

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 6, 2026
9:30 a.m. Worship

"... do not
despise
one of these
little ones.
For ... in heaven
their angels
always see
the face
of my Father."

MATTHEW 18:10, ESV



"Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ"

Grace Lutheran Church

111 Lutheran Drive, P.O. Box 86, Eaton, Ohio 45320

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Email: GraceEaton111@gmail.com

Website: www.gracelutheranofeaton.com

Pastor Dwight Hanson

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Please take a moment this morning to fill out the “Attendance & Communion” Registration Cards on the table with bulletins and offering box, then place them in the Offering Box.

P - Presiding Minister

A - Assisting minister

C - Congregation

* - PLEASE STAND

+ + +

PRELUDE: *Hymn Meditation on “I am thine” (arr. Parks)*

***WORDS OF WELCOME**

***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:

C **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.
Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(Kneeling or sitting; silence for self-reflection and 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.

C **Amen**

***SHARING OF GOD’S PEACE:**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

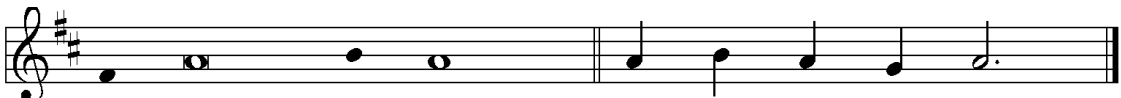
(We share the peace)

***GATHERING HYMN: “In Christ There is No East or West” (LBW 359)**

***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.**



□ The Lord be with you.

▣ And al - so with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P Let us pray: God of grace, through your Son you have reconciled the creation to yourself. Still, we continue to find ways to divide and destroy the unity you intend for us. Preserve your church that, assured of Christ’s presence among us, we may exemplify the peace and reconciliation that can only come from you;

C **through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 33:7-9

A A reading from Ezekiel:

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his

way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 32:1-8

A ¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

C ²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

A ³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

C ⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

A ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

C ⁶**I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

A ⁷Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

C ⁸**You are my hiding place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:1-10

A A reading from Romans:

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer.

⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for

the sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

A The Word of the Lord.

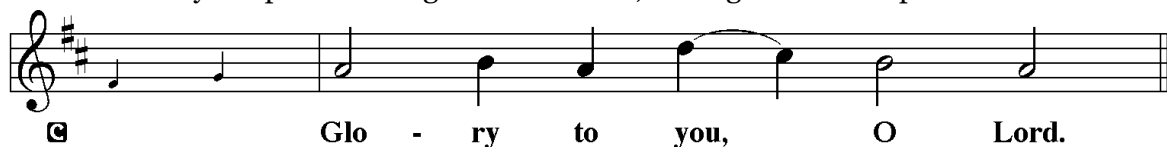
C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**



***GOSPEL: Matthew 18:1-20**

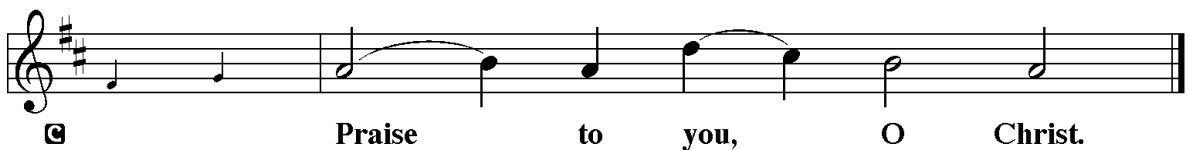
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Eighteenth Chapter.



¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one

by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON: Pastor Dwight Hanson — Authority Issues

***HYMN OF THE DAY: “*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*” (LBW 370)**

***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.

PRAYERS:

- A** Let us pray: Heavenly Father, we offer our prayers in the name of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. He, alone, can unite the flock. Inspire us to be good stewards of the holy fellowship that has been provided. Grant us diligence to watch over the little ones with extra care, as our hearts go out to the most vulnerable among us. Fill us with the kindness of Christ. And teach us to love our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- A** Lord, as we pray for the whole Christian Church, we pray for Matthew 18 to guide the way, for healthy congregations, where Jesus is honored by faithful and direct communication. Guide your whole Church to be a place of clarity and peace within a troubled world. In this way, inspire a congregational focus that is truly blessed. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- A** As we pray, Lord, for the concerns of the world, the task seems overwhelming. Help us to know that is it not overwhelming to you. Grant us the peace that surpasses understanding. And all around the globe, watch over those who suffer from natural disasters, or from war and turmoil. We also pray for all governing officials. Inspire them to fulfill

