

This Week at Grace
Sunday, September 2, 2007
The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Remember that worship times are 8:30 and 11am!

INTRODUCTION

Who is welcome in your community of faith? And how would they know that they are? Today's readings ask us to think about hospitality, especially as it is practiced at the table. The feast of God's radical grace calls us into this place and connects friends and strangers with one another.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING *Proverbs 25:6–7*

The Book of Proverbs is known as wisdom literature. Proverbs presents a view of life that is orderly, simple, and practical. The truth of the advice on humility in the presence of the ruler is self-evident.

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great;
⁷ for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

PSALM *Psalm 112*

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD
and have great delight in | God's commandments!
²**Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;**
the generation of the upright | will be blessed. R
³Wealth and riches will be | in their house,
and their righteousness will | last forever.
⁴**Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;**
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.

⁵It is good for them to be gener-¹ous in lending
and to manage their af-¹fairs with justice.

**⁶For they will nev-¹er be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlast-¹ing remembrance. R**

⁷They will not be afraid of any¹ evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting¹ in the LORD.

**⁸Their heart is established and¹ will not shrink,
until they see their desire up-¹on their enemies.**

⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands¹ fast forever;
they will hold up their¹ head with honor.

**¹⁰The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and¹ pine away;
the desires of the wick-¹ed will perish. R**

SECOND READING *Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16*

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains many suggestions for the conduct of life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

Let mutual love continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

GOSPEL *Luke 14:1, 7–14*

In Luke's gospel, Jesus often tells parables about meals in order to illustrate God's unexpected grace and lead people to a faithful response. Here, we have two examples of these stories, one extolling humility and the other, inclusivity.

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more

distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY:	<i>Fall Worship Schedule Begins</i> 8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services 9:45a Coffee Fellowship
MONDAY:	Labor Day Offices and Building Closed
TUESDAY:	11:00a Pastor's Text Study 11:30a Freeborn County Ministerium
WEDNESDAY:	9:00a Staff Meeting 9:00a Sewing Day 6:30p Worship Telecast, Cable Ch. 6 Confirmation Orientation 7:00p 7 th -9 th gr. Student/Parent Meeting 8:00p 10 th gr. Student/Parent Meeting 7:30p Adult Choir
THURSDAY:	6:00a Early Morning Bible Study 9:00a BERC Pastor's Meeting 6:00p GLCW Board Meeting
FRIDAY:	1:30p ThorneCrest Bible Study
NEXT SUNDAY:	Rally Sunday 8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services 9:45a Cradle Roll / Sunday School Begins 9:45a Bible Studies 10:45a Picnic and Games on the Front Lawn

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [Sept. 2: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Sept. 2: Sunday School] [Sept. 3: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [Sept. 4: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [Sept. 5: GLCW] [Sept. 6-8: In loving memory of Maria Roppert, mother of Irm Kleih, given by Gerhard & Irm Kleih.] [Sept. 8-10: In memory of Ruth Brunson given by Larry & Sandy Petersen.]

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

WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS in Christ throughout the SE Minnesota Synod today in praying for Wanamingo Lutheran Church in Wanamingo, United Lutheran of Walters, and the Winona State University Campus Ministry.

PLEASE REMEMBER those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Elizabeth Baker, Larry Bergo, Paula Burkart (niece of John & Beth Ruud), Kathy Diaz, Lyle Dickson, 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.

OUR THANKS this morning to Judy Menssen for presenting special music at our worship services.

GREETERS THIS MORNING are Chuck & Shari VanWey, and Al & Judy Menssen at 8:30; and Rodger & Carole Nelson, and Craig & Becky Loehr at 11:00.

ACOLYTES today are Kyle Kriewall and Chris Stahl at 8:30; and Haley Lau and Natalie Oakland at 11:00.

LESSON READERS for our worship services are Bill Leland at 8:30; and Jo Sandler at 11:00.

COMMUNION BREAD AND WINE is given today in memory of Christopher Opseth by Mark & Sharon Christian and family.

ASSISTING WITH COMMUNION are Bill & Pam Leland at 8:30; and Steve & Barb Thue at 11:00.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS to LeMoyne & Lucille Oakland who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES are being served today by Fallon Rippentrop and her mother, Lisa.

FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS

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

1. 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 14th St. NW, Suite 300
Rochester, MN 55901**

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

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, Freeborn/Mower will dedicate its tenth house constructed in Albert Lea on Saturday, Sept. 8th, at 1:00p. Located at 908 9th St. E, this newly completed house will become the residence of Stephen & Amy Patten. The public is invited to the open house and dedication

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. 9th. Plan to stock up!

BOOK CLUB will meet in September on Sunday evening, Sept. 9th, 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 IS LOOKING for two volunteers to co-chair our Salad Luncheon this year under the current chairs, Bev Field and Joyce Langerud. It has been our goal to have you "help" the first year and take over the reigns next year. Please call LaJean Westeng at 826-3726. Let's keep our Grace Lutheran Salad Luncheon going!

YOUR GLCW BOARD has been calling and asking for new officers for 2008. Thank you to all who have said *yes!* We are still in need of someone to fill the position of Vice President which is a 3 year commitment (first year as Vice President, second year as President, and third year as Past President) one prepares you for the next. If you are interested, please call LaJean Westeng at 826-3726.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY will begin meeting again on Tuesday morning, Sept. 11th, at 9:30a. New members are always welcome. Please consider joining them.

GRACE SENIORS: Wednesday, Sept. 12th, 2:00p

Join our Seniors in the Fireside Room that day to hear Beth Spande, Director of RSVP, tell about the RSVP Bone Builders Exercise Program to combat osteoporosis. If enough people are interested, a group can be started right here at Grace Lutheran. Come and bring a friend along to enjoy this program. *If you need a ride, please call Lisa in the church office, or the Kleih's at 826-3176.*

FRIDAY YOUTH ROOM for 4th-6th graders will begin for Fall on Sept. 14th. Youth who are interested in spending some time together in the Youth Room are encouraged to come. Snacks and a time of fellowship, including games, is how we spend our time together. Friday Youth Room hours are from 3:30-5:00p.

ALTAR GUILD will hold their September meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 18th, 7:00p. Are members are encouraged to attend.

GOOD SAM SUNDAY will be up and running for the Fall on Sept. 30th. Come with us to visit the residents of the Good Samaritan Center and play some games, assist them getting to and from coffee hour, or just talk with them. After our time with the residents we will come back to the church, share a meal, and have a time of fellowship. Youth and adults of every age are welcomed to participate. We meet at Grace Lutheran at 2:00 that afternoon, and wrap up the night around 6:00p.

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. 1st they will be donated to the Epilepsy Foundation. **PLEASE** pick up your bowls. Thank you.

NEEDED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL: Music Leaders for openings and closings, short-term or long-term. Call Jill at 373-6496.

CONFIRMATION PARENT/STUDENT MEETINGS will be held Wed., Sept. 5th (7:00p for our 7th-9th graders; and 8:00p for 10th graders). Please make plans to attend.

SUNDAY SCHOOL and CONFIRMATION TEACHER INSTALLATION will be held Sunday, Sept. 16th, at both worship services.

THIRD GRADE STUDENTS will receive Bibles at our worship services on Sunday, Sept. 30th. Bible Class will begin on Oct. 7th and continue for four weeks. Parents are asked to attend class with their student.

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, wide-toothed combs, metal nail files OR nail clippers with file attached. (Effective immediately, Lutheran World Relief will no longer accept toothpaste in their Health Kits. Recent studies show that apparent toxic chemicals were found and there has also been a problem with outdated tubes being shipped. LWR will now buy toothpaste in bulk and add it at the warehouse prior to shipping overseas. Thank you for your attention to this matter.)

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.

	Sunday, Aug. 26th	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 7,937.00	\$ 339,437.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 343,264.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 47.50	\$ 1,574.25
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 155.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 351; Last Year - 344

All are WELCOME to GATHER on

Rally Sunday

September 9th

**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!

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!

A very special day for all
Grace Members, 55 and older:

Heritage Luncheon

Thursday, Sept. 13th
11:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Enjoy a delicious luncheon and terrific program!

**Presentation on the Heifer Project
by Christma Lange**

Musical Selections

No invitations are being sent.

If you need a ride to this event, please call the church office, 373-6496.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Albert Lea, Minnesota
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 2, 2007