

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



August 30, 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

Partita on "Crucifer" (Lift High the Cross)

Charles Callahan

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 Lift High the Cross

#660

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

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



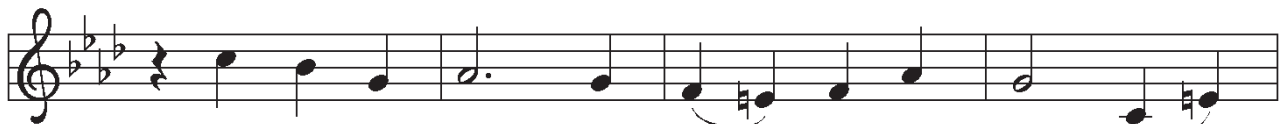
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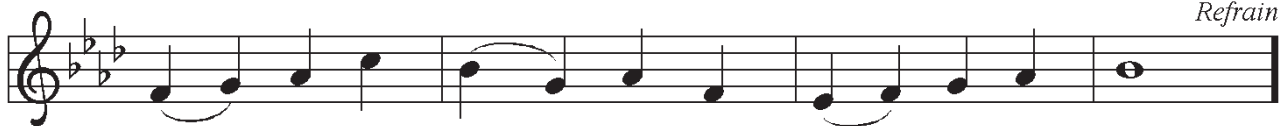
1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

WORD

Children's Message

The first reading is from Jeremiah chapter 15

¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,

for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

The second reading is from Romans , chapter 12

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

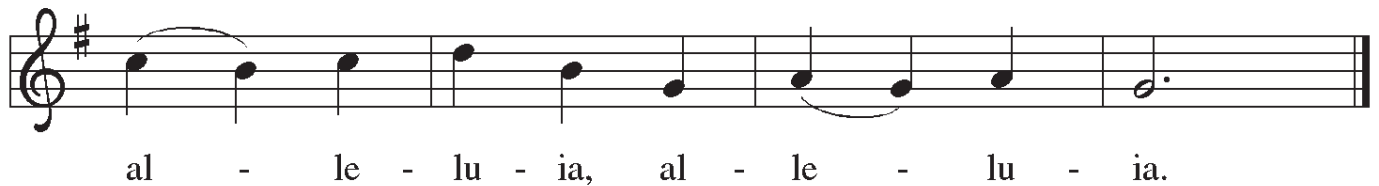
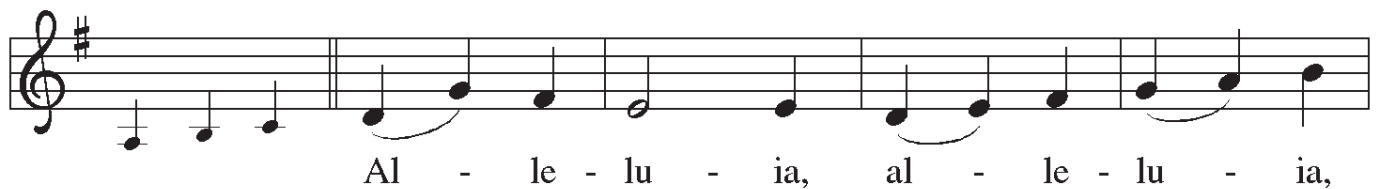
¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord."

²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Repeat alleluia



The Gospel for today comes from Matthew, chapter 16
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.

²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you."

²³ But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

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

Sermon Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

#808

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

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

... Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Peace

MEAL

Offering

Fugue in e minor

Johann Pachelbel

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.

