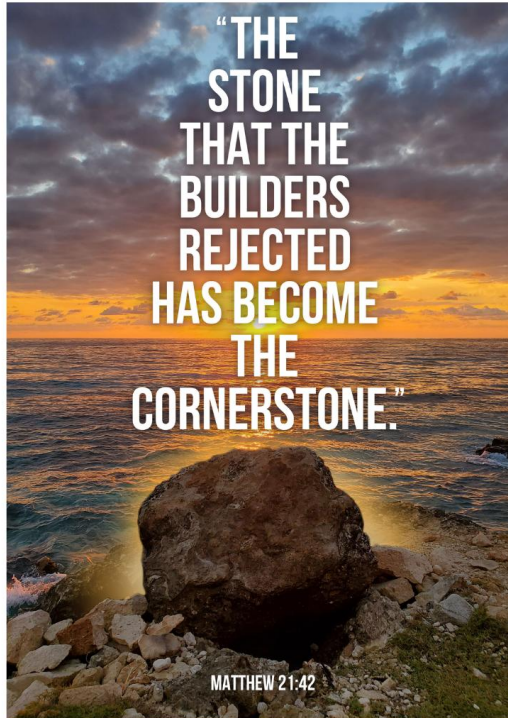


THE 19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 4, 2026



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. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first line ends with a comma, and the second line ends with a period. The third line ends with 'and', and the fourth line ends with a colon. The fifth line ends with an exclamation point. The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and half notes) and rests.

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. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first line ends with a comma, and the second line ends with a hyphen. The third line ends with a hyphen, and the fourth line ends with a period. The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and half notes) and rests. The final note of the fourth line is followed by the text 'to Refrain'.

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.

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, 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: Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from Isaiah:

- ¹ I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
- ² He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.
- ³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
- ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

Continued

⁵ And now I will tell you
 what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
 and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
 and it shall be trampled down.
⁶ I will make it a wasteland;
 it shall not be pruned or hoed,
 and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
 that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
 is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
 are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
 but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
 but heard a cry!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:7-15

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
⁸ **You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.**
⁹ You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.
¹⁰ **The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**
¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.
¹² **Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**
¹³ The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
¹⁴ **Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;**
¹⁵ behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

A reading from Philippians:

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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 21:33-46

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew:

Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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: *"Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth"*

#727

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

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

After each petition:

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

The Assisting Minister concludes the prayers:

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

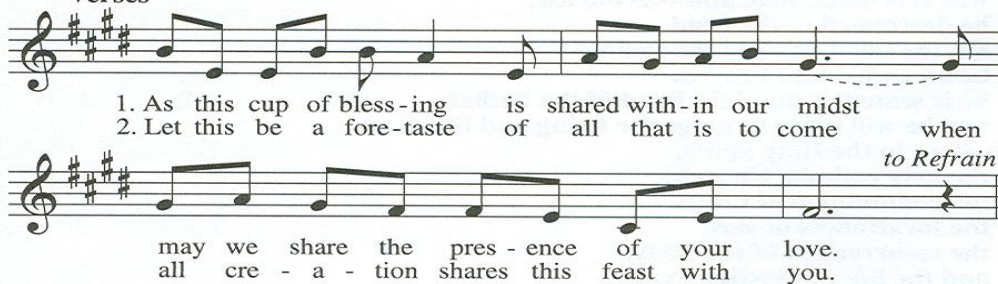
Refrain

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 calls us to follow his way of humble service and love. And so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

