

## October 3, 2021

# Let the little children come to me

### Grace Lutheran Church

8:00 am: Spoken Service & 10:15 am: Liturgical Service Shore Road @ Dawes & Meyran Aves. 11 East Dawes Ave., Somers Point, New Jersey 08244 Phone: 609-927-3082—Fax: 609-927-6672—Food Pantry: 609-927-9982 Email: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org Pastor: Rev. Althea Albright Music Director: Mr. Scott J. Breiner Church Secretary: Diana McArdle Sexton: Andrew McCarrick

# <sup>2</sup> Welcome

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are glad you are here whether you are here to worship with us as a first time visitor, friend, neighbor, or lifelong member. If you have any questions, concerns, or need pastoral care, Pastor Althea would love to talk with you. Feel free to speak with her after worship or contact her by email at: pastoralthea3@gmail.com or by phone 484-345-0399.

# **Mission Statement**

Through God's Word and Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran Church will be ...

- Inviting all people to *belong* to the church of Jesus Christ,
- Equipping those who *believe* as faithful disciples of Jesus, and
- Sending members to *become* caring servants of God in the world.

#### Serving in Worship Today

Worship Assistant: Ruth Bowden Altar Guild: Brenda Traa Sound/Video Technician: Jim Foreman, Shawn Welfield

## In Our Hearts and Prayers

Greetings members, friends, and family of Grace! We are trying a new way of listing our prayer concerns in the coming weeks. If you notice someone who is missing or if anyone has someone new to add, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Althea via phone, Facebook, or email or contact our secretary in the office to add people who are on our hearts each week and include our ongoing concerns.

Members of Grace: Jim C., Cheryl R., Betty N., John N., John S., MaryAnn T., Joyce B.

**Family and friends:** Family of Regina, (relative of Marlene Doer); Elliott, Gage, ( friends of Pastor Althea); Jody (niece of Grings); Cecilia, and Richard (friends of Welfields); Shirley & Carl (Parents of Debbie Kleuser); Jim, Vicki, (friends of Meg LaSpina), Payton (friend of Joyce Bianco), Annmarie (friends of Marlene D.), Tami (friend of Brenda T.), Carol Waters (friend of Claire Brick). **Those Serving Our Country:** Matt Bilello, ANG; Daniel Casner 3rd, USN; Sgt. Joshua McArdle, USM; Cainan Johnson, USAF **At Home** - Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Dot Reichelt, Lois Rahme, Lois Reardon, & Skip Uhrmann **Shores@Wesley Manor**: Dot Crawshaw, Eleanor Guire, Eileen Rumble **Woodview Estates**: Lorraine Moore

#### WITH ONE VOICE LITURGY Congregation responses in bold print.

## GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Variation on Wer Nur Den Lieben Gott Lässt Walten

by Georg Boehm

Please stand as you are able

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

- God, our Creator, we come to you in worship, knowing that you are always with us. You see all of our strengths and the places where we need to grow as people of God. Renew and refresh us so that we may know your love and be ready to serve you with all our mind and all our heart. **Amen.**
- Let us come before God, with all our imperfections and shortcomings, ready to accept that we are human and need to be put back on God's path for our lives.

Merciful and Forgiving God,

- We acknowledge that we are not perfect. We turn away from you and we do not always follow your path for our lives. We do not always treat one another with love. We are not always patient, nor kind to our neighbors. We confide in you and we ask that you have mercy on us. Forgive us for what we have not done and for the things we have done which have hurt others. Renew our courage and strength so that we do not lose heart in following you. Lead us and refresh us so that you may show us new vision for loving one another and for our ministry together. Amen.
- Christ came down so that God would know what it's like to be human. God is with us through all of life's joys and frustrations. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, I declare that you are forgiven all of your sins, in the name of God, our Parent, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit. May our God, uplift you and strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that Jesus will continue to show you the way of love and everlasting life. **Amen**

