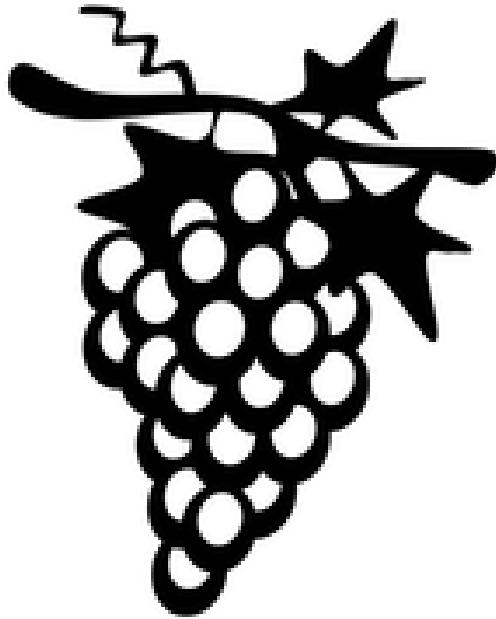


Eighteenth Sunday

After Pentecost



September 27, 2026

A Prayer Upon Entering

*Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe.
As I cross this threshold, I enter as if the ground itself were paved with gold,
for the place whereon I stand is holy ground.
Calm my spirit, quiet my rushing thoughts, and still my heart.
Help me to lay aside the noise and burdens of the world, for you are here.
May this space be a sanctuary of peace,
and may my heart be a living temple of your Holy Spirit.
Let no shout or rush disturb this sacred hour,
but let reverence, awe and love fill me as I approach your presence.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(Traditional prayer on the doors of English churches)

Welcome to Grace

We give thanks that you have come to worship with us at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, and pray that you will receive God's awesome GRACE, mercy and love as we receive Word and Sacrament, the means of grace!

We invite our guests and visitors to worship with us often! If you will, we invite guests to take a welcome bag at the Welcome Desk to learn more about Grace and fill out a Welcome Form in the bulletin or at the Welcome Desk to let us know you were worshipping with us today. Visitor/Member Information sheets may be returned to the pastor, an usher, or placed in the offering.

The complete worship service is contained in this worship folder. Large print worship folders and Busy Bags for our very young worshipers are available from the ushers! We love having children in worship! Should parents have need of nursery during worship, our professionally staffed nursery for childcare is available. Please see an usher for directions.

Our worship space is equipped with a hearing assistance system to accommodate those with hearing difficulties. Please ask the sound technician (at the rear left of the worship space) for a receiver, if desired. Printed copies of the sermon are available at the ushers table in the entry-way, if desired.

Please remember to turn off or silence personal communication devices. We ask that you not bring food or drink into the worship space.

In accordance with the Biblical mandate and our Lutheran tradition, we seek to worship God "in Spirit and in truth...for these the Father seeks to worship him!" (John 4:23-24). If you are not familiar with liturgical worship, it is "the work of the people," as God speaks, the ministers speak and the congregation responds in a spoken, chanted and sung dialogue!

Everything in our worship is focused on God and His incarnate, embodied presence in our midst! We pray that you will experience the Word made flesh as we worship today!

To establish and maintain a spirit of reverence, we remind worshipers to please greet one another and fellowship in the gathering space before entering the sanctuary, where others will be preparing their hearts and minds for worship. We appreciate your understanding!

Little Lambs Children's Ministry is available at either worship service, after the Gospel reading for children ages 3 through third grade During Little Lambs Children's Ministry children and their leader go to the Nursery to enjoy age appropriate Biblically-oriented activities during the Sermon, creed and prayers. They return during the offering to join us for Holy communion! This gives little ones a Bible break during the service, while allowing parents to focus on the sermon!

We invite you to learn more about our congregation at www.grace43081.org and the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) at www.thenalc.org!

PRELUDE

"O God, My Faithful God" - *Kristina Rizzotto*

"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" - *arr. Mark Sedio*

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ENTRANCE HYMN

“You Servants of God”

1 You ser - vants of God, your mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
 2 Our God rules on high, al - might - y to save; and still he is
 3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
 4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and

broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
 nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
 loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
 pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with

Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
 tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
 an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
 an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

The Liturgy of The Word

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

□ Lord, have mercy. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

□ Christ, have mercy. ☩ Christ, have mer - cy.

□ Lord, have mer - cy. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

HYMN OF PRAISE *(Men verse I, Women verse II)*

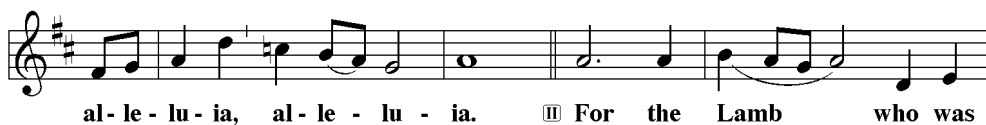
☩ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. □ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was

slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

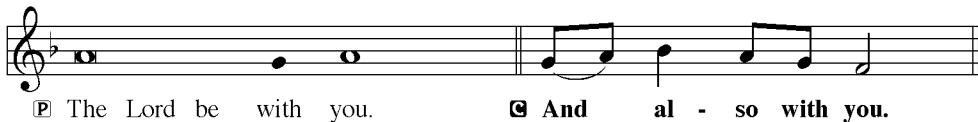
☩ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. □ Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and





PRAYER OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.

O Lord our God, your Son, Jesus spoke with authority, yet even religious leaders questioned Him. Give us faith to overcome our doubts and questions, keep us from those things which harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord

C Amen.

Please be seated.

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

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the LORD God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the LORD is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the LORD is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the LORD God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the LORD God; so turn, and live.”

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-10

Refrain

Re - mem - ber, O LORD, your com - pas - sion and love.

