

May 22, 2022

Sixth Sunday of Easter



Peace
I leave with you

JOHN 14:27

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Shore Road @ Dawes & Meyran Aves.

11 East Dawes Ave., Somers Point, NJ 08244

Office: 609-927-3082 † Fax: 609-927-6672 † Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org

Email: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Pastor: Rev. Althea Albright

Music Director: Scott J. Breiner

Church Secretaries: Michelle Allen & Diana McArdle



Welcome to worship at Grace Lutheran Church. Everything you need to fully participate in our liturgical worship is contained in the bulletin.

~Mission Statement~

- ◆ Inviting all people to **belong** to the church of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Equipping those who **believe** as faithful disciples of Jesus, and...
- ◆ Sending members to **become** caring servants of God in the world.

~Serving in Worship Today~

Worship Assistant: Stephen Gring **Altar Guild:** Brenda Traa

~In Our Hearts and Prayers~

Greetings members, friends, and family of Grace!

If you notice someone missing or if anyone has someone new to add, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Althea by phone, Facebook, email or by calling the church office so we can lift their name in prayer next service. Please keep the following people in your daily prayers:

Members of Grace: Jon N., Ruth T., Debbie K., Marlene D., Joyce B., Carol F., Mike D.

Family & Friends: , Donna W., Gage, Donna L., Diana S., Virginia, Elliot, Pastor Inge (*Pastor Althea*); Payton (*Joyce Bianco*); Deb, Glen, Marilyn, Peggy, Jeanne (*Bowdens*); Ron, Bonnie & Bob (*Susan Johnson*); Annmarie, Michael Ann, Rod (*June Jordan*); Shirley & Carl (*Debbie Kleuser*); Bob (*Dale Kredatus*); Jim & Vicki (*Meg LaSpina*); Bernadette, Lou, Ron, Berl, Cindy, Eric, Donny, Carol (*Renee Pugliese*); Catherine & Sal (*Corinne Rhodes*); Karen (*Sue Robinson*); Dottie Currie (*Deborah Walker*); Jeff & Amanda (*Welfields*); Eileen, Marie, Beverlee, Darlene

Those serving our country: Matt Bilello, ANG; Daniel Casner 3rd, USN; Cainan Johnson, USAF

At Home: Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Dot Reichelt, Lois Reardon, Lois Rahme & Skip Uhrmann

Shores @ Wesley Manor: Eleanor Guire, Eileen Rumble

Woodview Estates: Lorraine Moore

ELW Setting 4

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*Please refer to your brown Celebration Hymnals (CH)
the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnals (ELW)*

Sixth Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

by Henry Coleman

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **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, that we may perfectly love you and
worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry
and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known
and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do.
Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may
live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us
alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

ELW #631

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.**

Please turn to the front section of the red ELW hymnals

KYRIE

ELW p. 147

THIS IS THE FEAST

ELW p. 149

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever
Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 16:9-15

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony.

We remained in this city for some days.

¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.”

And she prevailed upon us.

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



PSALM: Psalm: Psalm 67

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy. (Ps. 67:4)

¹May God be merciful to | us and bless us; may the light of God’s
face | shine upon us.

²**Let your way be known | upon earth, your saving health a- | mong
all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise | you, O God; let all the | peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy, for you judge the
peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth.**

⁵Let the peoples | praise you, O God; let all the | peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought | forth its increase; God, our own |
God, has blessed us.**

⁷May God | give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth |
stand in awe.

John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.

¹⁰And in the spirit (one of the angels) carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

^{22:1}Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

Please stand as you are able

Please to your red hymnals to the front section, as we will now sing the Gospel Acclamation

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**ELW p. 151**

The Holy Gospel according to John, the fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 5:1-9*Jesus heals on the sabbath.*

¹After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

²Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. ³In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁵One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him,

“Do you want to be made well?” ⁷The sick man answered him,

“Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.”

⁸Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.”

⁹At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

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

*Please be seated***CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

Rev. Althea Albright

All Children are invited to follow our Sunday school teachers downstairs for a children’s lesson. Children return for Communion.

