

# God wants a Church That Forgives

Pentecost 16  
September 17, 2023



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## Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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{Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod}  
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Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 AM  
623-937-2010

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### WELCOME...

- *May the Word of God bring you comfort in Christ alone.*
  - *Check our website at [www.graceglendale.org](http://www.graceglendale.org) for more information.*
  - *Please reserve **the BACK PEWS for parents with SMALL CHILDREN.***
  - *Ask an usher to receive a **RECEIVER** if you need hearing assistance.*
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**THE SERVICE:** ..... p. 154, Setting 1

### HYMN: 579 HIS MERCY IS MORE

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?  
Omniscient, all-knowing, he counts not their sum;  
thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,  
our sins they are many, his mercy is more. (Refrain)

Praise the Lord! His mercy is more!  
Stronger than darkness, new ev'ry morn;  
our sins they are many, his mercy is more!

What patience would wait as we constantly roam,  
what Father so tender is calling us home!  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor;  
our sins they are many, his mercy is more. (Refrain)

What riches of kindness he lavished on us;  
his blood was the payment, his life was the cost.  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford;  
our sins they are many, his mercy is more. (Refrain 3X)

Text: Matt Papa, b. 1983; Matt Boswell, b. 1979

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**(Stand)**

## **CONFESSION**

*CW 155*

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

***(Silence for meditation and reflection)***

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

**GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST**

CW 176



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



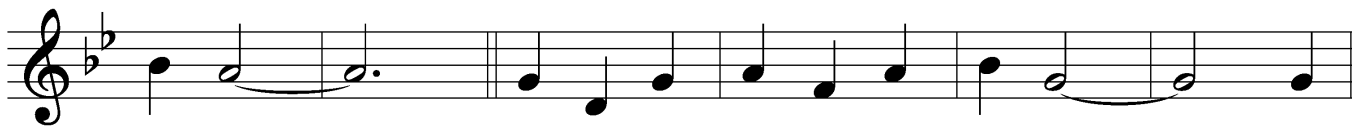
peo - ple on earth. Lord God,



heav - en - ly King, al - mighty - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the



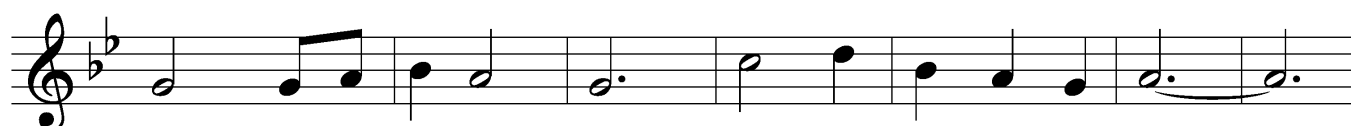
right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. For you a -



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen

Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 705990

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, you graciously forgive us all our sins and abundantly provide for all our needs of body and soul. Give us confidence in your mercy, and teach us also to be merciful to our neighbor, that we willingly forgive all people, and judging only ourselves, lead blessed lives to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

***(Be seated)***

## FIRST READING: GENESIS 50:15–21

*Genesis 50:15–21*

### ***Joseph reassures his brothers of forgiveness.***

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: <sup>17</sup>'This is what you are to say

to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.’ Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.” When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

<sup>18</sup>His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said.

<sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup>So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **MENS OCTET: AMAZING GRACE**

**8:00**

### **SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 4:29—5:2**

*Ephesians 4:29—5:2*

#### ***Forgiving each other fits our Christian calling.***

<sup>29</sup>Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup>Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

<sup>1</sup>Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup>and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

