

THE 18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 27, 2026

"Which of the two
did the will of
his father?"

Matthew 21:31, NRSV



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

"A Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus."

500 South Wayne Ave. Waynesboro, VA 22980
www.gracelutheranwaynesboro.org

Service of the Word and Holy Communion

Based on Now the Feast and Celebration

Congregational responses are in bold print

Welcome

We welcome you in the name of Christ. We love welcoming guests/visitors and encourage you to complete one of the blue “Welcome to Grace” cards found in the pews and place it in the offering plate, or scan this QR Code with your smart phone to complete the visitor card digitally. You are encouraged to join in all parts of worship. Everything you need is printed in this worship booklet. All who desire to receive Holy Communion are welcome at the table. If you do not wish to receive, you are still welcome to come forward for a blessing! For instructions on how to receive the bread and wine, see the Communion section later in this bulletin. Portions of worship in bold print are to be spoken by the whole congregation.



Accessibility

We want to ensure that all who gather for worship feel welcome and know that you have a place at Grace, just as you are. We stand for portions of our worship service, but the invitation is always to stand “as you are comfortable”. Please feel free to remain seated, if you prefer. Additionally, for a variety of reasons, individuals may choose to participate in communion by using Gluten Free Communion Wafers and/or Grape Juice, which are available on the table in the center of the aisle as you come forward.

Our Worship

Our worship is rooted in the ancient pattern of the church – gathering, word, meal, sending. The shape of this liturgy and much of the actual words/prayers come directly from scripture. Though we make seasonal shifts, the constancy of our worship reflects God’s constant love and promises through forgiveness, scripture, and the sacraments of baptism and communion. Following this liturgical pattern, as well as the Revised Common Lectionary (a three-year cycle of scripture readings appointed for each day), we are connected through our worship with Christians around the world and throughout time.

Worship will be livestreamed. Digital ministry is an essential part of our community with our live-stream allowing those at home to worship alongside our gathered community for a service of Holy Communion. The cameras will be primarily focused on our worship leaders and offer some wide-angle views of the Sanctuary. If you have questions or concerns about appearing on camera, contact Pastor Alex Zuber.

Other Notes

Restrooms are located to your left as you face the rear of the church.

Children are fully welcome in worship. There are activity bags in the back of the sanctuary, to the right as you face the rear of the church, and we have a nursery down the hall to the left as you face the rear of the church if you would like a place to step out and reset. But rest assured, we would rather a child be here making the sounds that children make than absent from our community. As much as we value music in our community, there is no sweeter hymn that will be sung than the sounds of children being present, learning the pattern of worship, and hearing the gospel!

GATHERING

We come from our homes, our labor, our struggles, and our joys – which we share in fellowship as a Christian community. We are gathered together as God's people to worship. In this first part of our worship, we share together honestly – our sins in confession, our joy in forgiveness, our gratitude for the gift of Baptism.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We stand and face the baptismal font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.



The congregation turns and faces the cross as the procession approaches the altar, reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence and love of God.

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

P In peace, in peace....

Refrain

Assistant: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have

mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

to Verses

P For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all...
(to Refrain)

P For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live
your Word...(to Refrain)

Assistant:

Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation:

God. A - men.

Hymn of Praise: "Now the Feast"

NOW THE FEAST

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

The musical notation for the Refrain is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature is 3/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are: "Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion," "all of cre - a - tion sings for joy", "to the God of life and love and", "free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -", and "er - more!". The final measure of the fifth staff ends with a double bar line.

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit-ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God. *to Refrain*

The musical notation for Verse 1 is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature is 3/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are: "1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once", "slain, whose blood has freed and u -", "nit-ed us to be one great peo - ple of", and "God. to Refrain". The final measure of the fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

2. Pow - er and rich-es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to
make us peo - ple of God; to make
all things new. *to Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

The first half of our liturgy focuses on the Word of God through the reading of scripture and preaching. The pattern of reading, singing, reading, singing is an ancient one, which comes from Christianity's roots in Jewish synagogue worship.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

A reading from Ezekiel:

¹ The word of the Lord came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise, iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9

¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from Philippians:

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Continued

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Repeat optional

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew:

Glory to you O Lord.