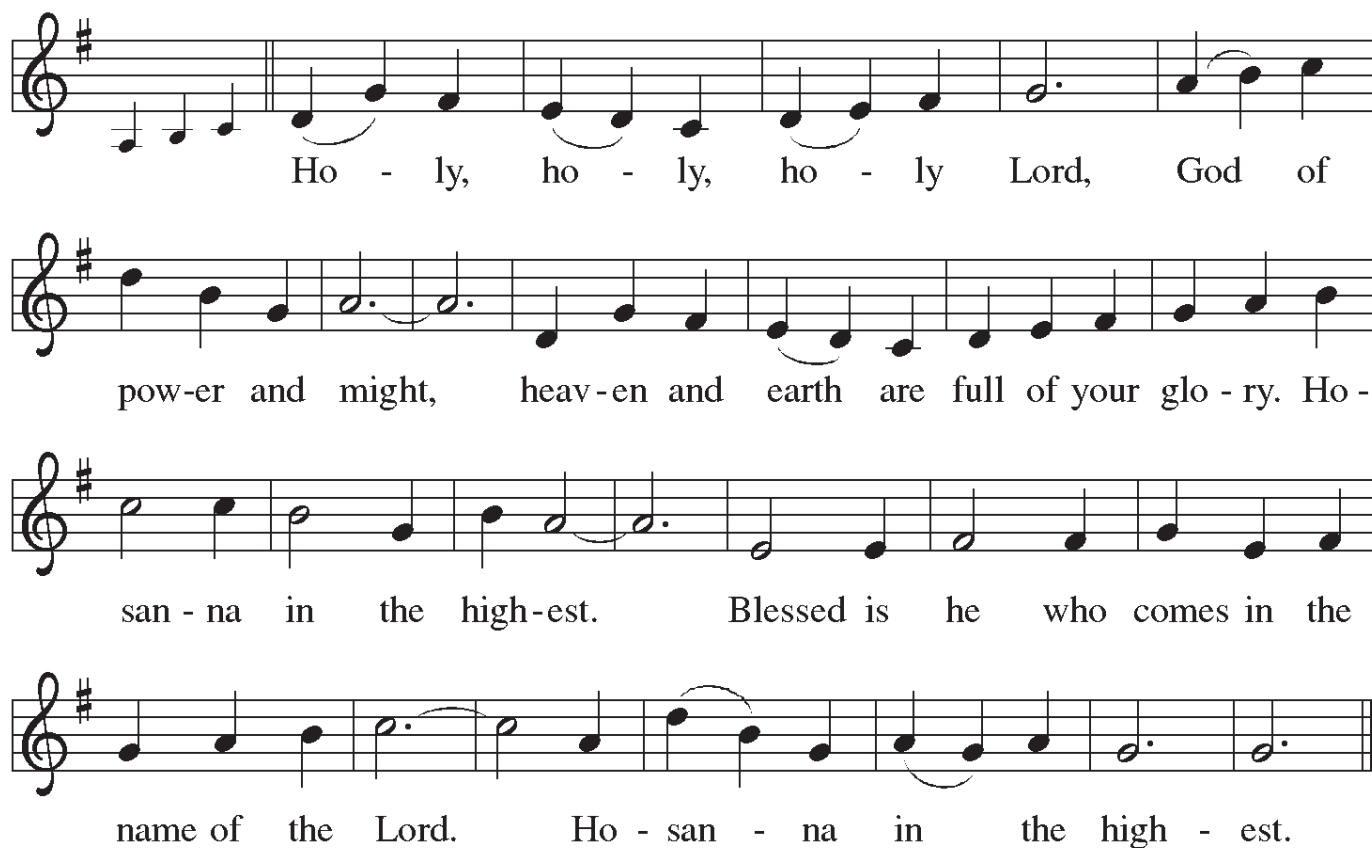
Lift up your hearts.

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:



Eucharistic Prayer

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 Lead on, O King Eternal!

#805

Verses 1 & 2 found in the hymnal. Verse 3 written by Bev Page

Verse 3

Lead on, O King Eternal,
until we reach that shore.
No fear, no pain, no burdens
just peace forevermore.
You've blessed me beyond measure.
My heart belongs to Thee.
So take my hand, dear Savior,
lead to eternity.

Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Fugue in C

Johann Pachelbel

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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
Assisting Minister: Mitch Piper

Reader: Anita Reid
Organist: Elaine Mann

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (30th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

TUESDAY

Grace Pacers – 9:30am
Prayer Group – 11am

WEDNESDAY

Crafters – 9am
Text Study – 12noon
AA meeting – 7pm

THURSDAY

*Alexander Fleming discovers
penicillin growing in
cultures – 1928*

SUNDAY (6th)

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



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Rally Day

Rally Day is scheduled for September 13th in the Church Parlor. See everyone there!

Stewardship Sunday

Stewardship Sunday will be October 4 this year. Envelopes containing time and talent sheets and a pledge form will be sent out prior to the event. Or you can pick up an envelope that Sunday. Our Stewardship drive will run from October 4 through November 1.

Stewardship Sunday will have hot and cold treats, water, juice and maybe a surprise or two! Watch for upcoming Stewardship messages in the bulletin this fall.

Did you know that the word Stewardship contains over 1200 other words? Let us know how many words you can find. The one with the most gets a special treat! Send your entries to the office between October 4 and November 1.

Romans Text Study

Pastor Phil is presenting an 8 week study on Romans. This 8 week study begins Wednesday September 23rd. Wednesday October 14th there will NOT be a study. The study will be in the chapel, from 5:45 to 6:45. Study materials will be provided. There will be a soup dinner after. Each week's study will be repeated on Zoom on the corresponding Wednesday at 7:00. Please let the church office know if you will be participating. A "head count" is needed for materials.

Pacibells Welcomes New Members

Our rehearsals begin on Sept 10, 6pm, in the choir room, we ring for worship on 3rd Sunday of every month. If you have an interest in ringing, please contact Karen Lionberger at: bellhog76@gmail.com



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

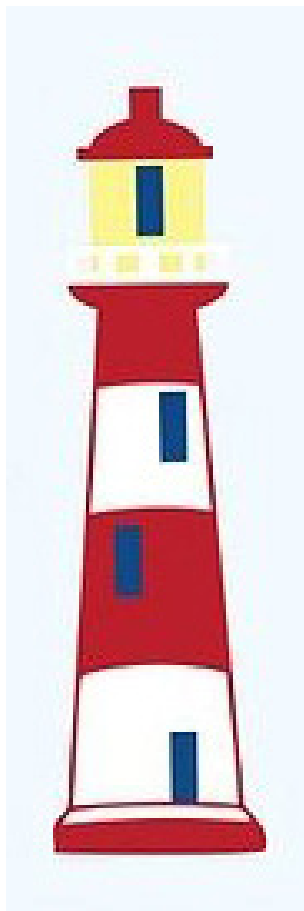
What to bring: Comfortable walking shoes and your water bottle

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.



