

*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes You!*

for where  
TWO OR MORE  
gather  
IN MY NAME  
I am with  
them

MATTHEW 18:20

*By Grace you have been saved!*

*"We have decided to follow Jesus and  
There's no turning back!"*

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 10, 2023

Pastor Jim Helgren

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Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn

WOV Hymn # 783

"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

Greeting

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Scripture Song

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Prayer of the Day

See Insert

The First Lesson: Ezekiel 33:7-11

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Psalms 119:33-40

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The Second Lesson: Romans 13:8-14

See Insert

The Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

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Gospel Acclamation

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Children's message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" WOV Hymn # 731

Response to the Word

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Offering

Offertory "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

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Prayers of the Church

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The Lord's Prayer

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Benediction & Dismissal

Closing Hymn

WOV Hymn # 721

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

Postlude

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# Today's Readings

Sunday, September 10, 2023

15th Sunday after Pentecost

## Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-11

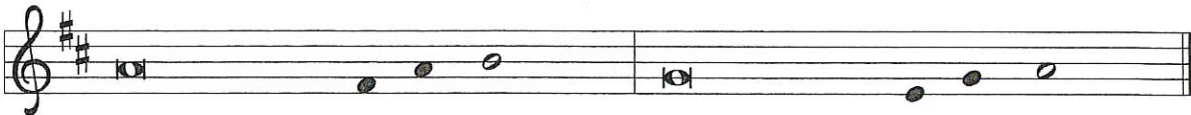
So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked

shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

## Psalm

Psalm 119:33-40; tone 1



Teach me, O LORD,  
the way <sup>1</sup> of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it <sup>1</sup> to the end.  
<sup>34</sup>**Give me understanding,**  
**and I shall <sup>1</sup> keep your teaching;**  
**I shall keep it with <sup>1</sup> all my heart.**  
<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path  
of <sup>1</sup> your commandments,  
for that is <sup>1</sup> my desire.  
<sup>36</sup>**Incline my heart to <sup>1</sup> your decrees**  
**and not to <sup>1</sup> unjust gain.**  
<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from be- <sup>1</sup> holding  
falsehood;  
give me life <sup>1</sup> in your way.

<sup>38</sup>**Fulfill your promise <sup>1</sup> to your**  
**servant,**  
**which is for <sup>1</sup> those who fear you.**  
<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach  
<sup>1</sup> that I dread,  
because your judg- <sup>1</sup> ments  
are good.  
<sup>40</sup>**Behold, I long for <sup>1</sup> your**  
**commandments;**  
**by your righteousness**  
**en- <sup>1</sup> liven me.**



Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for

you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

## Gospel

## Matthew 18:15-20

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even

to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

## Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

*Refrain* F C<sup>7</sup>

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

F Gm C<sup>7</sup> F

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

F Dm Gm C

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their  
 2 Neigh - bors are wealth - y and poor, var - ied in col - or and  
 3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will  
 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

F Dm Dm<sup>7</sup> Gm C<sup>7</sup> F *Refrain*

feet, mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
 race, neigh - bors are near - by and far a - way.  
 love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.  
 feet: this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt.

Music: Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin; arr. Jane Marshall, b. 1924

Text and tune © 1969 and arr. © 1987 Home Publishing Company

CHEREPONI

7 7 9 and refrain

***We pray always for . . .***

*Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Gayleen Eden, Eric Fass,  
Haleigh Werner & Will Yank*

***We also remember in our prayers . . .***

*Anna, Vanessa, Meshack & Evance, orphans we are sponsoring  
in Tanzania.*

***You may contact Pastor Helgren by calling 402-864-4201 (church)  
402-864-2113 (home) or 402-826-0613(cell)***

*Please put items for the bulletins & newsletter in the secretary's box in the  
south office. Church office email [grace68329@gmail.com](mailto:grace68329@gmail.com)*

**Today 9/10/23**

*Worship – 8:30 a.m.*

*Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*

**Monday 9/11/23**

*Have a Happy & Safe Patriot's Day!*

*Bible Study – 3:30 p.m. NOTE TIME CHANGE*

**Wednesday 9/13/23**

*Kids for Christ – 4:00 p.m.*

*Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.*

**Next Sunday 9/17/23**

*Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.*

*Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*

*Please join us for fellowship in the basement  
following worship 😊*



Please be sure to sign up for a couple of Sundays of  
Worship Duty – sign-up sheet is at the back of the church.

Sunday School begins again TODAY following worship at  
approximately 9:30 a.m.

### ***Cook Community Seniors!***

Please join the Kids for Christ program at Grace  
Lutheran on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays for a  
meal prepared and served by the members of  
Kids for Christ.

The meal will be available at no cost to you  
on those Wednesdays for you at approximately  
5:00 – 5:15 p.m. Please register by calling the  
church at **402-864-4201** and leave a message that  
you will be attending – *these messages must be  
received by the Monday before the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday.*

Come for fellowship with our Cook  
Community Youth!

# GO AND...

## SERVE WITH NEIGHBORS

As Mr. Rogers asked us – “Who is your neighbor?” Love grounds us as we engage with our neighbors living next door, the people in surrounding communities, and those living beyond our own horizons. Accompaniment calls us to use our God-given gifts and talents as we collaborate, learn from each other, and together walk in agape love.

### Questions to Consider:

- Who is your neighbor? How do you know?
- What did you discover in walking with your neighbor?
- As you GO with your neighbors, how do you describe your vocation?

**Prayer:** God of Accompaniment, you meet us where we are at. Help us meet our neighbors wherever they might be and walk with them. Amen.

**Suggested Songs:** Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love (ELW 708) & God’s Work, Our Hands (ACS 1000)

*Learn More at [www.nebraskasynod.org](http://www.nebraskasynod.org)*