

# Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD  
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## June & July 2022

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“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22–23; ESV)

Dear Friends in Christ:

With the arrival of summer, the Church enters the Season after Pentecost. (The Day of Pentecost will be celebrated on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, this year.) Continuing with my theme of traveling through the Church Year in my newsletter articles, I would like to share with you a helpful description of the Pentecost season from the *Pastoral Desk Diary 2022* published by Concordia Publishing House:

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The Sundays after Pentecost make up the longest portion of the Church Year. This is the Time of the Church—the time we focus on growing together in the life of the Holy Trinity.

On the first Sunday after Pentecost, the Church celebrates Holy Trinity Sunday. We are baptized into only one name, but that name is “of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” There is only one name, only one God—but there are three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. On this Sunday, we confess the great mystery of the Holy Trinity.

The Sundays of this time of the Church Year are known as Sundays after Pentecost (or Sundays after Trinity). Picking up on Pentecost as the season of growth, they are often referred to as the Green Sundays. The readings focus on the life of Christ in His Church. We hear Jesus teaching His disciples and healing the faithful.

Because the Pentecost season is part of “ordinary” time, congregations may choose to observe some of the lesser festivals of the season. When saint days or commemorations fall on Sundays, worship leaders could highlight these to offer teaching moments about the breadth of the Church’s life and work. These noteworthy days enable Christians to reflect on how we worship “with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven.”

On the Last Sunday after Pentecost, the Church gives voice to the joyful hope of the second coming of Jesus for the resurrection of the dead and the last judgment. The end-times focus of the Last Sunday of the Church Year bears themes of hope and preparation that are similar to those of Advent, which soon follows.

### *The Season after Pentecost Practices and Traditions*

- The church is decorated in green, the color of growing plants. This marks the season of growth in living in our Baptism and receiving the Lord’s Word and Sacraments.
- On Trinity Sunday, we confess the Athanasian Creed, which goes into great detail to confess the catholic (universal) faith that must be faithfully and firmly believed to be saved: “that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity.” The color for Trinity Sunday is white, the color of God’s holiness.

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One of our more recent hymns, "*Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing*" (LSB 691), beautifully captures the theme of growth that characterizes the Season after Pentecost. This hymn, written in 1981 by English hymnwriter Timothy Dudley-Smith, is based on St. Paul's description of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22–23 and in Jesus' call for His disciples, referred to as branches, to bear much fruit (John 15:5, 8):

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|---|---|
| 1 Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing,<br>May we ripen and increase,<br>Fruit to life eternal growing,<br>Rich in love and joy and peace.     | 3 Rooted deep in Christ our Master,<br>Christ our pattern and our goal,<br>Teach us, as the years fly faster,<br>Goodness, faith, and self-control. |
| 2 Laden branches freely bearing<br>Gifts the Giver loves to bless;<br>Here is fruit that grows by sharing,<br>Patience, kindness, gentleness. | 4 Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending,<br>May we grow till harvests cease;<br>Till we taste, in life unending,<br>Heaven's love and joy and peace. |

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I hope you and your family have a wonderful summer as you rest and rejoice in all of God's good and gracious gifts. By the power of His holy Word and Sacraments, may you continue to bear much fruit for His kingdom, growing in faith toward Him and in fervent love toward one another.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Brian Crane

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### **FROM THE BOARD OF ELDERS**

This first week of June brings with it one of my favorite things about being an elder.

This weekend will see the next class of confirmands welcomed into Grace. On the Friday before Sunday's Confirmation service, the dedication of the confirmands is celebrated with a dinner and tested by going over the questions they studied from Luther's Small Catechism.

I have been a part of these examinations for almost a decade at this point, and I always enjoy going over the width and breadth of the Small Catechism and being reminded of my time studying it when I was preparing to be confirmed.

The beauty of the Small Catechism is that it is a stalwart work, its principles not shaken by 500 years of change in the world around it.

Luther's teachings are not changed by the world, but they do help us understand the changing world around us. We have a bedrock for explaining and defending our faith that is just as relevant to us now as it was to Luther's children that inspired his composition of the catechism.

And when as adults we laugh about how some of the things we learned in school never were relevant again (all of that practice in making dioramas in grade school never lead anywhere I'm afraid), the teachings of Luther's Small Catechism are a daily part of our lives.

It's a thorough, detailed, and steady guide to help us explain and understand our faith and the Bible. And if any of us feel we have outgrown the need for that, we have fooled ourselves.