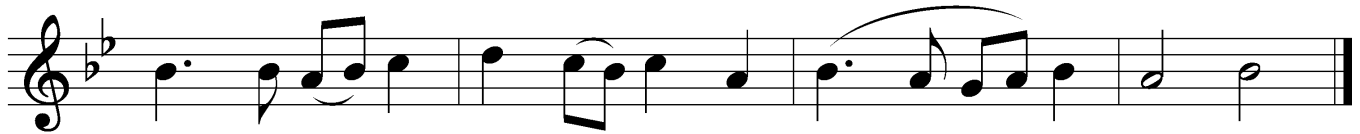
***(Stand)***

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

*Colossians 3:13*

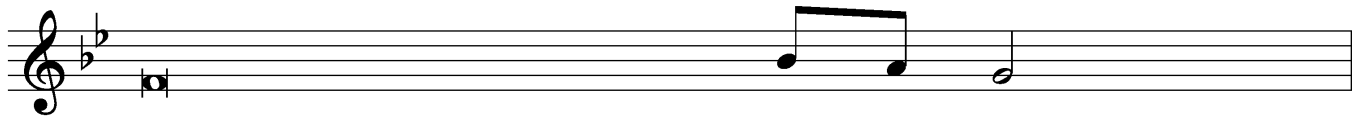


### *Refrain*



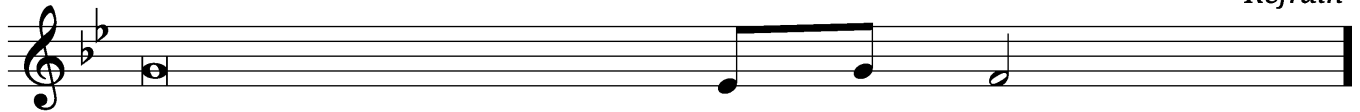
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### *Tone*



Bear with each other and forgive one an - oth - er.

### *Refrain*



Forgive as the Lord for - gave you.

*Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 705990*

## GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:21–35

*Matthew 18:21–35*

### ***A parable about forgiveness***

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

<sup>22</sup>Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. <sup>25</sup>Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

<sup>26</sup>“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ <sup>27</sup>The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

<sup>28</sup>“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

<sup>29</sup>“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

<sup>30</sup>“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

<sup>32</sup>“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup>Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ <sup>34</sup>In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

<sup>35</sup>“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*(Be seated)*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY: 562 JESUS PAID IT ALL**

I hear the Savior say,  
“Thy strength indeed is small!  
Child of weakness, watch and pray,  
find in me thine all in all.” (Refrain)

Jesus paid it all,  
all to him I owe;  
sin had left a crimson stain,  
he washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find  
thy pow’r, and thine alone  
can change the leper’s spots  
and melt the heart of stone. (Refrain)

For nothing good have I  
whereby thy grace to claim;  
I’ll wash my garments white  
in the blood of Calv’ry’s Lamb. (Refrain)



And when, before the throne,  
I stand in him complete,  
“Jesus died my soul to save,”  
my lips shall still repeat. (Refrain)

*Text: Elvina M. Hall, 1820–1889*

*Text: Public domain*

## **SERMON**

### **SET FREE YOUR SLAVES**

- 1. Forgiving them like God.**
- 2. Trusting how God rules.**

*(Stand)*

### **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*(Be seated)*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

**Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

**Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

**Amen.**

## OFFERING

*(Stand)*

## PREFACE

CW 165

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

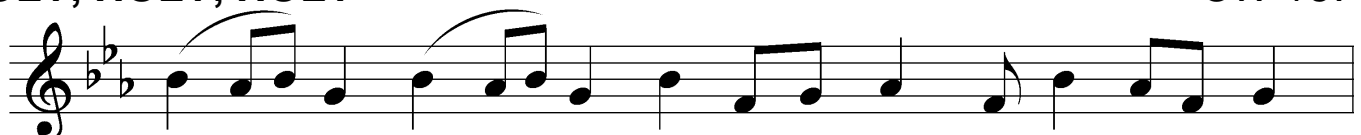
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

