

# FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*August 25, 2024,  
10:00am*

## Land Acknowledgment

We recognize that we gather on the ancestral lands of the Ojibwe, Ho Chunk, and Dakota. We acknowledge their leaders, past, present, and emerging.

## GATHERING

<b>Prelude</b>	Prelude in C, BWV 547	J. S. Bach
<b>Opening Hymns</b>	This Little Light of Mine	#677
	Just A Closer Walk with Thee (verses 1 & 2)	#697
	Great is Thy Faithfulness	#733

## Apostolic Greeting

### Prayer of the Day

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

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## WORD

## Children's Message

### The First Reading is from Joshua, chapter 24

<sup>1</sup>Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

<b>Special Music</b>	Go Down, Moses Choir Ensemble	arr. Moses Hogan
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## The Second Reading is from Ephesians, chapter 6

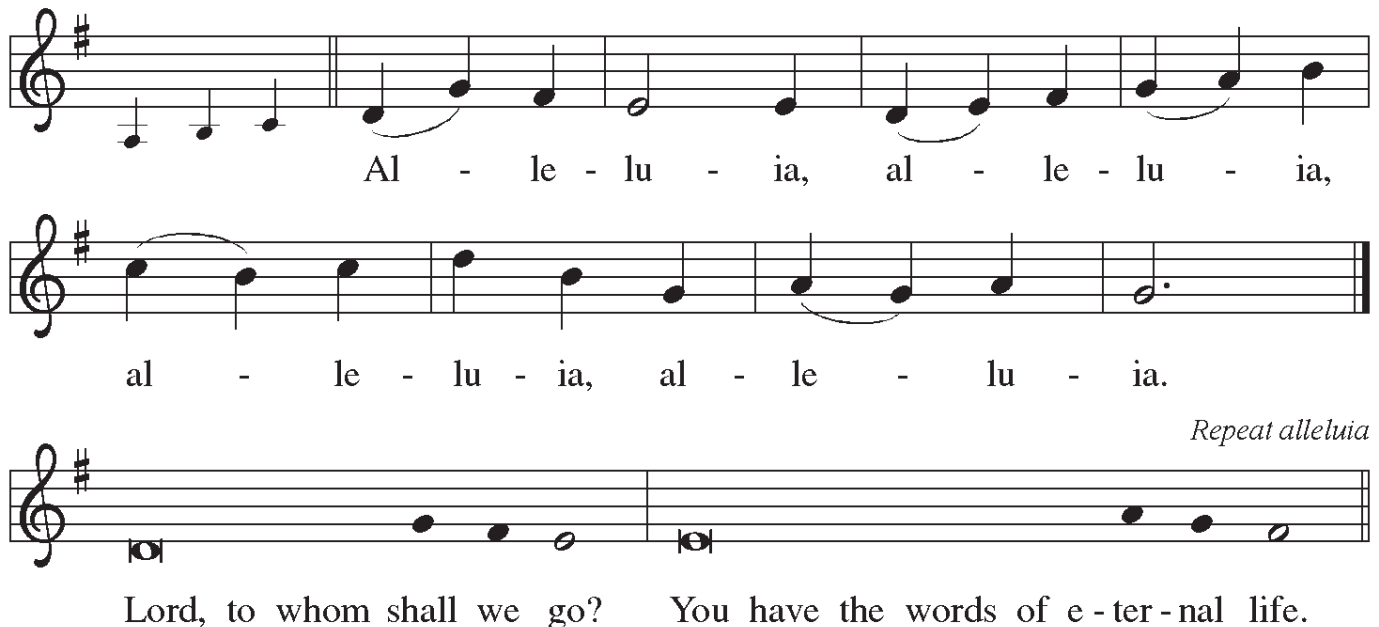
<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

## Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## The Gospel for today comes from John, chapter 6

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, <sup>56</sup>“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that

which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”  
<sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**                      Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

**Hymn of the Day**    Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

#618

### **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 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.**

### **Prayers of the Church**

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

... Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.  
**Amen.**

### **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

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## MEAL

### **Offering**

Earth and All Stars

Robert Hobby

### **Offering Prayer**

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

**Amen.**

### **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.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer

### 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.

### Communion

*Our communion bread is gluten free and the communion cups with clear liquid have grape juice instead of wine.*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

### Prayer After Communion

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world as you love us. In your name we pray.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