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

HYMN OF THE DAY*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling***ELW #631**

Today we welcome . . . , as a new members of our community of faith. When baptized, Christians are received into membership, they may mark the beginning of their participation in a new community of faith by making public affirmation of their baptism. Welcoming new members to Grace is significant to the growth of our ministry and the diversity of our fellowship with one another.

Paul reminds us of the importance of each of our gifts as the Body of Christ. In First Corinthians, chapter 12, Paul writes:

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. . . . ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

We welcome you . . . into the family of Grace Lutheran Church. We are thankful for your presence. We look forward to serving our Lord together and we welcome your family and friends to join us in worship and service anytime.

Let us pray. Almighty God, by the love of Jesus Christ you draw people to yourself and welcome them into the household of faith. May we show your joy by embracing new brothers and sisters as we bear your creative and redeeming word to all the world. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others, following the example of Jesus Christ, our servant and Lord. **Amen.**

APOSTLES' 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 power of 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

WEEKLY OFFERING

OFFERTORY

If You Love Me

by Joel Raney

Please stand as you are able

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW# 188

OFFERING PRAYER

Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Pastor: Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to God for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

Brief silence

Leader: God of new life, open your church to the unexpected ways your Spirit is at work. Guide bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders in their visioning, partnership, and planning. Surround us with your peace.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Leader: As growing season begins, provide good weather and nourishing soil for farmers, laborers, and gardeners that they may all have an abundant harvest. Join their efforts with the goodness of creation to feed all living things.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Leader: Shine your light of wisdom and peace among nations. Bring unity to areas struggling with conflict and war. Bring wisdom to leaders so they may have productive relationships and compromise when able.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Pastor: Give safe haven to those who seek healing, liberation, or peace. Create places filled with hospitality where hurting people find your loving presence and wholeness. Uphold the work of ministries and organizations in our communities who assist people experiencing homelessness, citizens returning from prison, and all marginalized people. Accomplish your will through their efforts. We especially pray for all those we name now or in their hearts...

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Pastor: In your mercy, O God, hear our prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p.152

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD

ELW p. 153

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for Jesus' coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

On 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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of the Holy Trinity: in our gathering; within this meal; and in the many ways you make yourself known to your people throughout the world. May all blessing, praise, and thanks be to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, and by your Life-giving Spirit. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry,
all who are thirsty, come. **Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

ELW p. 154

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have
tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more.
Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our
lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able

BLESSING

May Almighty God, our risen Savior, and the Holy Spirit †
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

ELW #763

Please be seated for the postlude.

Take this time to listen to the music and contemplate the message presented today.

POSTLUDE

Earth and All the Stars

by Keith Kolander

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Go in peace. Tell what God has done. **Thanks be to God!**

SANCTUARY FLOWER DEDICATION

Happy heavenly Birthday Daddy, Walter R. Wopatek.
Love your daughter, Kathy





Grace Notes



May 22, 2022

Welcome

If you are visiting our church for the first time or have been away, welcome. Please sign our visitors book in the Narthex (lobby) or fill out a connection card located in the seating areas of the sanctuary.

**Worship Assistants needed for
5/29, 6/12, 6/19 & 6/26.
Please call or email
the office to volunteer.**

**~CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
10:00 AM—3:00 PM
(OR BY APPOINTMENT)
OFFICE # (609)927-3082**

Email: office@gracelutheranspnj.com
Pastor Althea is typically in the office most afternoons and always available by appointment.

SHORE DINER COUPON

There are coupons on the table in the Narthex/Lobby for Shore Diner in Northfield who will give back to Grace Lutheran a percentage of the cost of your meal. We are thankful for their generosity.

SHORE DINER

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

6710 TILTON ROAD,
EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, NJ
609-641-3669

NEED PRAYER?

Date: / /

CARD

CONNECTION

Date: / /

CARD

Please use these cards to record your attendance/communion and prayer requests.

