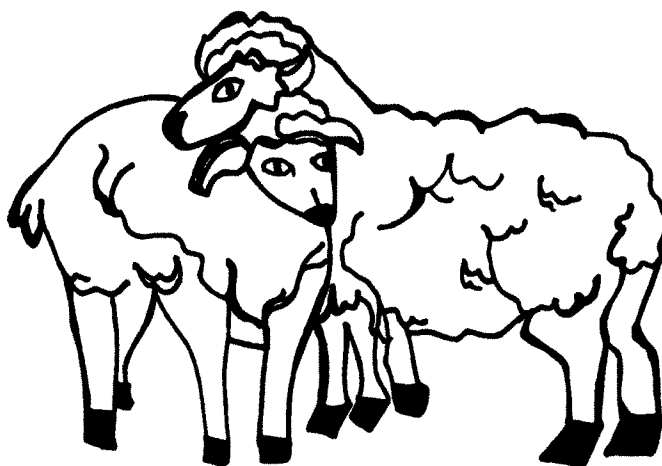


September 14, 2025 14th Sunday After Pentecost



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.
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

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE

Menuet Gothique

by Léon Boëllmann

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, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive 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 mercy on us. Forgive 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* **ELW #834**

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 page 203

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW page 204

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in 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 51:1-10



- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.
- ² **Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,**
and cleanse me | from my sin.
- ³ For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.
- ⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;**
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

- ⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth¹ deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom¹ deep within.**
- ⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I¹ shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur-¹er than snow.
- ⁸ **Let me hear¹ joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken¹ may rejoice.**
- ⁹ Hide your face¹ from my sins,
and blot out¹ all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰ **Create in me a clean¹ heart, O God,
and renew a right spir-¹it within me.**

READING: Exodus 32:7-14

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴ And the

LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the

wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

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 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* by David Schwoebel
 Andrew Ehrhardt: Clarinet

Congregation, please join in singing verse 3 when invited.



3. If our love were but more sim - ple, We should
 rest up - on God's word; And our lives would
 be il - lu - mined By the pres - ence of our Lord.

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

ELW page 207

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 HYMNS *Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound* *ELW #779*

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling *ELW #608*

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We will have continuous communion in front of the steps today. EVERYONE IS INVITED to come down the center aisle at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats via the side aisle. There is white grape juice in the center of the circular tray and red wine in the outer part of the tray. If you are unable to come up to the front, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children or those who have not received a first communion are welcome to come for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.

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**

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Praise The Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing* **ELW #544**

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

POSTLUDE *Toccata* by Léon Boëllmann

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: Shirley Blankenship

The flowers sponsor this week is: Donna Breslyn, in honor of the Trozzo's Anniversary on September 1, from the Breslyn clan!



The Grief Support Group starts again this Monday, September 15, and will continue to meet every 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 PM in the lounge.

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

Christmas At Sea



The Annual Christmas at Sea Donation Drive for the Seaman's Institute will take place during the month of October, and your donations are very much needed and appreciated! We will have more detailed information and a list of items needed in upcoming bulletins and in the next Grace Messenger, which will be going out at the end of this month.

The food pantry is in need of coffee, Knorr sides, and soup (any except tomato and chicken noodle).

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

September 14, 2025-September 21, 2025

14th Sunday of Pentecost 9/14/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum
10:15AM Traditional Worship

MONDAY 9/15/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
6:30PM Grief Support Group
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 9/16/25

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

WEDNESDAY 9/17/25

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

THURSDAY 9/18/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
2:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
5:15PM Oktoberfest Committee Meeting
6:00 AA 12-Step
7:00PM Church Council Meeting
7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 9/19/25

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

SATURDAY 9/20/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

15th Sunday of Pentecost 9/21/25

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

This week:

Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00

Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00

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