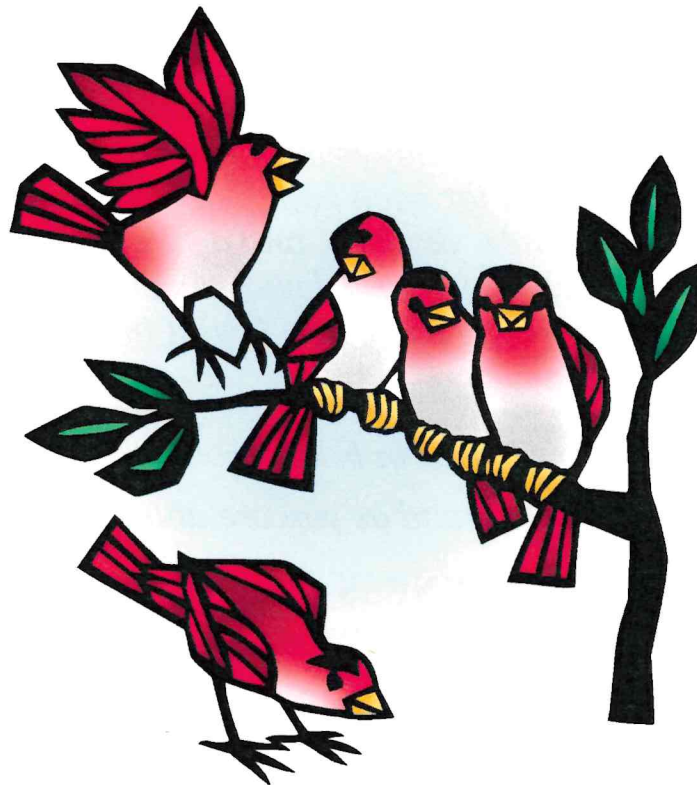


June 21, 2026

Pentecost 4



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

Reverend † Elizabeth Frey, 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.
Most of our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship
red hymnal found in the pews.*

S=service music in the front part of the hymnal.

GATHERING

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

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

WELCOME

Rev. Elizabeth Frey

PRELUDE

Aria in F Major

by Handel

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity,+ one God, whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Let the Whole Creation Cry

ELW #876

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 S138

HYMN OF PRAISE*This is the Feast*

ELW S140

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR*Please be seated.***FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-13**

Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.

⁷ O LORD, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;

you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.

⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out;
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"

For the word of the LORD has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹ If I say, "I will not mention him
or speak any more in his name,"

then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;

I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

¹⁰ For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!"

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"

All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.

“Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him
and take our revenge on him.”

¹¹ But the LORD is with me like a terrifying warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.

They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.

¹² O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous;
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³ Sing to the LORD;
praise the LORD!

For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

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

PSALM 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18 *(Read responsively)*

⁷ Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,
and shame has covered my face.

⁸ **I have become a stranger to my own kindred,
an alien to my mother’s children.**

⁹ Zeal for your house has eaten me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

¹⁰ **I humbled myself with fasting,
but that was turned to my reproach.**

¹¹ I put on sackcloth also,
and became a byword among them.

¹² **Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,
and the drunkards make songs about me.**

¹³ But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O LORD:

“In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.

¹⁴ **Save me from the mire; do not let me sink;
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.**

¹⁵ Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up;

do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.

¹⁶ **Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;
in your great compassion, turn to me.**

¹⁷ Hide not your face from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

¹⁸ **Draw near to me and redeem me;
because of my enemies deliver me.**

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-8

We are no longer God's enemies but have peace with God because we were brought into a right relationship with God through Christ's death.

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 10th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:24-39

Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴ “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Elizabeth Frey

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God, My Faithful God

ELW #806

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

Air (Water Music Suite)

by Handel

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Create in Me a Clean Heart O God* [WOV #732](#)

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world. *Brief silence.*

A: Life-giving God, you have called your people to lose their lives for Jesus' sake. Strengthen your church to follow you in the face of difficulty. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: Creator God, you know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds, endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for your creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Bring an end to oppression and bigotry in all forms. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering *especially all who are on our prayer list and all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: Empowering God, strengthen us to live out our diverse callings. We pray especially for fathers and father figures, that they show your compassion and care. We pray for all for whom this day is difficult or painful. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: Faithful God, we give thanks for saints who have claimed their baptismal promises. May we follow their example of faith and service. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW S144

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW S144

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to receive communion in front of the altar steps. Once you have received the wafer and the red wine/white grape juice, place your empty cup in the tray and return to your pew via the side aisles. If you do not wish to receive communion, or are worshipping with children who have not had First Communion, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing and cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, + one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *If You But Trust in God to Guide You* **ELW #769**

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

POSTLUDE

Psalm, XIX

by Marcello

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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

*Special thank you to H. Ray Hunsicker for providing
the music for our worship service!*

**We thank all those serving in worship today:
Worship Assistant: Kevin Thomas**



**The flowers sponsor this week is: Roberta Blumenthal, in
celebration of her daughter Sara's birthday!**

**Please be aware that the new cost for flower
donations is \$35.**

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers:

Members of Grace: Debbie K., Renee P. & sister, Bettie C., Bonnie C., Ruth K., Lois R., Barry L., Don B., John Sa., Family of Chris D., Bob K., Scott B, Donna M., Sally S., Jonelle, Joe M., Meg L., Family & Friends of Diana McArdle, Family & Friends of Lois Reardon, Pastor Wendolyn, Family & Friends of Margaret Groves and Dawn Wright, Johanna R., Eleanore Guire, Jim F., Clare B., Diane G., Family & Friends of Bob Klingensmith, Family & Friends of Bruce Hoelter

Our family and friends: Alex, Jeff, Skip, Donna, Tom, Rachel (Ruth T.), Ric, Cody, Logan, David (Ruth B.), Marilyn, Houston (June J.), Nadine, Todd, Drew, Catherine, Alisa (Corinne R.), Family & Friends of Carrie, Family & Friends of Sally (Ray H.), Linda, Dana (Edna C. & Patty D.), Bruce (Brenda T.), Jody M., Audrey M. (Mary Ann G.), Karen H. (Mary G.), Tyler, Megan (Carol G.), Barbara B., Hank (Vickie C.), Bridget K. & Patrick, George M., Ronald G., Rossanne and Ronald, Byonka (Renee P.), Abril, Kyle, Randy, the Garmin Family (Chris D.), Donna Bishop-Chaporino, Reverend Pat J. (Jim F.), Kyri (Meg L.), John M., Dan (Sue S.), Bowie Steelman (Linda S.), Joan W. (Mary Ellen F.), Pastor Althea Albright

Those serving our country: Matthew Bilello, ANG, Cainan Johnson, USAF, & Daniel Casner, 3rd USN, Liam Johnson, USN

Please notify the church office of any changes or additions to our prayer list.

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

June 21, 2026-June 27, 2026

4th Sunday of Pentecost 6/21/26

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

MONDAY 6/22/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
6:30PM Grief Support Group
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 6/23/26

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

WEDNESDAY 6/24/26

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

THURSDAY 6/25/26

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
5:30PM AA 12-Step

7:00PM Church Council Meeting

7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 6/26/26

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

SATURDAY 6/27/26

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

5th Sunday of Pentecost 6/28/26

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

Corinne is out of the office from June 15-26.

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