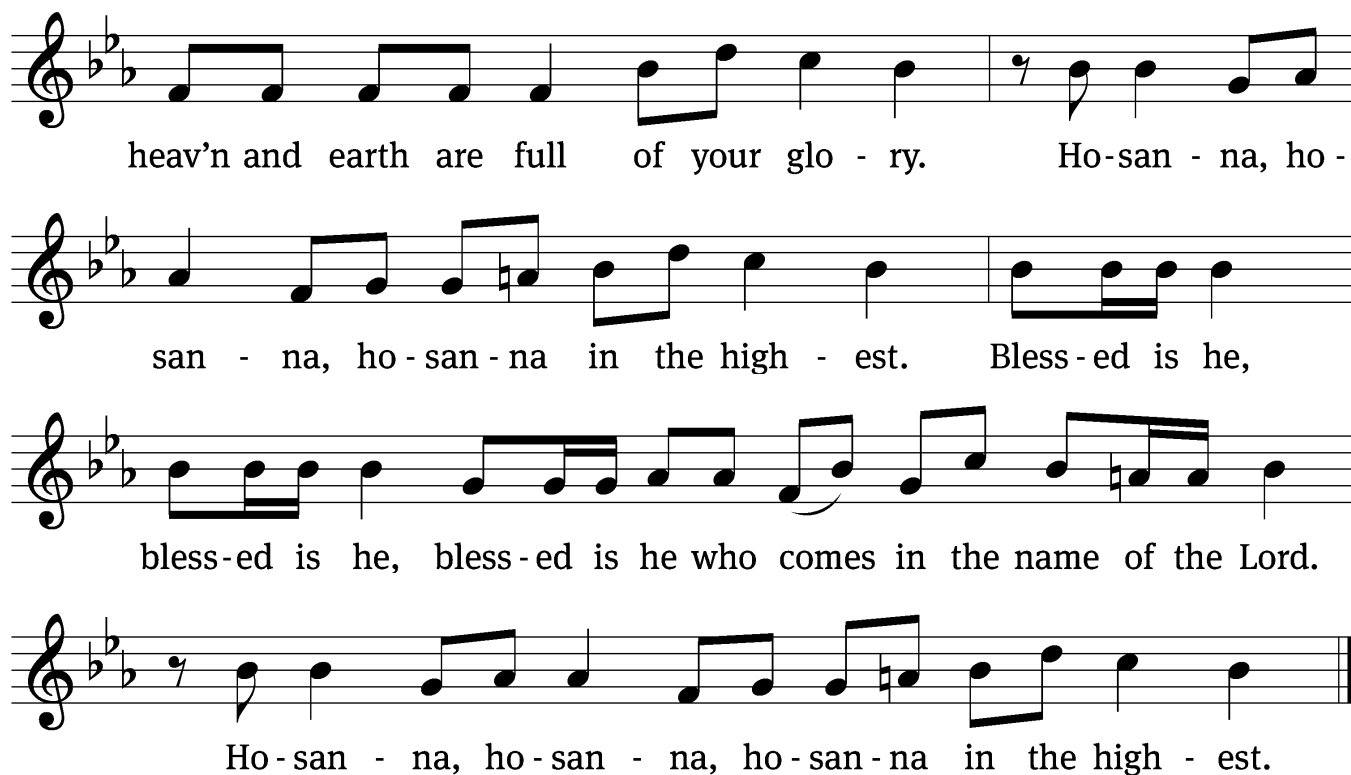
It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who on this day kept his promise and poured out the Holy Spirit to empower his Church to proclaim the gospel in all the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

CW 167



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,  
bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

CW 169

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

*(Be seated)*

## DISTRIBUTION

### DISTRIBUTION HYMN: 733 FORGIVE OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE

“Forgive our sins as we forgive,”  
you taught us, Lord, to pray,  
but you alone can grant us grace  
to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless  
the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs and will not let  
old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals  
the truth we dimly knew:  
how small are others' debts to us,  
how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
and bid resentment cease;  
then, bound to all in bonds of love,  
our lives will spread your peace.

*Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.*

*Text: © 1969 Oxford University Press. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 705990*

### **(Stand)**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet  
you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our  
faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help  
us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as  
your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

**GRADES 1-4: OH HOW GOOD IT IS**

**10:30**

**HYMN: 731 OH, HOW GOOD IT IS**

Oh, how good it is when the fam'ly of God dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity. Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love are the fruits of his presence here among us. (Refrain)

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord, and with one heart we'll live out his word, till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come, for he dwells in the presence of his people.

Oh, how good it is on this journey we share to rejoice with the happy and weep with those who mourn. For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace when we offer the blessing of belonging. (Refrain)

Oh, how good it is to embrace his command to prefer one another, forgive as he forgives. When we live as one we all share in the love of the Son with the Father and the Spirit. (Refrain)

*Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Ross Holmes, b. 1984; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974  
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**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Setting Two from Christian Worship  
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Worship attendance: 8:00 AM – 140 10:30 AM – 138  
Bible Class: 100 Sunday School: 20 Mid-Week Bible Classes: 45  
Senior Ushers – 8:00 AM: Jon Floerke/Chris Paul  
10:30 AM: Todd Rovey/AJ McDunn  
Organist- Jeff Wegner

**Today's Altar Flowers** were donated by the family of Mildred Petersen in observance of her 98th birthday and by Megan and Tom Sullivan in observance of their son, Paul's birthday.