### Blessing

**Sending Hymn** Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

#808

### Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

Fugue in B Major

Marcel Dupré



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*Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen*, Robert Hobby, from *For All the Saints*, vol 3, ©Augsburg Fortress

*Go Down, Moses*, arr. Moses Hogan ©Hal Leonard Corporation

*Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song* Text and music © Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus, admin. Augsburg Fortress Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville, admin. Augsburg Fortress

**Minister:** Pastor Phil Ruge–  
Jones

**Reader:** Randy Adams

**Organist:** Elaine Mann

**Assisting Minister:** Arthur  
Grothe

**Choir Director:** Diana Cataldi

## Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (25<sup>th</sup>)  
Coffee Hour – 9:30am  
Worship – 10am  
Hovland Cake & Ice  
Cream – 11am

TUESDAY  
Prayer Group – 11am  
Jonah Action Night – 5pm

Crafters – 10am  
Text Study – 12pm

WEDNESDAY

SUNDAY (1<sup>st</sup>)  
Coffee Hour – 9:30am  
Worship – 10am

Other groups using the building this week: Jonah, Scouts, ECWiT, Theater Guild, Randall Park Neighborhood Association

## Wilma Hovland's Birthday

The family of Wilma Hovland cordially invite you to celebrate her 80th birthday this Sunday (Aug 25) in the Chapel after the service. Birthday cake and a beverage will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## Rally Day

This year Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 8th. Please mark the day on your calendars.

The church service that day will take place in the parlors. After the service will be a potluck meal. Please bring your favorite dish to share.

More information will be released in the coming weeks.

## Many thanks to Rick Long

Over the past few months, Rick Long has used his knowledge and skill in photography to make our confirmation picture display look good again. Whenever people return to Grace--often for funerals, but also at other times — they seek to find their own face or that of a family member standing among the confirmands with their classmates. Check out Rick's work right outside the Parable Chapel!

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## Thank You For The Summer Meals At Beacon House

Families at the homeless shelter were served deliciously tempting evening meals provided by our members. The Bratwursts grilled by Deb Heath were a hit for our summer fare theme. Donations to the Deacon Fund supported the fixings for Taco Night and Sub Sandwich night. All the additional sides were brought in by: Jan Adams, Elaine Berg, Bev Page, Nora Gerber, Barb Piper and Diane Pomplun. The residents were gracious in response to the meals we brought in, especially an 8 year old boy who “loves” blueberries.”



### Noisy Offering

On Rally Day, September 8th, a noisy offering will be collected to support Neighbor to Neighbor: Together in Ministry/ Vecino a Vecino: Juntos en Ministerio. This is a ministry of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, where we join together to boldly practice

the gospel as we cultivate meaningful relationships between the Anglo ELCA congregations with the Latino American community in the Northwest Synod

of Wisconsin. We strive to form a beloved community that is inclusive and diverse, a space to know your neighbor, share the hope of the gospel with the community and a platform for church to start the journey to explore social and racial justice in our context and communities. The ministry includes health fairs, monthly worship with a shared meal in Spanish, generating university scholarships, and anti-racism training.



### Crafters' Corner

Save the Date: November 9, 2024

### UNIQUE BOUTIQUE

The Crafters are hard at work (come join us). We need everyone's help.

Knitters and crocheters: we need Bed Socks, Hats, Mittens, Scarfs, etc.

Sewers: we can use Water Bottle Holders, Totes, Bowl Holders, Pot Holders, Aprons, Lap Throws or whatever else you can think of.

Also remember to save your old treasurers. Please mark and hold them until further notice. (We don't have a place for them right now). Thank you.

### Gerri Long & Elderlife Ministry

Pastor Phil invited me to share a bit about what I have been up to since late last fall. Currently, I am serving as the Director of Elderlife at First Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC), Eau Claire. A congregation that is a neighbor of Grace Lutheran as First Congregational is located just a few blocks away on Broadway Street. In 1999, an agreement with the ELCA and United Church of Christ established a strong ministry partnership between these two church bodies. First Congregational has a long, active history of ministry in Eau Claire since 1856.

# Chippewa Valley Multicultural Festival

Phoenix Park, 300 Riverfront Terrace, Eau Claire, WI

Aug 25  
11am-6pm



## About The Event:

Join Us for a day of Food-Vendors/Cultural booths-Music and Performances from Irie Sol, Los Alegres Bailadores, Swan Lake Ballet Studio and Hmong Dance Group. Scan QR code to sign up!



