

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 17, 2023
Worship with Holy Communion
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



"Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ"

Grace Lutheran Church

111 Lutheran Drive, P.O. Box 86

Eaton, Ohio 45320

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Pastor: Dwight Hanson

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

In Holy Communion our Lord Jesus graciously invites those who have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to repent of all that separates us from God, and 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 come for a blessing.

Holy Communion will be offered as you kneel at the chancel rail.

Please take a moment to fill out the “Attendance & Communion” Registration Cards (located in the pew racks). Pass your card to the end of your pew.

P - Presiding Minister

A - Assisting minister

C - Congregation

* - PLEASE STAND

PLEASE USE HYMNALS AS WE SING THE HYMNS:

GREEN—LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship

BLUE—WOV = With One Voice

+ + +

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR 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.

Please kneel or sit as you are able.

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.**

***GATHERING HYMN:**

“Praise to the Lord the Almighty” (LBW 543)

***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.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P Let us pray: Steadfast God, your mercy is everlasting and your forgiveness boundless. As we gather together and receive your Word of forgiveness in the gospel proclaimed and the meal shared, renew us in the gift of baptism that we may be signs of reconciliation for the world;

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

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 50:15-21

A A reading from Genesis:

¹⁵When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.” ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷‘Say to Joseph, “Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.” And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.’” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell

down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103:1-12

A ¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

C **²Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

A ³He forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;

C **⁴He redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and lovingkindness;**

A ⁵He satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagle’s.

C **⁶The LORD executes righteousness and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

A ⁷He made his ways known to Moses and his works to the children of Israel.

C **⁸The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.**

A ⁹He will not always accuse us, nor will he keep his anger forever.

C **¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

A ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

C **¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us.**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 14:1-12

A A reading from Romans:

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.

²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables.

³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands

or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL VERSE:** *"Alleluia"*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

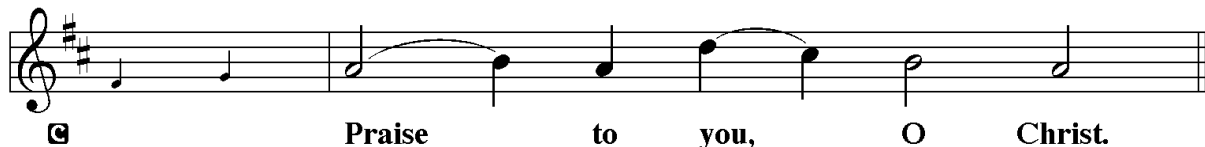
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter:

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came up and said to {Jesus}, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began

to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON: Pastor Dwight Hanson: Houston, we have a solution

Children's message: (Show picture of my own family.) These people are very important to me. But if I'm thanking God for life's blessing, is this picture enough? Who gave me my family? Who called me to look beyond just my own, to the church and the community? We need to have a bigger picture for this whole thing to make sense. Is your picture of life big enough? Sunday School started today. You are part of God's family. You get to learn about the Bible, stories of God's truth and love, ancestors in the faith, with all that they went through, and all that they celebrated. It's wonderful. Let's pray...

Houston, we have a solution

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Two major points leap off the pages of Scripture this morning:

- 1) There's a kind of "*debt*" that all of us owe, and it doesn't have to do with money. Recognizing the truth of our own situation helps to clarify where we stand in relation to others.
- 2) Recognition that there's a tremendous source of *forgiveness* for that "debt" brings a level of gratitude that goes beyond mere clarification, on into the realms of transformation.

Seeing everything in the light of the mighty acts of God, understanding the heart and will that's behind those mighty acts, simply brings us to a better place in life. Because of God, we can rise above the troubles that press in so closely, clouding our thoughts. It's like the breath of the Holy Spirit just blows the dark, heavy, choking smog away, allowing us to experience a full breath, light and warmth again. We are here today because all this is possible, by grace.

Understanding the truth of the heavenly perspective, why would we settle for allowing ourselves to be defined by petty squabbles, or even more serious rifts and vendettas, or dare we even imagine a place beyond outright injustice, like what happened to Joseph in Genesis at the hands of his own brothers? We may not be able to help the fact that some of the hard parts of life have surely *affected* us. But God is asking us today about what really *defines* us.

