

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



September 6, 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

Praeludium in C, BWV 547

J. S. Bach

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 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

#836

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.



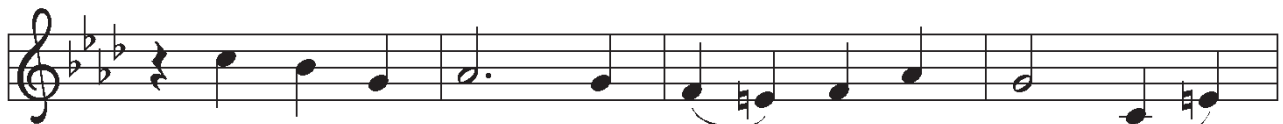
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



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.

Refrain



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



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

Refrain

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

WORD

Children's Message

The first reading is from Ezekiel chapter 33

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand.

⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

The second reading is from Romans , chapter 13

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18**
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one.

¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

¹⁷If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector.

¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

Sermon Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn Come Now, O Prince of Peace

#247

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

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

...Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Peace

MEAL

Offering	Come Holy Ghost, Lord God	Dietrich Buxtehude
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Offering Prayer

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. 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

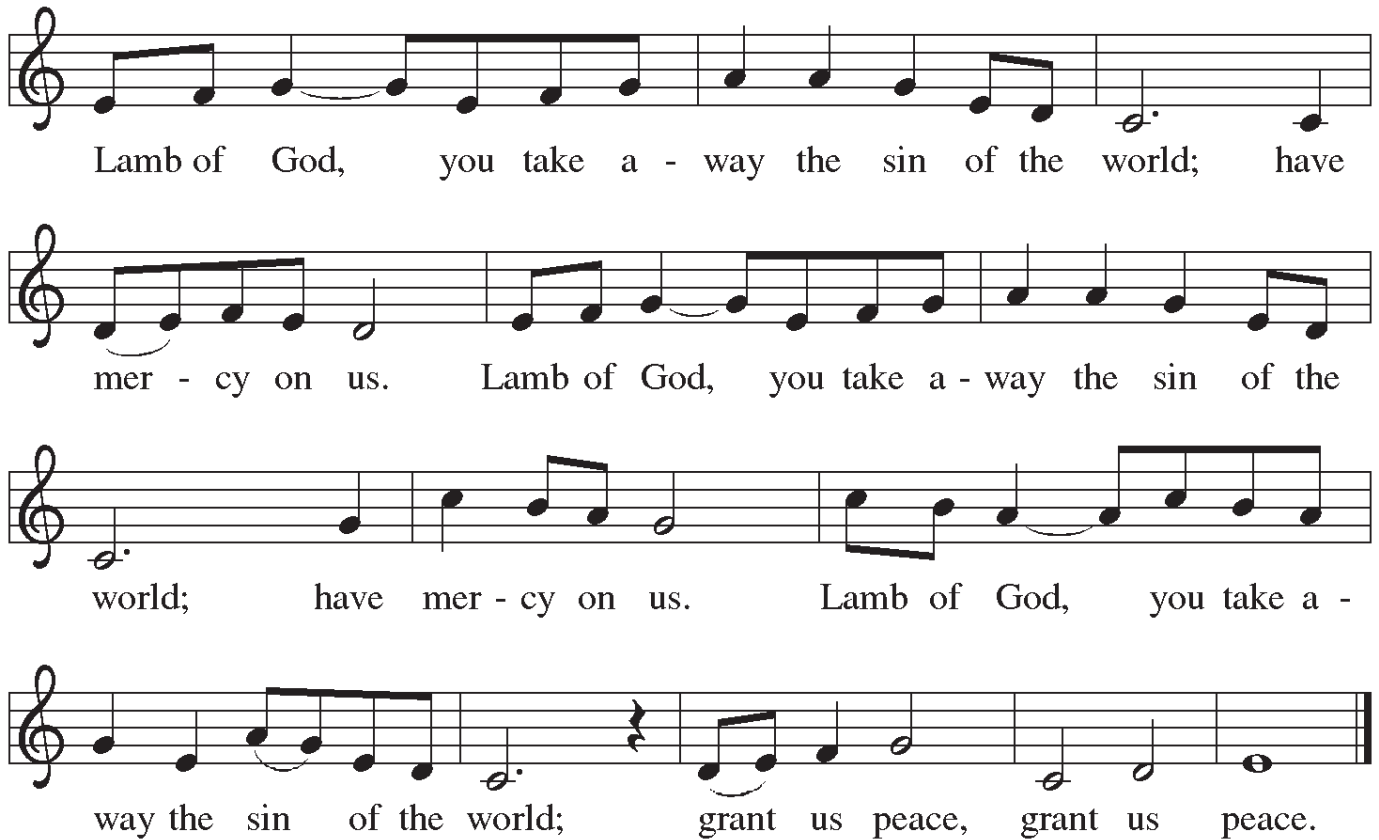
Words of Institution

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
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

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

#543

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

Christopher Uehlein

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Go, My Children, with My Blessing, Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Reader: Evan Casto

Assisting Minister: Arthur Grothe

Organist: Elaine Mann



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (6th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

TUESDAY

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

THURSDAY

Pacibells Rehearsal – 6pm

MONDAY

Labor Day – Office Closed

WEDNESDAY

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

SUNDAY (13th)

Rally Day
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

Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers this Sunday were provided by the family of Nancy Schaaf in memory of her birthday on September 4. Thank you.

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet at 10 AM on Monday, September 14, 2026, in the Lounge at Grace. It is a morning filled with fun, fellowship, food and Bible Study. All women are invited. No prep required, as we read, study and discuss together.

Rally Day Pot–Luck

Come One, Come All. Please plan to attend the Rally Day Pot–Luck in the Parlors after the service on September 13 (next Sunday). It will be a true pot–luck — bring whatever you want! This is the kick–off for our school year’s events and special services. AND, we will welcome Emily Kassera as a member of our congregation during the service that day. The Life and Growth Committee will provide a cake in her honor for dessert along with any other treats a few of you may wish to bring. The Bouncing Castle will be up for the kids to enjoy. Of course, there will be Bingo for anyone wishing to play. The warming oven will be working for those of you who bring baked hot dishes that need to be kept warm. Again — Come One, Come All!

Stewardship Sunday

Parish/Parishes are found within the word Stewardship. Our **parish** is our local community, under the leadership of a pastor who cares for the people. Stewardship is about caring for those within our community and our neighborhood or even the larger world. We **aspire** to be **wise** stewards of the **earth** and our fellow neighbors. Hopefully, all will **reap** the benefits of good stewardship.

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.

SING OR RING?

Join a Grace choir!



- **Adult Choir**

Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, Sept 9, 7-8:30pm and Sundays from 9-9:30am to prepare for anthems.

- **Pacibells Handbell Choir**

Rehearsals begin on Thursday, Sept 10, 6pm, in the choir room and ring for worship on 3rd Sunday of every month.

Choir & 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.

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.



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.



Reading to see the world more justly!

Zoom Book Club

3rd Monday at 2pm

August 17 - A Paradise Built in Hell by Rebecca Solnit
September 21 - The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
October 19 - Into the Beautiful North by Luis Alberto Urrea
November 16 - Indian Horse by Richard Wagamese
December 21 - Theo of Golden by Allen Levi
January 18 - Our Sister Killjoy by Ama Ata Aidoo
February 15 - Family Lore by Elizabeth Acevedo
March 15 - Kindred by Octavia Butler

Contact Pastor Phil to request Zoom link.



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