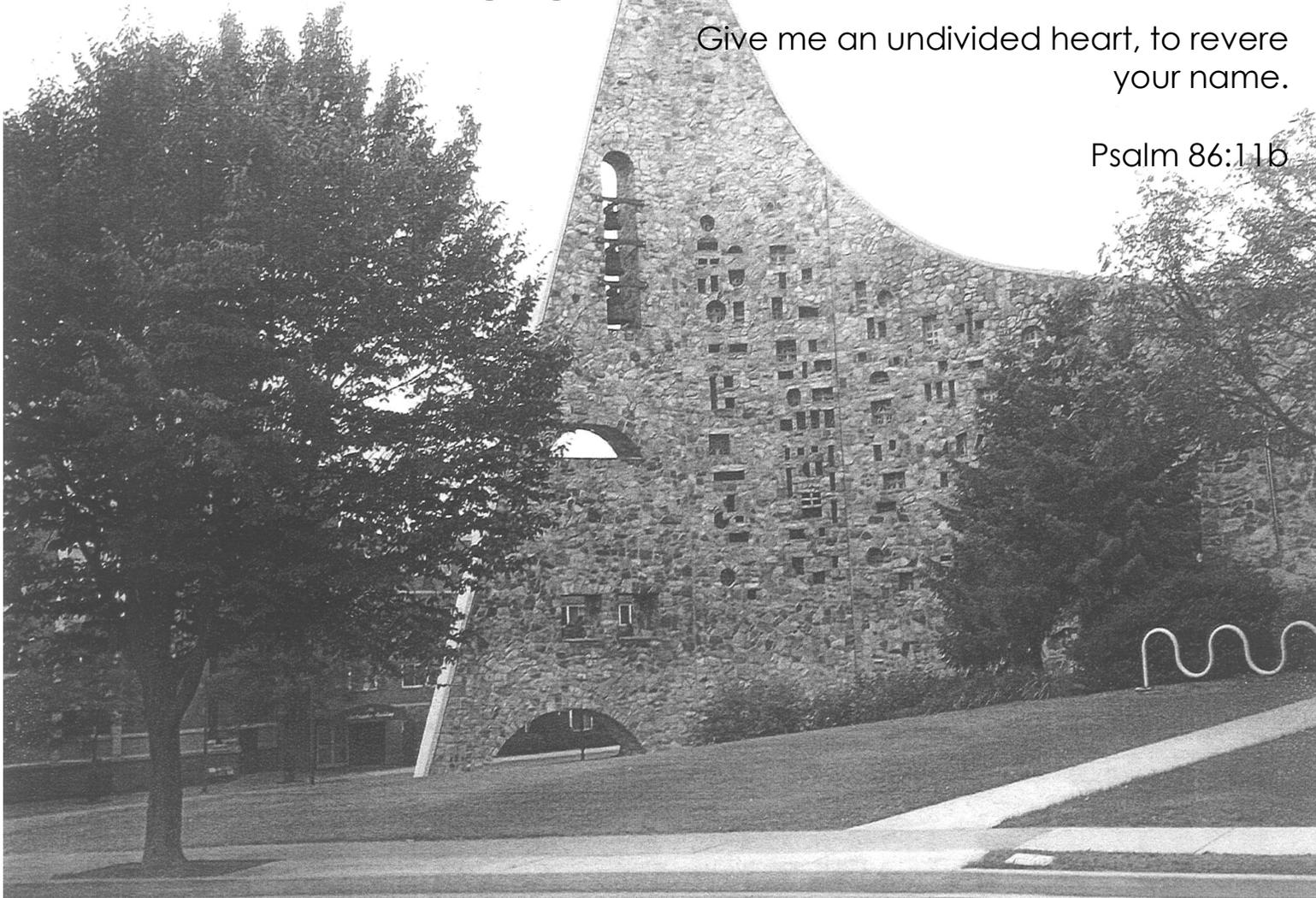


Welcome to **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A congregation of the ELCA

Give me an undivided heart, to revere
your name.

Psalm 86:11b



SUNDAY, July 19, 2020
7th Sunday after Pentecost

205 S. Garner St., State College, PA 16801

phone: 814-238-2478

email: churchoffice@glcpa.org

web address: www.glcpa.org

10:30 a.m. radio worship service
WRSC 1390 AM and 93.3 FM

A Video Edition will be available at
Grace's website and Facebook page as well.



