

September 28, 2025 16th Sunday After 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.org

Interim Pastor ✝ Wendolyn Trozzo, 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.*

GATHERING

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

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE

Improvisation

by Dorothy Wells

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING HYMN

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

ELW #755

1. Jesus, Savior, pilot me over life's tempestuous sea;
unknown waves before me roll, hiding rock and treach'rous shoal;
chart and compass come from thee. Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

Pastoral Reflection

2. When the Apostles' fragile bark struggled with the billows dark,
on the stormy Galilee, thou didst walk upon the sea;
and when they beheld thy form, safe they glided through the storm.

Pastoral Reflection

3. As a mother stills her child thou canst hush the ocean wild;
boist'rous waves obey thy will when thou say'st to them: "Be still."
Wondrous sov'reign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

Pastoral Reflection

4. Though the sea be calm and bright, sparkling with the stars of night,
and my ship's path be ablaze with the light of halcyon days,
still I know my need of thee, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

Pastoral Reflection

5. When at last I near the shore, and the fearful breakers roar
twixt me and the peaceful rest, then, while leaning on thy breast,
may I hear thee say to me: "Fear not, I will pilot thee."

Pastoral Reflection



PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, Pilot, 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 146 (Read Responsively)

¹ Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

² **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³ Put not your trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴ **When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who
hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are
bowed down;**

the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the
wicked.

¹⁰ **The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *The Solid Rock (verse 1 & 2)* **CH #526**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-36

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, ^[a] for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

³⁴ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. ³⁵ After the people of that place recognized him, they sent word to that whole surrounding region, and people brought all who were sick to him ³⁶ and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

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

HYMN *The Solid Rock (verse 3 & 4)* **CH #526**

Please be seated.

SERMON Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

Please stand as you are able.

THE APOSTLE'S 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.

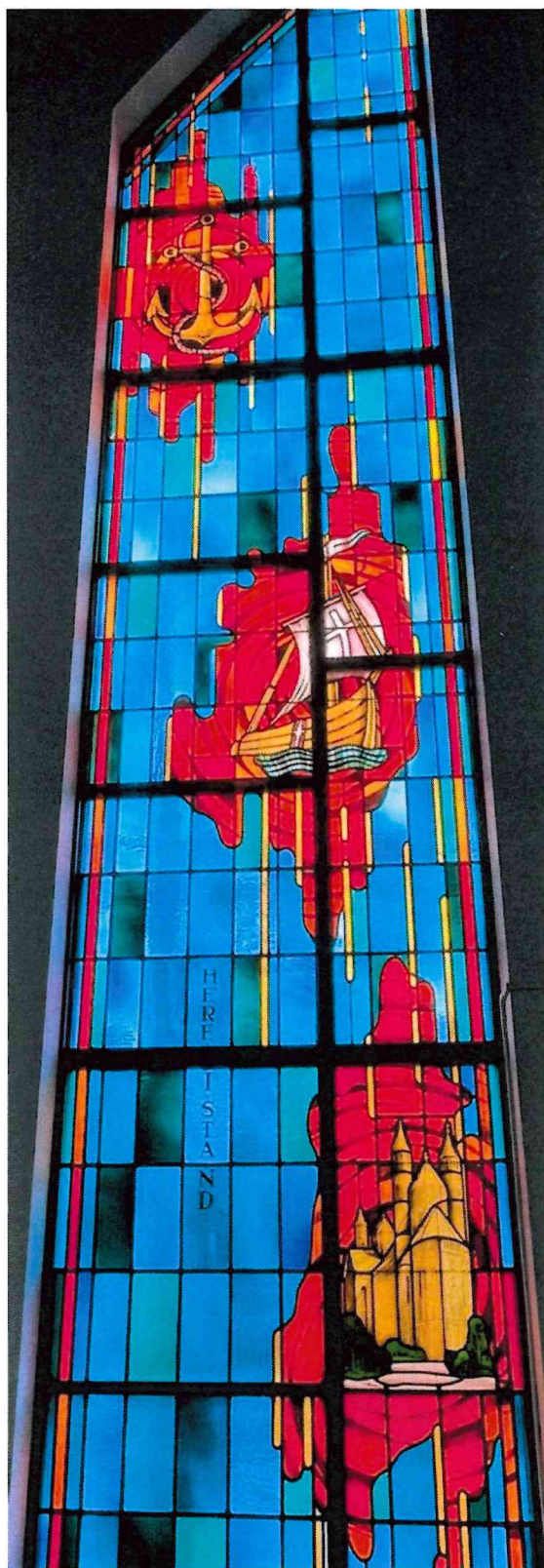
OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Behold, O God Our Defender*
by Noel Rawsthorne

