

August 30, 2026

Pentecost 14



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

Reverend ✝ Elizabeth Frey, 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.
Most of our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship
red hymnal found in the pews.*

S=service music in the front part of the hymnal.

GATHERING

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

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

WELCOME

Rev. Elizabeth Frey

PRELUDE *Variation on "Mach's Mit Mir, Gott"* by Johann Gottfried Walther

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

ELW #660

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

ELW S138

HYMN OF PRAISE*This is the Feast***ELW S140****PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR**CHILDREN'S SERMON***Please be seated.***FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21**

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,

for I am called by your name,

O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;

under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

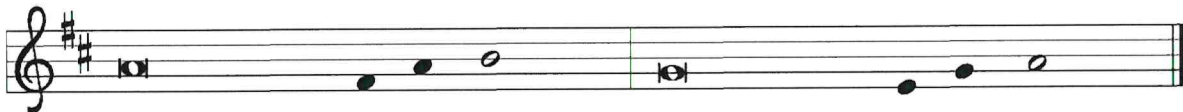
¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.
²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

PSALM 26:1-8



¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived [|] with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and [|] have not faltered.
² **Test me, O [|] LORD, and try me;**
examine my heart [|] and my mind.
³ For your steadfast love is be- [|] fore my eyes;
I have walked faithful- [|] ly with you.
⁴ **I have not sat [|] with the worthless,**
nor do I consort with [|] the deceitful.
⁵ I have hated the company of [|] evildoers;
I will not sit down [|] with the wicked.

⁶ I will wash my hands in inno-¹ cence, O LORD,
 that I may go in procession¹ round your altar,
⁷ singing aloud a song¹ of thanksgiving
 and recounting all your won-¹ derful deeds.
⁸ LORD, I love the house in¹ which you dwell
 and the place where your glo-¹ ry abides.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

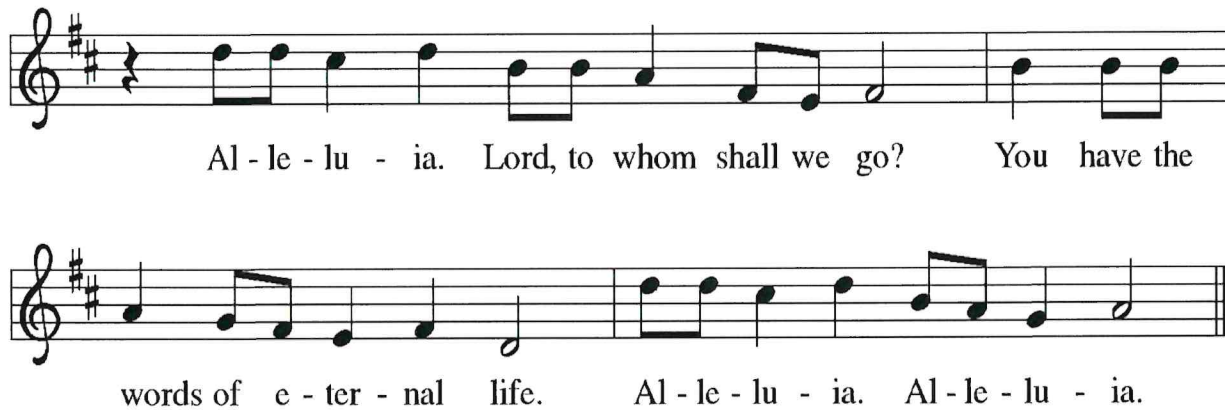
Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 16th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I

tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Elizabeth Frey

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake* **ELW #799**

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Kyrie Eleison
Soloist: Pat Angarano

by Ron Kean

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Create in Me a Clean Heart O God* **WOV #732**

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. *Brief silence.*

A: For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit *especially all who are on our prayer list and all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW S144

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW S144

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to receive communion in front of the altar steps. 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 via the side aisles. 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 and cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, + one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. Amen.

SENDING HYMN*Let Streams of Living Justice***ELW #710**

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

POSTLUDE*Lift High the Cross*

by Ronald Arnatt

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
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: Mary Ann Gring



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:**September**

WELCA (Women of the Church) will have the first meeting of their new season on Tuesday, September 8 at 12:00 PM in the lounge.

All women of the church are invited to attend! They will continue to meet the second Tuesday of each month.

Grace will have a table at the **Good Old Days Festival at Kennedy Park on Saturday, September 12 from 10:00 AM-6:00 PM.**

Volunteers are needed! Please sign-up in the narthex on Sundays, or call the church office and let us know your availability.

Sunday September 13: Blessing of Backpacks

If you are a teacher, administrator, or student in any capacity, please come and receive a back to school blessing during 10:15 worship!

Starting **Thursday, September 17**, please join us for Bible Study with Pastor Liz Frey! This will be held every **Thursday at 9:30 AM.**

Sunday School will start on September 20. Please spread the word! All ages are welcome! If you are interested in helping with Sunday School, please contact Ellie Hull at 609-287-6550.

Grief Support Group will start on Monday, September 21 at 6:30 PM and they will continue to meet the 3rd Monday of each month through the end of December.

ATTENTION ALL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS AND ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT:

Please plan to attend one of our Worship Assistant Trainings on Sunday September 20 or Sunday September 27 following 10:15 AM worship in the sanctuary.

October:

The Installation for Pastor Liz will be on October 11 at our 10:15 worship service with Bishop Compton. We will have a special luncheon for Pastor Liz following that worship service at 11:30. We are asking all who attend to please RSVP so we know how much food to order and please bring a can of soup for our food pantry in honor of our SOUPer pastor!

Tickets are now on sale for our 4th Annual Oktoberfest!

\$30 for adults and \$15 for children under 12

Friday October 16 from 5:00-7:00

Great German food and drinks, trivia, 50/50 raffle, and a craft for kids!

Tickets may be purchased in the narthex before or after church or in the church office during regular office hours.

Jim Foreman wishes to convey the following message... “Thank you all for your prayers, cards, visits, and support! I miss you all and you are all in my heart.”

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

August 30, 2026-September 6, 2026

14th Sunday of Pentecost 8/30/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship
10:15AM Traditional Worship

MONDAY 8/31/26

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

TUESDAY 9/1/26

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

WEDNESDAY 9/2/26

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

THURSDAY 9/3/26

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

FRIDAY 9/4/26

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

SATURDAY 9/5/26

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

15th Sunday of Pentecost 9/6/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship
10:15AM Traditional Worship

 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

Office Hours:
Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00
Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00