

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA) 303 N. Green Bay Rd Thiensville, WI 53092

Phone: 262-242-1174 www.grace53092.org

Worship services: Sundays at 9am, Tuesdays at 12:10pm



CHURCH STAFF

Bill Beyer – Pastor (C: 262-674-4714)

Sandy Luettgen - Administrative Asst. Fred Lynk - Custodian

Brian Dearing - Organist/Music Director Shonda Schaff - Nursery Attendant Online Giving

<u>Our Mission</u>: "Reaching out to all people as Disciples of Christ, we serve God, proclaim our faith, and care for all creation."

<u>Vision Statement</u>: At Grace, we strive to <u>G</u>uide and nurture all individuals to be <u>R</u>esilient, <u>A</u>ccepting Children of God rooted in the Enrichment of God's word.

<u>Welcome to Worship</u>: We encourage visitors to talk with our pastor following worship! Know that you are always welcome to join us for worship! If you are interested in becoming a member at any time, please contact the pastor.

<u>Communion Instruction</u>: Jesus Christ, present in this Meal of bread and wine, invites every person to share in Holy Communion, especially children. Ushers will direct you to the front, where you will come forward in an orderly fashion, receive a piece of bread, and then select either the red wine or the white grape juice and return to your seat. *Gluten-free wafers are also available; talk to the pastor if you require gluten-free*. If you would prefer not to commune today, you are welcome to come forward with your hands crossed to receive a blessing instead. If you would like your children to receive communion instruction prior to sharing in this Meal, please talk with the pastor before or after worship.

<u>Offering</u>: Offerings are not taken during worship. There is an offering plate at the back of the sanctuary and one near the front for you to drop an offering when you come up for communion. You may also scan the QR code on this page to give online.

<u>Hearing Assistance Available</u>: This facility is equipped with a hearing-assistance system. Please see an usher for assistance.

<u>Nursery Available</u>: We love to have children in worship with us. For those that play quietly there is a space for them to play with quiet toys in worship (the Pray-ground). A separate staffed nursery is provided for healthy children that are more active and like to be a bit louder.

(♦ = The congregation is invited to stand)

PRELUDE (Bell Choir) John A. Behnke (arr.), "Partita on 'Jesus Loves me'" (2019) – Tune: Jesus Loves Me (ELW 595): 1. Theme 2. Contemplation 3. Joy

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO WORSHIP (All Singers, SBG Band, Bell Choir) Hal H. Hopson (arr.), "The Gift of Love" (1972; this arrangement 2010)

- Vs. 1 Though I may speak with bravest fire, And have the gift to all inspire, And have not love; my words are vain, As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
- Vs. 2 Though I may give all I possess,
 And stiving so my love profess,
 But not be giv'n by love within,
 The profit soon turns strangely thin.
- Vs. 3 Come, Spirit come, our hearts control,
 Our spirits long to be made whole.
 Let inward love guide every deed,
 By this we worship and are freed.
 Amen.

◆ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (Please stand)

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation....Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen**.

P: Let us confess our sin....Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God...and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

◆ **GREETING** (*Please stand*)

P: The grace of our Lord... be with you all.
C: And also with you.

◆ PRAYER OF THE DAY (Please stand)

P: Let us pray. (Silence is kept for reflection) Direct us, O Lord God...through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.



FIRST READING Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow

down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

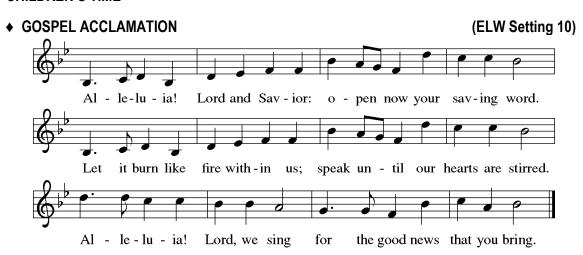
L: Word of God. Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 1 Refrain:



- L: Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- C: Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night. R
- L: They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.
- C: It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- L: Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- C: For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed. R