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

Continued

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor Alex Zuber

SERMON

Pastor Alex Zuber

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

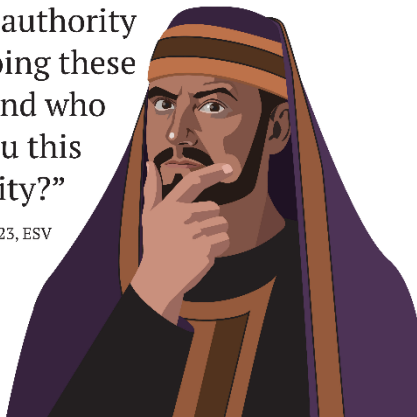
We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: “O Master, Let Me Walk With You”

#818

“By what authority
are you doing these
things, and who
gave you this
authority?”

Matthew 21:23, ESV



APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

The
Apostles'
+ Creed +

**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.**

PRAYERS

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

After each petition:

...Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

The Assisting Minister concludes the prayers:

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

MEAL

In the second half of our liturgy, we gather around the table, following Jesus' invitation. Here in this meal we encounter the risen Lord who gives himself for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening the Body of Christ.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:

"Peace be with you."

We sit.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered at this time to support the mission of the church and care for those in need. Our offerings are a humble and grateful response to the gifts that God has first given us. The offering plates will be passed by the ushers from the center aisle. If you give electronically, you can use the QR Code on this page to make your gift online through Tithely. (Please place visitor cards and communion cards in the offering plate at this time.)

We stand.



OFFERTORY SONG

AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

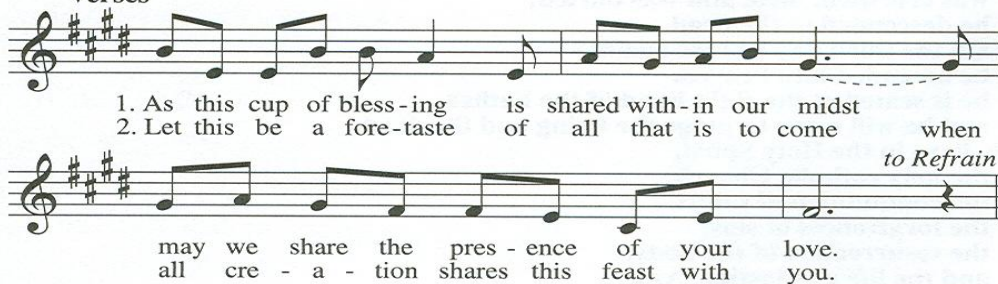
Refrain

Congregation:



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
gath-ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
to Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

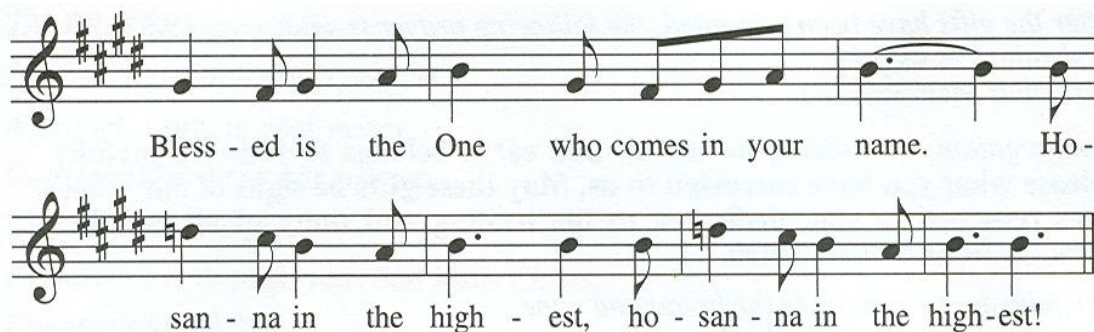
HOLY

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God,
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals,
the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.
When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.