Psalm

Tone

- L ¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my ¹trust in you;
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph ¹over me.
- C ²**Let none who look to you be ¹put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed ¹in their schemes.**
- L ³Show me your ¹ways, O LORD,
and teach ¹me your paths.
- C ⁴**Lead me in your ¹truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all ¹the day long. Refrain**
- L ⁵Remember, O LORD, your compas- ¹sion and love,
for they are from ¹everlasting.
- C ⁶**Remember not the sins of my youth and ¹my transgressions;
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your good- ¹ness, O LORD.**
- L ⁷Gracious and upright ¹is the LORD;
therefore he teaches sinners ¹in his way.
- C ⁸**He guides the humble in ¹doing right
and teaches his way ¹to the lowly.**
- L ⁹All the paths of the LORD are ¹love and faithfulness
to those who keep his covenant and his ¹testimonies.
- C ¹⁰**For your name's ¹sake, O LORD,
forgive my sin, for ¹it is great. Refrain**

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-18

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of

death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

ALLELUIA VERSE (*John 6: 68*)



HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

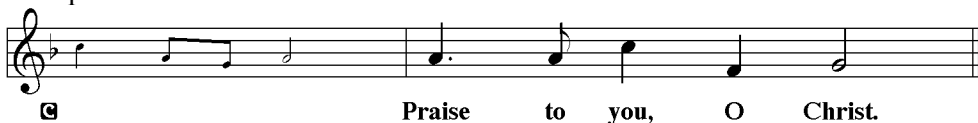
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.



²³When {Jesus} entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’” ²⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁸What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first

and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³²For 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 when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

P The Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

LITTLE LAMBS- At this time, Little Lambs Children's Ministry is available for children ages 3 through third grade at both services after the Gospel reading. The children leave the sanctuary with the teacher and enjoy an age appropriate Biblically oriented lesson and activity. They return during the offering to join us for Holy Communion.

SERMON: "Doing What the Father Asks!"

The Rev. David Wendel

After the sermon, a time of silence for reflection.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!

2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;

3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;

4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



APOSTLES' CREED

A We confess our Christian faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

A Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition:

A Lord, in your mercy;

C Hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Remember in our prayers... Jan Perry, Cynthia Bertelsen, Terry Riesen, Eddie Hardick, Jan Boughton, Lon Landis, David Doll, Don Melick, Tom Zawodny, Betty Milner, Rod Rice, Sue Ross, Mary Ross, and Jim Ross

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. (*Matthew 5: 22-24; John 20: 19*)

C And also with you.

*You may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace,
and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

Please be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE MEAL

MUSICAL OFFERING

8:15 "What Wondrous Love Is This" - arr. David N. Johnson **Linda Hoch - Organ**

11:00 "Jesus Is the Living Stone" - arr. Mary McDonald **Grace Singers Chancel Choir**

Please stand as the offering is brought forward.

THE OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

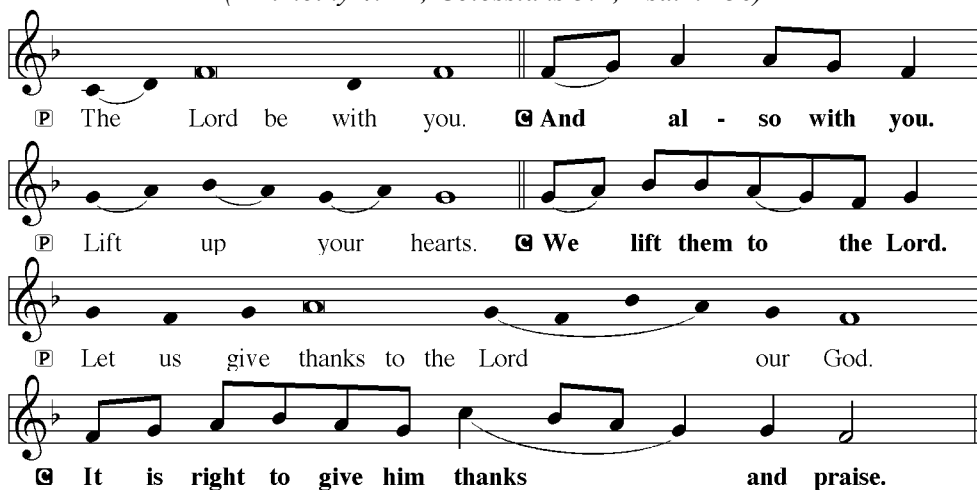
OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Blessed are you

C O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE LITURGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(2 Timothy 4: 22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136)



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

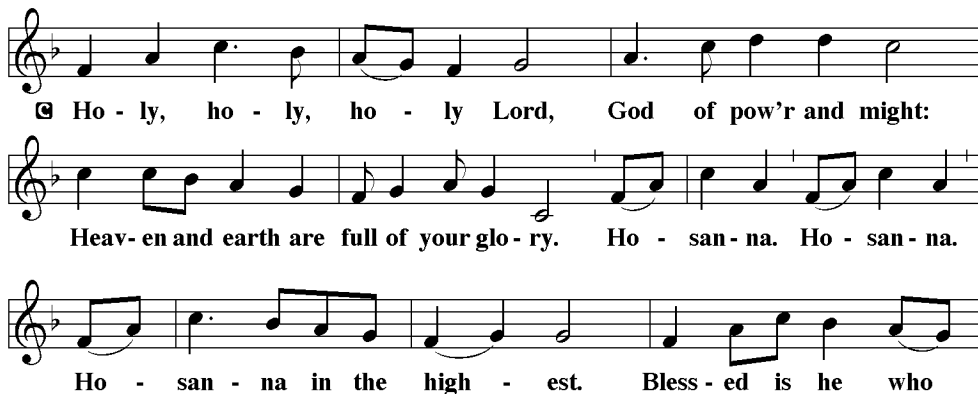
♩ Lift up your hearts. ♪ We lift them to the Lord.