Brought to you by:



cvmcfestival@gmail.com

715-832-8420

The Elderlife Ministry at First Congregational UCC began over 30 years ago with only three other leaders serving as Directors of Elderlife—all of whom were capable, passionate, and caring individuals. As I serve in this multi-faceted position, I am called to offer wholistic care for and ensure the wellbeing of older adults in the congregation.

It is vital to be regularly present with the congregation when they gather on Sunday mornings. As worship services at Grace Lutheran and First Congregational UCC are held at the same time, it has not been possible to worship with all of you.

Through this Elderlife Ministry, there are a variety of opportunities to serve older adults at First Congregational UCC. A few examples are:

- Overseeing social and educational events to help older adults remain involved in the life of the congregation.
- Connecting older adults with available resources offered through the congregation and greater community. This may be resources to meet their transportation needs, spiritual support through home communion and the Prayer Chain, or a supportive homecare agency to help someone stay in their home.
- Building deep, meaningful, and trusting relationships through visitation during hospitalizations or wherever “home” may be. And, being present during life transitions (ex: when an alternative living situation may be needed, after the diagnosis of a serious illness, or at end-of-life).
- Engaging and coordinating volunteers to serve within and outside the church walls such as during funeral luncheons or other church events, or bingo games at a local long-term care facility.

It is a privilege and a blessing to serve in this way!

God's Peace,

Geri Long

## An Invitation For Artists

This fall the third annual Fall Celebration of Arts will be hosted by Grace Lutheran Church on Nov. 3. If you are an artist you are invited to participate in displaying and/or selling your art at this event. This early notification will allow you the time to create a piece or pieces by fall. We are looking for paintings, drawings, photography, wood carvings, wood turning, stained glass, sculpture, batiks, quilting, paper art, wood cut prints, note cards, rosemaling or any other fine art.

We look forward to seeing and buying your beautiful creations in November! If you are interested, please contact Kathi Sue Krause ([krauseks@gmail.com](mailto:krauseks@gmail.com)) or Wilma Hovland ([dw.hov@hotmail.com](mailto:dw.hov@hotmail.com))

## Need Pastoral Support?

As your pastor, I appreciate it when you call me because of a need that you think I can help with. I want to be there for you. You are never a burden. Praying with you is one of the great honors of my ministry.

Some things about pastoring are easier these days; some are more difficult. When my dad began pastoring, he could trust that everyone would be thrilled (or at least act like they were) if he showed up at their hospital room. And once he did, their situation would become public information as it was offered up in Sunday prayers.

Now a days many of you prefer to keep news of your health, personal struggles, or even good news private. You'd rather I not know (some of you have told me this after I got wind of your situation) and also don't want others to know.

I respect that.



But I also know that sometimes there are expectations that are not spoken that I will still act as my father did in the 1960s. This makes it hard to know how to respond. So, I ask this. If you want me to be there for you, simply ask. If you want to have conversations that go no further than me, I can listen and your situation will remain confidential. If you ask for help that I do not have the expertise to address, I will try to find someone with you who will be helpful.

I also very much enjoy visiting those who are not able to get to in building worship for whatever reason. I have a list of people I visit as often as my schedule allows, and if you would like to be on that list, just let Andrew in the office or myself know.

I feel honored when you trust me with our stories.

So please, please call me when you need me. Call me when something terrible happens to you, or even when something wonderful does. Invite to watch your ball game or a grandchild's dance recital. I suspect you have gotten my point. I would count it as a privilege.

Pr Phil

## Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

Email: [info@grace-church.org](mailto:info@grace-church.org)

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones: [pastorphil@grace-church.org](mailto:pastorphil@grace-church.org)

Services are live streamed Sundays at 10am on:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheraneauclaire/>
- Youtube embedded in our website: <https://grace-church.org/our-ministry> *Bulletins may also be found on the same page.*

Recordings of worship services are broadcast Sundays 10:30am on WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)

Past services are posted at “Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin” YouTube page — <https://bit.ly/49WLWPj>



Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Wednesday by 2:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at [info@grace-church.org](mailto:info@grace-church.org) or by calling the office at 715-832-9713