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 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.



Continued

Remembering, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.
Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
Thanks be to God!

HOLY COMMUNION

We sit.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table! At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Here we receive Christ's body and blood and God's gifts of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation to be received by faith for the strengthening of faith. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord — regardless of Church denomination — to those who are baptized. (Taken from the ELCA statement on worship. The Use and Means of Grace ©1997).

Ushers will invite you to come down the center aisle. If you are unable to come forward, signal an usher or raise your hand, and an assisting minister will bring the elements to you. We commune at the railing, filling up the rail from the center out.

GRAPE JUICE AND GLUTEN FREE WAFERS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE CENTER TABLE AS YOU COME FORWARD, or you may receive the bread and wine from the Pastor and/or Communion Assistants. You may kneel or stand at the railing. As the ministers give the bread and cup to you, they say these words:

"The body of Christ, given for you . . . The blood of Christ, shed for you."

You may say: "Amen."

Place your empty cup in the trays at the end of the railing, and return to your seat via the side aisle.



LAMB OF GOD

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 you break the chains of ha - tred and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
 fear:
 peace:
 love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC: "Take, Oh Take Me As I Am"

#814

We stand.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

THANKS BE TO YOU

Congregation:

1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:
2. From of old you loved and sought us:

Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice

weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for ev - er!
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your

love, re - mem - b'ring your cov-e-nant of

life with us. 3. Praise to you, O

God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Rais-ing high the weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for

ev - er! Thanks be to you for ev - er!

The musical score is written on ten staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It includes two alternative verses at the beginning and a third verse starting with '3. Praise to you, O'. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across notes.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

SENDING

Our worship does not end, but continues in the world. In our daily lives we are called to be ministers of God's love and mercy as we live and serve by the power of the risen Christ.

BLESSING

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.



Sending Song: *"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"*

#538

DISMISSAL

As the Spirit sends us forth into the world, let us remember who we are:

We are A Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus.

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY

Altar Flowers: *The Goodrich Family*

Altar Guild: *Gigi Werner Winslow*

Assisting Minister: *Kathy Bump*

Communion Assistants: *Carolyn Hite and Karen Walck*

Council Person of Week: *Karen Van Bremen*

Offering Stewards: *Jean Morgan and David Proctor*

Ushers: *Fred Biggers and Andrew Sell*



THE CHANCEL FLOWERS
today are given
to the Glory of God and in
memory of Chuck Goodrich.

NEXT SUNDAY: OCTOBER 4, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor Alex Zuber, Preaching & Presiding

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please print your new prayer concerns before worship on the sheet in the white notebook located in the back of our Worship area. Please ask ushers if you need assistance.

Names on the prayer list will remain on for four weeks, in an effort to make the prayer list current to the life of Grace congregation and the community and world around us. If the need is longer term, please notify the church office, and the person in need will be transferred to the "Ongoing Need for Prayer" list.

PRAYER REQUEST FOR MEMBERS (Remain on List for four (4) weeks)

PRAYER REQUEST FOR RELATIVES/FRIENDS (REMAIN ON LIST FOR FOUR (4) WEEKS)

Elaine Bradley, Neighbor of Proctors

Dawn Fiske, Sister of Robin Crowder

Jayne Freed, Sister of Marsha Howard

Helen Landel, Friend of the Schwiesows

Cindy Nichols, Friend of Emily Almarode

Judy Smith, Wife of Rev. Wes Smith

Families and Staff of Westwood Hills Elementary School

JOYS AND CELEBRATIONS (REMAIN ON LIST FOR FOUR (4) WEEKS)

Celebration for **Brad and Wilda Keefer's** 68th wedding anniversary.

Celebration for the wedding of **Bethanie Glover and Raven Custer**.