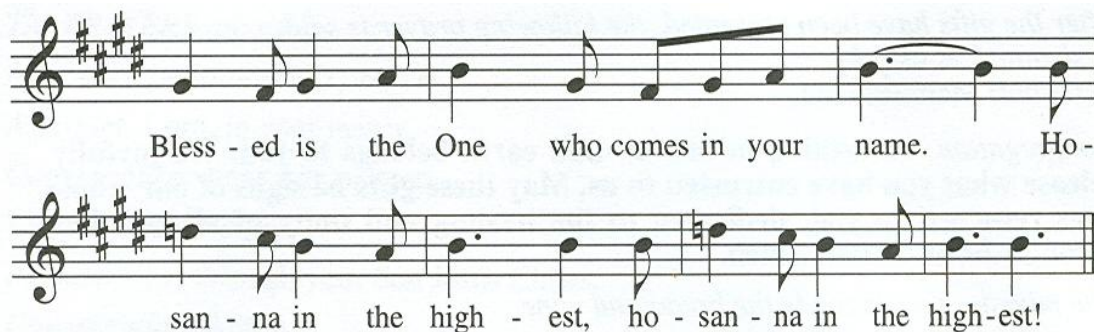
HOLY

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.

“I AM
the bread of

LIFE.”

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: "Jesus Loves Me!"

#595

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!

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.

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament from this gathering to those who are absent.

Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and Sacrament to our sisters and brothers. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life. May we all recognize that we have a place and a home in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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 Church of Christ, in Every Age"*

#729

DISMISSAL

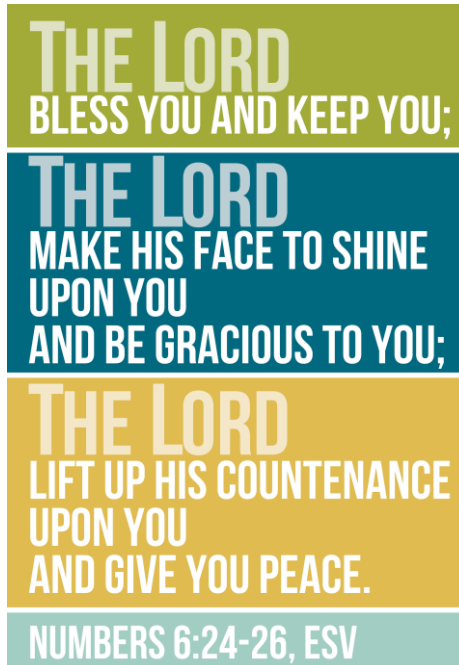
As the Spirit sends us forth into the world, let us remember who we are:

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: Allison Fink

Altar Guild: Jim and Gloria Nelson

Assisting Minister: Peggy Caister

Communion Assistants: Tripp Franklin and Carolyn Hite

Council Person of Week: BK Wilson

Offering Stewards: Pat Brady and Vivian Proctor

Ushers: Jack Eckstrom and Jim Nelson



THE CHANCEL FLOWERS

today are given
to the Glory of God and in
joyful celebration of Randy and
Allison Fink's 32 years of
marriage.

NEXT SUNDAY: OCTOBER 11, 2026

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor Alex Zuber, Preaching & Presiding

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalm 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

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)

Rebecca Batton, Daughter of Peggy Marks

Dawn Fiske, Sister of Robin Crowder

Jayne Freed, Sister of Marsha Howard

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 **Randy and Allison Fink's** 32nd 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

Helen Landel, Friend of the Schwiesows

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

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Members Celebrating Birthdays

Marge Cloutier (10/4)

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 this season of transition at Grace with joy, understanding, and hope-filled vision.

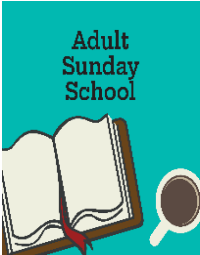
For the congregations of the Virginia Synod, especially New Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Fairfield.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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>



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 began TODAY 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.



Paint Party Fundraiser on October 8, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. to benefit **HERO OF WAYNESBORO**. Everyone is invited for a beginner-friendly paint party, where you can select a wooden design of your choice. The final product will be a round painting 11" in diameter. Location is at St. John's Episcopal Church, 473 S Wayne Ave. Please register by **Monday, October 5th**. Anyone interested can contact Janeice Raiche for info to register at jraiche123@gmail.com. The fee is \$50 per person. Flyers are located in the Nave.