**HOSPITALIZED OR RECUPERATING AT HOME:**

Janet Brussman  
Sandra Lederer  
Vern Busby  
Maria Pitney

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE:**

SUN -**Communion Service, 8:00 & 10:30a**; Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:30a

MON- Handbells, 6:15p; Adult Choir, 7p

TUE- Bible Class, 2p; Council Meeting, 6:30p

WED- ABC: Adult Breakfast & Coffee @ Brother's Restaurant, 8:30a;  
Public School Confirmation, 6:30p; Bible Class, 7p

FRI- Bible Class, 10a

SUN- **Worship Service, 8 & 10:30a**, Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:30a

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. *Forward in Christ* and February Bible-reading and activity calendars are in the Narthex and south entrance to the church.
2. Thank you to the crew that cleaned the church last week. The cleaning crew for September 23 will be captained by Alan Borchardt with Michael and Sharon Bellis, Kristy Grippo, Gigi Ong, Rodney and Donna Rademacher, Nicole Rademacher, and Michelle Richardson

**DIVINE CALL...**Grace has extended a Divine Call to Pastor Joel Heckendorf, who is currently serving at Light of the Valley, Lutheran Church in Reno, NV. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

**ABC - Adult Breakfast and Coffee Group...** ABC is a group of Grace members who meet for breakfast and devotion two Wednesdays each month. All are welcome. Sign up using the contact information below or the registration sheet. located on the table in the narthex. Please join us at



Brother's Restaurant, 8466 W Peoria Ave 85305 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, 9/20. Pat Walker at 480-717- 0131 or patwalker1950@gmail.com.

**LES GRADES 1-4 PLAY... "There is Something Fishy Going On"** – A special performance about God's amazing creation! You are cordially invited to attend on Friday, 9/29 at 6:30p, in the fellowship hall. Come support our young Warriors as they use their gifts and talents to the glory of God. See you there!

**FULL SLATE OF FALL BIBLE CLASSES ...** Classes have begun and are on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. The Splendid Task of the Gospel Ministry starts today! Choose one or all!

**Sunday Morning 9:30-10:15a: The Splendid Task of the Gospel Ministry** *a study of the Apostle Paul's first and second letters to Timothy, the evangelist.*

**Tuesday Afternoon 2-3p: Seek the Kingdom** *a Bible study on an assortment of practical lessons on how we can live our Christian faith as we seek the kingdom.*

**Wednesday Evening 7-8p: The Book of Malachi** *Study God's last call of repentance to his Old Testament people and be reminded of your need to be ready for the coming Savior.*

**Friday Morning 10-11a: Law and Gospel**

**2023 ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP SHEETS...** Please sign up for altar flower donations by filling out the Altar Flower binder in the narthex. Altar bouquets cost \$35 each. Enclose payment in a pink envelope (checks payable to Grace Ladies Aid) and place it in the plate.

**2023 SCRIPTURAL GREETING CARDS** are available for purchase after the first service, in the fellowship hall. They are available as singles and by the box.

**WANTED:** Ladies Aid wants YOU...to bring cookies to share during coffee time. Please consider a donation for all to enjoy as you fellowship. Thank you!

**THE LIFE OF LUTHER SEMINAR...** Saturday, 10/14, 9a-4p. Learn why people who claim that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation still name their churches after him. The event is at Shepherd of the Valley Ev. Lutheran Church, Prof. Brian Hennig from MLC will be the guest speaker. Snacks and lunch will be provided. The cost is \$10. Contact Lori Neumann to register or for more information.

**DONATE FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE!** Scan this image using your phone's QR code reader! Contact Debbie at ext. 322 if you have any questions or need help with setting this up. Automatic or one-time deductions for offerings may also be accessed from the [graceglendale.org](http://graceglendale.org) site with the "Click Here to Donate Online" button. A phone app is also available for donations: install Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement. Search organizations for Grace Ev Lutheran Church. *Please use checking or savings account information rather than a credit or debit card to save the processing fees.*



**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** Need amounts are based on a goal of **\$947,436.00** by **6/30/2024**.

**Week ending 9/10/2023:**

**YTD 7/1/2021 through 9/10/2023:**

Weekly Need:	17,000.00		YTD Need:	190,900.00
Weekly Actual:	12,815.12		YTD Actual:	209,251.58
Weekly +/-:	-4,184.88		YTD +/-:	+18,351.58