ONGOING NEED FOR PRAYER FOR MEMBERS (*REMAIN ON LIST FOR THREE (3) MONTHS*)

Berenice Archambeault

Liz Ann Binns

Ron Knicely

Lee Lynch

Vivian Proctor

ONGOING NEED FOR PRAYER FOR RELATIVES/FRIENDS (*REMAIN ON LIST FOR THREE (3) MONTHS*)

Matt Covell, Friend of the Carpers

Janet Forbes, Aunt of Ron Almarode

Beth Hall, Friend of Gail Johnson

Carol Haywood and her Family, Friends of the Trauschts

Flora Henderson, Mother of Allison Fink

Maria Marston, Friend of the Dolans

Laura Siwik, Niece of Linda Meyer

Pam Sonner, Friend of the Schwiesows

Trina Shipley, Friend of Donna Gum

Mary Staubus, Friend of Donna Gum

Judy Timm, Friend of Donna Gum

Bill Wevers, Brother of Jane Stein

MEMBERS/FRIENDS GRIEVING (*REMAIN ON LIST FOR FOUR (4) WEEKS**)

Family of Elly Blacker, Friend of the Schwiesows

Family of the Rev. Lenny Duncan, Friend of Pastor Alex.

Family of Ernie Firkin, Brother-in-Law of Cathy Firkin

Family of Pat Giesen, Grace Member

Family of Chuck Goodrich, Grace Member

Family of Gail Harris, Aunt of Eric Hilker

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Members Celebrating Birthdays

Zachary Rankin (09/30)

Thomas Blosser (10/01)

Bob Barrette (10/02)



Prayers for the World

For world leaders to lead toward justice and mercy in all countries.

For those in danger from wars and violence, particularly in Gaza, Iran, Lebanon, Ukraine, Nigeria, Sudan, and here in the United States.

Prayers for our Community

For safety and well-being for those who are poor, incarcerated, unhoused, and for the foreigner among us.

For all students, teachers, and staff in Waynesboro City and Augusta County as they begin a new school year. Our hearts and prayers go out to all the students, parents and staff at Westwood Elementary School.

For WARM as they begin their search for a new Executive Director, and for Alec Gunn as we give thanks for the faithful work he has done in this role.

Prayers for the Church

For the Christian church throughout the world, that it may sow peace, justice, and grace through all the earth.

For the Spirit to guide the leaders of Grace in discerning our vision and priorities as a congregation in the new season ahead.

For the congregations of the Virginia Synod, especially Muhlenberg Lutheran Church in Harrisonburg, and Pastor Lauren Eanes.

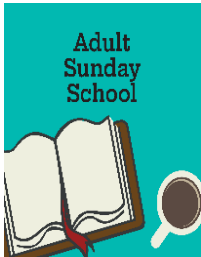
ANNOUNCEMENTS



Westwood Hills Elementary School Fundraiser – The Waynesboro Kiwanis will be hosting a “Go Fund Me” to support the school and community. The funds raised will be managed through the Waynesboro Kiwanis Foundation as restricted donations specifically for Westwood Hills recovery efforts. For those interested in contributing to the fundraiser, the link is <https://gofund.me/73cac0969>



Gathering of the Ministerium -- Pastor Alex will be away from the office Monday to Wednesday this week for "The Gathering of the Ministerium", an annual event for all rostered ministers, interns, vicars, and actively serving synod authorized ministers who are living or serving in the Virginia Synod. Leaders gather each year to meet, reconnect, worship, relax, learn, sing, pray, and play together while overlooking the ocean. The Gathering of the Ministerium includes valuable continuing education for all rostered ministers and synod authorized ministers. Pastor Alex will be available by cell or email during this time, but please contact the Church Office first in the event of a Pastoral Care emergency.



Living Lutheran -- What is a Lutheran? If you are new to Grace, new to Lutheranism, or even if you're a lifelong Lutheran that wants to get back into our theological roots, a NEW Adult Sunday School Class begins NEXT Sunday that may be perfect for you! We'll ask questions like, what is distinct about this theological tradition, and most importantly, how do we live out this faith? We'll explore the history of the Reformation and key themes that define our theological witness, discerning together how we live out these values in our daily life. The class will meet weekly on Sundays at 8:30am in the Seminar Room, and culminate with a Reformation Sunday celebration on October 25.