Our Mission Statement: *"Grace Lutheran Church is energized by the Holy Spirit and nurtured through God's Word and Sacrament to **gather, feed, and send** people in the name of Jesus Christ."*

ABOUT TODAY'S THEME...It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

ABOUT THE LESSONS.... **The First Lesson:** There are no other gods besides God: the word of the LORD does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed. **The Second Lesson:** For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

The Gospel Lesson: Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

Forgot your checks? Not carrying cash? No worries! You can still make an offering. Go to www.glcpa.org and click the word "**GIVE**" on the far right to make an online credit card donation. Thank you!

MILESTONE MINISTRY AT GRACE
At Grace we celebrate milestones. Milestones are designed to connect significant occasions in people's lives with their ongoing journey of faith. A Milestone Moment brings family, friends, and congregations together to mark a special time in their lives and acknowledge and affirm God's presence in their midst. It is a tool to connect home and church in the child and family's faith life. In addition to naming (the occasion), blessing (the person) and gifting (the gift), we send along an "At Home" sheet to reinforce the milestone with caring conversation.

↑ = Please stand as you are able
↓ = Please be seated

Follow Grace on Social Media

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[@GraceLCPA](https://twitter.com/GraceLCPA)

**Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church
State College, Pennsylvania**

PRELUDE *Prelude on "Terra Beata".....* Franklin Shepard (arr. Richard Parks)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel/Sit

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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 all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

GATHER

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

GATHERING HYMN *O Holy Spirit, Root of Life.....*ELW # 399

O Holy Spirit, Root of Life

The image shows a three-part musical score for the hymn 'O Holy Spirit, Root of Life'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are arranged in three parts, with the first part having three numbered lines of text. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

1 O - Ho - ly Spir - it, root of life, cre -
2 E - ter - nal vig - or, Sav - ing One, you
3 O ho - ly Wis - dom, soar - ing pow'r, en -

a - tor, cleans - er of all things: a - noint our wounds, a -
free us by your liv - ing Word, be - com - ing flesh to
com - pass us with wings un - furled, and car - ry us, en -

wak - en us with lus - trous move - ment of your wings.
wear our pain, and all cre - a - tion is re - stored.
cir - cling all a - bove, be - low, and through the world.

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Hildegard of Bingen, 1098–1179

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621; arr. hymnal version

Text © 1991 Jean Janzen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

(ELW p. 149)

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray

C: Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FEED

*God speaks to us in scripture reading,
and feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

PSALM 86 Please sing responsively by selected verses



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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P: Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk | in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to re- | vere your name.

C: **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with | all my heart,
and glorify your name for- | evermore.**

P: For great is your | love toward me;
you have delivered me from the | pit of death.

C: **The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of
violent people | seeks my life;
they have not set you be- | fore their eyes.**

P: But you, O Lord, are gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kind- | ness and truth.

C: **Turn to me and have mer- | cy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child | of
your handmaid.**

SECOND LESSON.....Romans 8:12-25

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one

who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

DISCUSSION OF THE LESSONS

HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON.....Pastor Schul

HYMN OF THE DAY For the Fruit of All Creation.....ELW # 679

For the Fruit of All Creation

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
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APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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

Response after each petition:

P: Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

WE SHARE THE LORD'S PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SEND

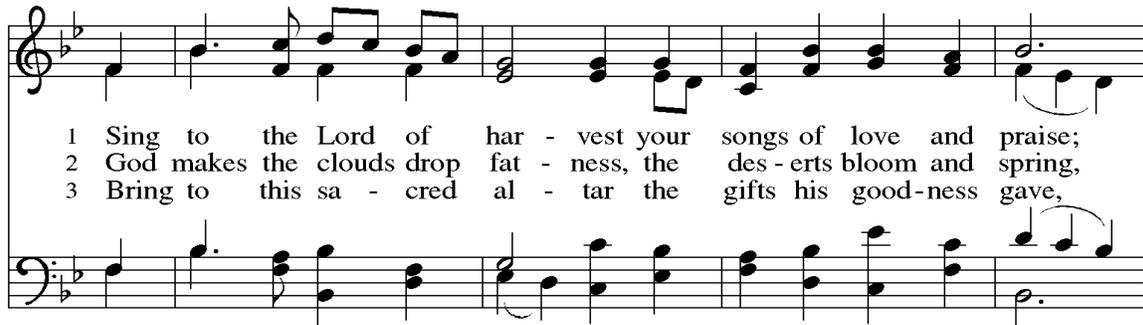
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give + you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN *Sing to The Lord of Harvest*.....ELW # 694

