

THE 16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 2026

*...how often should
I forgive?
"Not SEVEN times,
but, I tell you,
SEVENTY-
SEVEN
times."*

Matthew 18:21-22, 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 Evangelical Lutheran Worship

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

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.

GATHERING HYMN: "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise From Death"

#452

***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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Let Us Go to the House of the Lord

I Was Glad

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us
go to the house of the Lord." I was glad when they
said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."
Called from ev - 'ry na - tion, called from ev - 'ry race,
Here the poor are wel - comed, here the lost are claimed,
Words that must be spo - ken, grace that must be heard,
gath - ered here for wor - ship in this ho - ly place;
Bro - ken lives are mend - ed, deep - est fears are named;
Mer - cy and for - give - ness from God's ho - ly Word,
God is here a - mong us, lift your hearts and sing,
Here the wise are child - ren, and the weak are strong,
Here, will be re - peat - ed; Peace! to all pro - claimed,
make the walls and raf - ters ring.
Here, in Christ, we all be - long.
Shout - ed out in Je - sus' name.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis:

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

[¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

² **Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits**

³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed

like an eagle's.

⁶ O Lord, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷ You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.]

⁸ Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

⁹ you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹² As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans:

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Continued

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew:

Glory to you O Lord.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you

everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave,

Continued

as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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: *“Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”*

#605



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:

...God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

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

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

Refrain

Oh, give thanks! Oh, give thanks! God's love en - dures for -

ev - er! Oh, give thanks! Oh, give thanks! God's

love en - dures for - ev - er!

1 With our dreams and our fears,
2 With our strength and our weak - ness,

with our joys and our pain,
with our gifts and our needs,

Refrain

we come, we come.
we come, we come.

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 Lord be with you.
And also with you.

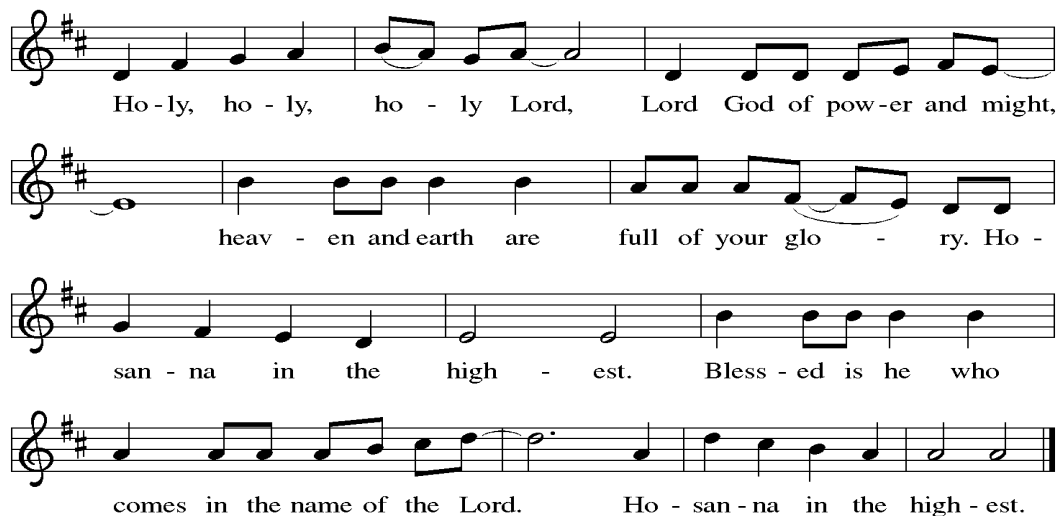
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.



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

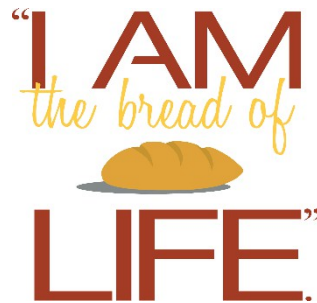
PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of 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:



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.

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.***

Continued

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.

For the Healing of the World

1 Des - per - ate peo - ple are mak - ing their way to see
 2 Sure - ly he's borne all our griefs and col - lect - ed our
 3 Still in our world we see peo - ple con - tin - ue to

Je - sus;
 sor - rows;
 suf - fer;