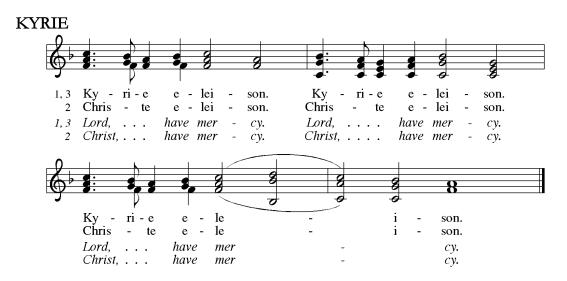
4 OPENING HYMN





#### 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.** 



6 **GLORY BE TO GOD IN HEAVEN** Glo-ry in heav - en; peace, good-will be God all the earth. to to 1 Glo-ry Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord be of love. 2 to ac-claim you; Lord 3 Ho - lv One we a - lone, to we call: now you all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth: Might-y God of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove; Son of faith we name you, throned on high, yet near to all: Ho - lv One in high our thanks and praise. we ex - alt you, we a dore you, we lift on the cross you died to God's right hand. save us: you reign at now Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright. in Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; earth our songs we raise. here on Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand. the peace that we For in - her - it. glo - ry be to God on high!

Text: Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, based on "Gloria in excelsis Deo" Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

Text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together....Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

### WORD

#### FIRST READING: Genesis 2:18-24

Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live in isolation but in relationship. Out of love for humanity, God creates them male and female, to provide companionship for each other and to become with each other "one flesh." The Hebrew words used here are ish (man) and ishshah (woman).

<sup>18</sup>The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." <sup>19</sup>So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones

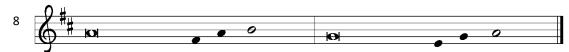
and flesh of my flesh;

this one shall be called Woman,

for out of Man this one was taken."

<sup>24</sup>Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



#### PSALM: PSALM: 8

<sup>1</sup>O | LORD our Lord, / how majestic is your name in | all the earth!—

<sup>2</sup>you whose glory is chanted above the heavens

out of the mouths of in- | fants and children;

you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe | and avenger.

<sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work <sup>1</sup> of your fingers,

the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

<sup>4</sup>what are mere mortals that you should be mind-<sup>1</sup> ful of them,

human beings that you should | care for them?

<sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them little less <sup>1</sup> than divine; / with glory and hon-<sup>1</sup> or you crown them.

<sup>6</sup>You have made them rule over the works <sup>1</sup> of your hands;

- you have put all things un- der their feet:
- <sup>7</sup>all | flocks and cattle, / even the wild beasts | of the field,

<sup>8</sup>the birds of the air, the fish <sup>1</sup> of the sea,

and whatever passes along the paths <sup>1</sup> of the sea.

<sup>9</sup>O | LORD our Lord, / how majestic is your name in | all the earth!

#### SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Quoting from the psalms, this passage from Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus, the one through whom God created everything and who sits at God's right hand, is also the one who experienced human suffering and death in order to blaze the path of salvation for us.

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>2:5</sup>Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. <sup>6</sup>But someone has testified somewhere,

"What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? <sup>7</sup>You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;

you have crowned them with glory and honor, <sup>8</sup>subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, <sup>9</sup>but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup>It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup>saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

Please stand as you are able

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



The Holy Gospel according to Mark Glory to you, O Lord.

#### **GOSPEL READING: Mark 10:2-16**

Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.

<sup>2</sup>Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" <sup>3</sup>He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" <sup>4</sup>They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." <sup>5</sup>But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' <sup>7</sup>For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

<sup>10</sup>Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup>He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup>and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

<sup>13</sup>People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup>And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON



#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

#### WEEKLY OFFERING

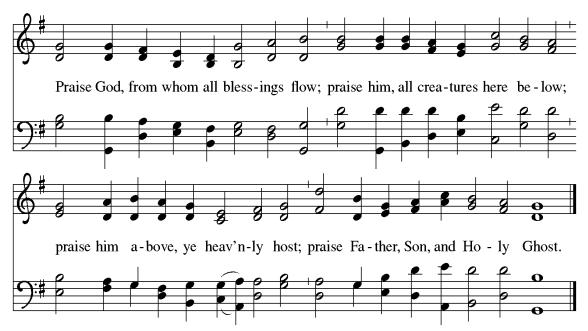
We are thankful for however you are able to continue supporting our ministry at Grace. Offering may be received through the mail, church office, or Simply Giving online. Please call the church office if you need assistance with Simply Giving, or have any questions or concerns.