God, through Scripture, lifts us beyond our own perspective, so that we can see what He's actively doing to redeem us and this fallen world. The tricky part involves getting such truth firmly into our hearts and minds.

The biblical context for today's deep realizations takes place amid the honest difficulties associated with human community. Our greatest blessings come because God made us to be relational. In our fallenness, that's also where the greatest challenges reside. As the tempter surely knows, sin curves us in upon

ourselves, only ourselves. Christ calls us to a deep healing, allowing for life together, common worship and mission, voices raised in harmony, gifts used in complementary ways. It's just that sin always lingers near, and what's good can quickly become a burden. So says God's Word for today.

First lesson: Look at Joseph and his brothers. This is real life intensity, radiating across the centuries from the everlasting Word. The theme is universal: human corruption cries out for God's transformation.

Second lesson: It was the time of the early New Testament Church, with a letter written to the congregation in Rome. Yet, even in the time after the Messiah had arrived and the Holy Spirit had been outpoured, St. Paul had to address the difficulty of real people being together. The Spirit was there, but so, too, was the flesh, hanging around until it is completely washed away with the Kingdom's final wave. So, they were not to "*quarrel*" over matters that only rose to the level of opinion, in other words, matters about which faithful, thoughtful people might legitimately disagree (Rom. 14:1). The implication is that there are matters of higher importance. These must be taken seriously. Just don't treat every cloud like it's a tornado. Faithfulness knows how to make essential distinctions when they appear. And that needs to be our goal. "*For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God*" (Romans 14:10c). The temptation was to grouch over small stuff, even as lost sheep wandered off into a world of lies, thieves and wolves. What was the New Testament Church up to if not the work of God?

Even so, right in the Gospel for today we find Peter groping around for the absolute furthest limit of human tolerance. Someone was really getting under his skin. "*As many as seven times*" (Mt. 18:21)? Maybe you can relate.

With all of this said, perhaps there's someone out there who thinks human nature has advanced since Bible times. At the turn of the century, heading into the year 1900, the buzzword on everyone's lips was "progress." With a little scientific understanding and mathematical precision, what can't we accomplish? Give us hard data, scientifically gathered, about the human predicament. Well, I've got some, straight from NASA. And this time when they tell Houston that *they've got a problem*, it's of the human variety.

As you know, space travel has been NASA's mission for a long time. But what must be overcome for this goal to be realized at even further distances? Back in 1990, there was an experiment called Biosphere II. A glass-enclosed dome was erected in the Arizona desert. Eight people signed up to live in it for a significant

amount of time. Even the air, as I understand it, was recycled. I know, it's hard to believe, but everything did not go well. Many plant species died. And by the time the people came stumbling out, several of them weren't even talking to each other.

Fast forward to 2017. Six people would live in isolation together for eight months. (Sounds to me like winter in northern Minnesota.) Anyway, this time NASA built a small, artificial habitat on a Hawaiian volcano. What could possibly go wrong? The goal was to have it look and feel like Mars, for that seems to be their goal. Some of the brightest minds on earth think it's possible, mathematically and scientifically. But there's one obstacle that may be too difficult to overcome. Hm, I wonder what that might be? The 2017 study was centered on getting a better grip on the "psychological impact," the human factor.

Sensors were implanted in the spacesuits the people wore, gathering data about how they were functioning socially and psychologically. They could detect avoidance behavior, and the opposite, when subjects were a little too close, arguing. Stress levels were measured according to their vital signs. Computer programs were loaded with virtual reality "escapes," to see how much this would help. *Hello goggles, take me away to a relaxing place.* The people had to keep daily logs of how they felt. The scientific question was how to handle "inevitable conflict" for the attainment of the overall goal. Sound familiar? I can almost hear my kindergarten teacher encouraging us children to hold hands as we walked across the street to the playground.