♩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

♪ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary . . . *The Presider continues with the preface, concluding:...*we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS (Isaiah 6: 3; Matthew 21: 9)



♪ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving Passion and Death, his glorious Resurrection and Ascension, and his promise to come again, we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able; and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine; that we who share in the Body and Blood of your Son may be filled with heavenly peace and joy, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body, and have our portion with all your saints.

C All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6: 9-13)*

C 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.

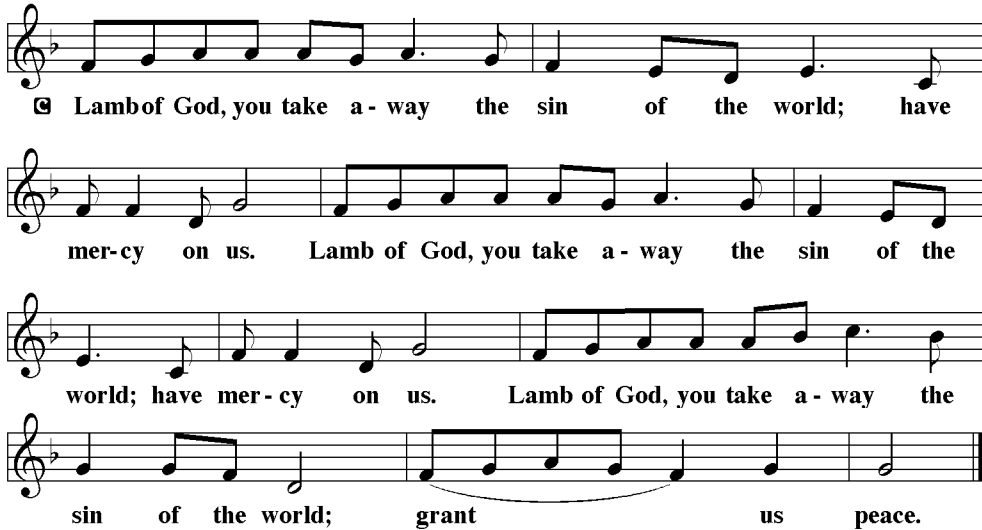
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD/THE FRACTION

A time of silence...

P Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. *(John 1:29)*

C Blessed are those who are invited to the supper of the Lamb! *(Revelation 19:9)*

LAMB OF GOD (*John 1: 29*)



Please be seated.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS



All who are baptized, have received the Lord's Supper and believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine that become our Lord's Body and Blood, are welcome to commune. Children or adults who do not commune are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing!

The Lord's sacramental Blood is available in individual glasses and common cup. As the communion assistants approach, simply indicate which you prefer by a nod of the head or pointing to individual cups or chalice. Grape juice is available in the center ring of each tray. Please place empty individual glasses in the basket provided to either side of the altar area. Gluten-free hosts are available for those who require them. Indicate your preference to the minister administering the hosts.

Private prayer before receiving Holy Communion:

O merciful Lord, I do not presume to come to your Table, trusting in my own righteousness, but in your many and great mercies. I am not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But

Private prayer after receiving Holy Communion:

COMMUNION MUSIC

Linda Hoch

"O Bread of Life from Heaven" - arr. G. Winston Cassler

After all have communed, please stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

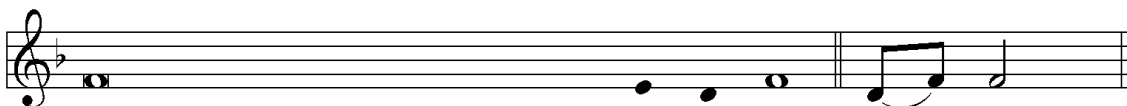
C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

THE BENEDICTION (*Numbers 6: 24-26*)



P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine on you

And be gracious to you.

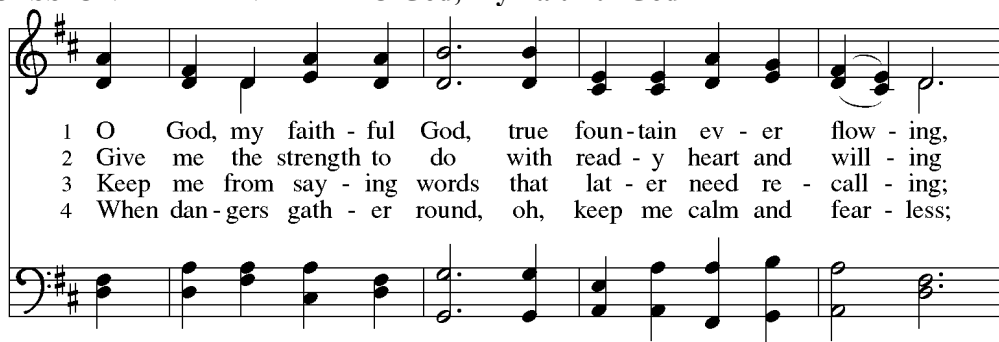
The Lord look upon you with favor and ... give you peace.

