

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



July 19, 2026
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

Prelude

Organ

Pacibells Ensemble

Prelude in G, Op. 37

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Felix Mendelssohn
arr. Bill Ingram

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

Amen.

Let us bring every burden to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all mercy,

we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Opening Hymn Praise and Thanksgiving

#689

Apostolic 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.

Hymn of Praise

Pacibells Ensemble

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

arr. Bill Ingram

Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

WORD

Children's Message

The first reading is from Isaiah 44

⁶Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Pacibells Ensemble

Give Me Jesus

arr. Bill Ingram

The second reading is from Romans, chapter 8

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — ¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

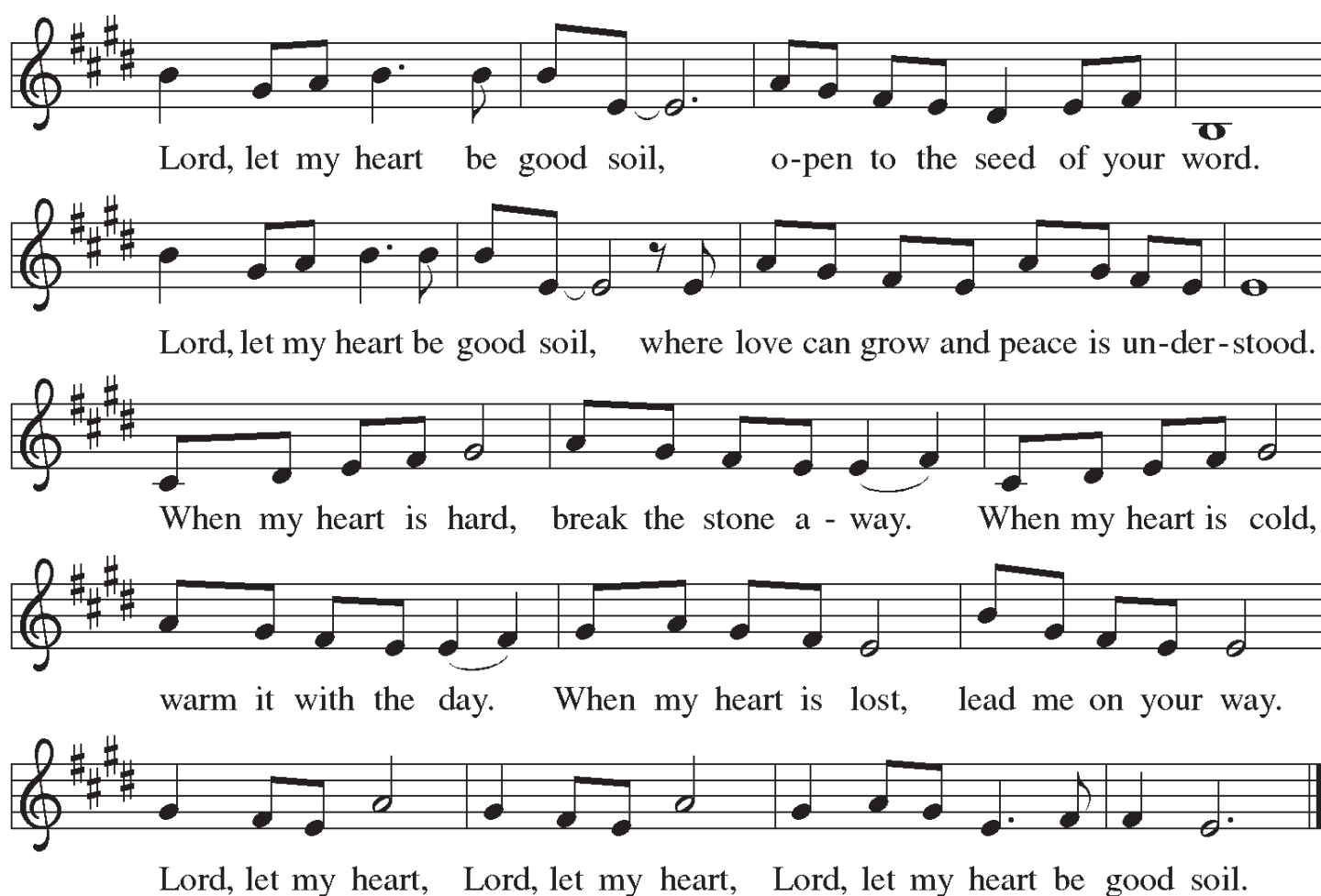
¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay

and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The Gospel for today comes from Matthew, chapter 13
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground,

where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

²⁴ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn Almighty God, Your Word is Cast*

#516

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.