NASA's latest experiment just ended in July of this year. Shockingly, they're no longer camping out on a volcano. Instead, they built a tiny, enclosed, high-tech environment in a controlled atmosphere in Houston. It's called HERA—Human Exploration Research Analog—and it simulates a trip to the Martian moon "Phobos." Yes, the word translates into "fear" in English, as in scary. Not sure what to make of that. Anyway, this experiment focused on how crew members would handle "increasing communication delays." If someone wasn't telling them what to do each minute, could they handle it? What if the absence of ground control meant that they had to exercise self-control? It's all quite fascinating (Dec. 21, 2022, "NASA Selects Final Crew for Campaign 6 of Simulated Trip to Mars Moon"; NASA.org. And "NASA Space Psychology Subjects Ending 8 Months of Isolation"; thestream.org, 2017).

To sum up perhaps the greatest obstacle to one of science's greatest achievements, all we need is a mirror. Of course, as we return to our primary objective in church, our Lord's goal for us is to help us right here on earth. In real life, the means of dealing with the more challenging aspects of the human

condition comes through God's Word and actual community, where we are humbled, grounded in honesty about our "debt," and grateful for the gift of forgiveness, which is more precious than anything else in the created universe.

So far, we've had to emphasize the problem, because human nature can deceive itself. But with the problem clearly identified, we can close out the message by pointing to the God-centered power that overcomes even the world.

Remember Joseph and his brothers. Talk about an uncomfortable family reunion! Yet, because one person finally caught sight of the vision of what Almighty God was doing in his life, the entire situation was transformed. And it wasn't that he had to paper over his brothers' intentions. He knew what they were about. It's just that he was even more aware of God's intention. This became his greater focus. Why spend all of one's time gawking at the ugliness of existence, when there's beauty and wonder to behold? As for the brothers, perhaps in their experience of grace they caught a glimpse of something beyond their own manipulations. One can only hope. All because a single person acknowledged the active presence of God.

Everything turned on faith. And this would be true for St. Paul in the second lesson, as well as with Peter, standing before the Lord Jesus in today's Gospel. Which means we're back to the same points with which we began today, awareness of the "debt" we all owe, and openness to the transformation that only forgiveness can provide.

By the way, how much *do* we owe God? Can you pay for the sense of peace that comes with the beauty of a sunset? Can you put a number on the long-awaited hug from a loved one after a difficult time away? What's the monetary worth of a congregation of forgiven sinners singing the praises of God's unshakable faithfulness? We cannot pay back what God has given to us. Yet given it he has.

If my math is correct, the first debtor in Matthew 18 owed the King so much money that if he was a regular laborer, it would have taken 150,000 years. That's some overtime! Unpayable. The King cleared it away, not because the debt wasn't real, but because someone else paid it, in perfect love for the imperfect. Your debt was included. Stare at that fact for a while, and it will begin to transform how you see everything, including those around you. Then genuine Christian mission can be done, together. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***HYMN OF THE DAY: “Great is Thy Faithfulness” (WOV 771)**

***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 OF THE CHURCH:

**A Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
continually lift our eyes above our struggles, enough to understand that you
have an overarching plan. Give us the perspective that only comes from your
Word and your will. Lord, in your mercy,**

C Hear our prayer.

**A As we pray for the needs of the Church, we thank you for this very
congregation. The readings for today taught us that a church of real people
needs to understand forgiveness in order to thrive. Help us to do this, always.
Draw our hearts together for the Kingdom of Heaven. Give us the grace of a
fresh new day when we need it. And may your blessings go out the door and
into our homes and community. If anyone needs to ask forgiveness, give them
the courage to do so. And if you are calling someone to forgive, give them the
grace to do so. Lord, in your mercy,**

C Hear our prayer.