Women of the Southern Valley Conference will hold their annual Fall Gathering on Sunday, October 11th at 2:00 p.m. at St. Jacob's-Spaders Lutheran Church in Mt. Crawford. All women in the Conference are welcome to attend. You do not need to be a member of an active WELCA unit. In keeping with our history theme from our VSWO Convention, our program is "Boots of Faith: Walking Through the Shenandoah Valley with Michael McCray". As our guest speaker, Michael will be discussing his book about the history along one of America's great highways – US Route 11. Refreshments will be served.



Grace and the WARM 2026-2027 Cold Weather Shelter (CWS) – It's time to get organized to open our church home to our homeless neighbors for overnight stays. WARM (Waynesboro Area Refugee Ministry) coordinates the CWS with numerous area churches to provide food and shelter for our homeless neighbors during the coldest months. And Grace is a critical partner with WARM! *What does this mean for us?*

Continued

Grace ELC has been asked to host the shelter **December 7-14, 2026**. There is a virtual cornucopia of volunteer opportunities for everyone! (And financial support is also appreciated – have we asked for your quarters yet?) Last year 45 individuals from our Grace family volunteered during our week of hosting...many more were behind the scenes. We had help from an additional 36 friends from 4 different churches and Waynesboro Kiwanis. That's 81 neighbors who helped an average of 31 guests/unhoused neighbors each night! Oh, and don't forget, all the additional people/hours we offered during the emergency half-week in February when another host-church suffered a burst water pipe!

We ARE a Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus!
Please prayerfully consider helping with this important ministry. More information coming – look for your October Grace Notes! Peace – Susan Myers



WARM-Grace Cold Weather Shelter 2026-2027 – Got any spare **QUARTERS**? For the month of **OCTOBER**, we will have a container in the nave to collect any spare quarters you may have. These will be used as prizes for games played during the Cold Weather Shelter week in early December at Grace. WARM will organize games one night and prizes are given to guests – bags with quarters so they can do laundry during the week. Please help us collect **QUARTERS!!** Peace – Susan Myers, 434-760-1660 (text/call if you would like to volunteer to help or if you have questions).



The Rise Against Hunger Event was very successful this year and we packed over 37,000 meals that will be shipped to areas in need in the world. This year we had between 215 to 225 volunteers from 17 Valley Churches and the Key Club from Waynesboro High School. We had three shifts of volunteers: setup team for the event at Kate Collins Middle School, food packing team and cleanup team after the event. This year Grace had 30 volunteers participating in the event. A big thank you to all who volunteered from Grace.



The **All God's Children** group has met since November 2019 to discuss racial and ethnic equity, justice, truth telling and transformation through books, videos, lectures, and current events. The group meets on the first and third Monday of every month at 7:00 pm in the Grace Conference Room, with meetings resuming on October 5, 2026. The topics for future meetings will be:

Continued

Oct 5, 2026 - View and discuss from the UVA Speaking of America Docuseries: Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *I've Been to the Mountaintop Speech* in support of the sanitation workers' strike Memphis, delivered on August 3, 1968, the day before his assassination. The speech was delivered at the Mason Temple, The Church of God in Christ headquarters in Memphis. And Robert F. Kennedy's eloquent, off-the-cuff speech within hours of the assassination announcing King's death to a shocked audience in Indianapolis. Despite being given hundreds of miles apart, without any collaboration between the two men, these two speeches complemented each other beautifully, sharing the uplifting themes of non-violence and hope for our democracy.

<https://youtu.be/Dt4RLt6z9xc?si=OLNbMsU3BW37yqF2>

Oct 19, 2026 - View and discuss from the UVA Speaking of America Docuseries: President-elect Barack Obama's *Yes We Can* Speech delivered at Grant Park before an estimated 240,000 people on the evening of his election on November 4, 2008.

<https://youtu.be/QqD9P93oLa0?si=TO27vLSDHT6GIPTT>

Nov 2, 2026 – Start discussion of *Baptized in Tear Gas* by Elle Dowd.