CHILDREN'S TIME



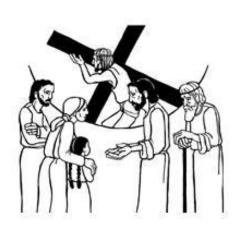
♦ GOSPEL Luke 14:25-33

P: The holy gospel, according to Luke, the 14th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (The gospel is announced)

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

SERMON



♦ HYMN OF THE DAY God's Work, Our Hands



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: God of mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: We entrust these prayers to you.....our redeemer and friend. **C: Amen.**

♦ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER (*Please stand*)

P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty...join their unending hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy (ELW Setting 10)



P: Holy God, holy and mighty....we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cupall our sins and sorrows will be no more.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

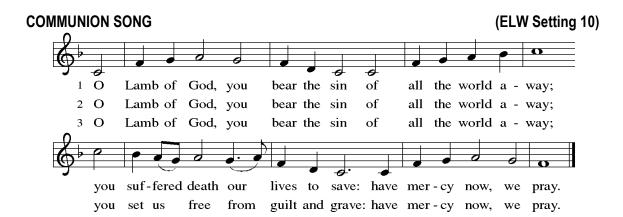
P: Holy God, holy and merciful one....sharing your bounty with all the world.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

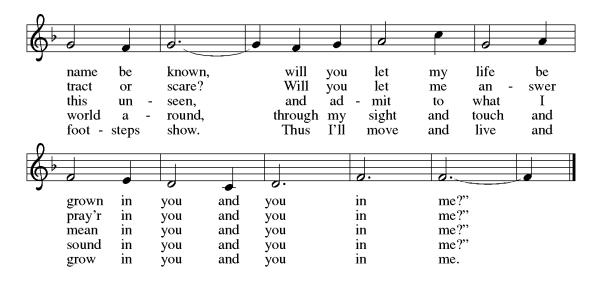
P: Holy and benevolent God....the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

◆ THE LORD'S PRAYER (Please stand)

C: 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.









PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: God of abundance.....our Lord. C: Amen.

♦ BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and 🖽 give you peace. **C: Amen.**



◆ **DISMISSAL** (*Please stand*)

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE (SBG Band): John A. Behnke (arr.), Paul Moak, Trevor Morgan and Matt Maher, "All the People Said Amen" (2013; arr. by Dan Galbraith)

Vs. 1 You are not alone, if you are lonely When you feel afraid, you're not the only

We are all the same, in need of mercy,

to be forgiven and be free.

It's all you got to lean on but thank God it's all you need.

Vs. 2 If you're rich or poor, well it don't matter.

Weak or strong, you know love is what we're after.

We're all broken but we're all in this together.

God knows we stumble and fall

And He so loved the world he sent His Son to save us all.

Chorus And all the people said Amen. Whoa-oh.

And all the people said Amen.

Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends.

And all the people said Amen.

Bridge Blessed are the poor in spirit

Who are torn apart.

Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart.

Blessed are the people longing for another start.

For this is the Kingdom, The Kingdom of God

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Music Notes:

Today's special music is provided by the Bell Choir, the Saved by Grace Band, and members of all the congregation's singing choirs. The Bell Choir offers the **Prelude** for handbells and organ, an arrangement of "Jesus Loves Me" which has three movements: "Theme," in which the melody is stated by the bells starting in bar 19, "Contemplation," in which the theme is in the keyboard and into which a second theme ("Jesus in the Morning") is woven, and "Joy," which includes elements of the first movement and leads inexorably to a "big finish." Dr. Behnke understands both organ and handbells exceedingly well, and it shows.

The **Last Prelude** uses the combined forces of the Men's Chorus, the Women's Choir, and the Bell Choir in an arrangement of the familiar tune, "O Waly, Waly". The arranger is Hal H. Hopson (b. 1933), a full-time composer and church musician with more than 3,000 published works. The **Postlude** comes from the eponymous album by Matt Maher. It has a feel that's a cross between country and reggae and has a catchy hook you'll be hearing in your head for the rest of the day. Matt is a contemporary Christian music artist, songwriter, and worship leader originally from Newfoundland, Canada, who later relocated to Tempe, Arizona. He has written and produced seven solo albums to date. Three of his albums have reached the Top 25 Christian Albums Billboard chart and four of his singles have reached the Top 25 Christian Songs chart. Our version features DawnMark Bacon-Johnson sitting in on the drums.

The text of Hymn of the Day was written by Wayne Wold. It was selected as the winning entry in the ELCA's "God's work. Our hands." Sunday hymn contest in 2019. More than 120 entries were submitted to be considered as a hymn for the ELCA's annual dedicated day of service. The selected hymn represents the official tagline of the ELCA and expresses how the people of this church live in service for the life of the world. We offer our thanks to all who submitted original compositions — the large number of entries gives witness to the enthusiasm that "God's work. Our hands." Sunday has inspired throughout this church and in our communities. The tune is "Earth and All Stars," but in 4/4 rather than 3/4 time the way the Saved by Grace Band does it. Wayne Wold is retired Professor and College Organist at Hood College and Director of Music Ministry at First Lutheran Church of Ellicott City, Maryland.

<u>Next week:</u> Rally Day! Holy Cross Day! A special "God's Greatest Hits" worship service! What's not to like? Chancel Choir warms up at 8:15am, sings for worship, and rehearses at 10:15am after worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday Worship Leaders Next Sunday Worship Leaders

Greeter: Marilyn DeMore Greeter: TBD

Reader: Dawn Omernik Reader: JoAnn Holdmann, TBD....

Wine: Nancy Perez, JoAnn Holdmann Wine: TBD, TBD

Usher: TBD Usher: TBD

Comm. Set Up: Anna Martin

Coffee Fellowship: Samantha & David Rockwood

Coffee Fellowship: TBD

This week at Grace

Sun 9/7 7:45am Bell Choir tables returned to Sanctuary

WE COULD USE HELP WITH THIS

8am Bell Choir Warmup

8:15am Saved by Grace Band Warmup

8:30am All Singers and Bell Choir Warmup

9:00am Worship ~ All Choir Groups Participate

10:15am Chancel Choir Rehearsal – will be very short (~15") so singers can

participate in "Gods Work, Our Hands" activities.

10:15am "Gods Work, Our Hands" Service Projects

Mon 9/8 2pm Violin Lessons

Tue 9/9 12:10pm Devotional Worship - Cancelled

3:30pm Violin Lessons

5:30pm Scouts

6:30pm Council Meeting

Wed 9/10 3:30pm Violin Lessons

6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thu 9/11 12pm Bible Study

Sun 9/14 Holy Cross Day, Rally Day

8:15am Chancel Choir Warmup

9:00am Worship ~ All Groups provide music for worshp

10:15am Chancel Choir Rehearsal

10:15am Community Life Team Meeting

<u>Grace's Welcome Statement</u>: Grace Lutheran Church is a religious community that celebrates the gifts of God that empower us to engage in the struggles of life, to care for each other, and to serve Christ where we work and live. Grace is a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation, which means we welcome the participation of people of all ages, races, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, education backgrounds, and economic conditions – all who want to join us in serving God, proclaiming our faith, and caring for all creation.

<u>Flowers</u>: The flowers by the altar this morning are provided by Jamie Awe and Lara Johnson in honor of their wedding that took place here at Grace yesterday. Congratulations to Jamie and Lara!

<u>Today, "God's Work, Our Hands"</u>: Please consider staying after worship today for one of the service projects planned for today.



<u>Winter Craft Fair</u>: The fair will be on November 15, 9am-2pm this year. Looking for original handmade artwork or crafts. Direct sale consultants are also welcome, provided handmade products are included in sales as well. Booths available beginning at \$30/vendor. For information and to register as a vendor, visit https://bit.ly/GLTCF2025

<u>Outreach For Hope</u>: Outreach for Hope supports Greater Milwaukee Synod congregations and ministries serving low-income urban areas through grants, supply drives, and partnerships with suburban churches. The OFH 2025 Family Ride Run Walk fundraiser will be on September 27. If you are interested in participating, or just want to make a donation, you may do so at OFHRRW.org. Registration is free, but donations are encouraged and go toward the overall event goal of raising \$165,000.



<u>Guest House Sandwiches</u>: We assemble sandwiches for the guests at the Guest House *twice* each month – on the first and third Wednesdays at 9am. Join us for this opportunity to serve and to enjoy fellowship with one another on **September 17.**

<u>Isaiah 55 Food Pantry (All Peoples Church)</u>: Donations to the food pantry are appreciated more than ever as the need continues to increase. You may drop food and hygiene items off in the bins just outside the Luther room.



Music program starts again for the 2025-26 season: Music is very important in worship, and Grace Lutheran has a long tradition of music of various styles led by volunteers from the congregation. Do you like to sing? Do you play an instrument? Do you think you'd like to try? Well, "All God's Chillun Got a Place in the Choir"! There's a spot for you. You don't have to be a "trained" musician or a "star" – you just have to be open to learning and want to participate.

- Saved By Grace, our praise band, rehearses as a full band every other Saturday at 9:00am starting August 21. In addition, the Vocalists in the Band also rehearse at 6:30pm on the first and third Wednesdays of each month starting August 20. New singers and instrumentalists are welcome!
- Our Bell Choir rehearses at 6:30pm on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month starting August 27. New ringers are welcome! (You only have to play four bells – not at the same time – and be able to count to six!)
- The Chancel Choir, our mixed voice ensemble, is open to both men and women of any age from college students to retirees. The music is satisfying but not too difficult. The Chancel Choir rehearses after worship (or after Faith Formation if there is one) on the first two Sundays of each month starting September 7.
- Our Women's Choir, open to women of any age from college students to retirees, rehearses only once a month at 6:30pm on the first Tuesday of the month starting September 2.
- Finally, last but certainly not least, the **Men's Chorus**, open to men of any age from college students to retirees, rehearses only once a month at 7:30pm on the first Tuesday of the month (right after the Women's Choir) starting September 2.

<u>Mutual Ministry Team Members</u>: Below are the current Mutual Ministry Team members in the event you would like to contact one of these leaders. The MMC is the liaison between the congregation, the pastor and other staff.

Dan Umhoefer Theresa Umhoefer Matt Junker Pam Stockbridge

<u>2025 Council</u>: Below are the 2025 Council members in the event you would like to contact one of these leaders.

Ryan Bernard (President): 920-418-5235 Janie Robbins (VP): 262-646-4628 Kevin Sibley (Treasurer): 262-302-8182 JoAnn Holdmann (Secretary): 262-290-1609 Diana Koppa: 414-254-9983
David Rockwood: 262-389-4045
Geri Schesel: 262-227-9251

Worship Volunteers: Calling all readers, wine servers, ushers, greeters, communion setup folks and coffee fellowship helpers! There is a hard copy of the SignupGenius form on the communication desk for those that find it easier to sign up on their way in or out of church. The link sent out in the Grace Notes is still active and available, and this QR code can also be used to connect to the Signup Genius. Emails and phone calls are always welcome as well. Thank you for all your help!



Sunday Coffee Fellowship Volunteers Needed: We're looking for friendly faces to help with coffee fellowship on Sunday mornings. It's an easy but important ministry towards hospitality. There is a great guideline to follow and support is provided!! Just set up coffee, bring a few treats, one always gluten free, and help create a warm, welcoming space for connection after worship. If interested, please sign up using one of the following options:

- · Communication desk signup sheet
- Online with SignupGenius using the link in the Grace Notes or the QR code here
- · Call the office and let Sandy know
- You can also reach out to: Mary Gieschen ~ 262-573-8317, Jen Bartz ~ 414-550-5231,
 Theresa Umhoefer ~ 262-227-8840

We really need help during the summer months!

Celebrations this week:

Birthdays this week: Jack Smiley - 9/7, Grace Roeker - 9/9, Steve Mussatti - 9/13

Anniversaries: Lisa & Andrew Knuth - 9/13

<u>Prayers:</u> Chevelle Lutze (Veronica Junker's great-niece), Lana (Janie Robbins's cousin), Andy Roehrborn (cousin of Matt Junker), Debbie (friend of Dawn Omernik), Rick Chu (Veronica Junker's uncle), Drew Liegeios, Jerry Karthauser, Judy Schwartz (friend of Delaine Jacobs), David Rauth.