

August 16, 2026

Pentecost 12



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!

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

WELCOME

Rev. Elizabeth Frey

PRELUDE

Chorale-Prelude on "Duke Street "

by Robert J. Powell

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

All are Welcome

ELW #641

Verses 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

ELW S138

HYMN OF PRAISE*This is the Feast*

ELW S140

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, 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: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

¹ Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

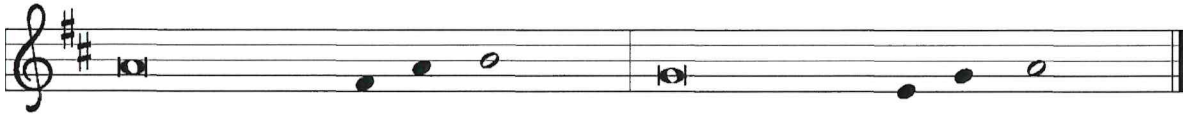
⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:

I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

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

PSALM 67



¹ May God be merciful to [|] us and bless us;
may the light of God's face [|] shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known [|] upon earth,**
your saving health a- [|] mong all nations.

³ Let the peoples praise [|] you, O God;
let all the [|] peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and [|] sing for joy,**
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- [|] tions on
earth.

⁵ Let the peoples praise [|] you, O God;
let all the [|] peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought [|] forth its increase;**
God, our own [|] God, has blessed us.

⁷ May God [|] give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth [|] stand in awe.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the

Please stand as you are able.

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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’

table.”²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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 *In Christ There is No East or West* **ELW #650**

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

Psalm 67

by Robert J. Powell

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 believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind *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 this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death. 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

Jesus Shall Reign

ELW #434

Verses 1, 3, 5 ALL, Verse 2 MEN, Verse 4 WOMEN

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

POSTLUDE

"Duke Street"

by Wilbur Held

I Know that My Redeemer Lives!

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: Kevin Thomas

The flowers sponsor this week is: Meg La Spina, thanking God for His many blessings.



Please be sure to sign up for a time to meet with Pastor Liz if you have not yet done so. She would love to get to know everyone, even if she has already met you. The sign-up sheets are in the narthex (back of the church). You may also call the church office to set up a time with her.

We are in the process of updating our prayer list. If you or a loved one have been on our prayer list, please call or email the church office at your convenience to give us an update on how you/they are doing, and let us know which names can be removed and which names you would like us to keep. Thank you!

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**. This is a great opportunity for us to be visible to the community and get word out about our church and ministries we offer! We will also be advertising for upcoming events, like Oktoberfest. We will need volunteers to sit at our table for an hour or two to help give out brochures and give-away items, and help with the children's craft. Please look for the volunteer sign-up sheet in the narthex on Sundays, or call the church office and let us know your availability.

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.

**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.**

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers:

Members of Grace: Debbie K., Renee P. & sister, Bettie C., Bonnie C., Ruth K., Barry L., Don B., John Sa., Family of Chris D., Scott B, Sally S., Meg L., Jim F., Clare B., Meg M., Robert & Mary Ellen B. and family, Linda S.

Our family and friends: Alex, Jeff, Skip, Donna, Tom, Rachel (Ruth T.), Cody, Logan, David (Ruth B.), Houston, Savannah, Marilyn (June J.), Nadine, Todd, Drew, Catherine, (Corinne R.), Family & Friends of Carrie, Family & Friends of Sally (Ray H.), Johnathan S. (Edna C.), Bruce (Brenda T.), Jody M., Audrey M. (Mary Ann G.), Karen H., Barbara F. (Mary G.), Tyler, Megan (Carol G.), Barbara B., Hank (Vickie C.), Bridget K. & Patrick, George M., Ronald G., Rossanne and Ronald, Byonka (Renee P.), Abril, Kyle, Randy, the Garmin Family (Chris D.), Donna Bishop-Chaporino, Reverend Pat J. (Jim F.), Kyri (Meg L.), John M., Dan (Sue S.), Eileen (Linda S.), Joan W. (Mary Ellen F.), Lisa M., Bob B. (Pastor Liz), Lillian D., Cynthia E., Nancy B., Nicole B., Betty H. (Gay R.), Teresa A., Marie K. (Joyce B.), Pastor Althea Albright

Those serving our country: Matthew Bilello, ANG, Cainan Johnson, USAF, & Daniel Casner, 3rd USN, Liam Johnson, USN

The Shores at Wesley Manor: Eleanore Guire

Please notify the church office of any changes or additions to our prayer list.

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

August 16, 2026-August 23, 2026

12th Sunday of Pentecost 8/16/26

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

MONDAY 8/17/26

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

TUESDAY 8/18/26

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

WEDNESDAY 8/19/26

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

THURSDAY 8/20/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
5:00PM Oktoberfest Committee Meeting

5:30PM AA 12-Step
7:00PM Church Council Meeting
7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 8/21/26

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

SATURDAY 8/22/26

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

13th Sunday of Pentecost 8/23/26

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 10:00-3:00
Wed-Fri 10:00-3:00