For years Elle Dowd considered herself an advocate for justice, but her well-meaning support always took a back burner to what Martin Luther King Jr. called the tension-free, ordered "negative peace" of white moderates. Then Michael Brown, a Black man, was murdered by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, and the subsequent Uprising changed everything.

In *Baptized in Tear Gas*, ELCA pastor and activist Elle Dowd tells the gripping story of her transformation into an Assata Shakur-reading, courthouse-occupying abolitionist with an arrest record, hungry for the revolution. Thanks to deep relationships with people in Ferguson and St. Louis, and to experiencing a fraction of the system for herself—including the fear of rubber bullets, the shock of sound cannons, and running from tear gas--Dowd fully committed to the work of anti-racism and abolition. Now she wants to help other white allies do the same.



CHRISTIAN COALITION FOR EQUITY AND JUSTICE – CCE&J

Next meeting is October 1 at the Panera Waynesboro meeting room. Next prayer vigil is October 3 at Constitution Park



Here is the YouTube link to Pastor Zuber's installation service that was held on Sunday evening, September 20:

<https://youtube.com/live/RxliwKRvU2Q?feature=share>



Mission Endowment Fund – To date, grant requests totaling \$24,750 have been approved. \$12,043 remains for grants in 2026. Materials relating to this second round of grants, including the Grant Request Form, are available in the back of the narthex. The materials also may be obtained by contacting Nancy Dowdy, the Church Administrative Secretary. **Deadline for the requested applications is September 30th.**



Food Pantry Collections: A huge thanks to everyone as you continue to bring food for the food bank box near the office. Your donations are much appreciated. To date, we have collected over 5,746 pounds of food (we have made sixty deliveries, thirty to Main Street United Methodist, and thirty to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft). There is a need for diapers, especially sizes 3-6. 63 pounds of diapers have been delivered to Calvary United Methodist. In addition, 50 pounds of condiments have been delivered to the Bread Basket.

Daily Lectionary

Monday

Job 40:1-24
Acts 15:36-16:5
John 11:55-12:8
Morning Psalm 5, Evening 82

Tuesday

Job 40:1; 41:1-11
Acts 16:6-15
John 12:9-19
Morning Psalm 42, Evening 102

Wednesday

Job 42:1-17
Acts 16:16-24
John 12:20-26
Morning Psalm 89:1-18, Evening 1



Thursday

Job 28:1-28
Acts 16:25-40
John 12:27-36a
Morning Psalm 97, Evening 16

Friday

Esther 1:1-4, 10-19
Acts 17:1-15
John 12:36b-43
Morning Psalm 51, Evening 142

Saturday

Esther 2:5-8, 15-23
Acts 17:16-34
John 12:44-50
Morning Psalm 104, Evening 138

LIFE OF GRACE CHURCH, September 27 – October 4, 2026

Day the Week	Date	Time	Event, Meeting, Etc.
Sunday	09/27	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation (Seminar Room) Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost Service of the Word and Holy Communion Pastor Alex Zuber, Presiding and Preaching Children's Sunday School Confirmation Class
Monday	09/28	Noon	Gathering of the Ministerium – Pastor Out of Office Bible Study (Conference Room)
Tuesday	09/29	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Gathering of the Ministerium – Pastor Out of Office Backpacks (Fellowship Hall) Quilting (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday	09/30	6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Gathering of the Ministerium – Pastor Out of Office Yoga (Seminar Room) Community Meal Handbells Choir Practice
Thursday	10/01	9:00—11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Coffee Chats (Happ Coffee) Bridge Club CCE&J (Panera Bread)
Friday	10/02		Office Closed
Saturday	10/03	11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	CCE&J Prayer Vigil (Constitution Park) Yoga (Seminar Room)
Sunday	10/04	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation (Seminar Room) Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost Service of the Word and Holy Communion Pastor Alex Zuber, Presiding and Preaching Confirmation Class Children's Sunday School First Sunday Fellowship

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP...

