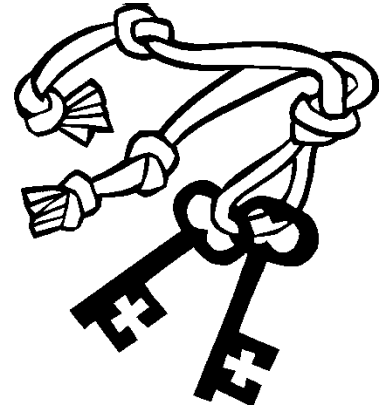


Welcome to
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**The 13th Sunday
after Pentecost**

August 22 & 23, 2026



PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

C: **Amen.**

A: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

All are invited to a time of silence and reflection.

A: Holy and gracious God,

C: **We confess that we have sinned against you this day. Some of our sin we know — the thoughts and words and deeds of which we are ashamed — but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ we ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace. Amen.**

P: As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you.
As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you.
As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you.
Your life has been renewed through the cross of Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

C: **Blessed be God forever. Amen.**

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

THE GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: **And also with you!**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

GENESIS 45:1-15

Moved to tears by Judah's plea on behalf of Benjamin, Joseph declares, "I am Joseph!" and asks, "Is my father still alive?" Despite the brothers' evil intent, God used Joseph to preserve many lives at a time of famine.

[After Judah offered himself in place of his brother Benjamin,] ¹ Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they

came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' ¹² And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³ You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.'" ¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

R: The Word of God, for the People of God!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

PSALM 133

The Cantor will sing the verses as the congregation response in singing the refrain.



How good and plea-sant to live, to live to - geth - er in u - ni - ty.

¹ *How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!*

² *It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.*

³ *It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.*

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore. Refrain

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Following the Children's moment, children in pre-k through 5th grade are invited to gather for an activity by the chapel.

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 16th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Please be seated.

THE REFLECTION

PR. CLAYTON J. BAILEY

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW # 408

COME THOU ALMIGHTY KING

THE CREED

A: Living together in trust and hope we confess our faith as expressed in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

At this time you are welcome to share the Peace of Christ with those around you. Following the Sharing of the Peace you may be seated.

OFFERING AND OFFERING MUSIC

Please stand.