Connection/Communion & Prayer Cards

Are located in every pew.

Place the completed cards in the offering plates or give to the usher.

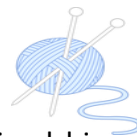
Thanks!



Grace Stitchers - Thank you ladies for another successful Baby Shower, may god bless you all in your ministry.

Grace Stitchers meet on Friday mornings at 10:30 am until noon in the Lounge. New to knitting and crocheting?

Or a veteran at knitting or crocheting? Join this group to have conversation, friendship, and fellowship. Donations of yarn is always appreciated.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
Every Sunday at 8:45 am.
Conference Room

This adult class consists of videos, Bible study, current event discussions, and other faith related topics. Anyone and everyone is welcome!

"GRACE FRIENDS"
SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children will leave for their classes with their teachers following the children's sermon.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

- ⇒ ⇒ Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Mustard
- ⇒ ⇒ Crackers, Chef Boyardee cans
- ⇒ ⇒ Beets, Spinach
- ⇒ ⇒ Bread, dairy products, Eggs, brown gravy, juice.
- ⇒ ⇒ Toiletries—shampoo, soap, Toothpaste, tissues, napkins, paper towels, ETC.

OPEN Mon, Tue, Wed and Thurs from 9:00 am until 11:30 am. Pantry is closed the first full week of every month.



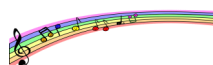
Helpers are needed weekly to set-up communion for Sunday services. Contact Brenda Traa, Michelle Allen, Diana McArdle or Pastor Althea to learn more about serving/helping with this vital part of our worship.

A Memorial service for Kirsten Kjaerulf Hansen was conducted by Pastor Althea Albright on Saturday, May 21st at 11 am. We pray God's blessing of consolation and comfort upon her family, and her daughter (one of our new members), Tine Hansen.



Dedications are accepted one week before the desired date. Payment envelopes are located near the church office

Flowers \$30
 Candles \$10
 Wine \$10
 Bulletins \$15



Anthem/Music \$50

EVENTS WITH GRACE

May 22, 2022 - May 29, 2022

Sunday, May 22, 2022

8:00 am Spoken Service
 8:45 am Adult Sunday School
 10:15 am Liturgical Worship
 3:30 pm AA Group

Monday, May 23, 2022

9:00-11:30 am -Food Pantry
 10:00 am Clergy Bible Study
 7:00 pm AA Meeting

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

9:00-11:30 am Food Pantry
 2:00 pm Moving with Grace
 (Walking Group) This group meets
 in the lounge, before walking.
 6:30 pm NA Meeting

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

9:00-11:30 am Food Pantry
 11:30 am Bayside Duplicate Bridge
 7:00 pm -NA Meeting

Thursday, May 26, 2022

9:00-11:30 am Food Pantry
 5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 pm AA Meeting 12 Steps
 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting

Friday, May 27, 2022

10:00 am Grace Stitchers
 7:30 pm AA Meeting

Saturday, May 28, 2022

10:00 am **Funeral for Grace Cox (Bilski)**
 4:00 pm Moving with Grace
 (Walking Group) This group meets in the
 lounge, before walking.

Sunday, May 29, 2022

8:00 am Spoken Service
 8:45 am Adult Sunday School
 10:15 am Liturgical Worship
 3:30 pm AA Group

LET'S CLEAN THINGS UP!

We have formed a ministry team called the Dream Team, out of Council who have been doing extensive organizing in and around the church. We want to have a day to move some big items from room to room. **If you are willing to help with some of this shifting around and moving of large items and boxes, please let Pastor Althea know as soon as possible.**

We are hoping to do this on Friday, June 3rd and Saturday, June 4th.

Stay tuned later this summer for a church YARD SALE!



COMING THIS SUMMER TO GRACE: PROPHETS!

Pastor will be preaching a summer series on some of the major and minor prophets of the Old Testament. Stay tuned for dates to hear all about their callings and prophecies from the Lord! Scott will provide us with some fun tunes to add to our weekly themes too!