Sing to the Lord of Harvest



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;
2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,



with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;
the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.
the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.



by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;
God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease,
Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,



sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.
and crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.
and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

Text: John S. B. Monseil, 1811–1875, alt.
Music: WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN, Johann Steurlein, 1546–1613

P:: Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE In dich hab ich gehoffet, Herr.....Johann Christoph Bach



Today's bulletin is sponsored by the Oyler Family
Dedicated in honor of Jennifer Oyler

Today's radio broadcast on WRSC—1390 AM & 93.3 FM is sponsored
by Greg & Kathy Weimer
dedicated in memory of Bob & Robbie Feeley

The Rev. Scott E. Schul, Senior Pastor.....pastorschul@glcpa.org
The Rev. Carolyn K. Hetrick, Associate Pastor.....pastorhetrick@glcpa.org
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Nathan Glocke.....Adult Choir Director
Ryan Ditmer, Pat Lloyd, June Miller,
Adam Smith & Chris Wilhelm.....Pianists/Organists
Joan Kovalchik.....Flute
Anna Carol Buffington.....The Bells of Grace Director

The Rev. P. Stevens Lynn.....Pastor Emeritus

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ELW 694 Sing to The Lord of Harvest

PRAYER CONCERNS for July 19, 2020

All Military & Nat'l Guard and all serving in war-torn countries
 Theresa Alves, friend of Brenda Kim
 John Bankert, brother of Carl Bankert
 Deb Baysinger's cousin
 Sylvia Belanger, mother of Joe Belanger
 Debbie Bolthouse
 Barbara Braun
 Phil Bucher
 Melanie Buffington
 The family of Frank Capparelli upon his death
 Sandy Cassady
 Linda Cataldo, step-mother of Deb Stewart
 Denise Centini
 Nancy Chapa
 Scott Cocolin
 Carol Confer
 Cathy Cutter
 William Davies
 Marie Dallery mother of Sharon Shurgalla
 Damaris Dougherty, daughter of Bob Hampton
 Eti Dvir, mother-in-law of Rachel Wolkenhauer
 Patrick Dugan, grandson of Paul & Kathryn Mackes
 Barbara & John Elliott, relatives of Laurel Sanders
 Steve Ellis
 Craig Evanego

Patti Fisher
 Vicki Garvin
 Michael Grego, friend of the Horn family
 Mary Ann Hanelly and family, friends of Betsy Will
 Shawn Hintosh
 Dick Houtz
 Bob Igoe
 Kate Kempf, daughter of Pete And Angie Kempf & granddaughter of Merle & Kathy McCalips
 Paul Larson
 Paul Lloyd, son of Pat Lloyd
 Phil & Shirley Lucas
 Tom Lucas
 Aaron Lyon, nephew of Sue & Pete Forster
 Paul Mackes
 Carol Major, friend of Brenda Palmgren
 Danielle McHenry
 Kim Marsh
 Bob Miller, father of Julie Miller
 Marjorie Morgan, daughter of Ruth Kistler
 Matt Mortimore
 Amy Nevling
 Dottie Niklos, mother of Bob Igoe

Allison Peretin, friend of Elaine Ebeling
 Zach Pfeil, brother of Megan Widener
 Margie Prothro, sister of Ed Jenkins
 Dottie Roberts
 Margaret Schrock, mother of Kathy Weimer
 Nancy Schuchert, mother of Joe Schuchert
 Nan Sichler Moerschbacher, friend of Margy Strong Deysher
 Tom Simcoe and family upon the death of Tom's father Thomas
 William D. Snape Sr., brother of Phyllis Favorite
 Emily & Charlotte Spearly
 Jack Sylves and family and grandparents Tom and Marj Eakin
 Tom & Claudette, friends of Helen and Dick Brenneman
 Karen Tupman, cousin of Phyllis Favorite
 Brenda & Ken Walsh
 Ash Woskob
 Janet Zerbe

Members in the hospital
 Ken Shultz



Prayer is a powerful gift and tool God gives to us. *Please pray for the request each day of the week during your daily prayer time. Just think how powerful it would be if all our members prayed for the same thing each day.*

Lord, people are weary from the pandemic, political and social disunity, and unrelenting change. We pray for rest for tired bodies, minds and spirit. Draw us close to you and refresh and renew us, so that we may love our neighbor as you have loved us. Amen

Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son.