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

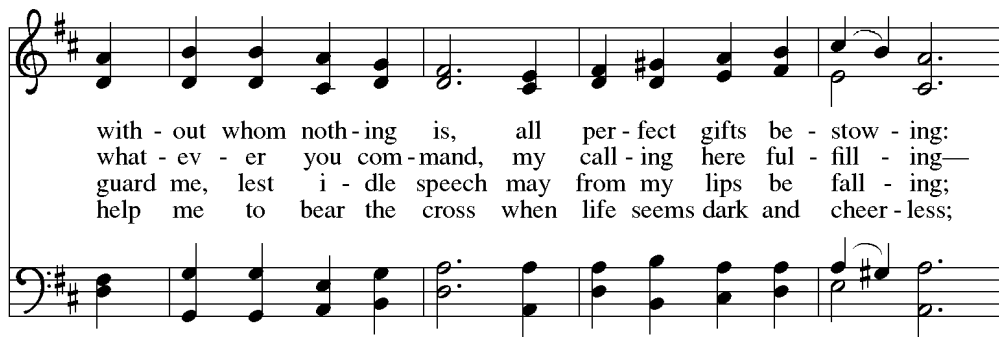
C A - men

RECESSIONAL HYMN

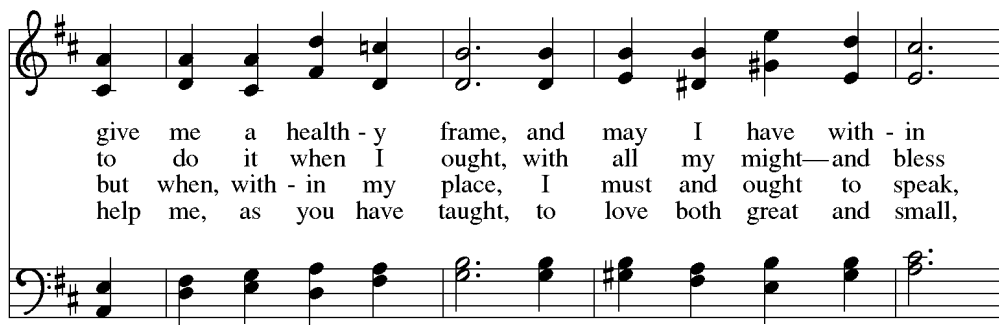
“O God, My Faithful God”



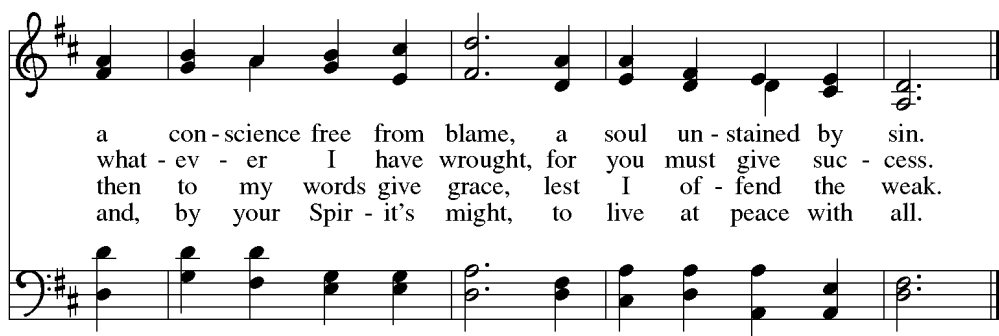
1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
 4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
 what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

THE RITE OF SENDING

Children Go in peace, serve the Lord!
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Linda Hoch

"You Servants of God" - arr. Robert Buckley Farlee

Offering: An offering plate will be placed by the baptismal font for offerings to be presented during the offering procession. Offerings may be placed in the plate before or after the service.

Flowers are given by...

*Joe and Shirley Moleno in celebration of our 57th Anniversary.
Marge Cepek and family in memory of Larry Cepek.*

WELCOME, GUESTS! We welcome you as our guest in our church home and invite you to continue to worship with us. We invite guests to take a welcome bag at the Welcome Desk to learn more about Grace and fill out a Welcome Form and place it in the offering or hand it to an usher to let us know you were worshipping with us today.



Simply Give — Easy, Fast & Secure



There are several convenient ways to support Grace's ministry:

- Online:** grace-evangelical-luther.subspla.sh/87gkvf2
- Through the Grace App:** <https://subsplash.com/grace-evangelical-luther/app>
- Scan the QR code:** Use the QR code above to quickly access Grace's online giving page on your mobile device.

You can make a **one-time or recurring gift** and choose where you would like your gift applied. If you're able, we encourage you to consider **recurring giving** as a simple way to support Grace throughout the year. **Thank you for your faithful generosity!**

Financial Update: If you would like a copy of the full monthly Treasurer's report as presented to Council, please reach out to the Treasurer, Jim Caldwell and it will be emailed to you.

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost, September 20: 8:15: 79; 11:00: 79; total: 158

MUSIC NOTES

“O God, My Faithful God” – arr. Kristina Rizzotto

Johann Heermann (1585-1647) wrote this hymn between 1623 and 1630 during the Thirty Years' War and his own personal troubles. It was published in his *Devoti Musica Cordis* (Breslau, 1630) in eight stanzas under the title “A Daily Prayer.” Like Psalm 90 it contrasts the ever-flowing fountain of God – without whom nothing is – with the speck of humanity who nonetheless confidently ask God to turn with compassion to us and prosper our handiwork.

“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” – arr. Mark Sedio

This hymn by Isaac Watts (1674-1748) is based on Psalm 119 and was included in his *Psalms of David Imitated* (1719). The tune EVAN was originally written by William Henry Havergal (1793-1870) as a setting for Robert Burns' poem “O Thou dread power, who reign'st above.”

“What Wondrous Love Is This” – arr. David N. Johnson

It is generally agreed that the author of the text is unknown, though *The Hesperian Harp* (1848) attributes the original words to Alexander Means, a Methodist preacher in Oxford, Georgia. It appeared in a number of 19th century hymnals, including *The Sacred Harp* (1844). Appearing in Billy Walker's *Southern Harmony* (1835), the tune WONDROUS LOVE has the characteristics of traditional Anglo-American folk melodies of Elizabethan tradition. George Pullen Jackson, in *The Story of the Sacred Harp, 1844-1944*, pointed out its resemblance to a tune used for 250 years with a song about the pirate, Captain Kidd.

