

This Week at Grace
Sunday, July 8, 2007
The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

We are nurtured; we are nurturing. Today's readings remind us how God cares for us. We are called to adopt God's sustaining ways. We are fed at the table, and we are sent into the world to care for others.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING *Isaiah 66:10–14*

Those who returned from the exile found that the hopes and expectations for the glorious restoration of Judah were not fulfilled. For these disappointed people, the prophet envisions salvation in the image of a nursing woman. Mother Jerusalem represents the community in which all people are sustained and supported.

- ¹⁰ Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,
all you who love her;
rejoice with her in joy,
all you who mourn over her —
- ¹¹ that you may nurse and be satisfied
from her consoling breast;
that you may drink deeply with delight
from her glorious bosom.
- ¹² For thus says the LORD:
I will extend prosperity to her like a river,
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream;
and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm,
and dandled on her knees.
- ¹³ As a mother comforts her child,
so I will comfort you;
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.
- ¹⁴ You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;
your bodies shall flourish like the grass;
and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants,
and his indignation is against his enemies.

PSALM *Psalm 66:1–9*

All the earth bows down before you and sings out your name. (Ps. 66:4)

¹Be joyful in God, | all you lands;
 be joyful, | all the earth.

²**Sing the glory | of God's name;
 sing the glory | of God's praise.**

³Say to God, "How awesome | are your deeds!
 Because of your great strength your enemies | cringe before you.

⁴**All the earth bows | down before you,
 sings to you, sings | out your name." R**

⁵Come now and see the | works of God,
 how awesome are God's deeds | toward all people.

⁶**God turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the wa- | ter on foot,
 and there we re- | joiced in God.**

⁷Ruling forever in might, God keeps watch o- | ver the nations;
 let no rebels ex- | alt themselves.

⁸**Bless our | God, you peoples;
 let the sound of | praise be heard.**

⁹Our God has kept us a- | mong the living
 and has not allowed our | feet to slip. R

SECOND READING *Galatians 6:[1–6] 7–16*

In this letter, Paul insists that all people are made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Here Paul offers practical advice as to how people who believe this will live, exercising common concern for each other as "the family of faith."

My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. ⁴ All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵ For all must carry their own loads.

⁶ Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

⁷ Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸ If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹ So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

¹¹ See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! ¹² It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised — only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ Even the circumcised

do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴ May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶ As for those who will follow this rule — peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

GOSPEL *Luke 10:1–11, 16–20*

Jesus commissions his followers to go where he would go and do what he would do. Risking hardship and danger, they offer peace and healing as signs that the reign of God is near.

After this the Lord appointed seventyothers and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ² He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' ⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' ¹⁶ Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me. ¹⁷ The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" ¹⁸ He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. ¹⁹ See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY:	8:00a	and 10:00a	Worship Services
	9:00a		Outdoor Coffee Fellowship
MONDAY:	7:00p		Book Club
	7:00p		MS Society Meeting
TUESDAY:	9:00a		Staff Meeting
	11:00a		Pastor's Text Study

4:00p Service at Sr. Towers
4:30p Worship and Music Ministry Team
6:30p Congregational Leadership Picnic/Council Meeting

THURSDAY: 6:00a Early Morning Bible Study
7:00p Thursday Evening Worship Service

FRIDAY: 1:30p ThorneCrest Bible Study

NEXT SUNDAY: *August Newsletter Deadline*
8:00a and 10:00a Worship Services
9:00a Outdoor Coffee Fellowship

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [July 8: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [July 8: Sunday School] [July 9: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [July 10: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [July 11: GLCW].

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Karizma Hamberg, and Shelly Schultz.

PLEASE REMEMBER those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Miff Eglund, Theresa Gamble, Burnette Grunhovd, Jan Guse, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Norman Johnson, Glenn McDaniel, Ethel McGill, Gary Mesch (son-in-law of Dick & Arlyss Haug), Vern Nasby, DeAnna Nelson, LeMoyné Oakland, Marian Odson, Lissa Parrish, Bob Richerson (brother of Nancy Greiner), Mark Stevens, LaVon Stewart, Carol Thompson, James Vangen, Leland Wadding, Mabel Wadding, Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS in Christ throughout the Southeast Minnesota Synod today in praying for St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waterville, Mabel First Lutheran of Mabel, Six Mile Grove Lutheran of Lyle, and Moscow Lutheran Church in Oakland.

GREETERS FOR OUR WORSHIP SERVICES this morning are Mike & Nancy Cottrell, Marisa and Dylan, and Barb Engebretson at 8:00; and Mary Pirsig, Loren & Mary Grasdalen, and John Knutson at 10:00.