Beacon House Thank You

Grace members provided summer meals to Beacon House Families Aug. 2–5. The Entrees were provided by: Mark and Tammy Hurlburt — they brought Grilled Hot Dogs and Buns; Jan Adams and Barbara Radke — they made Hawaiian Pizza Sliders; the donations to the Deacon Fund purchased Little Caesars Pizza for Sunday, Corn on the Cob on Monday, and Chicken Fingers and Wings for Tuesday. All of the extras — salads, fruit, vegetables and desserts — were brought to the Beacon House by these Grace members: Tammy Tannler, Dorie Schwellenback, Elaine Berg, Connie Beck, Bev Page, Carla Ruppert-Lokken, Diane Pomplun, Barbara Piper. The parents and their children enjoyed all the “fixings” which we brought to them. THANK YOU



Noisy Offering

A Season for Change

Save your coins and let them FALL in the Noisy Offering on September 13th. The children of Grace will gather loose change from our pockets and purses during our worship service. (Even though it doesn't make as much noise when dropped into the collection cans, paper money is also greatly appreciated!),

Our special offering will be for World Central Kitchen. WCK is first to the front lines, providing meals in response to humanitarian, climate and community crises. With over 600 million meals

served globally, WCK continues to bring relief one plate at a time.

Blessing Box

Summer is rolling on and we still need food and other supplies for our Blessing Box. Our Blessing Box is open all year and we would like to keep it stocked especially in the summer months when many of us are away on vacation. Here are some of the items we need:

- cereal
- crackers
- soap
- packaged soup
- packaged noodles
- toothpaste
- tuna pouches
- packaged potatoes
- granola bars
- peanut butter

Since we are in the warmer months, we are able to collect any canned goods or liquid items.

You can drop off any donations outside the church office or at the Friendship Door. You are also always welcome to put any donations directly into the Blessing Box at any time.

Thank you for your continued support.

Call to Artists

We are seeking visual artists of all mediums—including painting, pottery, woodwork, jewelry, textile arts, sculpture, and photography—to display their work during the Fall Arts Celebration!

- Setup time is Friday 10/16 from 12-4PM and Saturday (10/17) from 10AM-2PM at Trinity Lutheran. Use the parking lot off the access road.
- Display art on a table or hang art on moveable walls for the event.
- Organizers will prepare the tabletop nametag for each artist.
- Artist creates labels for individual works in their display.
- Propanel hanging pieces must have hanging wire on back and organizers will create labels for those pieces to assure visual unity.
- Art viewing is on Sunday 10/18 from noon-4PM. Someone will monitor the artwork if artists would like to attend the 2PM concert.
- Art can be for sale or display only.
- All art sales must be handled by artist.
- Art must be removed immediately following event.

Please fill out the Google Form

<https://forms.gle/oNh66kZJKmAucwD79>

before October 1st to be eligible to participate.

QUESTIONS? Contact Jan Adams jadamscf@gmail.com

5th Annual **FALL ARTS CELEBRATION**

Trinity Lutheran Church
1314 E. Lexington Blvd

Sunday, October 18, 2026
Art Exhibit 12-4PM
Concert 2-3PM

ELCA Church Choirs, Mass Choir, Bell Choir, Special Music, Fine Arts Exhibition, Treats
Hosted by Immanuel Lutheran Church

L.E. Phillips Senior Center SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 • 8 am-2 pm

Join us for an amazing showcase of area businesses that cater to the aging population at the Fourth Annual L.E. Phillips Senior Center Senior Resource Fair!

- 70+ vendor booths
- Tours of the Senior Center
- Craft & bake sales
- Gift basket raffle
- Over \$1,000 in door prizes
- Lunch available for purchase
- Open to all ages
- FREE Admission



L.E. Phillips Senior Center
1616 Bellinger Street
Eau Claire, WI 54703
Call: 715-839-4909
Visit: lep-sc.org

Additional parking and a shuttle will be available at the Stella Blues Parking Lot on Madison Street.

Proudly Sponsored By:



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Celebration of
Life Center

CHIPPEWA VALLEY
CREMATION SERVICES



GRACE
LUTHERAN  let's
gather

**Join
Us!**

Come & join your church
family to hear fellow member

Jeff Heath from
Straight Up Sideways
perform at the Phoenix Tap Room patio
402 Graham Ave, EC

Saturday, September 12th
6-9pm

The band plays dance favorites from classic rock,
pop, country, and spanning the decades.

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