

**GRACE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)**
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Welcome to Grace!

September 7 & 10, 2023

What We Believe:

✝ As Lutheran Christians we stand with the church of the ages and confess the faith of the **Holy Bible**, which is **God's Word**.

✝ We believe that our **Triune God** created man and woman holy; however, since we sinned and still sin we cannot free ourselves from **sin and death**. Therefore, God sent His Son **Jesus Christ**, who is our **only way to salvation**. By His death and resurrection and through no work or decision of our own, we have forgiveness, life, and salvation.

✝ We joyfully receive these gifts in His Word, and in the holy sacraments of **Baptism** and the **Lord's Supper**.

✝ In all our teaching and preaching we seek to be faithful to God's holy **Law** which shows our sin, and to proclaim His precious **Gospel**, which is the good news of our **salvation in Christ!**

✝ We subscribe also to **Luther's Small Catechism** and the other documents in the Book of Concord of 1580 because they faithfully confess these biblical truths.

Guests and Holy Communion:

Holy Communion is a gift Christ gives to His Church. In it, He offers His true Body and Blood, in, with and under the bread and wine. When received in faith, it brings forgiveness, new life and salvation.

Holy Communion is also a statement of our unity in Christ (*community*). Those who receive the Lord's Supper at Grace Lutheran Church are baptized Christians who have been instructed in and publicly confess the Evangelical Lutheran faith.

For this reason, *only members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod* are ordinarily communed at this altar. If you have any questions regarding the doctrine of Close Communion, please talk to the pastor before or after the service.

Nursery: If your child becomes restless during the service, you are welcome to make use of the Nursery downstairs.

Friendship Pad: Please sign the Friendship Pad when it is passed during the service.

Offering: The offering plates are not passed. Rather, they are located at the back of the nave. Please place your offering in one of the plates as you enter or leave the church. You may also hand it to one of the ushers.

Fellowship Time: Immediately following the 9:00 AM Worship.

Large Print Hymnals: Are available from the ushers!

Electronic Devices: PLEASE silence all devices during worship. Thanks!

**May the Lord bless your worship today!
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 7 & 10, 2023– Divine Service, Setting Three**

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, CHIMES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +**

♪ Today Your Mercy Calls Us	LSB 915
Invocation	LSB 184
Confession of Sins	LSB 184

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

Introit	Psalm 92:1–4; antiphon: v. 5
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- P** How great are your works, O LORD!
Your thoughts are very deep!
- C** It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
- P** to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,
- C** to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.
- P** For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
- C** as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P** How great are your works, O LORD!
Your thoughts are very deep!

♪ Gloria Patri	LSB 186
♪ Kyrie	LSB 186
♪ Gloria in Excelsis	LSB 187
Salutation and Collect of the Day	LSB 189

- P** Let us pray.
O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our

Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7–9

pew Bible p. 721

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

Epistle

Romans 13:1-10

pew Bible p. 948

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

♪ Alleluia and Verse

LSB 190

Gospel

Matthew 15:1-20

pew Bible p. 820-821

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Catechism Time – *The Ten Commandments*

Luther’s Small Catechism, LSB 321

The Fifth Commandment

P You shall not murder

P *What does this mean?*

C We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

Apostles’ Creed

LSB 192 or inside of back of cover of hymnal

♪ Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now LSB 902

Sermon Theme ***“Kingdoms and Greatness”*** ***Matthew 18:1-20***

Prayer of the Church

Offering *The offering plates are not passed. Please see note on the first page of the bulletin.*

♪ Offertory LSB 192

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

Preface LSB 194

♪ Sanctus LSB 195

Lord's Prayer LSB 196

The Words of Our Lord LSB 197

♪ Pax Domini LSB 197

♪ Agnus Dei LSB 198

Distribution

♪ Jesus Comes Today with Healing LSB 620

♪ To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All LSB 613

♪ Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing LSB 686

♪ Blest Be the Tine That Binds LSB 649

♪ Nunc Dimittis LSB 199

♪ Thanksgiving LSB 200

♪ Salutation and Benedicamus LSB 201

♪ Benediction LSB 202

♪ May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill LSB 698

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+ TO GOD BE THE GLORY +
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CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF September 10th THROUGH September 16th

SUNDAY 9:00 AM DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION
 10:30 AM Bible Study

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY 6:30 PM DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION

FRIDAY

SUNDAY 9:00 AM DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION
 10:30 AM Bible Study

Lectionary Summary: Living as Humble Little Children of the Father
True greatness is not self-sufficient strength, but humility like that of a little child. The greatness of childlike faith receives all good things as gracious gifts from our Father in heaven. Apart from such faith, “you will never enter the kingdom of heaven,” but whoever is humbled like a little child will be “the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 18:3–4). Though in our sin we deserve to be “drowned in the depth of the sea” (Matt. 18:6), we have instead been drowned (“buried”) with Christ in Baptism and then raised to the new, humble life of a child of God. The Lord sends His watchman to warn us with a word from His mouth, in order that we may not die in our iniquity but be turned from our pride and selfishness to live (Ezek. 33:7–9). Thus, we live in humility and faith before God as well as in love for our neighbor, which “is the fulfilling of the law” (Rom. 13:10). In the reverent fear of God, we do no harm to our neighbor, but we “pay to all what is owed to them” (Rom. 13:7) and we “owe no one anything, except to love each other” (Rom. 13:8).

About the Bulletin Cover: Like the piercing shofar trumpet blast that made the people tremble before Mount Sinai (see Exodus 19:16), Ezekiel was called to sound forth the warning of God’s Law. God gives the warning of His Law before the final judgment to lead us to repentance and faith in the Gospel of Jesus’ death and resurrection for our forgiveness. God sounds the “not of judgment” so that we might hear and join in singing the notes of “gladness,” “pardon,” and “triumph” in Christ (LSB 511).