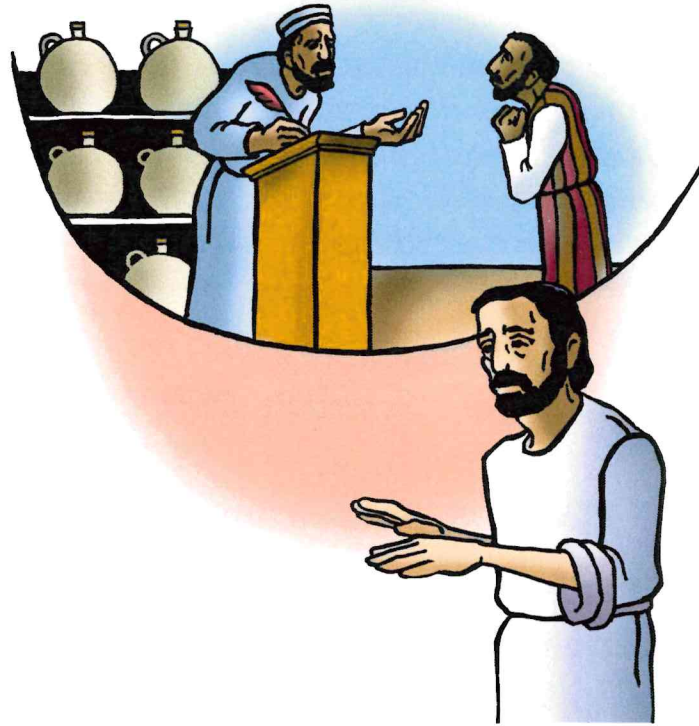


September 21, 2025 15th Sunday After Pentecost



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

Church Office: 609-927-3082 **Food Pantry:** 609-927-9982

Website: www.GraceLutheranSPNJ.org

E-mail: office@GraceLutheranSPNJ.org

Interim Pastor ✝ Wendolyn Trozzo, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

We welcome you to worship here at Grace!

*Note that all text written in **bold** is for congregation participation.
Our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship
red hymnal found in the pews.*

GATHERING

Thank you for joining us as we worship our Lord together!

INTRODUCTION

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

WELCOME

Rev. Jeffrey Eaton

PRELUDE

2 Variations on “Schmücke Dick, O Liebe Seele”

by Johann Gottfried Walther

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive 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 and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN*God Is Here*

ELW #526

GREETING

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

KYRIE

ELW page 203

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW page 204

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Take a brief moment to share the peace by greeting someone sitting near you. Verbal greetings are appropriate if you are not comfortable shaking hands or touching.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,

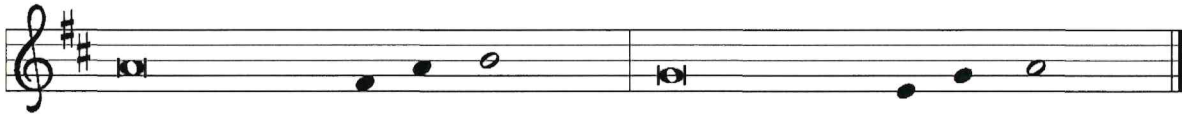
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶ buying the poor for silver

and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

- ⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 113



- ¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants | of the LORD;
praise the name | of the LORD.
- ² **Let the name of the | LORD be blessed,**
from this time forth for- | evermore.
- ³ From the rising of the sun to its | going down
let the name of the | LORD be praised.
- ⁴ **The LORD is high a- | bove all nations;**
God's glory a- | bove the heavens.
- ⁵ Who is like the | LORD our God,
who sits en- | throned on high,
- ⁶ **but stoops | to behold**
the heavens | and the earth?
- ⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out | of the dust
and lifts up the poor | from the ashes,
- ⁸ **enthroning them | with the rulers,**
with the rulers | of the people.
- ⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a | childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all
— this was attested at the right time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 16th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

What’s in a Name?

