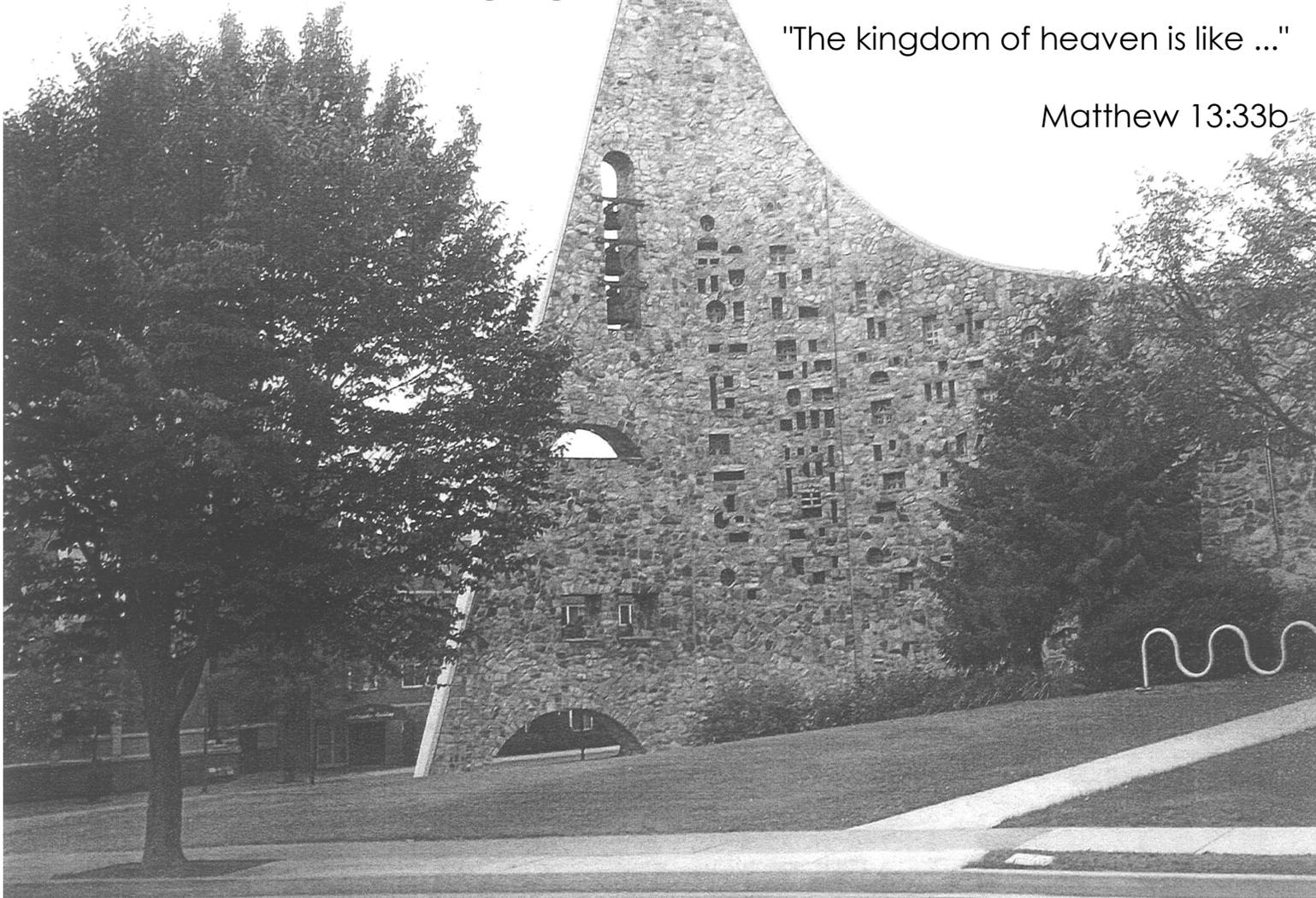


Welcome to **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A congregation of the ELCA

"The kingdom of heaven is like ..."

Matthew 13:33b



SUNDAY, July 26, 2020
8th 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...As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

ABOUT THE LESSONS.... **The First Lesson:** Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well. **The Second Lesson:** These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love. **The Gospel Lesson:** Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

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

PRELUDE Chorale Prelude *Nun Bitten Wir*.....Deitrich Buxtehude

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 *Gather Us In*.....ELW # 532

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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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: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from 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.....Kings 3:5-12

⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

PSALM 119 Please sing responsively by selected verses



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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P: Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.

**C: When your word is opened | it gives light;
it gives understanding | to the simple.**

P: I open my | mouth and pant
because I long for | your commandments.

**C: Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,
as you always do to those who | love your name.**

P: Order my footsteps | in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.