“Jesus Is the Living Stone” – arr. Mary McDonald

The text for this anthem by Mary McDonald is adapted from 1 Peter 2:4-8: “Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.”

“O Bread of Life from Heaven” – arr. G. Winston Cassler

This hymn, probably by a 17th century German Jesuit, has been translated by at least six different poets, but all follow the basic two themes: Christ's body and blood as expressed in “O Bread” and “O Fount.” The last stanza expresses our thanks for these means of grace, and our hopes to behold Christ face to face at the last Great Supper.

“Arioso” – Charles Callahan

Charles Callahan (b. 1951), a native of Cambridge, Massachusetts, is a well-known award-winning composer, organist, choral conductor, pianist, and teacher. He is a graduate of the Curtis

Institute of Music, The Catholic University of America and has studied in England, France, Germany, and Belgium. Callahan is an active church musician and concert organist. He was most recently honored by the American Guild of Organists with its 2014 Distinguished Artist award, “for his illustrious career as composer, performer, teacher, and consultant, and his lifelong service to the sacred music profession.”

“You Servants of God” – arr. Robert Buckley Farlee

This hymn by Charles Wesley (1707-1788) was written in 1744, a year of great tension, confusion and unrest in England. The Wesleys and their Methodist followers were persecuted, because they were accused of trying to overthrow the throne. This hymn was No. 1 in a collection published that year and entitled *Hymns for Times of Trouble and Persecution*. The text is based on Psalm 93:1-4 (“The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength; indeed, the world is established, firm and secure. Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity. The seas have lifted up, LORD, the seas have lifted up their voice; the seas have lifted up their pounding waves. Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea— the LORD on high is mighty.”) and Revelation 7:11-12 (“All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”)

God Instructs Sinners in His Way

Find the 36 **bold** words from Psalm 25:1-8 (ESV).

C K L D U T P K V E U L T G U
T R A N S G R E S S I O N S M
E S I D O U G X K F E U P J H
A N A D U N O I T A V L A S H
C Y E F L R O R L R S E T X T
H A C M D O D C E G U C H L U
C Y W R I A N M W H U T S P O
B L O V E E E G D R C I H T Y
F L N L Q M S T T E W A Y S L
S S K M B N S S S F M W E U N
Y T B E S I N N E R S A V R O
S A R U X I E U P R I G H T T
A B A W S U H K P L Y R I S N
V F A J Z E L W U X E C T M A
I B N E L K A T O X L N C G W

To you, O **LORD**, I **lift up** my **soul**. O my **God**, in you I **trust**; let me not be put to **shame**; let not my **enemies exult** over me. Indeed, none who **wait** for you shall be put to shame; they shall be **ashamed** who are **wantonly treacherous**. Make me to **know** your **ways**, O **LORD**; **teach** me your **paths**. **Lead** me in your **truth** and teach me, for you are the God of my **salvation**; for you I wait all the **day long**. **Remember** your **mercy**, O **LORD**, and your **steadfast love**, for they have been from of **old**. Remember not the **sins** of my **youth** or my **transgressions**; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the **sake** of your **goodness**, O **LORD**! **Good** and **upright** is the **LORD**; therefore he **instructs sinners in the way**.

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Volunteer Opportunities at Grace

There are several meaningful ways to get involved and share God's love through service at Grace!

Altar Guild Leaders Needed: Our longtime and much-appreciated Altar Guild leader, Vanessa Stewart, is ready to step down, and we are looking for a person, persons, or perhaps two couples to serve as leader or co-leaders. The Altar Guild lovingly and prayerfully prepares our church and sanctuary for worship, helping create a place where the faithful gather to receive God's gifts of grace through Word and Sacrament. Current Altar Guild members or others looking for a new way



to become involved are encouraged to consider this opportunity. Training will be provided, with a goal of having new leadership in place by September. **Interested or have questions? Please speak with Vanessa Stewart or Pastor Wendel.**

Little Lambs Children's Ministry Volunteers Needed: Do you enjoy sharing God's love with children? Little Lambs is seeking caring volunteers to serve during the **11:00 AM worship service**. Children ages 3 through 3rd grade enjoy an age-appropriate Bible lesson during worship, and volunteers help make this ministry possible.



Little Lambs

If you have a heart for children and would like to serve, please contact the Amy Quinn or Susan Riches.

Sunday School Volunteers Needed: Help nurture the faith of our children and young people by supporting our Sunday School classes! We are especially looking for assistants to volunteers to assist with **grades 1–4 and 5–6**. Whether you can assist a teacher regularly or occasionally lend a hand, your involvement can make a meaningful difference. **Interested in supporting Sunday School? Please contact Cindy Odum or Denise Reynard.**



Serving Today

PREACHER/ OFFICIATING	The Rev. Dr. David Wendel
ORGANIST	Linda Hoch
SACRISTAN	Fred Pfanz
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Dr. Helen Kang
BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR	Maria Laderman
ASSISTING MINISTER	8:15 Fred Pfanz 11:00 Andrea Bush
COMMUNION	8:15 Bill Kulju, Donna Dettmann, Regina Place
ASSISTANTS	11:00 Cheryl Bush, Heather Bush, Nelson Grover
ACOLYTE	8:15 Leah Place 11:00 Hannah Laderman
CANTOR	Fred Pfanz
LECTOR	8:15 Lisa Kuhar 11:00 John Westenhaver
USHERS	8:15 Jim Caldwell, Paul Whitacre, Robert Ayers, Ted Ray 11:00 Bev Grubb, Mike Grubb, Tom Seamon
GREETERS	8:15 Ellen Paulus 11:00 Vicki Morrison
LITTLE LAMBS	8:15 Susan Riches 11:00 Amy Quinn
ALTAR GUILD	Team 1- Linda Seamon, Cheryl Bush, Andrea Bush, Jean Claflin, Dorothy Crain, Denise Reynard, Barb and Tom Moser, Ruth Osborn, Jaya Koppera
NURSERY ATTENDANTS	Kaitlyn F., Donna P.
SOUND TECHNICIANS	Chris Banks, Eric Bush, Dan George, Paul Grant, Brice Graves