A As we pray for the needs of the world, we ask your guiding hand to lead all who bear earthly authority. Inspire them with faithfulness, wisdom, humility and courage. We pray for the war-torn and weary, as well as people recovering from disasters. Grant them the strength they need, and good neighbors to help. Watch over all who serve with honor in harm's way, and their families. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for those in need of healing: *The family of James Kennedy at his passing, Connie Coffman, Rob Dell, Tom Farish, Jeff & Laura, Larry & Ruth Hardin, Cherlynn Kautz, Ken, Don Lambert, Linda Lambert, Tim Lanthrop, Suzan Pauley, Brian Schamel, Judy Schamel, Karen Schultz*, and others whom we name in our hearts (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

ANTHEM: ***“Come Find Forgiveness and Love” (Choir)***

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE: "Let the Vineyards" (LBW pg. 86)**



C Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. 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.


P 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: (PG. 88)**


P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.


P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.


P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.


C It is right to give him thanks and praise.



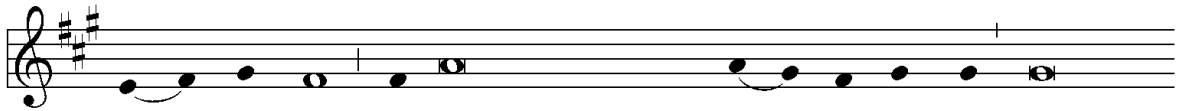
***THE PROPER PREFACE:**



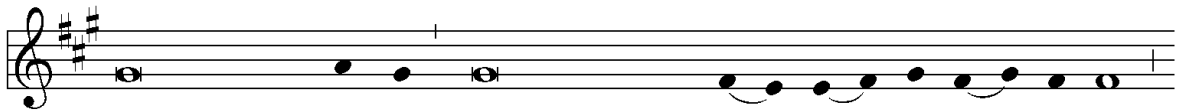
It is indeed right and sal - u - tar - y that we should at all times and in all



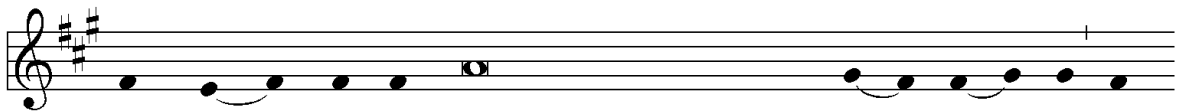
places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, ho - ly Fa - ther, through



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:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY:**



C 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.

***HOLY COMMUNION:**

***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

COMMUNION HYMNS: *“Lamb of God”*



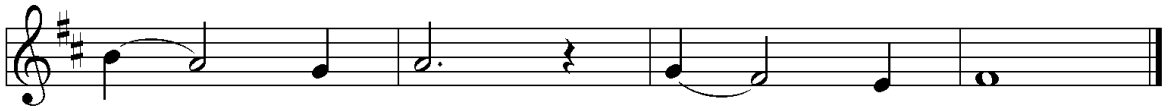
C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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.

“Take My Life” (LBW 406)

“For the Bread Which You Have Broken” (LBW 200)

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

C Amen

***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:**



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



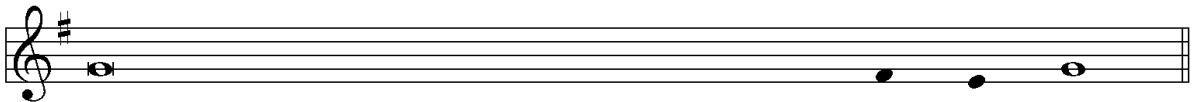
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:**

P 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 BLESSING:**



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.



C A - men

***SENDING HYMN:** *“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus” (LBW 389)*

***DISMISSAL:**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPDATE!

Women’s Retreat

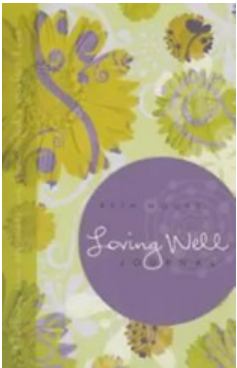
“Loving Well”

October 13-14, 2023

Registration deadline is EXTENDED TO October 1st!
Register in the narthex or online at
www.gracelutheranofeaton.com

Join us for an inspiring, thought-provoking time of
food, fellowship, and fun
as we explore what it means to ‘love well’.

