

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II

Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

September 11, 2022

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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Pentecost is a season for growing represented by the color green. We celebrate the founding of the church and the fruits of the Spirit.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! Let us celebrate God's presence among us at all times. We know the unique gift we have of God meeting our every need. Let us give praise to our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Gathering Music

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Greeting

Please rise in body or spirit. The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- ☐ The love of our Creator, revealed by Christ Jesus our Lord and sustained through the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

Gathering Song

The Night You Gave us, God, has Ended

ACS 994

1 The night you gave us, God, has end - ed,
2 We thank you for each glo - rious sun - rise
3 Bless those who work in hours of dark - ness,
4 We pray for en - er - gy and pas - sion
5 We praise you, God, for na - ture's rhy - thms,

the dark - ness hails the sun's bright rays;
that paints the earth a gold - en hue;
who serve and toil while oth - ers sleep;
to live our lives each day for you;
for dark and day - light, stars and sun;

as shad - ows flee and earth a - wak - ens,
 each day your grace grants new be - gin - nings,
 their lives of car - ing and pro - tect - ing
 may all a - round us sense your pres - ence
 your whole cre - a - tion sings your glo - ry,

we rise a - gain to sing your praise.
 the chance to start a - gain a - new.
 re - flect your love so strong and deep.
 in all we say and all we do.
 O Trin - i - ty, most Ho - ly One.

Opening Sentences

- ☐ Come, let us celebrate, let us rejoice, let us give God the glory!
- ☑ **For the Lord our God reigns, Alleluia!**

- Ⓐ All nations come and worship you, Holy God.
- ☑ **Holy, holy, holy God, you are the beginning, the present and all that is to come.**

- ☐ All colors and races give hearty praise!
- ☑ **Let us share your love with all. Amen**

Song of Praise

Morning Has Broken

ELW 556

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray.... O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray.
- ☑ **Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

📖 A reading from **Exodus**.

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.

⁷The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” ⁹The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?

¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 51:1-10

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

**⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil¹ in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Second Reading

1 Timothy 1:12-17

The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

📖 A reading from **1 Timothy**.

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Speak, O Lord



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
 3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights



of your ho - ly Word. Take your truth, plant it
 of your plans for us. Truths un - changed from the



deep in us; shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness—
 dawn of time that will ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty.



that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our
 And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by



acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
 faith we'll walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your



fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your
 church is built, and the earth is filled with your



glo - ry.

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-10

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Time

Message

Silence for reflection. After reflection, please rise in body or spirit to sing the hymn.

Song of the Day

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ELW 502

Prayers

*You may sit or kneel for prayer. The prayer response after each petition is, **God of grace. The assembly prays, Receive our prayer.***

- Ⓐ As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

A brief silence

- Ⓐ Your people receive mercy and your grace overflows in our lives. Fill your church with faith and love, and give understanding hearts to those who work to strengthen our ecumenical and interreligious commitments. Guide and watch over *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Faith Lutheran Church, Saginaw; Orangeville Baptist Church, Plainwell; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* God of grace.

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ Your creation groans as it suffers the impacts of pollution and lack of care. As the seasons change, renew in us the will to protect plants, animals, and habitats. Bless us with bountiful harvests that all may share. God of grace.

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ Your world is shattered and the nations rage. Remember us in your mercy. Teach wisdom to our elected leaders so that we know peace in our world, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. Be with those who safeguard the world, *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke).* God of grace.

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ Your children wander homeless and the hungry cry for bread. Seek out those who are lost or lonely, anxious or depressed, or struggling with addiction or illness. Provide for those in any need *especially Jenny Anderson, Veronica Baarson, Greg Benda, Marc Benda, Matt Bolton, Walter Brown, Keith Busheé, Cherie Clements, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Mike Fruth, Greg Franks, Jeff and Sue Gibbons, Lorie Gladyness, Karl Golnek, Charlene Hall, Larry Hansen, Mike Hoppe, Norma Ludlow, Alexis Markwart, Mattea Markwart, Doug Mephem, Susie Smith, Al Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Cheryl Wilke, and Jenny.* God of grace.

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ Your work is done in this congregation with our hands, feet, voices, minds, and hearts. Build up the ministries of this community, that we serve our neighbors and welcome the stranger in your name.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- Ⓐ Your blessed saints who have died now rest in your presence. Give us thankful hearts for those who have been examples of faith in our lives, and receive us with joy when we come to share eternal life with you. God of grace.

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

☐ Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

☑ **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

☐ The peace of Christ be with you.

☑ **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of the Lord with one another.)

Offering Prayer

☐ Let us pray . . . God our provider, we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it.

☑ **Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

Thanksgiving Prayer

☐ Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

☑ **We praise you, O God.**

☐ Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

☑ **It is right to give our thanks and praise. We bless you, O God.**

☐ We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

☑ **We thank you, O God.**

☐ 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim that Jesus is among us.