Romans 13 by honoring the offices of authority entrusted to them, that good order would be preserved, and that the people would be blessed. We also lift up those who seek the honorable mission of serving and protecting. Grant them courage and integrity. Watch over them and their families. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

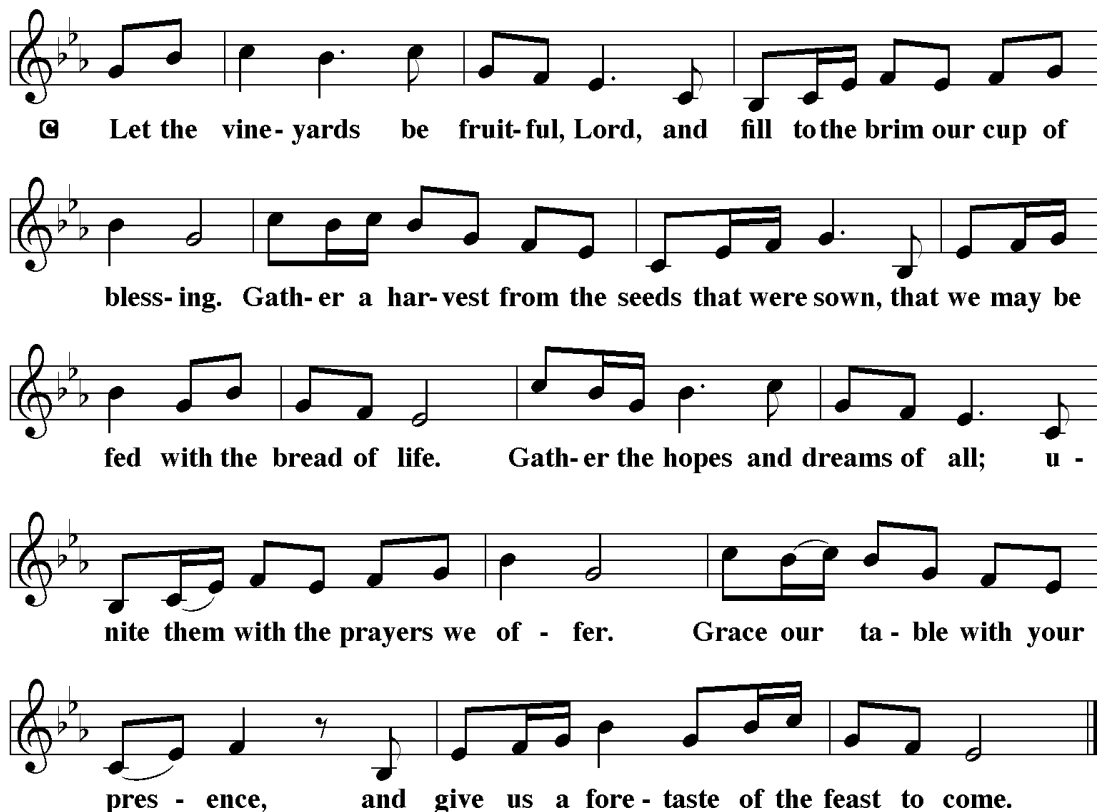
A We entrust to your care the following: *Jim Courtney, Tiffany Daugherty, Becky Haws, Amy & Bryan & Aprill Jackson, Richard Lehman, Mary Nossaman, Karen Schaeff, Iva-Laura Sherry, Mike & Barb Studebaker, Wayne Williams*, and others whom we name in our hearts at this time (pause for silent prayer). Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,

C Trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY: *Prelude on “This Is My Father’s World” (arr. Parks)*

