

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



July 26, 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

Be Thou My Vision

Albert Travis

Welcome

Opening Hymns	Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty (stanzas 1–3)	#533
	Children of the Heavenly Father (stanzas 1, 2, & 4)	#781
	How Great Thou Art (stanzas 1 & 4)	#856

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.

Prayer of the Day

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

WORD

Children's Message

The first reading is from 1 Kings Chapter 3

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.

⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.

⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?" ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.

¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Spirit, Shine on Us

Lloyd Larson

The second reading is from Romans, chapter 8

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

³⁶ As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 Matthew, chapter 13 Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;

⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age.

The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?"

They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

Hymn of the Day

What Is the World Like



1 What is the world like when God's will is
 2 What is the world like when God's will is
 3 What is the world like when God's will is
 4 What is the world like when God's will is
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im -



done? Mus - tard seeds grow more than
 done? Wit - ness the wan - der - ing
 done? No more is neigh - bor just
 done? Read - y for feast - ing, we
 parts, filled with the Spir - it who



we can con - ceive: roots thread the
 child com - ing home; watch as the
 al - ly or friend; peace thrives in
 watch through the night, tend - ing our
 joins us as one. Born through our



soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 plac - es where once there was none.
 lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

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

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.

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.

Peace

Offering

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

J. S. Bach

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn Be Thou My Vision

#793

Dismissal

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

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in F

Vincent Lubeck

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Spirit, Shine on Us, arr. Lloyd Larson, ©1996 and 2004, Sony/ATV Tunes LLC and Deer Valley Music

Message: Mitch Piper

Assisting Minister: Arthur Grothe

Reader: Wilma Hovland

Organist: Elaine Mann

Quartet: Wilma Hovland, Kathy Delfosse,
Randy Adams, Pete Lokken



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (26th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

MONDAY

Summer Camp – 6am
Let's Gather @ Owen
Park – 7:30pm

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 (2nd)

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, Randall Park Neighborhood Association

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.



Join our regular community walks around the neighborhood.

Grace Pacers

Tuesdays 9:30am / Starting June 16th
Meet in Chapel on 2nd floor off Sanctuary
(Rain day Thursday same week)

Duration: 30 minutes (approx.)

Pace: At your own pace

Age: All are welcome

Intensity: Low to moderate (no steep hills or stairs) with a variety of routes

What to bring: Comfortable walking shoes and your water bottle

Need a ride to join: Let us know!

Let's walk this road together!

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.

GRACE LUTHERAN  let's gather

Join Us!

Eau Claire Municipal Band Concert

Monday, July 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Owen Park Bandshell

501 1st Ave, EC

Free concert

Bring your own beverage!

Optional: Bring finger snacks to share with others

Andrew Reid, our office manager is a member

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.)

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