**C: Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.**

SECOND LESSON.....Romans 8:26-39

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the

right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

DISCUSSION OF THE LESSONS

HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

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

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." ⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

What God Ordains Is Good Indeed

1 What God or-dains is good in-deed, for all life well pro - vid - ing.
 2 What God or-dains is good in-deed: my light, my life, my Sav - ior!
 3 What God or-dains is good in-deed. When hope seems like de - lu - sion,
 4 What God or-dains is good in-deed. My Lord will nev - er fail me

The will of God is best for me, the ground of my con - fid - ing.
 No ill can get the best of me; God's care will nev - er wa - ver.
 I taste the bit - ter cup and plead, "Lord, quench my fear, con - fu - sion."
 on dan-ger's path, in deep-est need, when death in grief shall veil me.

My faith - ful God, on ev - 'ry road you know the way un -
 Through joy and pain I shall at - tain the dawn dis - clos - ing
 God ends the night, re - stores de - light; by faith I face to -
 My God so dear will draw me near, in lov - ing arms will

fold - ing and my hand you are hold - ing.
 clear - ly that God has loved me dear - ly.
 mor - row and yield to God all sor - row.
 hold me, at last in light en - fold me.

Text: Samuel Rodigast, 1649–1708; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951
 Music: WAS GOTT TUT; Severus Gastorius, 1646–1682
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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.

A PRAYER WHILE WE ARE UNABLE TO CELEBRATE COMMUNION

**P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, thanks be to you for all
your works and all your gifts. You called creation out of chaos, filled it
with life and light, brought forth grain and vine, and set us as stewards
over your good work.**

You called Israel to be your particular treasure, comforting and correct-
ing them in love. When exile took them from your temple, you did not
abandon them, but accompanied them, blessing them with your Word,
enlivening them with your Spirit, and consoling them with your promise
of return.

When the time had fully come, you sent your Son to be our Immanuel. In the night in which he was handed over, he gave us a Meal to remind and sustain us, to give voice to our praise of you and, by your Spirit, to bring us to your eternal life of joy, peace, and service.

Even while unable to share that Meal together, we receive that life by remembering our Lord Jesus Christ: the isolation of his death; his burial in a borrowed tomb; the wonder of his resurrection; and his promise to be with us always. We remember his birth far from home, his ministry without a place to lay his head; his welcoming of the lonely and excluded; his healing and feeding; his walking, unrecognized, with his dispirited disciples; and his ascension to be present wherever your right hand is active.

Especially in this time of separation, send your Holy Spirit to connect us while we are scattered, to enliven our imagination for service; to proclaim your Gospel in new ways; and to revel in your unexpected blessings. May that Spirit be our companion and advocate until the day we gather once more around your Table, and until the Day when you gather us into your heavenly feast.

We thank you with our lives, holy, mighty, and immortal God, praying in your Spirit, through your Son, with your Church, trusting in your love which no distance of time, space, or mortality can diminish.

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 *Be Thou My Vision*.....ELW # 793

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

P:: Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Gott der Vater wohn uns bei*.....Samuel Scheidt



Today's bulletin is sponsored by the Graham & Laurel Sanders
Dedicated in honor of Erica's birthday

Today's radio broadcast on WRSC—1390 AM & 93.3 FM is sponsored
by Dotty Delafield, Marjorie Morgan & Ruth Kistler
dedicated in memory of Jim Kistler

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 793 Be Thou My Vision

At Pastor Schul's invitation, Rev. Dr. Mark Oldenburg of United Lutheran Seminary wrote the "Prayer for Spiritual Connection During a Time of Physical Distancing" to remind us of the many ways Jesus Christ calls us, feeds us, and is present with us even when we are unable to receive Holy Communion. We are grateful to Rev. Dr. Oldenburg for his gracious permission to use this prayer as part of our liturgy and to reprint it in our bulletin.

PRAYER CONCERNS for July 26, 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
 Sophia Reutzel
 Dottie Roberts
 Margaret Schrock, mother of Kathy Weimer
 Nancy Schuchert, mother of Joe Schuchert
 Ken Shultz
 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



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.*

Prayer concern: As we are again not able to gather safely in our building for worship it can be discouraging. Yet Jesus tells us that the kingdom of heaven is near, often in small but vital ways. "Lord, help us to experience your kingdom of love and grace and to share it with those we are near to. As we pray for those who may be struggling, guide to reach out in small but loving ways that grow hope. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen"



Our “Return to Worship” team did a stellar job preparing us all for a return to in-person worship, only to have that path adjusted when we suspended in-person worship again. Perhaps you have been wondering, “what now?”

FROM JULY 29 - AUGUST 26 we will be offering a series of regional in-person outdoor worship services, “Grace on the Go,” if you will. Each site can accommodate about 50 people while honoring distancing.

All “Grace to Go” services begin at 6:00 pm, on Wednesdays. Please see the schedule below. We have identified several gathering locations, each of which can accommodate about 50 people while maintaining safe distances. Our half-hour worship service will be very informal and include Holy Communion, a children’s message, and music.

Please bring your own chair and a mask.

Worship sheets and communion will be provided. Hand sanitizer will be available if you do not have your own. We suggest you join the gathering closest to you, (as indicated in the schedule) but of course, all are open.

