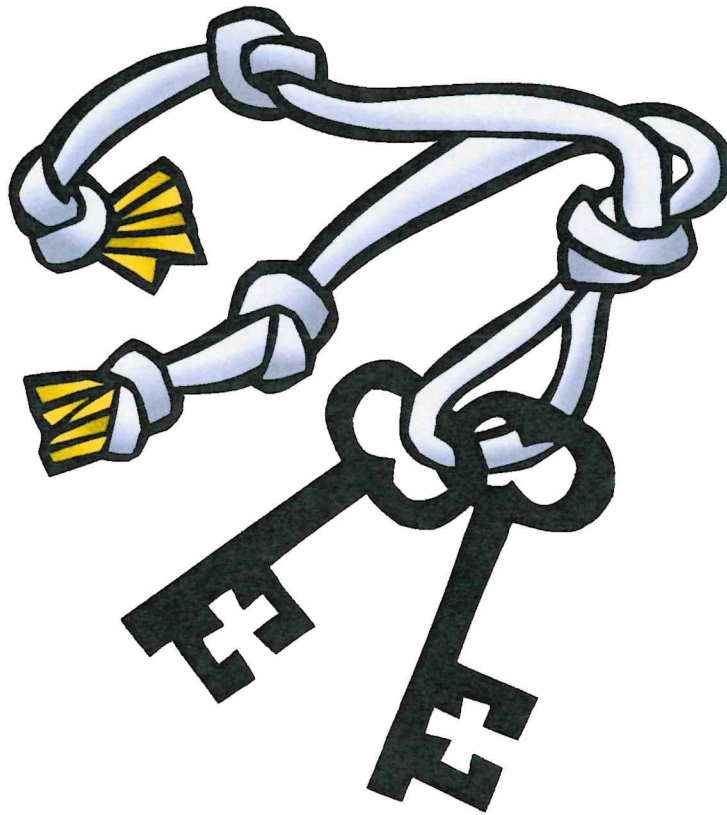


August 23, 2026

Pentecost 13



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 the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

WELCOME

Rev. Elizabeth Frey

PRELUDE

Built on a Rock

by David Cherwin

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

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

ELW #645

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, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, 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 51:1-6**

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

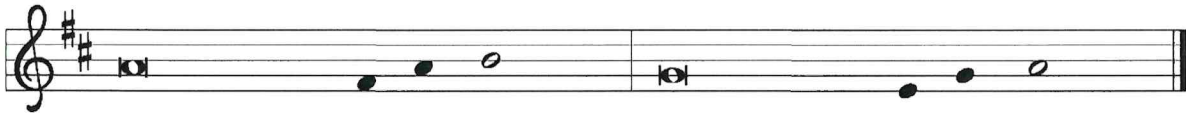
⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
 my salvation has gone out,
 and my arms will rule the peoples;
 the coastlands wait for me,
 and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
 and look at the earth beneath,
 for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
 the earth will wear out like a garment,
 and those who live on it will die like gnats,
 but my salvation will be forever,
 and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

PSALM 138



¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with [|] my whole heart;
 before the gods I will [|] sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
 because of your steadfast [|] love and faithfulness;
 for you have glorified your name and your word a- [|] bove all things.**

³ When I called, you [|] answered me;
 you increased my [|] strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise [|] you, O LORD,
 when they have heard the words [|] of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways [|] of the LORD,
 that great is the glory [|] of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares [|] for the lowly,
 perceiving the haughty [|] from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you [|] keep me safe;
 you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right [|]
 hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your pur- [|] pose for me;**

O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works¹ of your hands.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

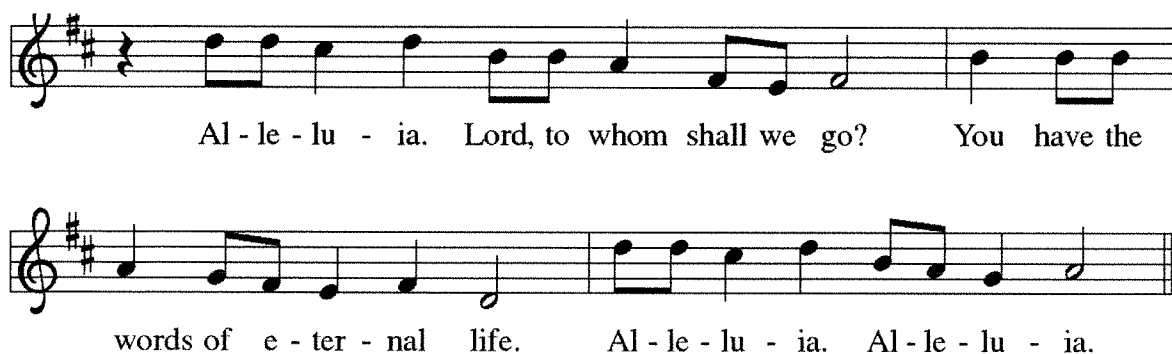
¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

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 Matthew the 16th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

The Church's One Foundation

ELW #654

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

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

Built on a Rock by F. Melius Christiansen
Baritone: Andrew Ehrhardt

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: God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day *especially all who are on our prayer list and all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. 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

We All are One in Mission

ELW #576

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

POSTLUDE

Built on a Rock

by Wilbur Held

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: Jim Ehrhardt



The flowers sponsor this week is: Stephen and Mary Ann Gring,
in memory of Mary Ann's brother, Stephen James Geise.

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.

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.

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., Kathy N., Mary Lou B.

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 23, 2026-August 30, 2026

13th Sunday of Pentecost 8/23/26

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

MONDAY 8/24/26

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

TUESDAY 8/25/26

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

WEDNESDAY 8/26/26

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

THURSDAY 8/27/26

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

FRIDAY 8/28/26

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

SATURDAY 8/29/26

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

14th Sunday of Pentecost 8/30/26

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