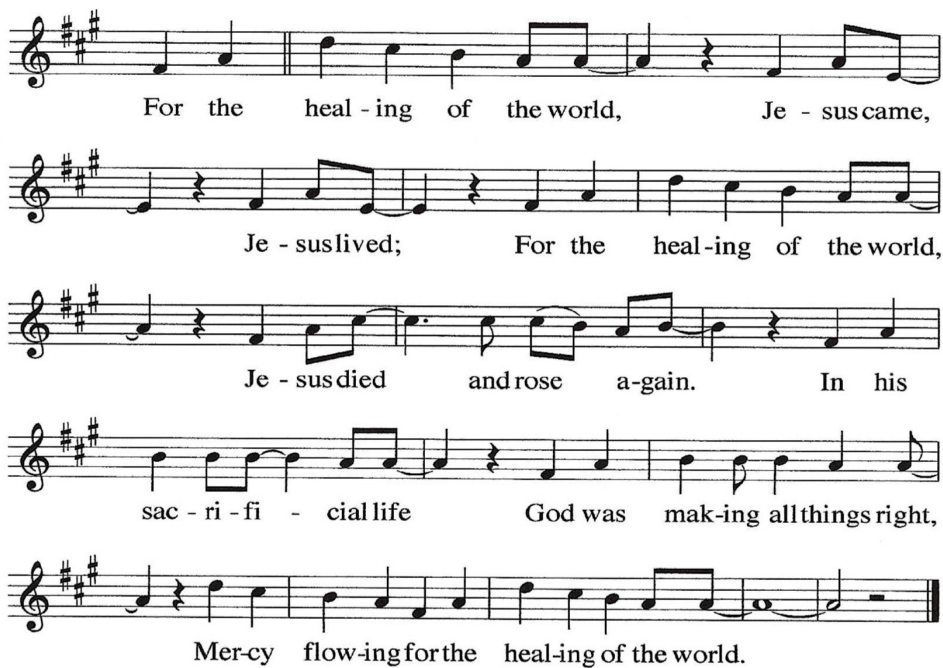
Wound - ed and bro - ken we
 Here, in the sha - dow of
 So man - y hun - gry and

come for we've no - where to turn;
 death, he's no strang - er to tears;
 so man - y liv - ing in pain.

Long - ing for free - dom from de - mons and all our dis -
 Si - lent, he goes like a lamb as our weak - ness he
 Now we must go with God's heal - ing and jus - tice to

cas - es, He's mak - ing us whole and
 bor - rows; He's tak - ing the cup and
 of - fer, For this is the call. he

free - ing our souls and we owe him our lives,
 drink - ing it up, then he pours out his life,
 asks for it all; Will you lay down your life?



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COMMUNION MUSIC: "I Come With Joy"

#482

We stand.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.



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

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.

forever.
Amen.

The God of grace ✚ bless you now and

Sending Song: *"God's Work, Our Hands."*

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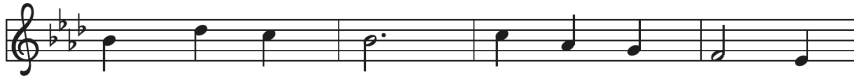
God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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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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 IN OUR 
Thoughts and Prayers

ANNOUNCEMENTS



As several have asked for copies of **Pastor Alex's sermons**, we have set up a holder on the round table in the Nave with copies of every sermon since he arrived. We will try to continue doing this.



Grace Quilters--September is kickoff season for Grace Quilters! Join us Tuesdays beginning **September 15**, 9:30 -11:30 a.m., at the church Fellowship Hall. Lunch follows usually at Panera. All are welcome, no experience is needed! New this season: We are trying something fresh with pre-bundled, coordinating fabrics ready to cut into 11" squares. The squares may be cut at church or at home. During our 2025/2026 season, the hands and hearts of Grace Quilters reached communities both near and far. Thanks to your dedication, our quilts brought comfort to:

- Lutheran World Relief: Sending global hope to families facing extreme poverty and crisis.
- Hurricane Helene Relief: Providing warmth and comfort to neighbors rebuilding after the storm.
- River Edge Assisted Living: Delivered as personalized Christmas gifts, to bring cheer to our local residents.

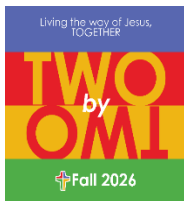
These quilts are truly examples of God's Work, Our Hands, in action.



A meeting for all youth (grades 6th - 12th) and their families, will be held **Today** in the Fellowship Hall, after worship. Lunch will be provided. We will discuss Youth Ministry at Grace, Virginia Synod Youth Events, and assess interest in attending the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering!



Children's Sunday School Returns Today! Each Sunday after worship, children from Pre-K to 5th Grade are invited to meet Holly Carper, Jane Blosser, and our Sunday School teachers in the back of the sanctuary to walk downstairs together for class. Classes focus on the stories we hear in worship, growing in our knowledge of the bible, and forming faithful friendships! If you are interested in being a Sunday School teacher, please reach out to Holly or Pastor Alex for more information.



Adult Faith Formation will take place on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. in the Seminar Room, taught by Pastor Alex. All are welcome to attend, with no pre-requisite of membership or expectation of perfect attendance. Coffee and hot water for tea will be provided, and class members are welcome to bring snacks to share. Email Pastor Alex (pastorzuber@gmail.com) if you plan to attend! The classes this fall will be September 13, 20, and 27, where we will share in a study called “Two by Two”. We will explore biblical models of ministry rooted in partnership, collaboration, and continuity. We'll hold this lens of biblical witness to the ministries of Grace to consider how we support one another in living out our mission.