OFFERING SONG

ELW # 186

CREATE IN ME

OFFERING PRAYER

- A: Let us pray. Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

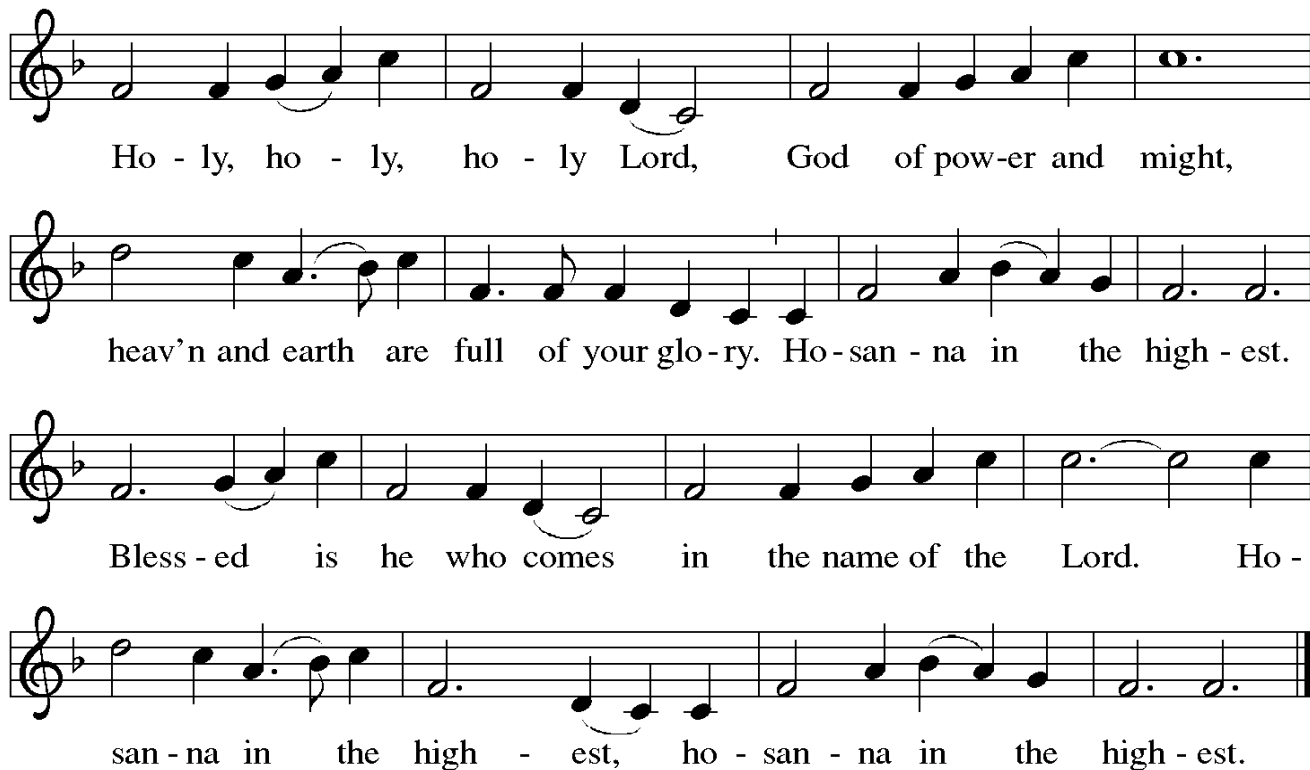
THE DIALOGUE

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: **And also with you.**
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

THE PREFACE

- P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In your mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, so that all who believe in him should not perish but have the gift of eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in this holy supper.

C: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

A: As our Savior Christ has taught us, together we are bold to pray.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Heaven has come near. Come and share the Feast!

AGNUS DEI



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

At Grace, all are welcome to the Table of the Lord. At the ushers invitation, you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available as an additional substitute. As you return to your seat using the side aisle, there is a basket to dispose of your individual communion cup. Those who would like a blessing are also welcome to come forward. Simply ask Pastor for a blessing instead of taking communion.

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW # 482

I COME WITH JOY

After all have communed, you are invited to stand.

TABLE BLESSING

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine you have united us with Christ to our stories of old. Together, our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen.

BUILT ON A ROCK**THE SENDING**

P: Heaven has come near.

A: Go, share the good news!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

SERVING IN WORSHIP		
	Saturday – 4 pm	Sunday – 9 am
GREETERS: NARTHEX	Thomas O'Brien	Jan Guthrie John Avers
GREETERS: BAKER ST.		Sharon Watkins
WORSHIP ASSISTANT		Kristen Lindsay
READERS	Wendy Bailey	Helen Biddinger
CANTOR		
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Wendy Bailey	Becky Prasuhn
DEACONS/CLOSER		Mark & Mindy Gedeon

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I Come with Joy Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

Built on a Rock Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Psalm Refrain from Psalter for Worship Year A, 2007 Augsburg Fortress

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting #10: 2026 Augsburg Fortress

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS! You are God's gift to us today. Please introduce yourself to the pastor and come worship with us again.

PLEASE NOTE: Our Sunday worship is live streamed on Facebook.

DRIVE-IN CHURCH - If you are joining us on Sunday in the parking lot, please tune your radio to 90.3 FM.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Christine Schneider Smith, Joe & Marian Smith and Frank & Jeanette Schenider, by Mark Smith.

THE RADIO BROADCAST is given as a gift to the congregation. (Radio Broadcasts can be heard each Sunday morning at 9:30 am on Eagle 99.1. Anyone wishing to sponsor a radio broadcast [cost is \$72.50 and please make checks payable to BAS Broadcasting.], should contact the church office.)

THIS WEEK, AS YOU PRAY please remember: Diane Berryman, Sue Brickner, Krista Culbert, Jackie Mowry, Rilee Overmyer, Tim Rutherford, Julie Stawowy, Connie Wasserman, and Bob Wickert.

HOSPITAL VISITS! If you, or a member of your family, are in the hospital, please call the church office and let us know.

HEARING DEVICES are available at the Usher station at the back of the Sanctuary. Please return after worship so that they can be charged and ready for the next service.

PRAYER LIST REQUESTS - If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer and would like to be added to our prayer list, please write their name on the back of our *Welcome Cards*. You are welcome to indicate what prayers are needed, i.e. "has an upcoming surgery" etc. Names submitted for our prayer list will remain on the list for four (4) weeks. Our goal is to keep the prayer list ever flowing and as up to date as possible.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm and closed Friday.

SUBMISSIONS FOR OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWSLETTER should be sent to Tricia at dabrunztricia@yahoo.com

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

ALTAR FLOWERS – There is an opening for flowers on August 29 & 30. If you are interested, please contact Tricia in the church office.