*A hymn appropriate for the day is "Almighty God, your word is cast" (ELW 516). The reference in the second stanza to "the sly satanic foe" recalls the devil as described in today's gospel reading. The hymn was written in the early nineteenth century by John Cawood, a British clergyman, whose childhood in a poor farming family helped to make authentic his descriptions of planting seeds and nourishing their growth.

Prayers of the Church

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

...God of grace,
 hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.
 Amen.

Peace

MEAL

Offering

Pacibells Ensemble Shall We Gather at the River arr. Jason W Krug

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.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

 And also with you.

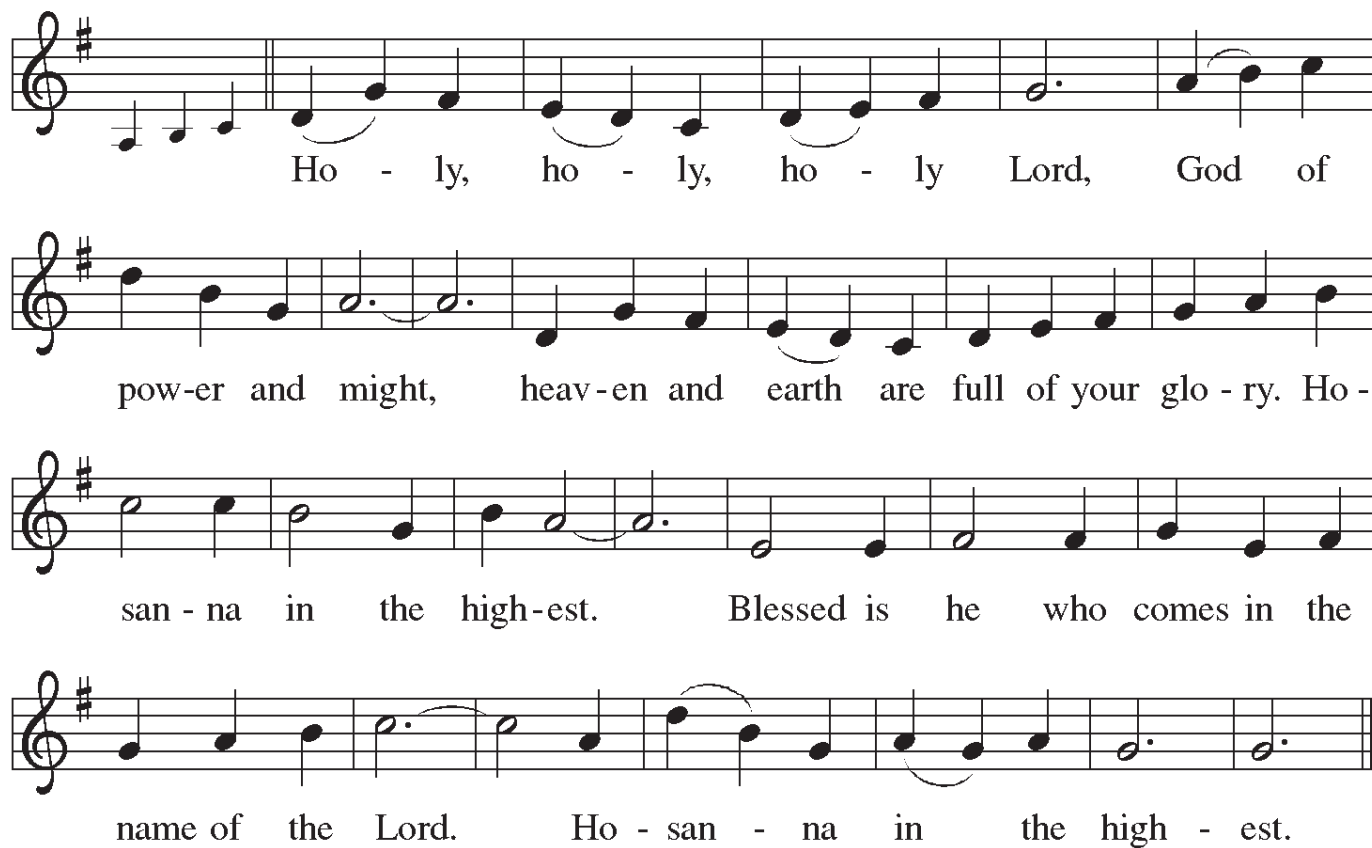
Lift up your hearts.