Discover how to love not only those who are easy or maybe
even a little difficult to love, but those who drive you up a
wall! And don’t forget those whom we may never meet –
they, too, need the love of Christ shown to them.



OPEN HOUSE INVITATION

Electro-Cap International is celebrating 35 years in
business and they are hosting a Community Open House.
Nelson Hardin, owner of Electro-Cap invites the congregation of
Grace to attend.

The Open House is
Wednesday, October 4, 2023
2:00 –6:00 p.m.
at 1011 West Lexington Road

If you would like to attend, please **RSVP** by email to
dweaver@electro-cap.com or by phone 937-456-6099

Grace Lutheran Church

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www.gracelutheranofeaton.com ~ ~ Like us on Facebook

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday -Friday: 10—1, 2—5

TODAY **September 17, 2023—Pentecost 16**
8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion (Sanctuary)
9:30 a.m. Adult Education (Meeting Room)
10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

Monday **September 18**
Pastor's Day Off
6:30 p.m. Men's Disciple Group (Schamel's)
6:30 p.m. Retreat Planning Meeting

Tuesday **September 19— Homeless Shelter Meal—Barbara Myers**
3:00 p.m. TOPS (Catechism Room)
6:00 p.m. Men's Disciple Group (GLC)
6:30 p.m. Grief Support Group

Wednesday **September 20**
9:00 a.m. Bible Study (FH)
6:30 p.m. Choir (Sanctuary)

Thursday **September 21**
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting (Shelter)

Friday **September 22— BULLETIN PRODUCTION DAY**

Saturday **September 23—Fall Begins**

Opportunities for Prayer and Bible Study:

Sunday Adult Education

Classes are held after worship on most Sundays.

We continue to study *Galatians*, celebrating the freedom we have in Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Something so good will be challenged in this fallen world. St. Paul faced it head on. And Martin Luther cherished Paul's letter. Our study guide includes quotes from Luther's famous 1535 lectures on the topic. Join the study at any point—freely.

*“For if the doctrine of justification is lost,
the whole of Christian doctrine is lost”*
(pg. 9, Luther's Works; Vol. 26).

Adult Bible Studies (during the week)

- ◆ **The Phoebe Women's Small Group Bible Study.** They meet at 7:00 p.m. on the **2nd Monday of each month**. Contact Kelly Mt. Castle (937-336-1223 or email: Kelly.mtcastle@gmail.com).
- ◆ On the **Second and the Fourth Tuesdays of the Month, Wine & the Word** and the **NEW Bible Study “Lakeside Fellowship”** (at the home of Karen & Dan Schultz—in Lakengren).

Wine & The Word meets at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Carol Perry. If you would like to join a study of *Hebrews*, please contact Carol at 937-456-6683 or cbperry122@embarqmail.com

Lakeside Fellowship (at the Lakengren home of Dan & Karen Schultz) begins at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to join this group, please contact Karen/Dan Schultz at 419-890-7965 or dkschultz52@yahoo.com.

- ◆ **The Wednesday Morning Prayer & Bible Study meets at 9:00 a.m.** in the Meeting Room off of the Fellowship Hall. They are currently studying the Book of *Isaiah*. Contact: Judy Hacker (937-456-6823).

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



Regular Sunday School for kids Pre-K to 6th grade starts on September 17 and goes from 9:30 AM – 10:15 AM every Sunday.

We meet in the “Music Room” of the Education Wing for Bible camp songs/hymns with guitar, and continue from there to the classroom. Snacks are provided.

All kids are welcome; friends and drop-ins are invited too! Parents (or grandparents) may feel free to sit in on any classes or help with special events.”

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

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

Sunday, September 17—Pentecost 16
RETURN TO INSIDE & 2 SERVICES

	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Greeter:	Bryan Jackson	Dean & Mary Shetter
Usher:	Bryan Jackson	John Kiracofe
Lector:	Amy Jackson	Mary Shetter
Communion:	Amy Jackson Elaine Fudge	Dorothy Stoltz Debbie McKinney

Sunday, September 24—Pentecost 17

	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Greeter:	Rex Mt. Castle	Marti Good-Ernst
Usher:	Rex Mt. Castle	Jeff Kiracofe
Lector:	Nancy Childs	Debbie McKinney

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

9/10/2023 9:30 a. 62 \$4,490.50 Rally Sunday

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:

GRIEVING:

The family & friends of James Kennedy who passed away this week.

