

*Grace Lutheran Church
Welcomes you to
The Great Thanksgiving*

*As we begin this new journey, we are led
by Christ, guided by Pastor Kate Woolf &
united in ministry.*



*United by Faith
Strengthened by Grace
Inspired by Hope*

Welcome, Pastor Kate!

*Everyone is Welcome!
Taste and See that the Lord is Good,
Let us rejoice together!*

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 2026

Pastor Kate Woolf

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness

Page 94

Gathering Song "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

ELW # 733

Greeting and Kyrie

Page 138

Hymn of Praise

Page 140

Prayer of the Day, prayed in unison

See Insert

First Lesson: Jonah 3:10—4:11

See Insert

L: Word of God, word of Life. C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:1-8

See Insert

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

See Insert

L: Word of God, word of Life. C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Page 142

L: The holy gospel according to John. C: Glory to You, O Lord

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

See Insert

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" ELW # 588

Nicene Creed

See Sheet in your pew

Prayers of Intercession

Peace

Page 143

Offering

Offertory "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" ELW #884

Offertory Prayer

The Great Thanksgiving

Page 144

The Lord's Prayer

See Sheet in your pew

"Lamb of God"

Page 146

Post-Communion Canticle "Thankful Hearts & Voices Raise" ELW #204

Benediction

Sending Song

"Rise Up, O Saints of God!"

ELW # 669

Dismissal

We carry the "light" out into the world! Depart to serve!

AN INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

We believe that with the bread and wine one receives the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins. We welcome other Christians to receive Holy Communion with us. Children who have not had first Communion instruction may come forward for a blessing.

We pray always for . . .

*Grace Bentzinger, Linda Daniels, Julie Effken, Elaine Hauberg,
Diane Roesener & Ken Tubbesing*

We also remember in our prayers . . .

*Juliana, Hassan, Jackline & Charles, orphans we are
sponsoring in Tanzania*

Pastor Kate Woolf cell phone # is 316-371-0803

For bulletin or newsletter information please contact Diane Wilken
@402-297-3863 or email the church office grace68329@gmail.com

Today 9/20/26

Sunday School Begins – 9:15 a.m.

Worship w/Communion Pastor Kate – 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship to follow worship

The Parsonage will be open to those today who would like to
tour it during fellowship following worship.

Monday 9/21/26

Tower Echoes Deadline

Wednesday 9/23/26

Kids for Christ – 4:00 p.m.

Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

Next Sunday 9/27/26

Sunday School – 9:15 a.m.

Worship with Pastor Kate – 10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMED TODAY AND WILL BE HELD
AT 9:15 A.M. before our 10:00 a.m. worship.

FAITH, GRACE, HOPE LUTHERAN CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2026

—PASTOR KATE WOOLF—

Pastor Kate's Phone #: (316)-371-0803

Date	Day	Faith's Church Time	Grace's Church Time	Hope's Church Time
September 2026				
September 20	Sunday	No Pastor Led Service	10:00 AM	8:00 AM
September 27	Sunday	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	No Pastor Led Service

Pictures of some of the parsonage issues will be placed on the ping pong table in the basement. If you cannot tour the parsonage today, and would like a tour, please contact Cheryl Grundaman.

We will be putting items together today during fellowship for School Kits and Personal Care Kits that will be sent to Lutheran World Relief.

Notice – There will be a **SPECIAL Congregational Meeting** following worship on October 4th to amend the 2026 budget and discuss the Parsonage.

Misson Festival will be held here at Grace Lutheran on October 25th. We are pleased to have McKenna Olson from The Lutheran Center (Campus Ministry) in Lincoln as our guest speaker.



Today's Readings

Sunday, September 20, 2026

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Jonah 3:10—4:11

When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

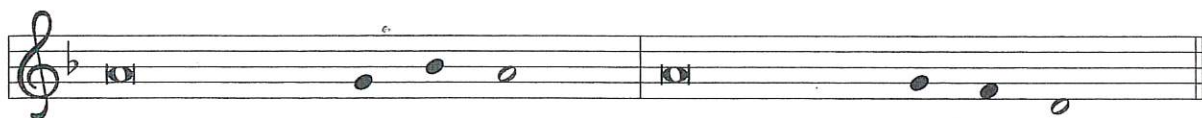
⁶The LORD God appointed a bush and

made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

Psalm

Psalm 145:1-8; tone 9



I will exalt you, my ¹ God and king,
and bless your name
forev- ¹ er and ever.

²Every day ¹ will I bless you
and praise your name
forev- ¹ er and ever.

³Great is the LORD
and greatly ¹ to be praised!
There is no end ¹ to your greatness.

⁴One generation shall praise
your works ¹ to another
and shall de- ¹ clare your power.

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor
¹ of your majesty
and all your ¹ marvelous works.

⁶They shall tell of the might
of your ¹ wondrous acts,
and I will re- ¹ count your greatness.

continued

⁷They shall publish the remembrance
of ¹ your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully
¹ of your righteousness.

⁸The LORD is gracious
and full ¹ of compassion,
slow to anger
and abounding in ¹ steadfast love.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner

worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give

them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

TODAY'S READINGS September 20, 2026 (Lectionary 25)

Volume 57, Number 4

Next Sunday's Readings: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32.

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0166, USPS 009628) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1553. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Prayer of the day and psalm from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year A* (Augsburg Fortress, 2007). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year A.