 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:



Words of Institution

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

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

Blessing

Sending Hymn For the Fruit of All Creation

#679

Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

The Heavens Declare

Benedetto Marcello

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Give Me Jesus, arr. Bill Ingram ©2020 RING OUT! PRESS

Shall We Gather at the River, arr. Jason W Krug ©2019 Choristers Guild

Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Organist: Elaine Mann

Assisting Minister: Mitch Piper

Pacibells Ensemble Director: Karen

Reader: Norma Lionberger

Lionberger



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

2026-7-19

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Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (19th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am

Worship – 10am

MONDAY

Summer Camp – 6am

TUESDAY

Summer Camp – 6am

Grace Pacers – 9:30am

Prayer Group – 11am

WEDNESDAY

Summer Camp – 6am

Crafters – 9am

Text Study – 12noon

Clearwater Ringers – 5:30pm

AA meeting – 7pm

THURSDAY

Summer Camp – 6am

FRIDAY

Summer Camp – 6am

SUNDAY (26th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am

Worship – 10am

Other groups using the building this week: Grace Lutheran Foundation, Brighter than Sunshine, Grace Rising Wellness, ECWiT, Theater Guild

Summer Time Suppers At Beacon House

Grace Lutheran will be providing the evening meals at the homeless shelter for families on the following dates: Sunday, August 2; Monday, Aug. 3; Tuesday, Aug. 4; and Wednesday, Aug. 5. The menu will include a pizza night, Submarine Sandwiches, Grilled Beef Hot Dogs, and Chicken Wings. Several of the entrees will be purchased using the generous donations to the Deacon Fund.

If you wish to provide any of the needed food for our “Picnic Style” meals, please sign up on the sheets posted on our Lighthouse in the Narthex.

Call Barbara Radke if you have questions at 715-491-4207

Help the Crafters

The Grace Crafters are looking for some metal spice tins for their projects. They do not need the newer plastic ones. If you have any of the older metals tins lying around your kitchen unused, please consider donating them to the Crafters. You can drop them off at the office during the week, or give them to one of the ushers at worship and they will put them in the office. Thank you.

Christmas in July Thank You

Fantastic Response !!

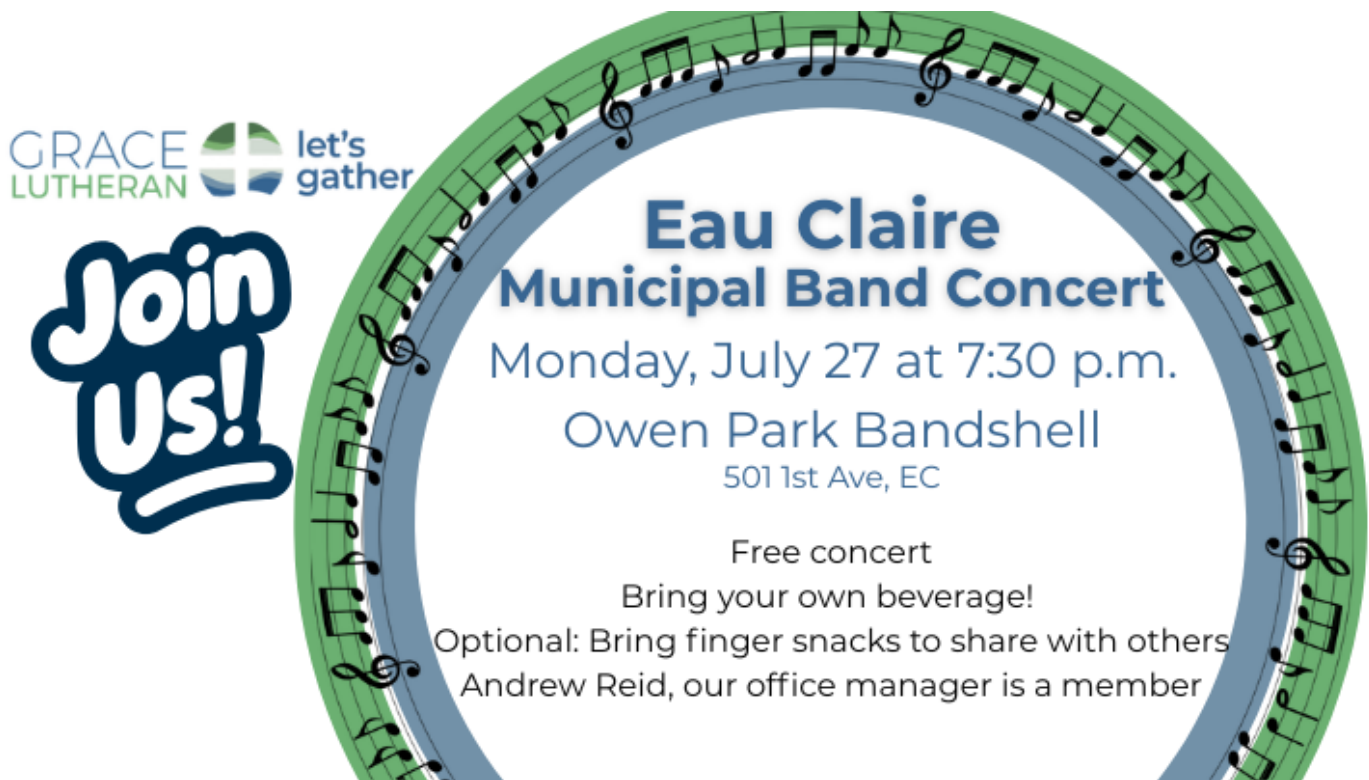
Thank You so much for your generous donations toward supplying Beacon and Sojourner Houses !