***OFFERTORY: (LBW PG. 86) “Let the Vineyards”**

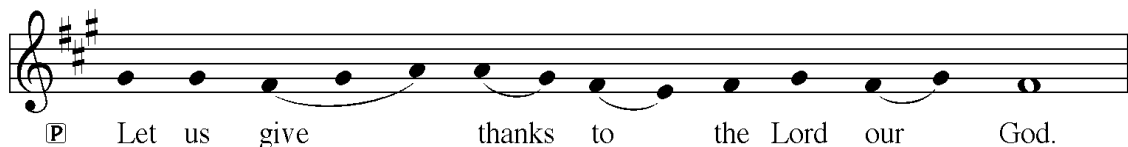
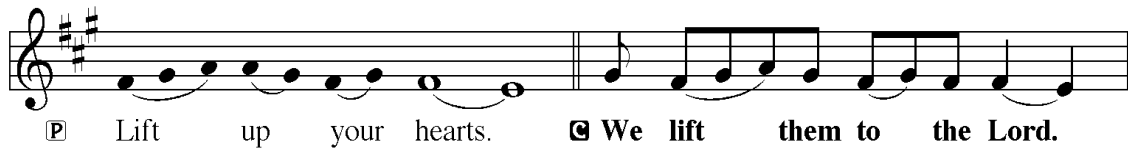


Let the vine- yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless- ing. Gath- er a har- vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath- er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence,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

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,
C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given
us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your
gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered
himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:



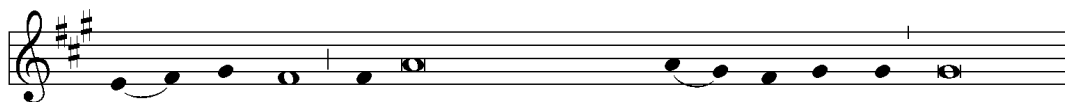
*THE PROPER PREFACE



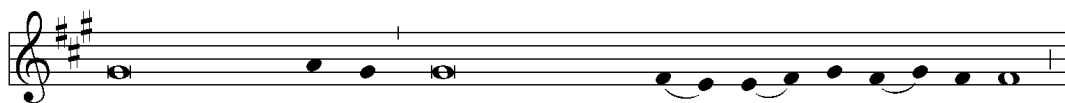
P It is indeed right and sal - u - tar - y that we should at all times and in all



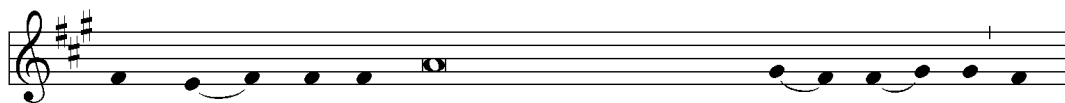
places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, ho - ly Fa - ther, through



Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his



glorious resur - rec - tion opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.

