

*This Week at Grace*  
*Sunday, July 22, 2007*  
*The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

**INTRODUCTION**

*Stay alert! You might be entertaining God! Today we are introduced to people who hosted God in their homes, although they were not always aware of God's presence. God comes close to us--even within us, as Paul exclaims.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**FIRST READING**    *Genesis 18:1–10a*

*The Lord promises the birth of a child to Abraham and Sarah precisely when they are too old to have children on their own. Only the Lord could accomplish such a thing.*

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup> He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup> Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on — since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup> And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup> Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup> They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent."  
<sup>10</sup> Then one said, "

**PSALM**        *Psalms 15*

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,**

**who speak the truth<sup>1</sup> from their heart; R**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil<sup>1</sup> to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up-<sup>1</sup> on a neighbor.

**<sup>4</sup>In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who<sup>1</sup> fear the LORD.**

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take<sup>1</sup> back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a-<sup>1</sup>gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be<sup>1</sup> overthrown. **R**

**SECOND READING**      *Colossians 1:15–28*

*The great mystery of God is "Christ in you." Because Christ is present in his body, the church, Christians share in his life, in his suffering, and in his glory.*

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers — all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

<sup>21</sup> And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him — <sup>23</sup> provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

<sup>24</sup> I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. <sup>25</sup> I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup> the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup> To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

**GOSPEL**      *Luke 10:38–42*

*Jesus speaks with two disciples. One is very busy, but the other sits quietly and listens.*

<sup>38</sup> Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the

Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; <sup>42</sup> there is need of only one thing.

Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

### **THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

<b>TODAY:</b>	8:00a	and 10:00a	Worship Services
	9:00a		Outdoor Coffee Fellowship
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	9:00a		Staff Meeting
	11:00a		Pastor's Text Study
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	9:00a		GLCW Summer Brunch
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	6:00a		Early Morning Bible Study
	5:00p		Wedding Rehearsal
	7:00p		Thursday Evening Worship Service
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	1:30p		ThorneCrest Bible Study
	4:00p		Wedding of Ashley Avery and Travis Broskoff
<b>NEXT SUNDAY:</b>	8:00a	and 10:00a	Worship Services
	9:00a		Outdoor Coffee Fellowship

**MISSIONARY FOR A DAY:** [July 22: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [July 22: Sunday School] [July 23: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [July 24: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [July 25: GLCW] [July 26: Given by Pastor John & Lori Henriksen].

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

**PLEASE REMEMBER** those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Miff Eglund, Theresa Gamble, Burnette Grunhvd, 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.

**WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS in Christ** throughout the SE Minnesota Synod today in praying for North Blue Earth Lutheran Church in Bricelyn, St. Luke Lutheran of Goodhue, St. Peter Lutheran of Otisco, and Our Savior Lutheran Church in Spring Valley.

**GREETERS FOR OUR SERVICES** this morning are Greg & Jeanette Beamer, and Dale & Paula Buendorf at 8:00; and Frank & Evelyn Wakefield, and Gerald & Lois Wangen at 10:00.

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

**OUR THANKS** to Altar Guild workers for the month: Gloria Seberson and Carolyn Schmitz.

**LESSON READERS** for our worship services are Tricia Dahl at 8:00; and Tom Dyrdal at 10:00.

**IN YOUR PRAYERS**, please also remember Sandy & Paul Ostrem upon the recent death of Sandy's mother, Delvera Davis.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Jerry Bizjak 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 Autumn Krcil and her parents, Greg & Rhonda Moen.

**VISION FOR MISSION OFFERING:** Today 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 are currently under development in the U.S., and campus ministry and education for future leaders of the church 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.

**GRACE WOMEN:** The GLCW Constitution has been revised and updated. Copies are available on the GLCW table in the narthex. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Jeanette Beamer (377-1871), or LaJean Westeng (826-3726).

**LIKE TO BAKE COOKIES?** Vacation Bible School is coming up, Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, and lots of delicious cookies are needed for daily snack time. Any donations of cookies or pre-sweetened kool-aid mix can be dropped off for Jill in the Education office. The kids thank you ☺ !!

**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 29<sup>th</sup> and Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>. Also, plan on joining us for coffee and fellowship between services on Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> when Relay team members will provide and serve special treats and coffee. 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.

**GRACE LUTHERAN'S Relay for Life Team** is inviting Grace members who are currently living with cancer to join them as their guests at the potluck dinner being held at the team campsite. This will begin at about 5:00p on Friday night, Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>, prior to the opening ceremonies of the Relay for Life Walk.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED** to help with Vacation Bible School, Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. If you are able to help that week, please talk with Jill about jobs to be filled, 373-6496.

**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.

#### **SHINE FEST WEEK 2007 – Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

ShineFest is made up of many faith communities working together on local community projects. Grace Lutheran has chosen Brookside School as a special project on Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> to help with landscaping, painting, playground restoration, and general clean up. We have also chosen to pass out ShineFest magnets that include a Bible verse. If you would like to help with the Brookside project or any of the other projects held during ShineFest week, please call Melvin (826-3703) or Mona (377-3131). These are two very good mission projects on God's agenda for Grace Lutheran. (More information detailing other projects scheduled that week will be available in next week's bulletin.) Please come and help us – there is work to be done!

**OUR THANKS** to Judy Menssen and her piano students for presenting a program for the residents of St. John's Home on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> to receive the September issue.

**COMING TO GRACE: HARMONY JUNCTION Barbershop Chorus** will be singing at both worship services on Sunday, Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>. You won't want to miss it!

**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.

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS** for Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>:  
Genesis 18:20-32, Psalm 138, Colossians 2:6-19, Luke 11:1-13

**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.

	<b>Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b>
General Fund Giving	\$ 10,828.00	\$ 291,605.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 282,688.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 55.25	\$ 1,312.50
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 222.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 335; Last Year - 287

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Albert Lea, Minnesota**

**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

July 22, 2007