*Behold, O God our defender;
And look upon the face of thine anointed.
For one day in thy courts is better than a
thousand.*

Behold, O God our defender.

Please stand as you are able.



PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *Create in Me a Clean Heart* **WOV #732**

OFFERING PRAYER

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE



P: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need. *Brief silence.*

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

P: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

ELW page 207

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 sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

ELW page 208

COMMUNION HYMN

A Shelter in the Time of Storm

CH #693

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 container on your way to return to your pew. 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.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

As you go, may God bless you. May you wonder at the waters and the earth, provided by a loving Creator. May the wind and the waves of life turn you towards the wisdom and mercy of Christ our Pilot. May you experience the daily guiding of the Holy Spirit. May you know that your days and your dreams are held by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

ELW #756

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

POSTLUDE

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

by Wayne L. Wold

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
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:
Worship Assistant: Meg La Spina

The flowers sponsor this week is: Bettie Cross, in loving memory of her husband, on his 97th heavenly birthday!



**Please plan to join us for a
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**
to discuss finances and stewardship.

Next Sunday, October 5 at 11:00 AM

This meeting will follow a shortened worship service. Coffee and tea will be available. Consider bringing a dessert to share.

**Lutheran Social Ministries Workshop:
Navigating Senior Living**

Sunday, October 12 at noon here at Grace. Lunch will be provided. This workshop discusses different types of care communities. Walk away with 5 key items to look for when choosing a retirement or healthcare community.

Please RSVP so we have a headcount for lunch.

**OKTOBERFEST
Friday, October 17, 2025
Grace Lutheran Church
5:00-7:00 PM**

*Tickets may be purchased online
through this QR code or in person by
calling the church office at
609-927-3082*



Tickets are also on sale in the narthex on Sundays.

Children under 12 are \$15 per child, and those tickets must be purchased at the church until further notice.

The Oktoberfest committee is in need of volunteers to make German Potato Salad and Apple Strudel for the event. If you are able to help, please sign up in the narthex, take a recipe and container, and note on the sign-up sheet how many batches you will be making.

There will be a basket in the narthex next Sunday for **Christmas at Sea** donations and **Feed the Northeast** donations. These donations will be collected throughout the month of October.

Please pick up a list in the narthex of items needed for the seafarers.

Donations for Feed the Northeast should all be non perishable items.

**Corinne will be out of the office October 3-10.
The bulletin for October 5 & 12 will be emailed this week.**

*Please join us for fellowship and a photo sharing of
Europe following worship!*

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

September 28, 2025-October 5, 2025

16th Sunday of Pentecost 9/28/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
 8:45AM Adult Forum
 10:15AM Traditional Worship
**Fellowship/Photo Share sponsored
 by Chris Dennis & Xavier Shea**

MONDAY 9/29/25

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

TUESDAY 9/30/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
 6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
 7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 10/1/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
 11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
 6:00PM AA Book Study
 7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 10/2/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
 2:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 AA 12-Step
 7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 10/3/25

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

SATURDAY 10/4/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

17th Sunday of Pentecost 10/5/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
 8:45AM Adult Forum
 10:15AM Traditional Worship
**Joyful Noise offering: Somers Point
 Police Sunshine Fund**
11:00AM Congregational Meeting

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

This week:

Mon-Thurs 10:00-3:00
***Corinne will be out of the
 office October 3-10.***

