

This Week at Grace
Sunday, July 15, 2007
The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

God can be as near as a neighbor, and our opportunities to share God's love are as close as the words that leave our lips. The peace of Christ we exchange in this community we also take with us into the world to share with others.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING *Deuteronomy 30:9–14*

Moses calls the people to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors. Through this covenant God gives life and asks obedience. God's word is brought near to the people so that they may remain true to the covenant.

⁹ and the LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, ¹⁰ when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹ Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" ¹⁴ No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

PSALM *Psalms 25:1–10*

¹To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,**
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;

rather let those be put to shame¹ who are treacherous.
⁴**Show me your¹ ways, O LORD,
and teach¹ me your paths. R**
⁵Lead me in your¹ truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all¹ the day long.
⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas-¹sion and love,
for they are from¹ everlasting.**
⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and¹ my transgressions;
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your good-¹ness, O
LORD.
⁸**You are gracious and up-¹right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners¹ in your way.**
⁹You lead the low-¹ly in justice
and teach the low-¹ly your way.
¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast¹ love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your¹ testimonies. R**

SECOND READING *Colossians 1:1–14*

The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community. It concludes with a prayer for continued growth in understanding.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
² To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father.
³ In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
⁴ for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the
saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope
before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit
and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the
day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷ This you learned from
Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸
and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.
⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you
and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual
wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully
pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge
of God. ¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious
power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²
giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints
in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the
kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

GOSPEL *Luke 10:25–37*

In this well-known parable, Jesus shifts the focus of concern from speculation concerning who is one's neighbor to the treatment of one's neighbor with mercy.

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷

He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY:	8:00a	and 10:00a	Worship Services
	9:00a		Outdoor Coffee Fellowship
MONDAY:	6:30p		Grieving Parents Support Group
TUESDAY:	9:00a		Staff Meeting
	11:00a		Pastor's Text Study
	7:00p		Personnel Committee Meeting
WEDNESDAY:	9:00a		Sewing Day
	1:00p		Grace Seniors Picnic
THURSDAY:	6:00a		Early Morning Bible Study
	7:00p		Thursday Evening Worship Service
FRIDAY:	1:30p		ThorneCrest Bible Study
			Wedding Rehearsal

SATURDAY: 5:00p Wedding of Erica Stevens and Chad Samp

NEXT SUNDAY: 8:00a and 10:00a Worship Services
9:00a Outdoor Coffee Fellowship

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [July 15: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [July 15: Sunday School] [July 16: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [July 17: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [July 18: GLCW].

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Marie Gilbertson.

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

IN YOUR PRAYERS, also remember Carol Stiles upon the recent death of her brother, Charles Sanborn.

WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS in Christ throughout the SE Minnesota Synod today in praying for Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Rochester, Good Shepherd Lutheran of Wells, Minneola Lutheran of Wanamingo, and Redeemer Lutheran Church in Good Thunder.

GRACE SENIORS: Summer Picnic, Wednesday, July 18th, 1:00p

Come to our "Waldfest" at the Kleih's home on July 18th from 1:00-4:00p. Enjoy the fellowship and fun at our picnic. Nothing to bring except (but not necessary) a lawnchair and \$6 to cover expenses. We will have the picnic catered. Please call Irmi Kleih at 826-3176 for reservations and directions to the Kleih's home, if needed.

VISION FOR MISSION OFFERING: Sunday, July 22nd

On Sunday, July 22nd, we will receive a special offering for the ELCA. The annual *Vision for Mission* offering celebrates 20 years of ministry together as the ELCA. This year's offering will be used to **develop new congregations, support leadership education, global missions and campus ministry.** It takes \$7.1 million each year just to support our current missionary community, 171 new congregations currently under development in the U.S., and campus ministry and education for future leaders of the church to continue to be strong outreaches. All are encouraged to give beyond regular gifts to support these vital ministries. Envelopes will be provided next Sunday for this offering.

WE ARE IN THE PROCESS of formulating a team of people to work on a preliminary plan for the Prayer/Peace Garden on the east side of the church. If you are interested in being part of this team, please let Pastor John know. Thank you.

PANS! PANS! PANS! There are a large number of unclaimed cake pans in the kitchen above the sink area. They have been there for many months. If the pans are not claimed by September 1st they will be donated to the Epilepsy Foundation. PLEASE pick up your cake pans. Thank you.

LUTHERAN WOMEN TODAY MAGAZINE:

For just \$12.00 a year, women of Grace can subscribe to a terrific magazine with many inspiring as well as thought-provoking articles. The magazine also carries the Circle Bible Study on the Beatitudes. There is a subscription sign-up list at the GLCW table in the narthex. We especially encourage all Circle members subscribe to this magazine so they will have the Bible Study. (There will be no copies made this coming year.) Please do this by July 29th to receive the September issue.

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.) Call Bob Hansen about the availability of tickets, 373-8655.

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 8th	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 7,900.55	\$ 280,777.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 272,592.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 38.50	\$ 1,257.25
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 50.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 371; Last Year - 413

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Albert Lea, Minnesota

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
July 15, 2007