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.



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.



Grace and the WARM 2026-2027 Cold Weather Shelter (CWS)

The weather is definitely cooling down, Fall has arrived... but wait a few hours, it may warm up again! We love cooler days and crisp nights. But, before you know it, Winter will arrive ... and if it's anything like last year, it will be too harsh and too cold, TOO soon. So let's get ready to invite our homeless neighbors in!

Plans continue to progress for our **Grace week hosting the CWS between December 7 – December 14:**

MEAL TEAMS - Kiwanis/Billie Quigley; Grace Christ Care/Gail Johnson; St John's Episcopal/Dan & Susan Jenny; Zion Lutheran/Joy Tobias; Grace Quilters/Gwen Kite; and Grace/Antoinette Eckstrom! **THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR VOLUNTEERING!**

***** WE NEED ONE MORE MEAL TEAM for SUN night, Dec 13th. *****

Please contact Susan ASAP if you're able to help with this!

OVERNIGHT HOSTS- we're in the process of seeing if last year's hosts are able to take a night this year ... AND good news -- WARM will provide TWO staff members at the CWS each evening; so each night we just need 1 volunteer (we'll always take more)!

October is QUARTER COLLECTION MONTH - so please bring your quarters and put them in the container designated in the nave. We put these into \$5 bags to distribute to guests needing to do laundry. We provide them with showers while here, let's help them get those clothes clean too!

November will begin our collection of toiletries and shelf-stable breakfast and snack items! AND Sign-Up sheets to volunteer to help during our week - look for your November Grace Notes for more details on all the opportunities!

We ARE A Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus!

Please prayerfully consider helping with this important ministry.

More info coming - Peace!

Questions? Suggestions? Please contact Susan Myers 434-760-166 or sparkelmyers@gmail.com.



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:

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.



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

Esther 4:4-17
Acts 18:1-11
Luke (1:1-4) 3:1-14
Morning Psalm 135, Evening 97

Tuesday

Esther 5:1-14
Acts 18:12-28
Luke 3:15-22
Morning Psalm 123, Evening 30

Wednesday

Esther 6:1-14
Acts 19:1-10
Luke 4:1-13
Morning Psalm 15, Evening 48

Thursday

Esther 7:1-10
Acts 19:11-20
Luke 4:14-30
Morning Psalm 36, Evening 80

Friday

Esther 8:1-8, 15-17
Acts 19:21-41
Luke 4:31-37
Morning Psalm 130, Evening 32

Saturday

Esther 9:1-32
Acts 20:1-16
Luke 4:38-44
Morning Psalm 56, Evening 118



LIFE OF GRACE CHURCH, October 4 – October 11, 2026

Day the Week	Date	Time	Event, Meeting, Etc.
Sunday	10/04	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Living Lutheran – What is a Lutheran? (Seminar Room) Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost Service of the Word and Holy Communion Pastor Alex Zuber, Presiding and Preaching Children's Sunday School Confirmation Class
Monday	10/05	Noon 7:00 p.m.	Bible Study (Conference Room) All God's Children (Fellowship Hall)
Tuesday	10/06	9:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Quilting (Fellowship Hall) Round Table Discussions (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday	10/07	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Backpacks (Fellowship Hall) Yoga (Seminar Room) Community Meal Handbells Choir Practice
Thursday	10/08	9:00—11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Coffee Chats (Happ Coffee) Bridge Club Council Meeting (Conference Room)
Friday	10/09		Office Closed
Saturday	10/10	11:00 a.m.	Council Retreat (Christ Lutheran Church) Yoga (Seminar Room)
Sunday	10/11	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Living Lutheran – What is a Lutheran? (Seminar Room) Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost Service of the Word and Holy Communion Pastor Alex Zuber, Presiding and Preaching Confirmation Class Children's Sunday School

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 i***
n 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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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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