

## **Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church:**

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*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Jackson Center, Ohio  
September 1, 2024  
10:30 am*

Welcome to  
**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 1, 2024 ~ 10:30 A.M.

**Welcome to Our Guests**

During Labor Day weekend, God, we pray that all our labors, whether big or small in the world's eyes, will glorify you. Amen. We believe God has a purpose for you being with us today and our desire is to be an instrument in helping you discover and fulfill that purpose. You are always invited to come and worship with us. Please let us know if the pastor or we may be of service to you in any way. If you desire to be baptized in Jesus, please speak with the Pastor.

**Focus for Today**

How does one stay strong in faith? At first glance, it seems that the answer is in the doing of things like keeping commandments. It has far more to do with believing God's word, what he says he will do. In order to go in and take the land, Israel had to first believe that God was truly with them. Then, the further unfolding of God's word and will may provide wisdom, light, faith. When we believe that the Lord is near, how could his face not shine upon us? We must be strong, not in ourselves but in the strength of God's might. Such faith comes from the Word teaching the Lord's presence, that we may have his strength and will to keep his commandments, so that good things come from within us.

**As We Gather**

*\* Indicates times during which the congregation stands.*

The Prelude

***"Who You Say I Am"***

Praise Band

Welcome and Prayer

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

\*Gathering Song

***"We Fall Down"***

\*The Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, †Son and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Hear the word of the Lord from 1 John 1:8-10...

P: Most Holy God:

**C: We know our bondage to sin, and we confess it to you. We have denied you with our thoughts, words, and deeds. In our busyness, we forget to be thankful for all your many blessings and mercies. We fail to put You first and our neighbors before ourselves. Hear our confession, our sorrow for our sin, and our need for a savior. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, re-set our hearts and minds, reveal your will for us, and put us back on the path of righteousness.**

P: Lord, have mercy.

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

P: Lord, have mercy.

*(Silence for personal confession)*

P: The Word of Forgiveness... God has had mercy on us and given His only Son to die for us and to take away the sin of the world, even yours and mine. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

**All: O Lord, continue to cleanse and strengthen your Church and your people. Since we cannot stand firmly without your power, govern us always by your grace; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

ESV pg. 148

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119:129-136 (read responsively)

<sup>129</sup> Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

<sup>130</sup> **The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.**

<sup>131</sup> I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments.

<sup>132</sup> **Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name.**

<sup>133</sup> Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me.

<sup>134</sup> **Redeem me from man's oppression, that I may keep your precepts.**

135 Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.

136 **My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.**

**Praise the LORD!**

Second Lesson: Ephesians 6:10-20

ESV pg. 979

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Holy Gospel: Mark 7:14-23

ESV pg. 843

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

Time for Young Disciples

Pastor Bert

Sermon Prayer

P: May the Spirit of the Lord be in my heart and on my lips so that I may sincerely and humbly, courageously and effectively proclaim the Good News.

**C: And may the Spirit of the Lord touch our ears that we may listen carefully. Touch our minds that we may understand correctly and touch our hearts that we may respond to that message courageously.**

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Sermon

Pastor Bert

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

\* Prayers of the Church and The Lord's Prayer

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

\*Blessing

Ministry and Mission Moments

\*Closing Songs

***“King of My Heart”***  
***“Sing, Sing, Sing”***

***Enter to Worship --- Depart to Serve***  
**Ministry and Mission Moments**

There is a **box for offering** located on a table at the back of the church for you to drop off offerings. All offerings are greatly appreciated to help the church stay in good financial standings.

**The first practice of our Grace adult choir** is scheduled for Wednesday, September 4. We are always looking for new members to help us "sing His praises". We usually sing the second and fourth Sundays from September through May as well as several special occasions. The fellowship of being a member of the choir is very special indeed. Please consider joining Grace adult choir this year. Choir schedules are available in the church office or by contacting Rick Russell, director.

**Members, the Lay/Witness Committee** would like for us to get to know each other a little better. Lay / Witness members will personally be asking families to fill out a form with some suggested questions to answer. We would like to put a family profile from early and late service in our newsletter. Thanks for your help with this project! There will be a container on the back table for your forms! We are calling this project, "GETTING TO KNOW YOU!"

**Mark your calendars. Parents of youth grades Pre. K - 6th graders-** Gospel Gang's kickoff will be Wednesday, September 4th at 6:15pm. Our kickoff will include a lesson, wiener roast, smores and outdoor games. Meetings will be the first Wednesday of every month 6:15 pm-7:30 pm.

**Today, Luther League Kick-off** : The Luther League Kick-Off will now be held on Sunday, September 1st. We will be going to a Dayton Dragons game directly after the late service that Sunday. If any high schooler is interested in going and have not yet confirmed they are attending, then please call or text Julie Klopfenstein at 937-726-6402 or email her at [julieregula@hotmail.com](mailto:julieregula@hotmail.com) More details to come.

**The Backpack program** is asking for donations for the program. They are asking for fruit cups, applesauce cups, pudding cups and peanut butter cups, small individual boxes of cereal, & small individual microwave meal cups (mac & cheese cups). There is a labeled box in the south vestibule for your donations.

**Cookies for Alpha Center**, please bring cookies to the church kitchen by September 8, 2024. Any questions, please contact Linda Jenkins, Chairperson.