OFFERTORY

#### How Majestic Is Your Name arr. By Fred Bock

Please stand as you are able

#### PRESENTATION OF GIFTS



#### OFFERING PRAYER

We pray together for however we have made offerings to God in our lives.

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. You are our Creator and bless us with all that we have. We are thankful for many things in our lives. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need. Bless our time, our talents, and all the offerings we give back to you for your holy work, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Pastor:* As children of God and heirs of God's promise, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in any kind of need.

#### A brief silence.

- *Leader:* Holy One, you have raised up faithful leaders throughout history. Empower those discerning a call to ministry and all seminarians, that they continue to be encouraged and formed for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- *Leader:* You have established a diverse and beautiful creation. Revive declining species and preserve endangered lands. Cultivate in us a sense of wonder for the world you created. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- *Leader:* You desire for us not to be alone and to live in community with one another. Strengthen relationships between nations and peoples, that we celebrate and support one human family. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- *Pastor:* You share in our experiences and struggles. We pray for all those who suffer with mental health issues, physical illness, or in their spiritual life. Make your presence known to all who need your love and peace, especially all those we name now or in our hearts... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- *Pastor:* Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

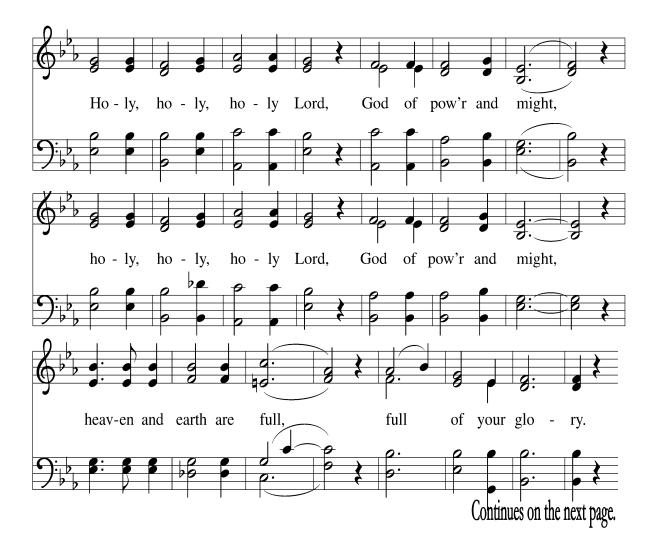
#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

#### PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who through his dying and rising opened the way to everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





Music: Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937 Adapt. © 1985, 1999 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick

and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together we celebrate this holy meal. May all praise and thanks be to you, Holy God, through Christ Jesus, and by your Life-giving Spirit. Amen.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by Christ, let us pray.

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

Come to the banquet for Christ is our host. Amen.

Communion will be offered in two ways, continuous at the chancel step, and at the direction of Pastor after everyone has come forward (for those at home online and those who choose to remain seated).

Follow the direction of the ushers to come to the front or remain seated and after all have come forward, direction for the prefilled host and grape juice will be given.

#### **COMMUNION HYMN C** Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on a - way the sin of the world; have Lamb of God, you take us. Lamb of God, you take the mer-cy on us. a - wav sin of the world; grant grant us peace. us peace,

### DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### IF YOU CHOOSE TO COME FORWARD:

Follow the directions of Pastor and the Ushers.

#### IF YOU CHOOSE TO REMAIN AT YOUR SEAT OR YOU ARE ONLINE:

Prepare your elements after all have come forward and wait for direction from Pastor.

#### **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

As we have experienced Christ, our Savior, in this meal, may Almighty God continue to nourish you and encourage you as you continue your journey in faith. Amen.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Life-giving God,

16

in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth now as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