This year's **God's Work, Our Hands service project** will be the **Rise Against Hunger** event held at Kate Collins Middle School on Saturday, **September 19**,

from 10:30 to 12:30. Sign-up sheets will be on the back table starting in August. This is a fun event and we are expecting to have 14 or more area churches

joining us this year. The meals we pack go to help with global hunger relief. If

you need additional information or questions about the event, please contact

Jerry or Gwen Kite. We are encouraged to sign up on line. The web link will be on the table with the sign-up sheet.



You are invited to a Service of Holy Communion with the Order of **Installation for The Rev. Alexander C. Zuber as the 21st Pastor of Grace** on Sunday, **September 20!** The service starts at 5:00 p.m. and will celebrate the ministry of Grace, look with hope to our shared future, and give thanks to God for the mission we share. The service will be followed by a dinner reception under a tent, and all are welcome to join us. Join us for this faithful celebration with special music, joyful worship, and fellowship with all our partners in ministry. The service will also be live-streamed on our YouTube channel and a link will be provided.

The 2026 CROP Walk will take place on Sunday, September 20 beginning at 2:00 pm at North Park. The walk route is along the Greenway. Walkers are needed for our Grace Team. Register to walk and/or make a donation to our team



at www.crophungerwalk.org/waynesboro. Our team name is Grace Lutheran Waynesboro. The team goal is to raise \$1,800 and the goal for all teams is \$20,000. Twenty-five percent of all local money raised stays here in the community, split between Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Disciples' Kitchen and VPAS Meals on Wheels. The remaining money raised goes to support the work of Church World Service. As of September 1, our Grace Team has raised \$250. Karen will be in the narthex after service on September 6, September 13 and September 20 to accept any donations. If you would like to give by check, please make the check payable to CWS/CROP. You may also give through your offering and designating for CROP Walk. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Walck at [765-480-9920](tel:765-480-9920).



Backpack Update - We will begin packing the food bags (backpacks) for the schools this week. This year we will be packing for children at Wenonah, William Perry, Berkeley Glenn and Westwood. Westwood has been included this year for the first time. Kiwanis Club will deliver the food on Tuesday mornings, Grace will pack every other Wednesday morning and St. John's will pack every other Tuesday morning. The Kiwanis Club will pick up the bags and deliver them to the schools on Thursdays.



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 Refuge 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?*

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

Weekly Bible Study begins Monday, September 14 at Noon in the Conference Room or on Zoom. Join Pastor Alex for a weekly "Lectionary Lunch", looking at the dialogue begun from the pulpit in Sunday's Sermon by diving deeper into the Sunday texts, and looking ahead to next Sunday's lessons. You are welcome to bring your own lunch, bring a bible, and join in the conversation -- coffee will be provided. Conversations will last for an hour, and you can contact Pastor Alex for the Zoom link.



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All God's Children study group (AGC) will resume meetings on ***Monday,**

Sept 14 at 7 pm* in the conference room. Composed of Grace ELCA members,

this group of believers reads books, attends lectures, watches videos, and

discusses issues of racism, equity, and justice in our culture and how we

respond as Christians and Lutherans. On Sept 14, we will discuss two videos



which examine pivotal speeches about freedom. These videos are part of a UVA "Speaking of America" Docuseries. They were produced as part of our nation's 250th celebration and are available on youtube at no cost. Below

are links to the videos we plan to discuss. Lisa Gray will lead the discussion. All interested persons are invited to attend. Contact Rick

Bump or BK Wilson for additional information.

****For easy access, open the bulletin on the church website and click on the links:

*Episode 16 - Frederick Douglass "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" (26 minutes) https://youtu.be/E0GMKgj3ZO0?si=1fS7Bhsb_1_VUv6C

*Episode 17- Road from Selma: Lyndon Johnson's "We Shall Overcome" & MLK's

"Our God is Marching On." (43 minutes)

https://youtu.be/uPG_TXT994E?si=xVifM1go1NpAY_Oj

Information about the entire *Speaking of America Docuserie* is here:

<https://engagement.virginia.edu/learn/2026-america> UVA

"Speaking of America" Docuseries

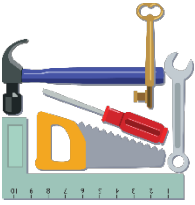


The Property Team needs your help in setting up tables and chairs under the tent on the front church lawn for the installation dinner on September 20th. This work will take place at **10 a.m. on Saturday, September 19th**. Please call the church office to volunteer by **Thursday, September 17th**.



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.**



Renewing Homes Project Update - Grace and Zion Lutheran Churches joined together to do a work project on a home in Waynesboro with Renewing Homes of Augusta. For the two-day project on August 27 and 28, we had 9 or more people working each day. Our work included replacing both the back steps to the deck and the deck plus some yard cleanup removal of old lumber. Thanks to everyone who volunteered with the project. If you are interested in joining one of the projects or for more information about Renewing Homes you can contact Glen Gray, Rew Walck or Jerry Kite.



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



LIFE OF GRACE CHURCH, September 13 - September 20, 2026

Day the Week	Date	Time	
Sunday	09/13		
Monday	09/14		
Tuesday	09/15		
Wednesday	09/16		
Thursday	09/17		
Friday	09/18		

Saturday	09/19	
Sunday	09/20	

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

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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

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