

*This Week at Grace*  
*Sunday, August 26, 2007*  
*The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**INTRODUCTION**

*Early Christians referred to Sunday as the Lord's Day, the eighth day of the week, the day beyond time in which a new creation is born. We gather this day for new beginnings, eager to be recreated by the Word who raises us to new life. Jesus insists that the older sabbath, too, is intended to be a blessing, not a strict rule.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**FIRST READING** *Isaiah 58:9b–14*

*The Lord promises those who have returned from exile that where there is justice and mercy the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness.*

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- you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.  
If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
<sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.  
<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.  
<sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.  
<sup>13</sup> If you refrain from trampling the sabbath,

from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;  
if you call the sabbath a delight  
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;  
if you honor it, not going your own ways,  
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;  
<sup>14</sup> then you shall take delight in the LORD,  
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;  
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

**PSALM**      *Psalm 103:1–8*

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, | O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.  
<sup>2</sup>**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,  
and forget not | all God's benefits—**  
<sup>3</sup>who forgives | all your sins  
and heals all | your diseases;  
<sup>4</sup>**who redeems your life | from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R**  
<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires | with good things  
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.  
<sup>6</sup>**O LORD, you provide | vindication  
and justice for all who | are oppressed.**  
<sup>7</sup>You made known your | ways to Moses  
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.  
<sup>8</sup>**LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. R**

**SECOND READING**      *Hebrews 12:18–29*

*The writer to the Hebrews presents a striking vision of the eternal dwelling place and the one who welcomes the righteous. There is no fear, only forgiveness through Christ's blood.*

<sup>18</sup> You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." <sup>21</sup> Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") <sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the

sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup> See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! <sup>26</sup> At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." <sup>27</sup> This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken — that is, created things — so that what cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; <sup>29</sup> for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

**GOSPEL**     *Luke 13:10–17*

*Jesus heals a woman on the Sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When religious leaders are angered because Jesus did work on the Sabbath, Jesus insists that new creation is not constrained by a legalistic reading of an ancient calendar.*

<sup>10</sup> Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. <sup>11</sup> And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." <sup>13</sup> When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. <sup>14</sup> But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? <sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" <sup>17</sup> When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

<b>TODAY:</b>	8:00a	and 10:00a	Worship Services
	9:00a		Outdoor Coffee Fellowship
	6:00p		Gracious Christianity
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	9:00a		Staff Meeting
	11:00a		Pastor's Text Study
	7:00p		Personnel Committee Meeting
	7:00p		Sunday School Teacher Orientation
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	7:00p		Small Group Leader Meeting

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

**FRIDAY:** 1:30p ThorneCrest Bible Study

**NEXT SUNDAY:** *Fall Worship Schedule Begins*  
8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services

**MISSIONARY FOR A DAY:** [Aug. 26: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Aug. 26: Sunday School] [Aug. 26: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [Aug. 28: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [Aug. 18: In memory of brother, Joe Foley given by Alice Lageson.] [Aug. 29: GLCW].

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Marlys Jahnke (St. Mary's, Rochester).

**PLEASE REMEMBER** those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Elizabeth Baker, Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Miff Eglund, Ray & Janet Ewing, Theresa Gamble, Jeanie Godtland, Mike Greiner, Jan Guse, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, Edna Herfendal, Mildred Hopperstad, 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, Lissa Parrish, Bob Richerson (brother of Nancy Greiner), Jackson Schrock (grandson of Vince & Corine Tims), Mark Stevens, LaVon Stewart, 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 Chatfield Lutheran Church of Chatfield, Stordahl Lutheran in Zumbrota, Trinity Lutheran of Owatonna, and the Mankato State University Campus Ministry.

**IN YOUR PRAYERS,** please also remember the family of Don Johnson (father of Mary Grasdalen, brother of Peggy Bangert, and uncle of Larry Petersen); and the family of Maria Ruppert (mother of Irmgard Kleih, and grandmother of Marc Kleih) who passed away last week.

**GREETERS** today are Jeff & Brenda Wieland, and Mitch & Becky Tennis Hanson at 8:00; and Elizabeth Baker, Bob Pleiss, Mike Pleiss, and Delores Nasby at 10:00.