Acts 20:28

Dear friends:

Effective July 16, 2020 Governor Wolf issued an executive order, applicable to the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which limits indoor gatherings to a maximum of 25 people. The order is an effort to mitigate the threat of a new spike in COVID-19 infections.

Churches have largely been exempt from such orders, but there is a difference between what one *can* do and what one *should* do. And so out of love, care, and compassion for the health and well-being of both our congregation and our community, I have decided – in consultation and agreement with our staff and lay leaders – that we will cancel in-person worship at Grace this Sunday, July 19, and indefinitely thereafter until our governing authorities advise us that it is safe to resume larger gatherings. This is a disappointment to us all, especially after we had such a successful beginning to in-person worship. But I do not believe I would be faithful to my call as your shepherd if I were to put God’s precious flock in harm’s way.

And so in lieu of in-person worship, Grace will continue to offer prerecorded video worship and our 10:30 am live radio broadcast on WRSC AM 1390 and FM 93.3. Our weekly podcast, “Pocketful of Grace,” and our faith formation website (www.glcfithformation.org) are additional resources for your ongoing faith journey.

In the meantime, I have asked our Return to Worship Team, which did such an outstanding job conceiving and implementing our resumption of in-person worship, to turn their attention to designing protocols for outdoor worship, which are less restricted under Governor Wolf’s order. In addition, Pastor Hetrick and I are working on plans for a series of small neighborhood-based outdoor gatherings at local parks for worship for Grace members. We will have further details on both of those options in the very near future.

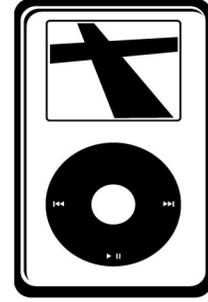
For now, we rejoice that our Lord and Shepherd Jesus Christ continues to be present among us, blessing us and feeding us with his holy word. Keep smiling, stay healthy, pray always, and know that God loves you lavishly, unrelentingly, and eternally.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Schul

Pastors' weekly podcasts – We invite you to listen to Grace's new podcast, "A Pocketful of Grace," where Pastor Schul and Pastor Hetrick discuss and unpack the Sunday lessons so that you can hold them in your heart and mind as your week unfolds. You can listen right away or download for later. Podcasts are available on our website or through Spotify, Tune In/Alexa, and iTunes. Wherever you go, make sure you take along a Pocketful of Grace.

*Pocketful
of Grace*



PODCAST

Connecting in Common Prayer

Through the first Sunday in September, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and her Episcopal counterpart Presiding Bishop Michael Curry welcome congregations and individuals to regularly pray "A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit Among the People of God." This prayer – crafted by a team of Lutheran and Episcopal prayer leaders in light of the COVID-19 pandemic – will connect us in common prayer and revive us for common mission, wherever and however we may be gathered.

A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.

Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.

Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:

a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.

Wherever and however we gather,

unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,

that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Faith Formation Website - Our faith formation team has created a new and wonderful resource website for all in our congregation. This website (which supplements the church website) has activities, Bible studies, and linked websites for children, youth, families, and adults, including resources focused on Holy Week. We hope this can be a useful tool for continuing to teach and learn our faith within the home. The website address is www.glcfaithformation.org



Vacation Bible school happening now.

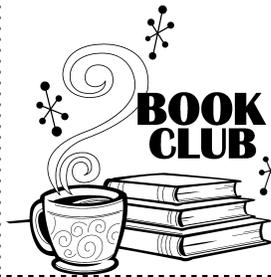
It is for all ages and is happening over a 5 week period all you need to do to join the fun is provide your email address to faithformation@glcpa.org or go to glcfaithformation.org website and register.

The theme is Christmas in July.