What about weather? We will make a decision at 5:00 pm to cancel if it has been raining all day and is too muddy, or if imminent weather would prevent gathering. That decision will be posted on our social media and website. You may also call Pastor Hetrick at 814-251-2540 if you are uncertain.

For SEPTEMBER our return to worship team is working on plans for outdoor worship on the grounds of Grace. We will have further details about dates and times in the very near future.

“Grace on the Go” dates and places:

Wed. July 29th @ 6 pm– Orchard Park (Orchard Park) (gather next to the pavilion)

Wed. August 5th@ 6 pm- Circleville Park (Park Forest, Port Matilda and PA Furnace) (gather next to the pavilion)

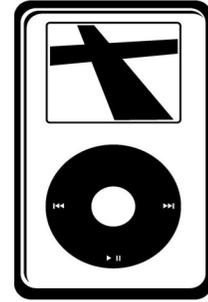
Wed. August 12th @ 6 pm- Spring Creek Park (Houserville/Bellefonte) (use Houserville Rd. entrance. Gather by covered bridge)

Wed. August 19th @ 6 pm- Sunset Park (gather next to pavilion)

Wed. August 26th @ 6 pm- Spring Creek (Centre Hall, Lemont, Boalsburg) (use Houserville Rd. entrance. Gather by covered bridge)

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

The August meeting of Garden of Readin' (women's book club) will be Tuesday, August 18 at 10:30 am remotely via Zoom. The next book is *For Everything a Season: Simple Musings on Living Well* by Philip Gulley. The facilitator will be Sharon Rivell. Contact Laura Pauley (llp1@psu.edu) or Lois Lynn (loissteve@comcast.net) for more information.

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

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.



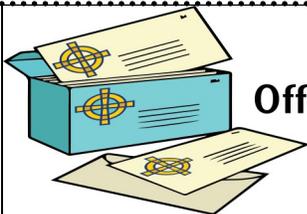
So many of you have contributed to the Food Bank via Grace.

It's what we do, isn't it? It's our response to Jesus' love.

...COVID-19 goes on...**food insecurity continues**
We'll continue to support the **State College Food Bank** through a monthly monetary donation.

Checks: 'Grace Lutheran Church' Donate via **Tithe.ly** at glcpa.org.
'food bank' in the memo line Click on the 'give'
205 S. Garner St. button at the
State College, PA 16801 top of the page.

Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?
Matt: 25:37



Offering

Support Grace's ministry

In light of the disruptions of the global pandemic, Grace needs 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 26, 2020
EIGHTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



The Spirit helps us in our weakness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday | Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 | Parables of the kingdom |
| Monday | 1 Kings 3:5-12 | Solomon's prayer for wisdom |
| Tuesday | Romans 8:26-39 | God's love in Christ Jesus |
| Wednesday | Genesis 29:15-28 | Jacob marries |
| Thursday | Psalms 128 | Happiness in daily life |
| Friday | 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 | God's grace is sufficient |
| Saturday | Psalms 119:129-136 | The glories of God's law |
| Sunday | Matthew 14:13-21 | Jesus feeds the five thousand |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. Romans 8:26 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, help us in our weakness and sustain us with faith that trusts your never-failing care through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for daily food; as you restore our bodies with this meal, restore our souls with joy in your presence. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you trust that nothing will separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:39)



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JULY 26, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*For by Grace You Have
Been Saved*



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:

- When was there a time you felt too weak to work through a problem on your own?
- Do you find prayer easy or difficult? Explain.
- What makes it difficult to know God is with you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

Jesus tells five short parables: two about growth, two about valuing something very highly, and one about separating good from bad. There are details of these parables that have challenged Christians throughout the ages. However, Jesus asks the disciples if they "understood all this," and without any sense of hesitation they simply say, "Yes" (v. 51). Perhaps there is a cautionary tale here. Solomon simply wants wisdom and is praised by God for such a humble request (1 Kings 3:5-12), yet the larger story in 1 Kings reveals that Solomon ended up wanting and claiming much more than a humble quest for wisdom. Instead of preserving the kingdom of Israel, the twelve tribes become split into two realms because of Solomon's failures. The Apostle Paul acknowledges our human frailty by noting that we do not know how to pray and that the Spirit helps us in our weakness. In the midst of seeking a life of faithfulness and wisdom, it is good to be reminded with much humility that our wisdom has its limits. Finally, what we need is a God who intercedes for us "with sighs too deep for words" (Romans 8:26). Recall when God has been with you during a time of personal weakness or difficulty. How did God help you then?

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). Sometimes when a person is going through difficult times, they can easily lose sight of God. Do you know of someone who is struggling? Reach out to that person in their time of need through an act of kindness by taking time to listen.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Many congregations are smaller today than years ago and may feel insignificant. The parable of the mustard seed teaches us that big things can happen from the smallest of things. Growing the church is reliant on being intentional about sharing our own faith story and passing on the rituals and traditions we know and love onto the next generation. Pray daily that you may sow seeds of faith that grow into something great.



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