The overflowing truckload of wish list items that we delivered on Monday were received with gratitude. They both appreciate the support from our church community in helping our neighbors in need.

Mission Outreach Ministry

Grace Walking Group

As our first response to the areas of interest expressed in the survey we took several weeks ago, weekly walks by the informal group we will call “Grace Pacers” will begin this Tuesday morning at 9:30am, weather permitting. This is a time to get to know each other better and to tend the bodies God has given us. The information is below. Thanks to Barb Piper for thinking through the details for us.



Let's Gather

The next “let’s gather” event will be attending the Eau Claire Municipal Band Concert on Monday, July 27th at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend this free concert. Bring your own beverage and finger snacks to share (optional). Hope to see you there!

The ECMB Summer Concert Series presents concerts throughout June and July. Concerts are presented in the historic Donald “Sarge” Boyd Bandshell in beautiful Owen Park. Performances will happen on Mondays from 7:30–8:30pm. ECMB is the oldest community musical organization in the city and has been entertaining thousands of patrons since its inception. Now in its second century, the band continues to provide high-quality, free entertainment for audiences of all ages. The band is under the direction of Mr. Bob Baldwin. Andrew Reid, our office manager, plays percussion in the band.

WECARE Backpack Program For ECASD Kids Collection

We will be collecting NEW Elementary school age backpacks at Grace now through August 2nd. Labeled area to place in the Narthex. Lets help a few students start off the school year with a NEW backpack!

Mission Outreach Ministry

WECARE

EAU CLAIRE

OUR
7th
YEAR

WE provide the
SCHOOL SUPPLIES

YOU provide the
BACKPACKS

TOGETHER
we provide the
LOVE OF JESUS!

BRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BACKPACKS TO ANY
PARTICIPATING CHURCH BY
AUG. 1ST

Scan here to
donate funds
to help purchase
school supplies



Distribution Event
at Phoenix Park
Aug. 17

www.wecareeauclaire.com



Molly Wilson Performance

Our own Molly Wilson will join three professional actors in the play Front Room's debut. The show will be at the Pablo; tickets are about \$30. Front Room is a play focusing on Sandra, a theatre professor, and her mother, Abby, who lives a life clinging to her myriad possessions. Proud, stubborn, and needy, Abby demands constant attention from

her daughter. When Sandra casts a young man, Tyler (a veteran of the war in Afghanistan), she is drawn to his gentle charm. Sandra fights her mother's stubborn hoarding even as she struggles to protect her from the avalanche of household possessions. All the while, Abby seeks to sabotage Sandra's chance to find companionship and comfort. An accidental encounter threatens Sandra's evolving romance – leading to a wrenching decision about Abby's chaotic living environment – her Front Room. (Pastor is planning on attending opening night.)

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers this Sunday were provided by the family of Bev Page in honor of her birthday on July 18. Thank you!

Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

PO Box 965, Eau Claire, WI 54702

202 W Grand Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703

Email: info@grace-church.org

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones: 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 — <http://grace-church.org/our-ministry>

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 or by calling the office at 715-832-9713