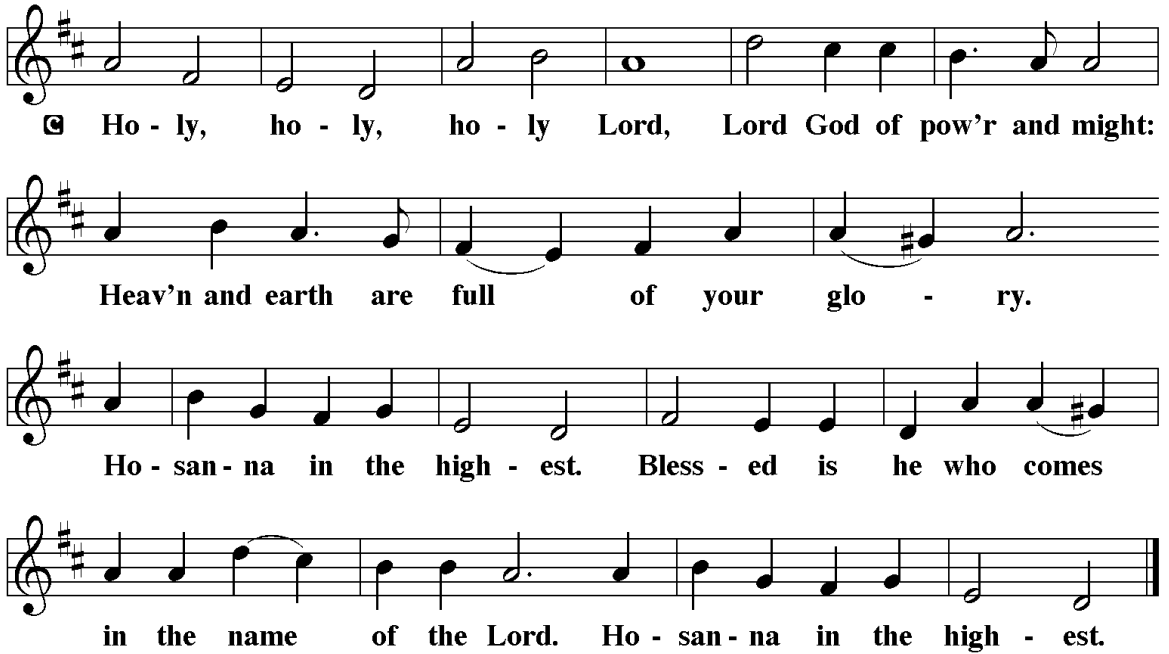


And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heav - en, we



praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

***SANCTUS:**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

P 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.

***LORD'S PRAYER:**

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION AND BLESSING OF CHILDREN

In Holy Communion our Lord Jesus graciously invites those who have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to receive His sacred and real presence for the forgiveness of sins.

In addition to wine, grape juice is also offered.

Children who do not yet receive Communion may receive a blessing.

Holy communion will be received kneeling or standing at the rail.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

“Lamb of God”



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

“Softly and Tenderly” (WOV 734)

“Jesus Loves Me” (ELW 595)

1 Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain

***Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.***

2 Jesus loves me! he who died
heaven's gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in. ***Refrain***

3 Jesus loves me! he will stay
close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high. ***Refrain***

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.

“Jesu, Jesu Fill Us With Your Love” (WOV 765)

***THE BLESSING:**

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

C **Amen**

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:**

P Let us pray. 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 first system of the musical score is written on a single five-line staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody begins with a half note on G4, followed by a whole rest. This is followed by a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on B4, and a quarter note on C5. A double bar line separates this from the second measure, which contains a quarter note on B4 and a quarter note on A4. The system ends with a final double bar line.



**The 2026-2027 Sunday School year gets underway on: Sunday
September 13, 2026 with *RALLY SUNDAY!***

We'll have worship at 9:30 a.m.
Followed by Rally Day activities and a **family picnic sponsored by the Elders**
(menu: Fried Chicken & Homemade Ice Cream. Those attending are
asked
to bring side dishes).
So that we can order the right amount of chicken, etc., please sign up
in the Narthex.



September 20th is the FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL.

**Regular Sunday School begins on
September 20th.** Classes begin after worship,

starting around 10:30 a.m., and are held
in the Education wing. We begin with live music and go
to an adjacent Classroom for our lesson after that.

Parents or grandparents are always welcome to sit in on classes.
Friends or drop-ins are welcome too!



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Guild for September: Elaine Fudge
Offering Counter for September: Patty Barnes

Sunday, September 6—Pentecost 15

9:30 a.m.

Greeter: David & Wanda Winter
Usher: Clayton Kiracofe
Lector: Carol Perry
Communion: Jane Coggin, Nancy Childs
Acolyte: Sophia Steiner

Sunday, September 13 – Pentecost 16—Rally Sunday

9:30 a.m.

Greeter: Tom & Patty Barnes
Usher: Gary Pemberton
Lector: Patty Barnes
Acolyte: Jessa Barnes

Sunday, September 20—Pentecost 17

9:30 a.m.

Greeter: Jeff & Lisa Kiracofe
Usher: Jeff Kiracofe
Lector: Tiffany Ingram
Communion: Janice Barnes, Barb Myers
Acolyte: Sophia Steiner

Attendance & Stewardship — (\$4,187 needed wkly)

08/30/2026	52	\$2,025.00
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Great Commission Outreach Partners:

World Mission Prayer League—Chris & Emily and family, Lutheran Military Veterans and Families, Abundant Grace, West Chester

Grace Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund: The purpose of this fund is to extend the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church, apart from the general operation of the congregation. To learn more about our Mission Endowment Fund, please contact the church office and we'll give your question to the appropriate person.

IN OUR PRAYERS

After 4 weeks we will remove names from this list. If you would like to keep someone on the list, please note their name on the back of the “Attendance & Communion Registration” form.

