

October 11, 2026

Pentecost 20



Grace Lutheran Church

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

Church Office: 609-927-308 **Food Pantry:** 609-927-9982

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Email: office@gracelutehranspnj.org

Reverend † Elizabeth Frey, Pastor, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

*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!

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

WELCOME

Rev. Elizabeth Frey

PRELUDE *“Sinfonia” from J. S. Bach’s Cantata No. 29*
arr. by Homer Whitford

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through + Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *Now the Feast and Celebration* **ELW S#167**

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

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, 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.***CHILDREN'S SERMON****CHILDREN ARE DISMISSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL****WORD****FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9**

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

¹ O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

² For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;

the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
 you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
 the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained
clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

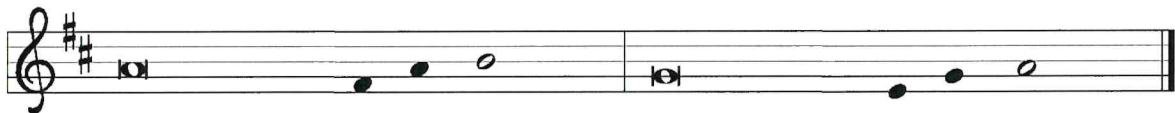
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the
earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
 “See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he
 might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

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

PSALM 23



¹ The LORD[|] is my shepherd;
I shall not[|] be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down[|] in green pastures
and leads me be-[|] side still waters.**

³ You restore my[|] soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways[|] for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
shall[|] fear no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they[|]
comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence[|] of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is[|] running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days[|] of
my life,**

and I will dwell in the house of the[|] LORD forever.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all

understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 22nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my

fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business,⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them.⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.’⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe,¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless.¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Bishop Christa Compton

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Now We Join in Celebration* **ELW #462**

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 *Rejoice in the Lord Always* by Henry Purcell
Soprano: Ruth Bowden, Tenor: Charles Bowden, Baritone: Andrew Ehrhardt

Please stand as you are able.

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

OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

Please be seated.

INSTALLATION OF REVEREND ELIZABETH FREY

Having been authorized by the church to install Reverend Elizabeth Frey, our co-worker in the gospel, as Pastor, I now ask for certification of this call.

A representative of the calling body addresses the presiding minister.

After prayerful deliberation, we, of Grace Lutheran Church, have called Reverend Elizabeth Frey to serve as a minister of word and sacrament in the position of Pastor. I present Reverend Elizabeth Frey and this letter certifying the call.

Address and Questions

The presiding minister addresses the minister of word and sacrament.

A reading from John: Jesus said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” (*John 20:21-23*)

A reading from Matthew: Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

A reading from First Timothy: Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Attend to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers. (*1 Timothy 4:12-16*)

The presiding minister addresses questions to the minister of word and sacrament.

Pastor Frey, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran Church?

Will you carry out this ministry in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Trusting in God's care, will you love, serve, and pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.
Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

People of God, will you receive Pastor Frey as a messenger of Jesus Christ sent to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation?

Will you regard Pastor Frey as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for Pastor Frey?

Will you help and honor Pastor Frey in carrying out this ministry? In all things, will you strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

The presiding minister addresses the minister of word and sacrament.

Pastor Frey, the office of Pastor is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Blessing

The newly installed pastor may kneel as the presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

The pastor stands.

The presiding minister escorts the pastor to the place of baptism.

A representative of the congregation says:

You have been called to be among us to baptize, to teach, and to forgive sins.

They proceed to the place of the word. A representative of the congregation says:

You have been called to be among us to proclaim the good news.

They proceed to the place of the meal. A representative of the congregation says:

You have been called to be among us to preside at the Lord's supper.

The presiding minister may address the assembly with these or similar words.

People of God, I present to you Reverend Elizabeth Frey, your Pastor.

Let us welcome Pastor Frey in the name of Christ.

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

When the pastor or worship assistant says, "Hear us O God", please respond with, "**Your mercy is great.**"

P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SENDING**ANNOUNCEMENTS***Please stand as you are able.***BLESSING**

The God of grace + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN*Sent Forth by God's Blessing***ELW #547**

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

POSTLUDE

Now thank We All Our God
from J. S. Bach's Cantata No. 79
arr. by Virgil Fox

DISMISSAL Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God!

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

We thank all those serving in worship today:
Worship Assistant: June Jordan

The flowers are sponsored this week in honor of
Pastor Liz Frey.

May God guide her in her ministry at Grace.

Please mark your calendars!

TRUNK OR TREAT

Our Somers Point PD Trunk or Treat is held Sunday, October 25th from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM at the Shore Medical Center Parking Lot, the corner of Harbor and Bay Avenue. Please plan to arrive at 3:00 PM for set up, as we begin promptly at 4:00 PM. You will be given an assigned space, any helpers can park their vehicles in the parking lot section of the event. We will need a car, 4 volunteers, and lots of treat donations!!! Please sign up to volunteer in the narthex.

FEED THE NORTHEAST: October 1-31

We are excited to once again participate in Feed the Northeast Food Drive to help combat food insecurity for local families with Thrivent Member Network-Northeast Region! If we are one of the first 100 to collect 500 items for our Grace Place Food Pantry, Thrivent will give a \$500 check to our food pantry in addition to the items collected. This is a great way to help them keep their shelves stocked for those in need, especially through the holiday season!

Seaman's Institute-Christmas at Sea

The Grace Stitchers are working hard to make essential items for the men & women working at sea during Christmas. This Christmas at Sea Donation Drive will take place during the month of October, and your donations are very much needed and appreciated! Please place your items in the labeled bin in the narthex.

4th Annual Oktoberfest

Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for children under 12
Friday October 16 from 5:00-7:00 PM.

Volunteers are needed to prepare German potato salad, German honey cookies and apple strudel for Oktoberfest! A sign-up sheet, recipes and containers are in the church office. Please stop by during office hours to sign up and pick up what you need for what you wish to prepare.

*Those of you who are attending the Luncheon,
please meet in the social hall following worship.*

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

October 11, 2026-October 18, 2026

20th Sunday of Pentecost 10/11/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship
 10:15AM Traditional Worship
**Installation for Pastor Liz
 followed by Luncheon**

MONDAY 10/12/26

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

TUESDAY 10/13/26

9:00AM-11:30 AM Food Pantry
12:00PM WELCA
 6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
 7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 10/14/26

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

THURSDAY 10/15/26

9:00AM-11:30 AM Food Pantry
9:30AM Bible Study
 12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
 5:30PM AA 12-Step
 7:00PM Al-Anon
7:00PM Church Council Meeting

FRIDAY 10/16/26

10:30AM Grace Stitchers
5:00PM-7:00PM Oktoberfest
 7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 10/17/26

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

21st Sunday of Pentecost 10/18/26

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

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

Office Hours This Week:

Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00

Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00