☑ **Amen. Remembering love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- ☐ We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.
- ☑ **Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- ☐ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray how Jesus first taught:
- ☑ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

- ☐ Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come, take your place at the feast.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

We Partake of the Body and Blood of Christ

Communion Songs	<i>There's a Wideness in God's Mercy</i>	ELW 588
	<i>Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling</i>	ELW 608

Prayer after Communion

- ☐ Let us pray . . . God of blessing, at this table we have seen you face to face, and in the gift of Christ's body and blood, our hearts have been refreshed.
- ☑ **Send us now to shine with your goodness and bear witness to the one we have received: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

- ☐ Be strengthened with the power of God, ✠ the love of Christ, and the help of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- ☑ **Amen.**

Sending Song	<i>Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak</i>	ELW 676
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Dismissal

- ☐ Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Peripheral Vision

“Look straight forward and raise your hand on the side where you see the blinking light in the corner of your eye.” Maybe you have taken a peripheral-vision test at an optometrist’s office or at a DMV while renewing your driver’s license. Peripheral vision, like peripheral hearing and other sensory parallels, is the ability to perceive things that occur outside the center of one’s focus.

In today’s gospel, Jesus tells a story about a shepherd who seems to have good peripheral senses. He loses one sheep out of a hundred and immediately notices and sets off to look for it. This story may be so familiar that it is easy to take his actions for granted. But should we? It seems that many people looking at such a large group of nearly identical animals would have a difficult time noticing the disappearance of just one.

Yet this is precisely what Jesus does throughout his ministry. He is always noticing people on the margins of society whom others don’t see—whether because of disease, profession, gender, economic status, or past wrongs. Again and again he is criticized by other religious leaders for moving beyond the people they are focused on and toward others they see as peripheral. As Jesus’ followers, we are called to let him shift our attention to people who need the love and attention of God—even when it takes us beyond the comfort of our normal focus.

Today, as you gather to worship, ask yourself: Who is missing from the picture? Who is at the periphery of your assembly? Who is Jesus inviting to this table? In your church, in your community, in your neighborhood, or in your work, who does Jesus see that you have missed, and what would it look like to seek after them?

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Chris Bush

Lector – Joe Varkula

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Kate Watson

Lector – Jack Vos

Cantor – Cindy Olson

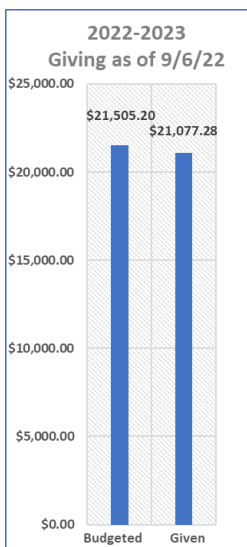
Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck II

Fellowship – The Watson Family

GraceGram Email List If you would like to receive your GraceGram via email instead of a printed copy, please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. We are starting a new email list from scratch as there have been many email changes since the list was first compiled. We will start emailing GraceGrams with the upcoming October edition.

Stewardship Information



Attendance: 54

Views: 156

Weekly Giving: \$5,463.00

Budget Amount: \$4,301.04

Included in the \$5,463.00 is the August Online Giving of: \$2,998.00

Renew Campaign Needed \$3,442.00

Renew Campaign Received \$ 100.00

TOTAL Outstanding \$3,342.00

Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you are here among us to worship the ONE who welcomes all to the table.

Books-for-Kids Donations are **due today**. Thank you for your generosity.

Brothers of Grace September Outing at Joe Varkula's house on Tuesday, September 13. There will be sausage and some fixings. Please bring your beverage. You may also bring a dish to share if you wish but it is not necessary. The brothers will leave the church at 5:00 p.m.

Replace, Repair, Renew Campaign. We have entered into the Renewal phase of the campaign which has a goal of raising \$4842.00 for a new HVAC system for the Fellowship Hall. Thanks again for your continued generosity.

Congregational Care will meet Monday, September 19 at 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Varkula. Thank you.

CROP Walk Sunday, October 9th. Registration begins at 1:30, with the walk beginning at 2:00 PM. Grace will be the host congregation this year. Additional information, as well as walker and donation envelopes will be available at the display in the Gathering Area.

Heritage Sunday on Sunday, October 30. We will be gathering together for a **combined 10:00 service** celebrating Reformation Sunday. There will be a meal directly following the service where you are encouraged to bring a dish to share you feel represents your heritage. Come join the fun!

Game & Pizza Night The S.A.C. cordially invites you to an evening of fun at church on **Saturday, September 17th.** We will begin with pizza & beverages at 6pm, play a few games (if you have a favorite, bring it to church!), and enjoy fellowship until 9pm. Please RSVP by signing up on the sheet in the Gathering Area, or by calling the church office. Please contact Deborah Wilke at 269-953-8216 with any questions, or to let her know you will need a ride (or just indicate this on the signup sheet).

Turkeyville Trip will be October 8 for those who have signed up.