Rev. Jeffrey Eaton

Please stand as you are able.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* by Bradley Ellingboe

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;

There's a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n.

There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement giv'n.

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *Create in Me a Clean Heart* **WOV #732**

OFFERING PRAYER

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need. *Brief silence.*

At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "God of grace," please respond with "receive our prayer."

P: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW page 207

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Together, we pray as our Lord taught us, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

ELW page 208

COMMUNION HYMNS

Now We Join In Celebration

ELW #462

I Come With Joy

ELW #482

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We will have continuous communion in front of the steps today. EVERYONE IS INVITED to come down the center aisle at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats via the side aisle. There is white grape juice in

the center of the circular tray and red wine in the outer part of the tray. If you are unable to come up to the front, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children or those who have not received a first communion are welcome to come for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

The Church of Christ in Every Age

ELW #729

Verses 1, 3, 5 ALL, Verse 2 MEN, Verse 4 WOMEN

*Please be seated. Enjoy the postlude music.
and meditate on how God spoke to your heart today.*

POSTLUDE

Dove of Peace

by David M. Cherwien

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God.

*We are glad for your presence today.
We hope you come again soon!*

*Special thank you to Pastor Jeffrey Eaton for leading
us in worship today!*

We thank all those serving in worship today:

Worship Assistant: Meg Markkanen



The flowers sponsor this week is: Kathy Wopatek-Nigsch, in loving memory of her mom, Kay Wopatek, on her birthday.

The candles sponsor this week is: Kathy Ruffenach, in loving memory of her precious mother, Ruth Rumble, on the 25th anniversary of her passing, from the Ruffenach, Rumble and Kellenberger families.

**Please plan to join us for a
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
to discuss finances and stewardship.
Sunday, October 5 at 11:00 AM**

This meeting will follow a shortened worship service. Coffee and tea will be available. Consider bringing a dessert to share.

**Lutheran Social Ministries Workshop:
Navigating Senior Living**

Sunday, October 12 at noon here at Grace. Lunch will be provided. This workshop discusses different types of care communities. Walk away with 5 key items to look for when choosing a retirement or healthcare community.

Please RSVP so we have a headcount for lunch.

OKTOBERFEST
Friday, October 17, 2025
Grace Lutheran Church
5:00-7:00 PM

*Tickets may be purchased online
 through this QR code or in person by
 calling the church office at
 609-927-3082*



Tickets are also on sale in the narthex on Sundays.

Children under 12 are \$15 per child, and those tickets must be purchased at the church until further notice.

The Oktoberfest committee is in need of volunteers to make German Potato Salad and Apple Strudel for the event. If you are able to help, please sign up in the narthex, take a recipe and container, and note on the sign-up sheet how many batches you will be making.



Christmas At Sea

The Annual Christmas at Sea Donation Drive for the Seaman's Institute will take place during the month of October, and your donations are very much needed and appreciated! Please pick up a list of items needed in the narthex.

Feed The Northeast

The food pantry will be collecting non perishable food items for our Feed the Northeast Food Drive during the month of October. If we collect 500 food items, Thrivent will contribute \$500 to our food pantry, which will help provide food for families in need, especially during the holidays!

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

September 21, 2025-September 28, 2025

15th Sunday of Pentecost 9/21/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
10:15AM Traditional Worship

MONDAY 9/22/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
6:30PM Heather Croft HOA
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 9/23/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 9/24/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
6:00PM AA Book Study
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 9/25/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
2:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
6:00 AA 12-Step
7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 9/26/25

10:30AM Grace Stitchers
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 9/27/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

16th Sunday of Pentecost 9/28/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum
10:15AM Traditional Worship
**Fellowship sponsored by Chris Dennis
& Xavier, along with photo sharing of
their trip to Europe!**

SHORE DINER

Present this bulletin on a Sunday
and Shore Diner will donate 20% to Grace
Lutheran Church. Present this on
any other day, and we will donate 10%.

Shore Diner
6710 Tilton Road
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
609-641-3669

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

This week:

Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00

Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00