

# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

October 29, 2023—November 5, 2023

## REFORMATION SUNDAY 10/29/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum Group  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

## MONDAY 10/30/23

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

## TUESDAY 10/31/23

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

## WEDNESDAY 11/01/23

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

## THURSDAY 11/02/23

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal  
7:00PM Al-Anon

## FRIDAY 11/03/23

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

## SATURDAY 11/04/23

**6:00PM Cape Shore Chorale Fund  
Raiser: Around the World and  
Home Again**

## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 11/05/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service  
8:45 AM Adult Forum Group  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MON-WED 10:00AM-3:00PM  
FRI 10:00AM-2:00PM

### PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

Varies—Pastor Althea is always  
available by appointment

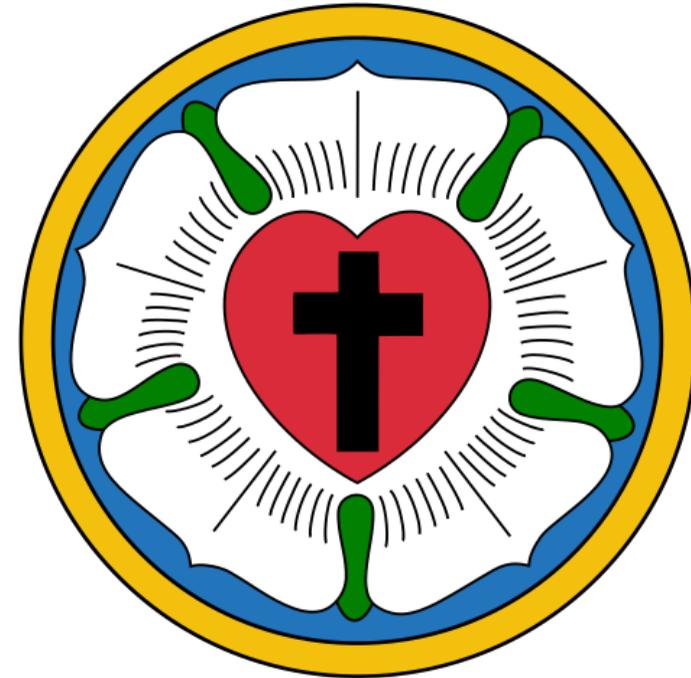
### SHORE DINER

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

October 29, 2023

Reformation Sunday



## 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](http://www.gracelutheranspnj.org)  
**E-mail:** [office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net)

Rev. Althea Albright, Pastor ☩ Scott J. Breiner, Music Director  
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant  
Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

**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 with us as we worship our Lord together!

**Introduction**

*Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.*

**WELCOME**

Rev. Althea Albright

**PRELUDE** Festival Prelude on "Ein Feste Burg" by William Faulkes

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GREETING**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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, renew 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

**The Grace Stitchers need your help!**

These dedicated knitters and crocheters are working hard to make essential items for the men & women working at sea during Christmas (*Christmas at Sea donation drive*), along with your donations of unperishable items (*ex. granola bars, popcorn & candy*), travel size personal hygiene items, puzzle books, and note pads. Thank you for your generosity. If you have questions call

**609-927-3082.**



~ **SENDING** ~

*Please stand as you are able.*

**SENDING BLESSING**

May Almighty God, † Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, watch over you, guide you, and give you faith for the journey now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**      *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*      ELW #504

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

**POSTLUDE**      *Ein Feste Burg*      by Timothy Albrecht

**DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Spread God's love and grace to all!  
**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! Reader:** Meg La Spina

**The flowers sponsors this week are:** Frank and Linda Corradetti, in memory of their loved ones.

**The candles sponsor this week is:** Kathy Ruffenach, in honor of Joe Ruffenach's 70th birthday! Love, Kathy, Kids, and Grandbabies

**The music sponsor this week is:** John Staples, in memory of John and Katherine Staples.

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**      *Rise, Shine You People!*      ELW #665

**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**      *WOV page 12*

**HYMN OF PRAISE**      *WOV page 14*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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.*

~ **WORD** ~

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

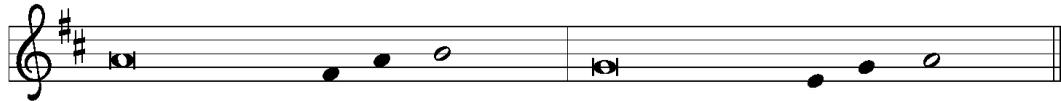
*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will*

*forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

## PSALM 46



- <sup>1</sup>God is our ref-<sup>1</sup>uge and strength,  
a very present<sup>1</sup> help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the<sup>1</sup> earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths<sup>1</sup> of the sea;**
- <sup>3</sup>though its waters<sup>1</sup> rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble<sup>1</sup> with its tumult.
- <sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-<sup>1</sup>y of God,  
the holy habitation of<sup>1</sup> the Most High.**
- <sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall<sup>1</sup> not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the<sup>1</sup> break of day.
- <sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, and the<sup>1</sup> kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth<sup>1</sup> melts away.**
- <sup>7</sup>The LORD of<sup>1</sup> hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob<sup>1</sup> is our stronghold.
- <sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works<sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought up-<sup>1</sup> on the earth;**

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.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

## 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

Come to the banquet of Christ. All are welcome. **Amen.**

## COMMUNION HYMN

*Lamb of God*

*WOV page 25*

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*EVERYONE IS INVITED to come forward at the direction of the ushers. If you are unable to come to the altar, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children may come forward to receive a blessing.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed be your name, O God, **for we have feasted on your goodness. You are our hope and joy. Strengthen us by this food, and send us to share with the world your love and welcome others to your house, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: God our healer, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Draw near to all who suffer *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Be their rest and comfort. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: God our reformer, you call us to love one another as we love ourselves. Give us the will and patience to love those who are difficult to love. Bless all the ministries of this congregation through which we show love for our neighbors. We ask that you especially bless the food we collected for the pantry and bless all who will receive it. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: God our savior, you made yourself known in the lives of all who have died in the hope of your grace and eternal life. We give thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther, Philip Melancthon, and for all whose example has brought us closer to you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## ~ HOLY COMMUNION ~

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

*WOV page 22*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

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:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*WOV page 22*

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

In 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

<sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in <sup>l</sup>all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the <sup>l</sup>shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup>“**Be still, then, and know that <sup>l</sup>I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted <sup>l</sup>in the earth.**”

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of <sup>l</sup>hosts is with us; the God of Jacob <sup>l</sup>is our stronghold.

### SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

*Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ’s death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Holy Gospel according to John the 8th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* ELW #517

## THE APOSTLES’ 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

### CHOIR ANTHEM

*That Priceless Grace*

by John Helgen

*Please stand as you are able.*

### PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

*Let the Vineyards*

*WOV page 21*

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you.  
We bring these gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the  
body of your beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the transformative power of God’s loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *Brief silence.*

P: God our parent, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your son, Jesus. Heal the church’s many divisions, bring understanding and peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: God our creator, your hands have made the heights of the mountains, the depths of the sea, and the life that animates all creation. Bring relief and renewal to areas harmed by wildfires, floods, storms, and human destruction. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: God our ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or conflict. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**