The Small Catechism isn't meant to be studied to pass an exam and then return it after we're done...it's a useful resource for us throughout our life.

God's blessings,  
Matthew Olson

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**2022 FLOWER CHART** is available for sign up in the narthex. The cost is **\$27.00** for two bouquets. To reserve a Sunday, please sign your name and the occasion. Please make your checks payable to "Grace Lutheran Church" and place in the secretary's box in the Communication Center. Thank you!

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**KWIK TRIP CARDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE** before Thursday evening's worship service from Walter Bohn or Dennis Eaton. The gas cards will also continue to be sold before Sunday's service in the Office Equipment Room and before Bible Study on Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. Grace gets a percentage back on all cards sold. Kwik Trip cards are currently available in \$25, \$50, and \$100 amounts. Thank you for supporting Grace this way!

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**ELEVATOR:** As of April 30<sup>th</sup>, the balance on our elevator loan stands at **\$172,876.94**. Thank you for your support and generosity!

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**NEED YOUR IMAGINATION!** We will hand sew 14" therapeutic quilts for people with dementia on **Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**, at **9:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. All supplies furnished. Contact Ruth at 262-637-0367 with questions.

**CHURCH PARKING:** The City of Racine has informed us that West Lawn Avenue will be closed beginning in late May or early June due to street reconstruction. The street will be closed through the summer. No parking will be available on West Lawn during that time. We apologize for any inconvenience. (West Lawn Avenue runs along the east side of our property.)

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**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY:** Please join us for Bible study from **10:00 – 11:00 AM** each Wednesday. We will be taking a closer look at the Bible lessons that will be read in church the following Thursday and Sunday. I hope this study will help to prepare us as we hear God's Word in worship. – Pastor Crane

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**ELECTRONIC GIVING** is available at Grace through Vanco. Questions can be answered by Lori Heidenreich. Enrollment forms are available in the Office Equipment Room. Completed forms can be returned in a sealed envelope and placed into Lori's Financial Secretary mailbox outside the church office.

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**NO GROWING STRONG WITH GRACE** in June, July, or August.



## FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

### **Living Sacrifices**

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area then we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game that we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way.

This is why our Lord warns: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others” (Matthew 23:23). We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have.

And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:1–2).

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that and think that we have done what God has required. Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us. Not one for the other but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God. And, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9–13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle’s teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection. Through this, we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.



# PARISH FELLOWSHIP JUNE/JULY ACTIVITIES



God is  
my Refuge

June 10, 2022

Ladies of Grace @ 11:30

At Charcoal Grill, 8300 Washington Ave.,  
Mount Pleasant

June 15, 2022

Game Day @ 11:15

Every Sunday Morning:

Coffee Fellowship following worship



July 8, 2022

Ladies of Grace @ 11:30

location TBD

(watch church bulletin for details)

July 20, 2022

Game Day @ 11:15

Every Sunday Morning:

Coffee Fellowship following worship

## Daily Lectionary Readings June – July 2022

|                     |   |                     |  |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|--|
| Wednesday, June 1:  | Numbers 16:23-40<br>Luke 19:29-48       | Friday, July 1:     | Joshua 6:6-27<br>Acts 10:18-33                 |
| Thursday, June 2:   | Numbers 16:41-17:13<br>Luke 20:1-18     | Saturday, July 2:   | Joshua 7:1-26<br>Acts 10:34-48                 |
| Friday, June 3:     | Numbers 20:1-21<br>Luke 20:19-44        | Sunday, July 3:     | Joshua 8:1-28<br>Acts 11:1-18                  |
| Saturday, June 4:   | Numbers 20:22-21:9<br>Luke 20:45-21:19  | Monday, July 4:     | Joshua 10:1-25<br>Acts 11:19-30                |
| Sunday, June 5:     | Numbers 21:10-35<br>Luke 21:20-38       | Tuesday, July 5:    | Joshua 23:1-16<br>Acts 12:1-25                 |
| Monday, June 6:     | Numbers 22:1-20<br>Luke 22:1-23         | Wednesday, July 6:  | Joshua 24:1-31<br>Acts 13:1-12                 |
| Tuesday, June 7:    | Numbers 22:21-23:3<br>Luke 22:24-46     | Thursday, July 7:   | Judges 2:6-23<br>Acts 13:13-41                 |
| Wednesday, June 8:  | Numbers 23:4-28<br>Luke 22:47-71        | Friday, July 8:     | Judges 3:7-31<br>Acts 13:42-52                 |
| Thursday, June 9:   | Numbers 24:1-25<br>Luke 23:1-25         | Saturday, July 9:   | Judges 4:1-24<br>Acts 14:1-18                  |
| Friday, June 10:    | Numbers 27:12-23<br>Luke 23:26-56       | Sunday, July 10:    | Judges 6:1-24<br>Acts 14:19-15:5               |
| Saturday, June 11:  | Numbers 32:1-6, 16-27<br>Luke 24:1-27   | Monday, July 11:    | Judges 6:25-40<br>Acts 15:6-21                 |
| Sunday, June 12:    | Numbers 35:9-30<br>Luke 24:28-53        | Tuesday, July 12:   | Judges 7:1-23<br>Galatians 1:1-24              |
| Monday, June 13:    | Proverbs 13:1-25<br>John 14:18-31       | Wednesday, July 13: | Judges 13:1-25<br>Galatians 2:1-21             |
| Tuesday, June 14:   | Proverbs 14:1-27<br>John 15:1-11        | Thursday, July 14:  | Judges 14:1-20<br>Galatians 3:1-22             |
| Wednesday, June 15: | Proverbs 15:1-29<br>John 15:12-27       | Friday, July 15:    | Judges 15:1-16:3<br>Galatians 3:23-4:11        |
| Thursday, June 16:  | Proverbs 16:1-24<br>John 16:1-16        | Saturday, July 16:  | Judges 16:4-30<br>Galatians 4:12-31            |
| Friday, June 17:    | Proverbs 17:1-28<br>John 16:17-33       | Sunday, July 17:    | 1 Samuel 1:1-20<br>Galatians 5:1-26            |
| Saturday, June 18:  | Proverbs 20:5-25<br>John 17:1-26        | Monday, July 18:    | 1 Samuel 1:21-2:17<br>Galatians 6:1-18         |
| Sunday, June 19:    | Proverbs 22:1-21<br>John 18:1-14        | Tuesday, July 19:   | 1 Samuel 2:18-36<br>Acts 15:22-41              |
| Monday, June 20:    | Proverbs 22:22-23:12<br>John 18:15-40   | Wednesday, July 20: | 1 Samuel 3:1-21<br>Acts 16:1-22                |
| Tuesday, June 21:   | Proverbs 24:1-22<br>John 19:1-22        | Thursday, July 21:  | 1 Samuel 4:1-22<br>Acts 16:23-40               |
| Wednesday, June 22: | Proverbs 25:1-22<br>John 19:23-42       | Friday, July 22:    | 1 Samuel 5:1-6:3, 10-16<br>Acts 18:1-11, 23-28 |
| Thursday, June 23:  | Proverbs 27:1-24<br>John 20:1-18        | Saturday, July 23:  | 1 Samuel 6:19-7:17<br>Acts 19:1-22             |
| Friday, June 24:    | Proverbs 30:1-9, 18-33<br>John 20:19-31 | Sunday, July 24:    | 1 Samuel 8:1-22<br>Acts 21:15-36               |
| Saturday, June 25:  | Proverbs 31:10-31<br>John 21:1-25       | Monday, July 25:    | 1 Samuel 9:1-27<br>Acts 21:37-22:16            |
| Sunday, June 26:    | Joshua 1:1-18<br>Acts 8:1-25            | Tuesday, July 26:   | 1 Samuel 10:1-27<br>Acts 22:17-29              |
| Monday, June 27:    | Joshua 2:1-24<br>Acts 8:26-40           | Wednesday, July 27: | 1 Samuel 12:1-25<br>Acts 22:30-23:11           |
| Tuesday, June 28:   | Joshua 3:1-17<br>Acts 9:1-22            | Thursday, July 28:  | 1 Samuel 13:1-18<br>Acts 23:12-35              |
| Wednesday, June 29: | Joshua 4:1-24<br>Acts 9:23-43           | Friday, July 29:    | 1 Samuel 14:47-15:9<br>Acts 24:1-23            |
| Thursday, June 30:  | Joshua 5:1-6:5<br>Acts 10:1-17          | Saturday, July 30:  | 1 Samuel 15:10-35<br>Acts 24:24-25:12          |
|                     |   | Sunday, July 31:    | 1 Samuel 16:1-23<br>Acts 25:13-27              |