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*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio
September 8, 2024
8:00 am*

Welcome to
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jackson Center, Ohio

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 8, 2024 ~ 8:00 AM

Welcome to All

“Say to those who are of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God’
Whatever our fears and anxieties, Lord, may we find peace in your presence. 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.

The Common Thread in Today’s Readings

Where do you place your trust? People? Money? Health? Religion? Politics? Possessions? Regardless of what you have, who you know, or what you do, better to put your trust in he who is faithful forever, who feeds the hungry, frees the imprisoned, and created all there is. Be strong in the Lord; he alone is your salvation. When your ears are opened to the word of this Gospel, you grasp how much the Lord cares for you, and you are then freed to serve your neighbor.

Gathering

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

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Gideons Temple Talk

Rick Paulus

*Opening Song

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

WOV # 780

The Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

(Silence for personal confession)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage 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: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. 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

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

All: Merciful God, from generation to generation your healing and life-giving power has been made known. Empower us to let the power of your mercy and forgiveness shine through our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

Choir Anthem

“A Jubilant Call to Praise”

Adult Choir

Word

God speaks to us in scripture – read, preached and sung

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:4-7

ESV # 595

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146 (read responsively)

146 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

2 I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³ Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

⁴ **When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.**

⁵ Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;**

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸ **the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹ The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰ **The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

Second Lesson: James 2:1-10, 14-18

ESV # 1011

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (sung)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

ESV # 843

Glory to you, O' Lord (sung)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

Time for Young Disciples

Pastor Shelly

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

“Be Opened”

Pastor Shelly

Enter to Worship --- Depart to Serve

Your offering to the Lord's work through Grace. There is a **box for offering** located on a table nearby, for you to drop off offerings. All offerings are greatly appreciated to help the church stay in good financial standings and to do the Lord's work.

Today we welcome Gideons speaker Rick Paulus to worship. Inserted into today's bulletin is a handout and contribution information on how to help support the Gideons International. There is a designated box at the back of the church for contributions.

Jingle Offering – Today there will be a “special” offering for our area “We Care Fund”. Any loose change that you have, please place in the glass jar at the back of the church. Remember that this loose change offering will be used to continue to provide assistance for area families who are in need.

WOC September Collections Cookies for Alpha Center. Bring cookies to the church by September 8, 2024. Any questions contact Linda Jenkins, Chairperson.

JC Fire Department **Tenderloin Dinner** will be Friday, September 20th from 5-7 pm at the American Legion Hall on College Street. Dinner includes fries, coleslaw and a drink for \$10. Come out and support the JC Fire Department.

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!”

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.

Buckets for Disaster Relief. The Lay/Witness Committee will again put buckets out on September 15 & 22 for members to fill with items on the list included. Some items may already be included in the bucket you pick up. Please return your filled buckets by Sunday, October 6th. Many Thanks!