Acknowledgements

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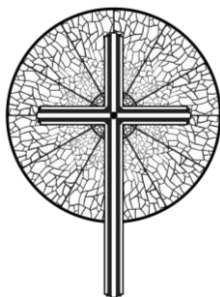
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm, Fri 9am-Noon

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church has been serving the Westerville community for more than 115 years, supporting local ministries such as the Westerville Area Resource Ministry, Westerville Partnership Habitat for Humanity, and Westerville CROP Walk. Grace also provides weekly meeting space for five AA groups.

Vision Statement: We envision Grace to be a welcoming Christ-centered community of faith, inviting all, growing in discipleship, sharing in ministries.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to reach out with the love of Jesus to grow disciples and serve our community.





This Week at Grace: Sept. 27- Oct. 4, 2026

Amazing God-- Amazing Grace-- Amazing Worship!

September 27			Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
			8:15 am Worship Service
			9:30 am CROP Hunger Walk Bake Sale
			9:40 am Sunday School and Confirmation (<i>OWL forms going home with 4-8 graders</i>)
			9:45 am Sunday Morning Adult Class (Fellowship Hall)
			11:00 am Worship Service
			3-5pm Grace Youth Group (GYG)
MON	1:00 pm	Euchre Group (Loaves and Fishes Café)	
	6:30-9pm	Youth Philharmonic of Central Ohio (YPCO) Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	
	6:30 pm	Monday Night Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	
TUES	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	
WED.	10:30 am	Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	
	6:15 pm	Grace Ringers Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	
	7:00 pm	Grace Singers Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rose Garden 2 & 3)	
	7:30 pm	Scioto Valley B&PC Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	
THURS	1:00 pm	Art and Environment (Loaves and Fishes Café)	
	6:30 pm	Dartball vs. Rome	
	7:30 pm	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	
FRI.	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	
SAT	9:00am-5pm	NALC Disaster Service Day @ Caldwell, Ohio	
	9:30 am	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	
	10-11:30am	Altar Guild Meeting (Loaves and Fishes Café)	
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	
October 4			Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost
			8:15 am Worship Service
			9:40 am Sunday School and Confirmation
			9:45 am Sunday Morning Adult Class (Fellowship Hall)
			11:00 am Worship Service
			12:30 pm Secret Sister Chili Cookoff (Fellowship Hall)
			1:00 pm Resource Fair: CROP Hunger Walk @ Scioto Audubon Metro
			2:00 pm CROP Hunger Walk @ Scioto Audubon Metro Park

Service Recording: The recorded 8:15am service will be available at www.grace43081.org around 11am.

Day / Date	Event
Saturday, October 14	OWL sign-up deadline
Sunday, October 18	Trunk or Treat — 2:00–4:00 PM; Set-up at 12:30 PM (Candy and Prize collection taking place now through Oct. 18)
Monday, October 19	Amazing Grace Youth Philharmonic of Central Ohio Concert
Sunday, October 25	Ministry Fair — Between Services
Sunday, October 25	Commitment / Pledge Sunday
Tuesday, November 3	Polling Location
Monday, November 9– Tuesday, November 10	Senior Trip to Frankenmuth, MI (Registration is full, full payment due Oct. 3))
Sunday, November 15	Annual Meeting — 12:30 PM
Tuesday, November 17	Blood Drive — Noon–6:00 PM
Monday, November 30	LifeLine Screening — 9:00 AM–3:00 PM
Wednesday, December 2	Midweek Advent Services Begin
Sunday, December 6	Secret Sister Cookie Decorating
Friday, December 11	Westerville Habitat Partnership Progressive Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 13	Youth Christmas Program
Sunday, December 13	Amazing Grace Scioto Valley Brass & Percussion Company Christmas Concert — 4:00 PM

October Greeters by Denise Reynard: I just wanted to let everyone know that in October our greeters will be our fearless council members. Please make sure you thank them for their hard work on your way into service.

Each Sunday we enjoy seeing flowers on the bema. It reminds us of the beauty of God's creation. The arrangement can honor an event, a loved one or give thanks and glory to God. To help cover the cost, we are asking for a minimum donation of \$40.00. The flowers are not the property of the donor, but will be enjoyed by all. With care they can last a week or more in the gathering space.

We encourage you to continue this tradition. You may sign up at the welcome center, on-line through our giving page, or call the office.



YOUTH, FAMILY, and EDUCATION

Growing in Faith • Growing in Community

We're excited to support families and help children and youth grow in faith!

SUNDAY MORNING & WORSHIP- Available at both worship services.

NURSERY CARE- *Infants – Age 6 :*

Enjoy worship, Adult Learning, or fellowship in the Loaves & Fishes Café while your little ones are lovingly cared for. Pagers are available for parents if needed.

BUSY BAGS- Keep little hands engaged during worship with age-appropriate books and activities. Located by the sanctuary entrance.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS- Activity-based bulletins that follow the weekly readings. Available at the usher's table.