HEALING: (In Alphabetical Order)

Connie Coffman: (As she deals with COVID)

Rob Dell: (Prayers for foot infection)

Tom Farish: (Veronica Forney's Grand-father)

Jeff & Laura: (Renee Kerr's boss and her husband whose cancer has returned)

Larry & Ruth Hardin: (Larry has returned home)

Cherlynn Kautz: (As she recovers from knee surgery)

Ken: (Friend of Grace)

Don Lambert: (Brother-in-law of Linda Lambert)

Linda Lambert: (As she goes through testing)

Tim Lanthrop: (Friend of Mt. Castle's)

Suzan Pauley: (Dear friend of Nancy Childs; Suzan has been diagnosed with lung cancer)

Brian Schamel: (Brother of Mike Schamel; diagnosed with stage 4 cancer)

Judy Schamel: (Prayers as she deals with Parkinson's disease)

Karen Schultz: (As she deals with COVID)

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST ... Sharon Tipton, Debbie Creamer, Ruth Meyer, Mary Jane Seim, Martha Grimme, Tom Schamel, Amanda & Shayla Dell, Susan Root, Fran Kester, Teddi Watkins, Ruth & Larry Hardin, Jenifer Combs, Jean Bailey, Doug Davis, Pastor Dean & Sandy Haferman, Dave Brumbaugh, Scot Emig, Barbara Worley, Carolyn MacFadyen, Travis Howard, Judy Jay, Will Suggs, Earl House, Barbara Lakes, Becky Hoskins, Kayli Johnson, Joe McHenry, Tom Barnes: and those serving in the military: Capt. Love Hartman; Capt. John Ketteman; SPC Brandon Mann; Brad Newkirk; 1st Lt. Nicholas Webb, Lt. Col. Kyle Hundley, Brandon Leonard.

**NALC DISASTER RESPONSE
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE TRAINING
(TO SIGN UP FOR THIS TRAINING PICK UP A REGISTRATION FORM
ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX.)**

NALC Disaster Response Task Force is providing disaster preparedness training at Level One Basic and Level Two Specialized. These educational workshops will provide training to volunteers in each participating congregation, preparing each to form disaster volunteer teams. Each Mission District assists in the formation of teams and the preparedness training. Recognized credentials will be provided.

Disaster Volunteer training includes components on:

Level One (unskilled disaster response for debris removal and basic information on FEMA regulations)

Level Two (specialized trainings) including:

✦ **Case Management/Coordinated Assistance Network – how to identify and track client needs and the assistance they receive – BECOME A VOLUNTEER CASE MANAGER!**

✦ **Donations Management/Aid Matrix – how to coordinate and organize donated materials –**

✦ **Volunteer Management/Disaster Response Database – how to identify the skills of each volunteer and address risk management issues – FORM A DISASTER VOLUNTEER TEAM & HELP REBUILD HOMES!**

✦ **Spiritual and Emotional Care – how to identify and document qualified volunteers to provide spiritual care – PROVIDE SPIRITUAL CARE TO THOSE HURTING AND IN NEED!**

Spiritual Christian Care – Provide an appropriate level of emotional, spiritual and physical care both to those affected by the disaster and to team members.

✦ **Congregational Facility Preparedness – prepare congregations before disaster strikes – WRITE A DISASTER PLAN FOR CHURCH FACILITIES!**

Family Preparedness – prepare families before disaster strikes, construct family preparedness kits – GREAT SUNDAY SCHOOL PROJECT!

For more information, please contact any member of the NALC Disaster Task Force or Mary Bates, Disaster Coordinator/Trainer at 740-509-1132 or disasterresponse@thenalc.org

TO SIGN UP FOR THIS TRAINING PICK UP A REGISTRATION FORM ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX.