

# Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

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## August & September 2022

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**“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” (Psalm 1:1–3 ESV)**

Dear Friends in Christ:

I probably have told you this before, but I continue to be amazed by the beauty of Wisconsin, especially in the summer. The countryside is so green here, especially compared to the largely brown summer landscape of my native California. California is called the Golden State not only because gold was discovered there in 1848 (hence the nickname “49ers” given to those who came the following year seeking to strike it rich). Golden brown hills and fields also cover much of the state in the summer and fall months of the year.

What accounts for this difference between Wisconsin and California? In a word, water (or the lack thereof). Wisconsin has abundant rainfall throughout the year, while California relies on rain and mountain snowfall in the winter to fill the reservoirs and aqueducts that provide water for residents and farmers alike. The winter rains cause the California hills to bloom for a short time in the spring with beautiful poppies and other wildflowers. However, rain is almost nonexistent in the summer. Those flower-filled hills quickly become brown, and the now dead vegetation becomes a fire danger.

Just as flowers and trees (and even we ourselves) need water to have and maintain physical life, so, too, we need God’s Word to create and sustain our spiritual life in Christ. Psalm 1 says that a person who delights in the law of the Lord is like a tree “planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither” (v.3). On the other hand, the “wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away” (v.4).

Jesus spoke often of water. For example, Jesus said to the woman at the well in Samaria: “Everyone who drinks of this water [i.e., from the well] will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4:13–14).

Jesus gives us this gift of living, eternal water by means of His Word. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit creates and sustains our faith in Jesus so that by believing in Him we will not perish, like dry chaff, but instead we will have life and have it abundantly (cf., John 3:16; John 10:10).

As you enjoy the beauty and warmth of our Wisconsin summer, may you also find rest and refreshment in the beauty and warmth of God’s Word. Jesus says to you, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water’” (John 7:37–38). In God’s Word, we hear of God’s amazing love in sending His Son, Jesus, to suffer, die, and rise again for our salvation. Jesus refreshes our souls through the forgiveness of sins He won for us on the cross, forgiveness which He freely gives to us in His Word and Sacraments here in His Church.

My friends, the living water that Jesus gives you in His Word will never run out. It will always satisfy you, even on the harshest of days. It will sustain you through the dry wilderness of this world until, by His grace, you lie down in those beautiful lush, green pastures of heaven.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Brian Crane

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

“There’s no place like home, there’s no place like home, there’s no place like home...”

That’s the familiar refrain that Dorothy repeated to herself in the Wizard of Oz in order to return to her family in Kansas after her adventures in Oz. After seeing fantastical sites, all Dorothy wanted to do was to return back to her simple, plain life at home.

I’m sure many of us have fantastical sights of our own from this summer. Family vacations, going to the movies, cookouts at home—those are all great, fun things! But none of those activities can measure up towards what is offered to us every week at church.

We have the opportunity every week to be in God’s house. But that doesn’t mean that we should take what is offered there for granted. Forgiveness of sins, fellowship with our church family, and receiving the Lord’s Supper should only seem common due to how often we’re able to partake in them. But the blessings we get from them are far from ordinary.

And we also have the opportunity at Grace to learn more about those blessings. Pastor Crane is continuing his Bible study series looking at the Lutheran understanding of death and eternal life. September brings the return of Sunday School and Youth Bible Study being offered.

We should have fun, spend time with family, and take a break every now and again. But all of that should only make us that much more excited to return home, home to our family at Grace and the comfort and blessings that we receive there every week. Because there truly is no place that can offer what we receive at the Lord’s house.

God’s blessings,  
Matthew Olson

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**ELEVATOR:** As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, the balance on our elevator loan stands at **\$169,352.94**. Thank you for your support and generosity!

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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

**CHURCH PARKING:** West Lawn Avenue is now closed due to street reconstruction. The street will be closed through the summer. No parking will be available on West Lawn during that time. We will still be able to exit the parking lot on to West Lawn except when construction is taking place immediately by the exit. We apologize for any inconvenience. (West Lawn Avenue runs along the east side of our property.)

## FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

### **The Ceremony of the Offertory**

Have you ever noticed the subtle ceremony involved in receiving the offerings during the Divine Service? After all the offerings have been collected, they are brought forward and given to the pastor or one of his assistants. The pastor then turns toward the altar, and as he slightly bows his head, the collection plates with the offerings in them are raised slightly to the Lord and then placed either on the altar or a table for the offerings. Why do we do have this ceremony? And what does it teach us? For that is what ceremony does; it teaches, as the Augsburg Confession tells us, what we need to know about Christ (AC XXIV, 1–3).

Originally, this ceremony included more than simply bringing forward what was collected in the offering plates. The elements for the Holy Communion—the bread and the wine—were brought forward along with the offering plates. As the offering plates and the elements were lifted toward the Lord, and placed upon the altar, the elements would be put in the center, and the altar, now made a table, would be set for the Lord's Supper.

These gifts brought to the altar came from the sweat of the people's brow. It is the bread and wine, the fruits of the peoples' labor in this fallen world. After six days of labor and toil, the people would bring a generous proportion for the Lord's work. It was set upon the altar and offered to the Lord for Him to take up and press into His service for His gracious work in and among them.

For what they offered to the Lord from the sweat of their brow, the bread of anxious toil, came back to them as the bread of life, the bread come down from heaven that whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup would receive life through the forgiveness of their sins.

This is not unlike what the Lord did for His people in the Old Testament:

You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the LORD your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the LORD your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the LORD your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the LORD your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the LORD your God and rejoice, you and your household. (Deuteronomy 14:22–26)

What a blessing! God provides for us in all things. He provides bread from the sweat of our brows, and He receives this from us in the first fruits offerings we give to Him in thanksgiving and praise. He receives and turns it into spiritual bread, heavenly bread, the bread of eternal life and gives it back to us so that we might have joy. So, the next time you are in the Divine Service, watch this ceremony in wonder, that the Lord gives back to us, what we have given to Him so that we may rejoice in the salvation He has won upon the cross and gives to us in His supper.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

## Daily Lectionary Readings August – September 2022

Monday, August 1:	1 Samuel 17:1-19 Acts 26:1-23	Thursday, September 1:	1 Kings 18:1-19 Ephesians 1:1-23
Tuesday, August 2:	1 Samuel 17:20-47 Acts 26:24-27:8	Friday, September 2:	1 Kings 18:20-40 Ephesians 2:1-22
Wednesday, August 3:	1 Samuel 17:48-18:9 Acts 27:9-26	Saturday, September 3:	1 Kings 19:1-21 Ephesians 3:1-21
Thursday, August 4:	1 Samuel 18:10-30 Acts 27:27-44	Sunday, September 4:	2 Kings 2:1-18 Ephesians 4:1-24
Friday, August 5:	1 Samuel 19:1-24 Acts 28:1-15	Monday, September 5:	2 Kings 2:19-25; 4:1-7 Ephesians 4:25-5:14
Saturday, August 6:	1 Samuel 20:1-23 Acts 28:16-31	Tuesday, September 6:	2 Kings 4:8-22, 32-37 Ephesians 5:15-33
Sunday, August 7:	1 Samuel 20:24-42 1 Corinthians 1:1-25	Wednesday, Sept. 7:	2 Kings 4:38-5:8 Ephesians 6:1-24
Monday, August 8:	1 Samuel 24:1-22 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:16	Thursday, September 8:	2 Kings 5:9-27 Philippians 1:1-20
Tuesday, August 9:	1 Samuel 25:1-22 1 Corinthians 3:1-23	Friday, September 9:	2 Kings 6:1-23 Philippians 1:21-2:11
Wednesday, August 10:	1 Samuel 25:23-44 1 Corinthians 4:1-21	Saturday, Sept. 10:	2 Kings 9:1-13; 10:18-29 Philippians 2:12-30
Thursday, August 11:	1 Samuel 26:1-25 1 Corinthians 5:1-13	Sunday, September 11:	2 Chronicles 29:1-24 Philippians 3:1-21
Friday, August 12:	1 Samuel 28:3-25 1 Corinthians 6:1-20	Monday, September 12:	2 Chronicles 31:1-21 Philippians 4:1-23
Saturday, August 13:	1 Samuel 31:1-13 1 Corinthians 7:1-24	Tuesday, September 13:	2 Chronicles 32:1-22 Colossians 1:1-23
Sunday, August 14:	2 Samuel 1:1-27 1 Corinthians 7:25-40	Wednesday, Sept. 14:	2 Chronicles 33:1-25 Colossians 1:24-2:7
Monday, August 15:	2 Samuel 5:1-25 1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Thursday, Sept. 15:	2 Chronicles 34:1-4, 8-11, 14-33 Colossians 2:8-23
Tuesday, August 16:	2 Samuel 6:1-19 1 Corinthians 9:1-23	Friday, September 16:	2 Chronicles 35:1-7, 16-25 Colossians 3:1-25
Wednesday, August 17:	2 Samuel 7:1-17 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:22	Saturday, Sept. 17:	2 Chronicles 36:1-23 Colossians 4:1-18
Thursday, August 18:	2 Samuel 7:18-29 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:16	Sunday, September 18:	Nehemiah 1:1-2:10 1 Timothy 1:1-20
Friday, August 19:	2 Samuel 11:1-27 1 Corinthians 11:17-34	Monday, September 19:	Nehemiah 2:11-20; 4:1-6 1 Timothy 2:1-15
Saturday, August 20:	2 Samuel 12:1-25 1 Corinthians 12:1-13	Tuesday, September 20:	Nehemiah 4:7-23 1 Timothy 3:1-16
Sunday, August 21:	1 Kings 1:1-4, 15-35 1 Corinthians 12:14-31	Wednesday, Sept. 21:	Nehemiah 5:1-16; 6:1-9, 15-16 1 Timothy 4:1-16
Monday, August 22:	1 Kings 2:1-27 1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Thursday, Sept. 22:	Nehemiah 7:1-4; 8:1-18 1 Timothy 5:1-16
Tuesday, August 23:	1 Kings 3:1-15 2 Corinthians 1:1-22	Friday, September 23:	Nehemiah 9:1-21 1 Timothy 5:17-6:2
Wednesday, August 24:	1 Kings 5:1-18 2 Corinthians 1:23-2:17	Saturday, Sept. 24:	Nehemiah 9:22-38 1 Timothy 6:3-21
Thursday, August 25:	1 Kings 7:51-8:21 2 Corinthians 3:1-18	Sunday, September 25:	Malachi 1:1-14 Matthew 3:1-17
Friday, August 26:	1 Kings 8:22-30, 46-63 2 Corinthians 4:1-18	Monday, September 26:	Malachi 2:1-3:5 Matthew 4:1-11
Saturday, August 27:	1 Kings 9:1-9; 10:1-13 2 Corinthians 5:1-21	Tuesday, September 27:	Malachi 3:6-4:6 Matthew 4:12-25
Sunday, August 28:	1 Kings 11:1-26 2 Corinthians 6:1-18	Wednesday, Sept. 28:	Deuteronomy 1:1-18 Matthew 5:1-20
Monday, August 29:	1 Kings 11:42-12:19 2 Corinthians 7:1-16	Thursday, Sept. 29:	Deuteronomy 1:19-36 Matthew 5:21-48
Tuesday, August 30:	1 Kings 12:20-13:5, 33-34 2 Corinthians 8:1-24	Friday, September 30:	Deuteronomy 1:37-2:15 Matthew 6:1-15
Wednesday, August 31	1 Kings 16:29-17:24 2 Corinthians 9:1-15		

August 2022  
Parish Fellowship



National Night Out

Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

Die Kenosha Musikanten Polka Band

will perform in the parking lot at

5:30 pm



(bring your lawn chair)

Ladies of Grace

Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am

(watch church bulletin for location)

Game Day

Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 am

Fellowship Hall

**\*\*Coffee fellowship every Sunday after worship\*\***

September 2022  
Parish Fellowship



Ladies of Grace  
Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am  
(watch church bulletin for location)

Growing Strong with Grace  
Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:15 am  
(Pot bless meal at 11:15)  
Fellowship Hall

Game Day  
Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>  
(after Growing Strong with Grace)

PASTOR CRANE "QUAD-5"  
CELEBRATION  
after service on Sunday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>  
15 years ordained  
5 years installed at Grace  
50<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sept. 25  
(cake, coffee, juice, and light snack will  
be served)

**\*\*Coffee fellowship every Sunday after worship\*\***