Word in Season devotional booklets available – If you would like to receive a copy of the Word in Season devotional booklets for July/ August/September, you can pick up a copy in a basket on the waiting area bench inside the main entrance at Grace. Alternatively, Sally Keiser-Bankert will be happy to mail you a copy upon request. Please contact her via email at sallykb@verizon.net.

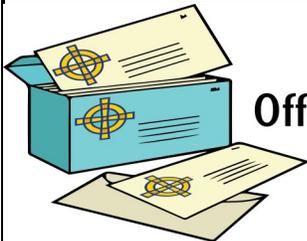


Hey Grace - We're continuing to send a monthly donation to the State College Food Bank. If you would like to help please send a check to Grace Lutheran Church, with 'food bank' in the memo line. Mail to 205 S. Garner St. 16801 OR donate via Tithe.ly at glcpa.org. Click on the 'give' button at the top of the page.



BOOK CLUB

The July meeting of Garden of Readin' (women's book club) will be Tuesday, July 21 at 10:30 am remotely via Zoom. The next book is *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover. The facilitators will be Susan DeMetrick and Lois Lynn. Contact Laura Pauley (llp1@psu.edu) or Lois Lynn (loissteve@comcast.net).



Offering

Support Grace's ministry

At present we are only able to gather for worship remotely. Nevertheless, Grace continues to need your continued financial support in order to fund all of our ministries. You may continue to mail your offerings to Grace. Tithe.ly also provides a secure way to provide your offering via any major credit card. Visit www.glcpa.org and click on the GIVE button at the top of the page. If you set up an account with Tithe.ly using your Visa, MasterCard, American Express, JCB, Discover, or Diners Club card, you can support our ministries even when you cannot be present. Finally, a form for Direct Debit giving (via your bank) is available on our website at <https://tinyurl.com/yx8andkj>; just mail it to Grace Lutheran Church at 205 South Garner Street, State College, 16801. That is the absolute best way to provide for the regular funding of all that we do here at Grace to the glory of God and the service of our neighbors. Thank you for your commitment to our ministries during this challenging time.

JULY 19, 2020
SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Christians are people of hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds
Monday	Isaiah 44:6-8	The Lord's promise to Israel
Tuesday	Romans 8:12-25	Future glory for God's people
Wednesday	Genesis 28:10-19a	Jacob's dream at Bethel
Thursday	Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24	The inescapable God
Friday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Saturday	Psalms 86:11-17	Save me, Lord
Sunday	Matthew 13:31-32, 41-52	Parables of the kingdom

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Romans 8:24-25 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, may the hope you have given us take away our fear and strengthen us for each new day through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you for your goodness and for the good seed that falls into the soil to give us bread. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be gracious to you, and give you strength. (Psalm 86:16)



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JULY 19, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Goodness Is
Stronger than Evil*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about something you want to see happen in the near future.
- What gives you hope?
- How does faith in God give you hope?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 8:12-25.

The Apostle Paul speaks about our death "by the Spirit" that we may live (v. 13). It is a baptismal theme he mentioned in Romans 6:4: "... we have been buried with [Christ] by baptism into death ... so we too might walk in newness of life." Paul speaks of living "according to the flesh" (v. 13). It is the life lived without hope in God. We live by the power of the Holy Spirit and are adopted as children of God (vv. 14-15). As children who can say, "Abba! Father!" we are heirs of God's future in Christ. Being an heir does not mean we avoid disappointments and hurts. In fact, Paul reminds us that we "suffer with [Christ] so that we may also be glorified with him" (v. 17). We are people of hope as we suffer—just as Christ suffered and died—that we may rise with Christ to a new life. We wait for Christ's final victory with hope and patience (v. 25). How does knowing you are an heir of God's future in Christ help you have patience and hope?

Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, you give us a living hope; help us to have faith in you and trust in your saving work now and always. Amen.

SERVICE

"The good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one" (Matthew 13:38). We are planted by God as seeds on the earth. Though there may be "weeds" among us, good "seeds" make good decisions and reflect God's love through acts of service. In what ways have you or someone you know been a "good seed" in your community?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships. Who has influenced your life of faith? Make a list of Christian rituals and traditions the person you named has taught you, like prayer and scripture reading. Have you taught some of these rituals and traditions to someone else? Pray using Psalm 86:11, "Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name." Amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org