LITTLE LAMBS- *Ages 3 – 3rd Grade:* Children leave worship after the Gospel reading for a fun, age-appropriate Bible lesson and return during the offering for Holy Communion.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: September through Memorial Day Weekend

Preschool – High School

Sundays • 9:40–10:30 AM

Adult Morning Class

Sundays • 9:45–10:45 AM

GRACE YOUTH GROUP (GYG)

A NEW FOCUS ON OUR YOUTH: We are refocusing our efforts and energy on the youth of our congregation by forming the **Grace Youth Group (GYG)!**

UPCOMING GYG MEETINGS:



- **Sunday, September 27- 3-5pm (Activity: Miguel)**
- **Sunday, October 4- no meeting (participating in CROP Walk)**
- **Sunday, October 11- 3-5pm (Activity and Snack: Hannah)**
- **Sunday, October 18- no meeting (assisting with Trunk or Treat)**
- **Sunday, October 25- 3-5pm (Activity: Gabe, Snack: Pastor David)**

YOUTH LED • ADULT SUPPORTED: The GYG is being shaped as “**youth led, adult supported,**” encouraging our youth to grow as disciples of Jesus, leaders, and servants.

OUR VISION FOR GYG: “*Our ministry with youth will connect young people with Jesus, His Church and each other, encouraging Christian leadership, discipleship and service in our church and community.*”

YOUTH, FAMILY & EDUCATION TEAM: *The team will support the Grace Youth Group while overseeing and nurturing our entire congregational family in Christ through Christ-centered, Bible-based teaching, growth as disciples, and service in church and community.*

GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is committed to helping children, youth, and families grow in faith, leadership, service, and community.

BIBLE STUDIES & FAITH FORMATION

*Grow deeper in understanding and fellowship through
study, discussion, and prayer.*

- **SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS-** The adult class is each Sunday at 9:45 in the fellowship hall and is facilitated by Bill Kulju. Our first study is titled “NOOMA” - The word NOOMA is a phonetic spelling of the Greek word pneuma, which means wind or spirit. This study is a series of short Christian films featuring author and speaker Rob Bell. Each short video blends everyday life events with teachings about God, Jesus, and our faith. This series is designed to start discussions rather than provide all the answers.
- **Grace Sisterhood’s** next meeting is **October 12 at 7pm at The Hoover Bar and Kitchen.** We will continue meeting the 2nd Monday of each month (so mark your calendars so you can join in the fellowship). We are studying, “Women and Identity” by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun & Tracey D Bianchi. All younger/working women of the congregation (and friends!) are invited and welcome! Contact: Melissa Hodek
- **Katharine Circle will meet on Monday, October 5 at 1 p.m. at church.** Please join us as we begin a new study on Ephesians. Contact Dorothy Crain at 614-264-5304 with questions.
- **Men of Grace Bible Study, Saturday October 17th, 8 AM.** We are studying the Gospel of Mark, as our lectionary will begin using Mark’s writing as our gospel lessons beginning Advent 1, November 29th. All men of the church (and friends) are invited to join in this monthly study! Contact: Pr. David Wendel
- **Monday Evening Bible Study on First Corinthians:** Adult study of the Corinthians correspondence began Monday, Sept. 14th, 6:30 and will continue for eight weeks. If you haven't been able to attend, but would like to participate, studies are posted on Pastor David Wendel's YouTube and Facebook pages, usually Tuesday mornings.
- **Ruth Circle will next meet at 1pm Monday, October 12.** Please contact Joanne Figge with any questions.
- **Wednesday, Women's Bible study meets at 10:30 am.** If you are interested see Pr. David Wendel or email at d.wendel@grace43081.org.

CHRISTIAN GROWTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vision Statement: To nurture Youth and Family in Christ through Bible based teaching, music, activities and community outreach.

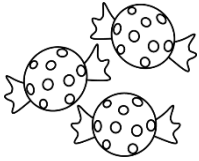


Grace Ringers Bell Choir: Meets Wednesdays at 6:15pm. Contact Maria Laderman.

Grace Singers Chancel Choir: Meets Wednesdays at 7pm. contact Helen Kang.

Joyful Voices Youth Choir rehearsal schedule: contact Helen Kang.

Trunk or Treat Volunteers and Candy/Prize Collection: Help make our Merry, Not Scary



Trunk or Treat a fun afternoon for local families! We need 15 cars, families, groups, or organizations to decorate their trunks and pass out candy on Sunday, October 18. Decorating begins at 12:30 PM, with Trunk or Treat from 2–4 PM. Choose a fun, kid-friendly theme and get creative! Sign up at the Welcome Desk or <https://grace-evangelical-luther.subspla.sh/svn72sg>. Questions? Contact

Abby Reynolds or Sarah Odum. A bin is located in the Gathering Space and East Narthex to collect candy and prizes to handout at the Trunk or Treat event.



Kids & Families: Trunk or Treat! Attention kids and youth! Bring your friends, neighbors, and classmates to Grace for our Merry, Not Scary Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 18, from 2–4 PM! Wear your favorite costume and travel from decorated trunk to decorated trunk for games, activities, and treats. It's a fun, family-friendly alternative to going door-to-door—or just another chance to wear that costume one more time! Everyone is welcome! Please sign up at the Welcome Desk or <https://grace-evangelical-luther.subspla.sh/dxpzkb6> so we know how many trick-or-treaters to expect.

Youth and Family is resuming the O.W.L. Ministry (Older, Wiser, Lutherans)



OWL program. Grace's OWLs encourage the children in grades 4-8th in our congregation. The children need support and encouragement with everything that is going on in the world and the pressures of school in this day and age. The OWL's responsibility is to pray for their child and give them a card or small gift on the cart each month. The children do not know who their OWL is for the school year. At the end of the school year we have a Reveal Party where they find out who their OWL is and have lunch together. There is also a small craft to work on together. If you have any questions let Amy Quinn, a.quinn@grace43081.org know. Forms are due Oct. 14.

Would you like to help our youth know we are thinking of them and praying for them?

HOSPITALITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Loaves and Fishes café is OPEN! Please stop in between services for a drink and a snack! There is a sign-up sheet in the café if you are interested in helping. Please call Donna & Chuck Dettman and Ruth Osborn with any questions or concerns.

Care Team Ministry-By Donna Dettmann--Mission Statement: To be faithful servants of Christ, called to minister to the sick, homebound and to those in grief. Linking them with the larger community of Grace through Word and Sacrament, and Prayer.



- If you would like to have communion brought to you once or twice a month because you can't attend church services,
- For one communion ahead of a surgery or any other special Need, or
- If you would like to receive anointing along with communion.

The Care Team is trained to visit the sick, homebound and those in grief.

To connect with a Care Team member to bring communion and anointing oil to you, please call:

- Sarah Odum at the Grace office – 614-882-3026 ext. 1
- Peggy Jones at – 614-354-6884
- Donna Dettmann at – 703-447-7760



Dartball Season - from Captain Chris Banks. The season runs through early March of 2027. All games are on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to around 9:00. For away games, we meet at the church at 6:30 and carpool to churches in Pickerington, Grove City, Obetz, and Reynoldsburg to name a few. Here is the schedule for the next 4 weeks:

- Oct 1 vs Rome
- Oct. 8 vs Epiphany
- Oct. 15 vs Bethel
- Oct. 22 vs Grace

All October matches will be home. We look forward to another successful and fun filled season and we always welcome new players. If you have any questions, please reach out to Chris Banks - cbanks5@gmail.com/614-203-8429.

OUTREACH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE the DATE for SERVICE

- Mid-October to Mid-November - WARM Thanksgiving food collection
- December 5 - WARM neighborhood food drive: 9am-Noon
- December 11 - Westerville Habitat Partnership Progressive Christmas Concert: 7- 9:15pm
- January 17 (MLK weekend Sunday) - Soup 4 Shelter at Westerville Rec Center: 1-4pm

FIRST FRUITS SUNDAYS Let all that you do be done in love". (1 Corinthians 16:14)

September Most Needed list: Canned Meats: Chicken, Salmon, Tuna; Canned Pasta; Cereal; Condiments; Dish Soap; Paper Towels; Pasta Sauce-Alfredo; Salad Dressing; Shampoo/Conditioner; and Toilet Paper.

We cannot accept food that has reached its expiration date. Any fresh produce, baked goods and dairy products take directly to Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM). Make Checks Payable to: Grace Lutheran Church, memo notation for WARM. Blessings to all who are making this a part of your regular tithes and offerings.



The NALC Disaster Response service trip has been **rescheduled for Saturday, October 3**. Volunteers will help build a shed, load a 26-foot box truck, fill flood buckets and disaster relief kits, and unpack and sort supplies. Other churches will also be joining in this important work. **Interested in participating? Please let Ellen Paulus know or register at <https://grace-evangelical-luther.subspla.sh/cvy79c8>**. Thank you for putting your faith into action and helping bring practical help and hope to others!



What does the Bible say about Intercessory Prayer? From Donna Dettmann



The Bible gives us instructions about intercessory prayer. When we humans pray an intercessory prayer, we do the best we know how. Here's what happens next:

- The Holy Spirit takes our intercessory prayers and presents them to the Father: "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (Romans 8:26).
- James 5:16 tells us that those who pray an intercessory prayer must do so with a certain attitude and depth of spirituality.

Make your prayer request at back of the church - "Let Us Pray For You"

-table. You will find prayer request forms and pens or use any scrap of paper you have, place your request in the Prayer Chest (your name is optional). Prayer requests can also be sent through the Grace website: <https://subsplash.com/u/-KJ4PQ7/forms/d/05aee550-f949-48db-a87c-d651dc398e69> or scanning the QR code above.

Let the IPT join you in asking God for your prayer need.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: Our next Red Cross Blood Drive is Tuesday, November 17

from noon-6pm in the Gathering Space. Appointments appreciated and walk-ins after 1pm are accepted! You can schedule an appointment by contacting the Red Cross at RedCrossBlood.org and use our sponsor code: GraceLuthWesterville or call 1-800-Red Cross. Questions? Vanessa Stewart



CROP HUNGER WALK TEAM IS FORMING!

Join Team Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church for the 2026 CROP Hunger Walk and help fight hunger and poverty in Central Ohio and around the world! Grace's Mission Reserve will MATCH Team Grace's CROP fundraising up to \$1,000! This Mission Reserve matching gift,



approved by Council and requested by Social Concerns, means your donation can go even further.

Sunday, October 4-- Scioto Audubon Metro Park

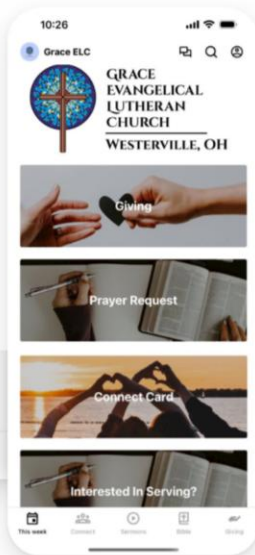
- Impact Fair & Registration: 1:00 PM
- Walk Send-Off: 2:00 PM
- Routes: ¾ mile–3.5 miles

75% of funds raised support Church World Service's global hunger-relief efforts, while 25% stays local to support organizations including WARM, Mid-Ohio Food Collective, NSI Food Pantry, Westland Ecumenical Community Food Pantry, and Worthington Resource Pantry.

Sign up or donate to Team Grace:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/grace-ev-lutheran-church-3>

Every step and every dollar makes a difference! Let's end hunger and poverty one step at a time!



10:26
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- Read the Bible
- Sign up for events
- Make a secure gift