# SENDING

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

**BLESSING** *We are blessed and encouraged as we depart from our gathering.* 

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.** 

# SENDING HYMNGo, My Children, With My BlessingELW # 543Music located on the next page

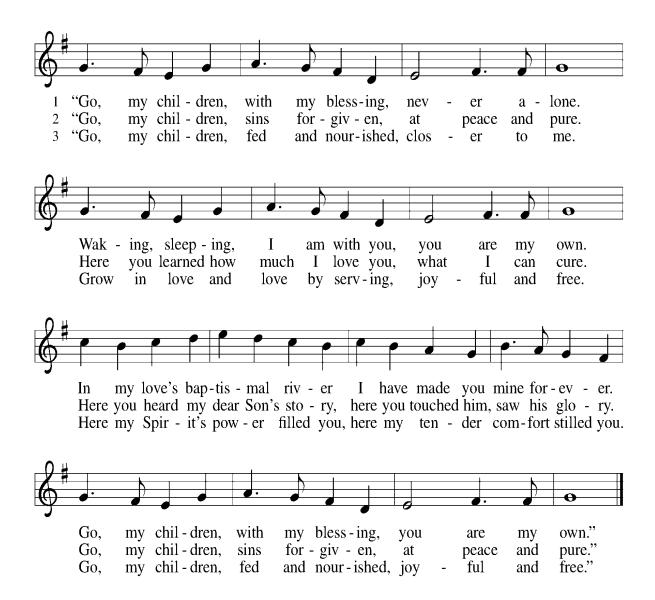
Please be seated for the postlude. Take this time to listen to the music and contemplate the message presented today.

**POSTLUDE** Wer Nur Den Lieben Gott Lässt Walten By Johann Ludwig Krebs

#### DISMISSAL

Go and be God's hands and feet in the world! Thanks be to God!

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt. Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.



#### FOR THOSE EXPLORING GRACE

New Member Orientation

We have come up with a date and time that should suit most people for our orientation.

Friday, October 8, 2021 at 7:00pm will be our New Member Orientation at Grace. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall downstairs and get to know one another. Pastor will go over some basic Lutheran faith theology as well as our current programs. Then one of our leaders will give a little history for everyone of Grace.

Please note: Attending this orientation does not obligate you to join our congregation. This is just a great opportunity to get to know more people and think about what it means to be part of the family and faith community at Grace.

For members of Epiphany, Pleasantville -We will hold the official installation of Epiphany members until the spring or summer next year when everyone is finished voting on critical matters of closing/merging.



Sunday, October 17, 2021 @ 3:00 pm Holy Trinity Episcopal Church 30th & Bay Avenues Ocean City, NJ



Seamen's Institute Christmas at Sea Program Begin collecting now!

Warm the hearts of mariners working away from home on Christmas Day with gifts of:

Unscented, Colorless Lip Balm & Sealed Packages of Holiday Sweets
 Unscented, Hypoallergenic Hand Lotion (2-4 oz bottles)
 Microwave Popcorn & Chewing Gum & Books or Activities like Sudoku and word searches & Facial Tissue.

## Events This Week - October 3 - 10, 2021

<ul> <li><u>Sunday 10/3</u> Pentecost 19</li> <li>8:00 am - Spoken Service - Lounge</li> <li>8:45 am - Adult Sunday School</li> <li>10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service Holy Communion Grace Friends Sunday School</li> <li>4:00 pm - AA Meeting - Lounge</li> <li><u>Monday 10/4</u></li> <li>Food Pantry Closed</li> <li>7:00 pm - AA Meeting—Social Hall</li> <li><u>Tuesday 10/5</u></li> <li>Food Pantry Closed</li> <li>9:30 am - South Shore Pastor's Bible Study</li> <li>6:30 pm - NA</li> <li><u>Wednesday 10/6</u></li> <li>Food Pantry Closed</li> <li>11:30 - 3:30 - Bayside Bridge Group</li> <li>7:00 pm—NA Meeting - Social Hall</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Thursday 10/7 Food Pantry Closed 5:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting - Lounge</li> <li>Friday 10/8 10:30 am - Grace Stitchers 7:00 pm - New Members Orientation 7:30 pm - AA Meeting—Lounge</li> <li>Saturday 10/9 Sunday 10/10 Pentecost 20 8:00 am - Spoken Service - Lounge 8:45 am - Adult Sunday School 10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service Holy Communion Grace Friends Sunday School 11:30 am - Spirit Lead Us Ministry Retreat 4:00 pm - AA Meeting - Lounge</li> </ul>
---	--

## Dedications

#### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

In Honor of my Granddaughter Abigail on her Birthday Given by Diana McArdle