**ACOLYTES** for our worship services are Kayla Swee and Chris Stahl at 8:00; and Haley Lau and Natalie Oakland at 10:00.

**LESSON READERS** today are Judy Menssen at 8:00, and Truman Thronnd at 10:00.

**OUR THANKS** this morning to Mary Tennis, Becky Tennis Hanson, and Becky Kelly for presenting special music at our services.

**REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES** are being served today by Jordan Mondeel and his parents, Jon & Jody.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Jerry Dahl who is serving as van driver this morning. Our church van picks up riders every Sunday for the late 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.

**OUR THANKS** to last month's Altar Guild workers Gloria Ugland and Mary Pirsig.

**REMEMBER: Fall Worship Schedule Begins Next Sunday, 8:30 and 11:00a.**

**FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS**

For those interested in responding to the recent floods in SE Minnesota, we offer the following information:

1. The areas are not yet equipped to receive volunteers. There will be plenty of work to be done, but more details will be made available in the coming weeks. For now, those interested in volunteering for flood clean-up should contact Joyce Pederson, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota Disaster Services, at (612) 922-0776 with your availability. (Volunteers must be 18 years or older; no previous experience needed.)
2. They are not equipped to accept donations of clothing.
3. The BEST way to help at this time is financially. Funds can be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response (marked as designated for SE Minnesota Flood Relief):

**Lutheran Disaster Response  
2485 Como Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55108**

These funds will be used in the community and will get to the individuals who need it.

Money can also be sent to the Synod Office:  
**SE Minnesota Synod, ELCA  
1001 14<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 300  
Rochester, MN 55901**

Funds sent to the Synod will go directly to the congregations who need it.

**GRACIOUS CHRISTIANITY** Bible Study will meet this evening, 7:00p, at the home of David & Carol Larson (111 S. Lane). Please join us!

**BOWLS! BOWLS! BOWLS!** The cake pans have been claimed but there are still many bowls in the kitchen above the sink area. They have been there for many months. If they are not claimed by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> they will be donated to the Epilepsy Foundation. PLEASE pick up your bowls. Thank you.

**FAIR TRADE COFFEE**, tea, baking cocoa, hot chocolate mix, and candy bars will be for sale before the first service and between services on Rally Sunday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. Plan to stock up!

**BOOK CLUB** will meet in September on Sunday evening, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00p. (Note the change of day for September only.) The featured book for the month is *Daughters of the Loom* by Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller. Join us for interesting discussion and great fellowship!

**GLCW STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS UPDATE**

The World Relief Truck is coming in October. We are still in **dire need** of the following items:

**Layettes:** sleepers, receiving blankets; cloth diapers, diaper pins, wash cloths, and *Ivory* soap.

**School Kits:** pads or notebooks of wide ruled paper 8½" x 11" (150-200 sheets), construction paper, erasers (2 ½" long), boxes of crayons (8, 16, or 24 count), rulers (30 cm), blunt "safety" scissors.

**Health Kits:** hand towels, wash cloths, bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste (5-7 oz.), wide-toothed combs, metal nail files OR nail clippers with file attached.

Donations can be left in the GLCW collection box in the narthex. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!**

**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, Aug. 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b>
General Fund Giving	\$ 8,781.00	\$ 331,500.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 333,168.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 59.00	\$ 1,526.75
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 72.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 351; Last Year - 344

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Albert Lea, Minnesota**  
**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
August 26, 2007

All are **WELCOME** to **GATHER** on

## **Rally Sunday**

September 9<sup>th</sup>

for a celebration to kick-off our  
**Fall Activities!**

**We will begin our day with Worship at 8:30 and 11:00a.**

**Sunday School will begin that day at 9:45a (register early!).**

**Picnic on the front church lawn beginning at 10:45a.**  
(HyVee's Chuckwagon will be cooking!)

**Enjoy games, crafts, and fellowship for all ages!**

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**BECOMING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST**  
(Year-long Theme at Grace Lutheran)

Look for information regarding the many activities to become involved in during the year at Grace Lutheran, including Education, Musical Choirs, Bible Studies, and other groups like Grace Seniors, GLCW, Sewing Group, Mission Team, Altar Guild, Ushers, Sunday Van Drivers, and so much more!