Confession and Forgiveness: ✝ All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins, but no one should feel compelled. Both our confession of sin and God's promise of mercy are rooted in our baptism. We come before God recalling our brokenness, but even more God's great grace

Gathering Hymn: We sing as the Spirit gathers us for worship and this hymn sets the tone for the day.

Kyrie: The Kyrie is an ancient piece of service liturgy that may date back to the second century. Kyrie Eleison is Greek for "Lord have mercy" and is in reference to both New and Old Testament scriptures which use the same words and pattern.

Prayer of the Day: The Prayer of the Day collects the themes from today's scripture readings.

Readings and Psalm: Liturgy, from the Greek, means "the work of the people." Our worship is designed so we all take part. We are far more than just spectators. The scripture readings follow a three-year cycle, called a lectionary. We are connected with other Christians all over the world, in many denominations, reading the same texts. The Psalms were the original Hymns in Holy Scripture, used by God's people for personal and corporate devotion. They continue to be prayed, sung and read by God's people all over the world as a rich and honest expression of faith. We stand during the gospel because we believe our Lord is present with us in the reading.

Hymn of the Day: This hymn complements the day's scripture readings and sermon.

Nicene & Apostles' Creeds: The creeds (statements of faith) date back to the 4th century and contain the basics of what Christians around the world hold to be true. The use of the non-capitalized word "catholic" means simply worldwide or universal.

Prayers: We pray as a community. The assisting minister leads this time to gather the prayers of all, and at their invitation you may add others aloud or silently in your heart.

Peace: Much more than a pleasant greeting — we do this to proclaim God's promise of peace to one another.

Continued

Offering: Our offerings are collected and dedicated to our Lord's service. They support the ministries of Christ's church in this congregation, the Virginia Synod, ELCA, and our global mission partners.

Offering Song: This song becomes our prayer as our gifts are collected and dedicated to our Lord's service.

Great Thanksgiving & Holy, Holy, Holy: The Great Thanksgiving is an ancient part of the worship that proclaims our thanks for the gifts of God in the meal. The "Holy, Holy, Holy" echoes the heavenly chorus in Isaiah 6:3 and the crowds of Mark 11:9 as Jesus enters Jerusalem. This reminds us that we are in the presence of a God identified both by holiness and humility. Some will make the sign of the cross at the announcement of God's presence: "Blessed is He..."

Eucharistic Prayer: Eucharist is the Greek word for thanks. These are the words and actions, the commands and promises of Jesus at the last supper with his disciples as recorded in scripture: 1Cor. 11:23-26, Matt. 26:26-29, Luke 22:15-20.

The Lord's Prayer: Jesus taught his disciples this prayer. In this prayer, all our needs and concerns are addressed. See ELW page 1163 for Martin Luther's explanation of this prayer in the small catechism.

Communion: The "last supper" was a meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion. He invited them to share this meal in the future to remember him and he promised to be present in a mysterious, but very real sense. All who desire to participate are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Feel free to remain seated if you prefer.

Recessional Hymn: We gather once more in song as our worship concludes, and we prepare to take this good news into the world.

Blessing: In this blessing we are reminded we bear God's name as we depart to live out our baptism, serving our neighbor and spreading the gospel. It reaffirms our mission and reminds us that if we are ***A Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus***, we need to be renewed first through Water, Word, and Meal — the means of grace God has given to us.



GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Alex Zuber

Email: pastorzuber@gmail.com

Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music

Email: mickhdking@aol.com

Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary

Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net



Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday
Closed 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday, Closed Friday

facebook.com/gelc.elca

youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro

www.gracelutheranwaynesboro.org

Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net

Telephone: 540.949.6171

GRACE CHURCH COUNCIL

Allison Fink (540-448-0985), President

Jim Nelson (434-826-8923), Vice-President

Linda Meyer (540-256-2277), Secretary

Peggy Caister (434-964-7461)

Gail Johnson (540-241-4502)

Jerry Kite (540-910-3372)

River Smith (540-239-5290)

Kate Van Bremen (614-746-4792)

BK Wilson (540-325-9529)

Donna Yobs (650-248-4882)

Ron Almarode, Treasurer