ACOLYTES today are Alex Wieland and Shane Louks at 8:00; and Ashley Gilbertson and Courtney Hanna at 10:00.

FLOWERS FOR OUR SERVICES are from the wedding of Nikki Peterson and Jamie Johnson held here yesterday.

LESSON READERS are Marlene Sorenson at 8:00; and Troy Seberson at 10:00.

SPECIAL THANKS to Mike Cottrell who is serving as van driver this morning. Our church van picks up riders every Sunday for the 10:00 worship service. If you or anyone you know is interested in riding the van, please call the church office to be added to the pick up schedule.

REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES are being served today by Paige Hanna and her parents, Scott & Stacey.

BOOK CLUB will meet again on Monday evening, **July 9th**, 7:00p, at the home of Jill Hagen. (Please note the change of date.) The featured book is *Pieces of the Heart* by Karen White. Join us for great discussion!

CALLED TO BE FRIENDS SEMINAR

Call to Community, Called to Cross Generations: Our program provides friendships to those over the age of 18 in our community who might otherwise be susceptible to loneliness or isolation. Come to the Senior Center at the Skyline Plaza in Albert Lea, on Tues., July 10th, from 10:15 to 11:00a to learn how you can help. Call Doris Hagen at Catholic Charities (402-4831). We serve all faiths.

WANT TO KEEP UP on our mission partners around the world? Subscribe to Missionary for a Day News by putting your e-mail address on the welcome sheet and you will receive periodic updates about our mission partners in Colombia, Latvia, Russia, and Tanzania. The mission field is exciting and you can hear about it firsthand from those who are there.

PASTOR BRADN BUERKLE from the Novosaratovka Seminary will be in worship on Thurs., July 12th, at 7:00p. We will hold a reception for him and his family after the worship service. Come to welcome them to Albert Lea and hear about life in the Lutheran church in Russia.

COULD YOU HELP? A group of 11 youth and 3 adults will be staying overnight at Grace this coming Saturday, July 14th and will be arriving at the church at approx. 6:00p. They are a church group from Hazen, ND, on a mission trip to the St. Louis, MO, area. We are wondering if there are any in the congregation willing to bring a hot dish, or a salad with a few dinner rolls to the church so they can have a hot meal when they arrive. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the narthex for 3 people to sign up to bring a hot dish and 2 people to bring a salad and rolls.

LUTHERAN NIGHT AT THE TWINS: Tuesday, Aug. 21st

The bus will leave the *Slumberland* parking lot at 4:00p that afternoon. Cost is \$28 per person for upper level reserved seats behind home plate, along with transportation. (Children 15 and younger must be chaperoned by an adult.) Please see Pastor Todd about the availability of tickets.

GRACE LUTHERAN Relay for Life team members will be selling luminaries between church services through the month of July. Please consider buying a luminary for \$10.00 to honor a loved one who is struggling with cancer or to remember one who has been lost to cancer. Also, there will be an opportunity to contribute to the team effort through offerings that will be collected after the church services on July 29th and Aug. 5th. Thanks very much from the team members for all of your support.

****All Grace members walking on ANY Relay for Life Teams:** Stop at the Relay table in the narthex and pick up a button – *Walking With Grace* – to show Grace’s commitment to this wonderful effort.

NEEDED: white t-shirts in sizes 4, 6, 8 (mixed boys and girls); 10-12, 14, 16 for boys; and 10-16 for girls. During VBS this summer we will be decorating new t-shirts for the Children’s Orphanage in Bogota, Columbia, at the request of Jeanene Thicke. Donations can be dropped off at the Education Office.

WOMEN OF GRACE: A love offering will be taken at the GLCW Summer Brunch on July 25th. The offering will consist of a Sewing Kit for Lutheran World Relief. It is their most requested item. Please consider coming to the brunch – a great program is being planned. If you cannot be there in person, consider giving a love offering donation in your name. The kit includes 3 yards of 44/45" or 4 yards of 36" cotton or cotton blend, solid or print material; 1 pkg. of needles for hand sewing, 1 spool matching thread, and 1 card of buttons. Wrap all sewing notions inside the fabric and tie with a string or strip of fabric.

GIVING AT GRACE:

The Property and Finance Ministry appreciates your generous support. Your faithful stewardship is essential for us to continue to support our ministries at Grace.

	Sunday, July 1st	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 9,596.00	\$ 272,876.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 262,496.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 40.25	\$ 1,218.75
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 147.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 440; Last Year - 441