanks for your Son, who in the night in which he was betrayed, 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. **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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God. **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN*Lamb of God**white booklet page 4***COMMUNION HYMNS***Come to the Table**Taste and See**(Congregation: Refrain Only)*

ELW #481

ELW #493

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to fill the altar railings. Once you have received the wafer and the red wine/white grape juice, place your empty cup in the tray and return to your pew. As places open up, worshippers will fill them in so that communion is a continuous process. If you do not wish to receive communion, or are worshipping with children who have not had First Communion, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing; as you kneel at the railing, cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.

*Please stand as you are able.***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 7th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;

⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’
⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”
¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all
of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in
can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.
²¹“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions
come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit,
licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from
within, and they defile a person.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God, My Faithful God

ELW #806

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

God Be In My Head

by John S. Dixon

Please stand as you are able.

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. **By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.
Brief silence.

At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "Merciful God," please respond with "Receive our prayer."

P: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

white booklet page 3

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb, who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: