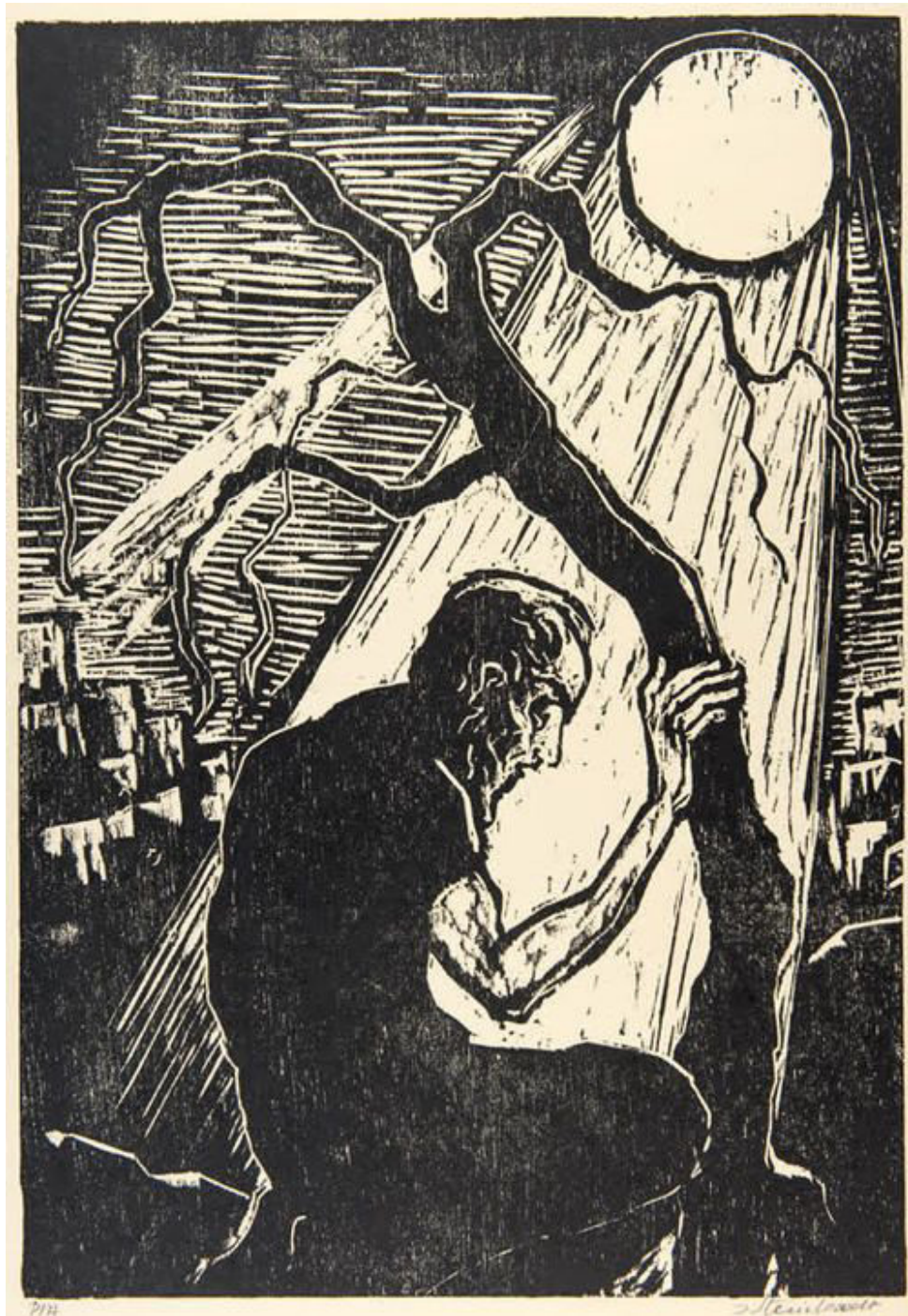


SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



September 20, 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

Pacibells

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

Dale Wood, arr. D Wagner

Welcome

Opening Hymn Lord of Light

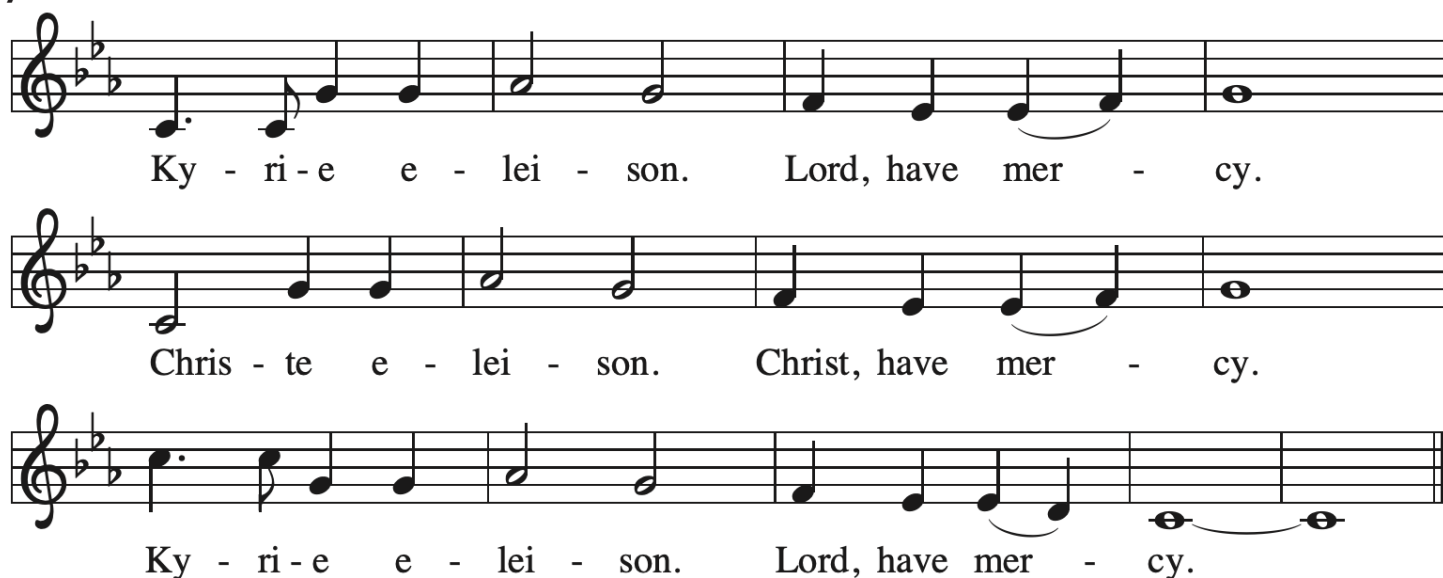
#688

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.

Kyrie



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

WORD

Children's Message

The Epistle Reading is from Philippians, the first chapter.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Word of God, Word of Life.

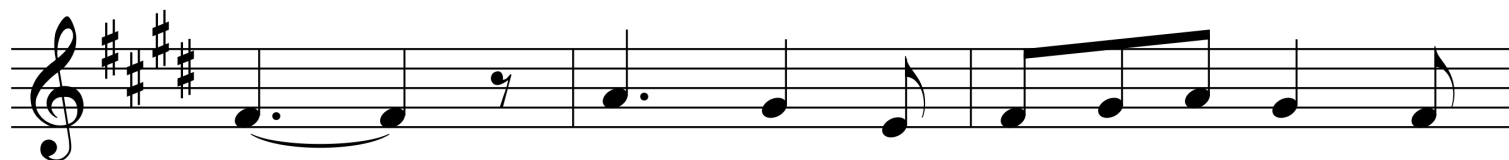
Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Congregation:



Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we



go? You have the words of e - ter - nal



life. Al - le - lu - ia!

The Holy Gospel for today is from Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

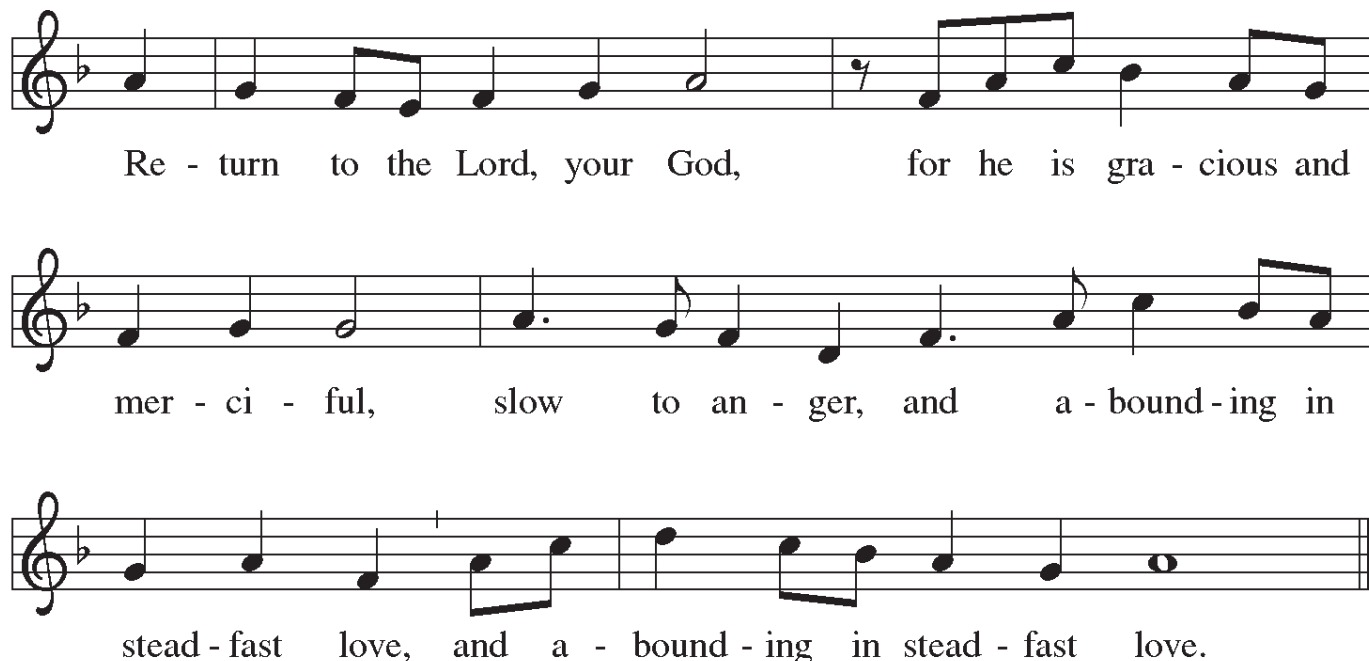
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹ "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing

with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard.
³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?' ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

Return to the Lord



The Sermon Text is from Jonah, the third and fourth chapter.

Then God saw their acts, that they repented from their evil way; and God repented of the disaster that God had said God would bring upon them, and God did not do it. ⁴ But this displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. ² So he prayed to THE MERCIFUL ONE, and said, "Ah, MERCIFUL ONE, wasn't this

precisely my point when I was still in my country? Therefore, I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, always slow to anger and always abundant in loving kindness, One who repents of punishments. ³Therefore now, O MERCIFUL ONE, please take my life from me, 'cause ... better for me to die than to live!"

⁴ Then THE MERCIFUL ONE said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ So Jonah stormed out of the city and sat on the east edge of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city. ⁶And THE MERCIFUL ONE arranged for a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his evil plight. So Jonah rejoiced with great joy for the plant. ⁷ But as morning dawned the next day God arranged for a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered. ⁸And it happened, when the sun arose, that God arranged for a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "... better for me to die than to live."

⁹ Then God said to Jonah, "So you are good and angry about the plant?" And he said, "I am good and angry ... even to death!" ¹⁰ But THE MERCIFUL ONE said, "You have had compassion on the plant for which you have not labored; you didn't make it grow. It came up in a night and went in a night. ¹¹ And yet I should not have compassion on Nineveh, that great city, in which live more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and of course all those beasts as well?"

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn Voices Raised to You

#845

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

Pacibells Amazing Grace

Sandra Eithun

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:

Holy, Holy, Holy *Great Thanksgiving*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, 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
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



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 *As Saints of Old*

#695

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Toccata on "How Firm a Foundation"

Craig Phillips

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Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Assisting Minister: Molly Wilson

Reader: Stacey Geist

Organist: Elaine Mann

Choir Director: Ryan Rogers

Pacibells Director: Karen Lionberger



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (20th)

Yom Kippur

Coffee Hour – 9:30am

Worship – 10am

MONDAY

Scouts – 6pm

TUESDAY

Autumnal Equinox

Grace Pacers – 9:30am

Prayer Group – 11am

WEDNESDAY

Crafters – 9am

Text Study – 12noon

AA meeting – 7pm

Choir Rehearsal – 7pm

THURSDAY

Pacibells Rehearsal – 6pm

FRIDAY

Harold II of England defeats

Harald Hardrada at

Stamford Bridge – 1066

SUNDAY (27th)

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

Stewardship Sunday

Make **haste**, be **hip**, don't **dither**! Follow the stewardship **path** to rich rewards for our church, our neighbors, our synod and the world. Gifts from us to all **parts** of the world, spread Christ's message far and wide.

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.

Emergency Preparedness Education Event

After the worship service on September 27 we will have an emergency preparedness lecture given by John Moen. Topics will include how to develop a preparedness procedure not only for fire or similar disasters but what to do in the event of a flood, burst pipes, or how to get yourself or someone else to the emergency room. There will be a question and answer portion after the main talk. Everyone is invited.

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.

FREE taxi ride to church.

To schedule a pickup/return time for the 10AM worship, please call

**Town & Country Taxi Service
(715-563-7272)**

Monday - Friday
9AM-3PM
and ask for Pete

Made possible through the generosity of our Grace Lutheran Church family



202 West Grand Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54703



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.



5th Annual FALL ARTS CELEBRATION

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1314 E LEXINGTON BLVD

ELCA CHURCH CHOIRS, MASS CHOIR,
HANDBELL CHOIR, SPECIAL MUSIC,
FINE ARTS EXHIBITION, TREATS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026

ART EXHIBIT 12-4PM
CONCERT 2-3PM

Hosted by Immanuel Lutheran Church

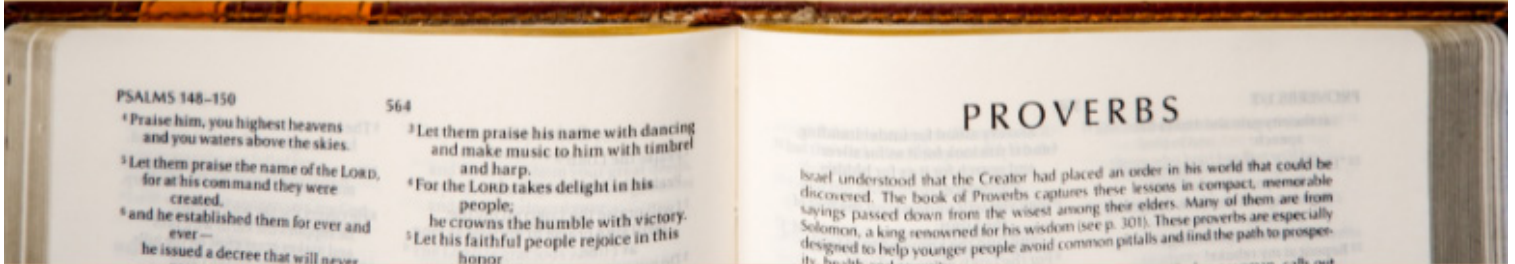
Share your voice

and serve our community by volunteering as a reader during worship!

Reading scripture during our services is a wonderful, low-pressure way to actively participate in worship.

Call or email the office to be added to the list of readers.

info@grace-church.org 715-832-9713



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