URGENT PRAYER LIST:

HEALING: (In Alphabetical Order)

Jim Courtney: (A young father battling Stage 4 melanoma)

Tiffany Daugherty: (As she undergoes testing)

Becky Haws: (Friend of Janet Burkett—Prayers for healing)

Amy & Bryan Jackson: (for comfort and healing)

Linda Lambert: (She fell and hurt her back)

Richard Lehman: (Rehabbing at RIO (Rehabilitation Institute of Ohio) in Dayton)

Mary Nossaman: (Barb Myers’ sister – in the hospital with intestinal issues)

Karen Schaeff: (Recovering from surgery to repair broken clavicle)

Iva-Laura Sherry: (Dealing with Issues)

Mike & Barb Studebaker: (Mike: dealing with health issues; Barb: recovering from surgery for leg fracture).

Wayne Williams: (Nephew of Karen Schaeff & cousin of Adam – he is beginning radiation therapy for cancer)

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: Charlie, Tracy, Jim Carlisle, Claude Dixon, Dave O’Shea, George & Barb Suggs, Mark & Jary Tannehill, Jackie Steiner, Connie Martin, Maggie Risko, Rhonda Paige Atkinson, Amy & Bryan Jackson, Andy Proeschel, Judy Newkirk, Mike & Judy Schamel, Suzan Pauley, Carmen Hasdorff, Tom Schamel, Amanda & Shayla Dell, Fran Kester, Teddi & Mike Watkins, Jenifer Combs, Doug Davis, Pastor Dean & Sandy Haferman, Dave Brumbaugh, Scot Emig, Barbara Worley, Carolyn MacFadyen, Judy Jay, Will Suggs, Earl House, Barbara Lakes, Becky Hoskins, Kayli Johnson, Joe McHenry, Tom Barnes: and those serving in the military: Maj. Love Hartman; Brad Newkirk; Lt. Col. Kyle Hundley, Travis Deck & family

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY:

Fellowship & Education

Following Worship—Refreshments for all are served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship on Sundays.

- **Youth Sunday School classes** meet @ **10:30 a.m.** — Classes will resume the Sunday after RALLY DAY (9/13) in the Sunday School music room (Education wing) and start with songs and prayer, then go to the adjacent classroom for our lesson. Bring a friend! Parents are always welcome.
- **Adult Education**— Following 9:30 a.m. worship, the adults meet to discuss the lessons of the day unless there is a theme. Coffee and snacks provided.
- **Every other Sunday— Sunday S'mores @ 6:00 p.m.** —**They will resume on Sunday, 9/13 at 6:00 p.m.** A Middle School & High School-aged Youth Sunday Evening Ministry. Friends are welcome. Tina Ebright is the moderator, and she can be reached at 937-472-5663.

Adult Bible Studies (during the week)

- **The 2nd Monday of each Month — 6:30 p.m.—The Phoebe Women's Bible Study.** In September they will resume the study — **Discerning the Voice of God** by Priscilla Shirer. Contact Kelly Mt. Castle (937-336-1223 or kelly.mtcastle@gmail.com).
- **The 2nd Tues. of each month — 5:30 p.m. — FOR MOMS . . .** They are doing a study called **Boundaries** .
- **The Wednesday Morning Prayer & Bible Study — 9:00 a.m.** — meets in the Meeting Room adjacent to the Fellowship Hall. They are studying the **New Testament Gospel of Matthew.**
- **The 3rd Thursday of each month — 2:00-4:00 p.m. — “Graceful Fiber Guild”** — **meets** in the Fellowship Hall or the adjacent meeting room. Bring a craft you've been working on or just come to learn a new craft. Everyone is welcome to join us! Our next meeting is ***Thurs., September 17th.***

These studies are open to any member and our friends. No prior Bible study background is needed. Please bring your Bible.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Grace Lutheran Sunday School Fall Schedule

Mark your calendars now! Friends or drop-ins welcome!

Fall Sunday School Special Events for kids:

September 13:	* Rally Sunday
September 20:	** Regular classes begin
October 18:	Pumpkin Patch Festival
November 8:	Thankful Breakfast/Pageant Practice
November 29:	No Sunday School (Thanksgiving weekend)

Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

Youth Sunday School every Sunday (10:30-11:15 a.m.)

Questions? Call the church office (937) 456-6258

***Rally Day is 9/13 with food and activities for all ages.**

****Regular Sunday School begins on 9/20. Classes are after worship, starting around 10:30 a.m., and are held in the Education wing. We begin with live music and go to an adjacent classroom for our lesson after that. Parents or grandparents are always welcome to sit in on classes. Friends or drop-ins are welcome too!**