MUSIC AT GRACE

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED JOINING A HANDBELL CHOIR? The Grace Ringers is a volunteer community bell choir that is dedicated to rehearsing and performing handbell music to commemorate special seasons during the church year. Whether you are a seasoned musician or are new to making music, all are welcome to join the ensemble! Being able to read music is not required. We plan to meet weekly for rehearsals. The bell choir will perform at select Sunday services. If you are interested contact Charlie at pianomancharlie03@gmail.com or scan the QR code.



FOR OUR YOUTH

ELCA YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT GATHERING INFORMATIONAL MEETING will take place following worship today (8/16) in the lounge. The Youth Gathering is open to youth in grades 8 – 12 (in the fall of 2026) and the Young Adult Gathering is open to people ages 18 – 35. *Scholarships are available through LIFT to help defray the cost of attending this event.*

LIFT

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO BUILD BEDS! On September 13 we will gather for a 10 am LIFT worship at Grace before we get to work building beds in the parking lot. If you would like to volunteer to help, sign-up sheets are available at the back of the sanctuary. *Please note that is a rain or shine event. In case of inclement weather, the build will take place at Fremont Floor Covering, 218 N. Front Street, Fremont.*

A LETTER FROM THE GLCW PRESIDENT

Over the years you may have heard the LWR and GLCW, but do you know what these stand for? LWR stands for Lutheran World Relief and GLCW represents the Grace Lutheran Church Women.

The GLCW is asking for your help assembling two kits for LWR. This year, we are putting together School Kits and Sewing Kits for distribution.

We need the following items to complete our School Kits: 50 – Spiral notebooks with 70 – 80 sheets of lined paper, 5 – Pencil sharpeners and 13 – Rulers with centimeter markings on one side.

For the Sewing Kits we need: 20 – Spools of neutral colored general-purpose thread.

We are always in need of gently used or new flat bed sheets which we use as the back of our quilts.

Thank you for your continued support of the LWR projects.

Jan Harris,
GLCW President



Spirit Families

Join us for an evening of creativity and good company

Wednesday Nights

5:00-6:30	Midweek Huddle Drop in & stay a while Build, Create, Play
5:30-6:15	Parent's Support Group
6:30-7:45	Jesus, games & crafts Structured Programming

For more info contact Heather Hawn
419-307-1808 or HeatherRHawn@gmail.com
*All activities will meet in the Sunday School Hallway

Join us for HALLOWEEN

Hospitality @ Birchard Park
October 31 | 5:30-7:30pm

This year we will again be a face in the park during Fremont's Trick or Treat
Contact Pastor if you'd like to help pass out treats to our neighbors

NURSERY AVAILABLE DURING WORSHIP

Worship is for the whole family—including the grown-ups!

REGISTER NOW

STARTING SEPT 20TH

We're excited to bring back our Nursery during worship. This ministry is designed to give parents of young children an opportunity to be present, engaged, and renewed during worship while their little ones are cared for by trusted caregivers. Your child is welcome in the nursery. Your child is also welcome in the nursery. And parents are welcome to take a moment to simply worship

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH

WELCOME BACK Students!

KIDS ZONE	AFTERWORD	CONFIRMATION
Pre-K - 5 th Grade Mid Worship Lg. Classroom	Middle & High School Mid Worship Library	7 th & 8 th Grade Following Worship Youth Room

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH CAMPS & TRIPS

National Ice Cream Cone Day Celebration

Menu

- Shredded Chicken
- Hot Dogs
- Sides
- Ice Cream Cone
- Dessert Bar

Suggested Donation

\$10

*Children 10 & under free

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 | 5:00 PM | BY DONATION

NWOS Eastern Conference

The Way of Love

CONFIRMATION Retreat

- ✓ Bible Study with Bishop Daniel
- ✓ Poverty Experience
- ✓ Host & Serve a Community Meal
- ✓ \$5 per person for pizza & snacks
- ✓ Putting our faith into action

NOVEMBER 15, 2026
12:30 - 6:30 PM
DOORS OPEN AT NOON

GRACE LUTHERAN, FREMONT
705 W. State St.
Fremont, OH 43420

SCAN TO RSVP/ATTEND

Questions? Contact Pastor Stacy, St. John's Sandusky- Stacylauer@gmail.com or Pastor Matt Wheeler, St. John's Fremont- matthew.wheeler612@yahoo.com



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pastorcbailey@gmail.com
561-670-3684

Lay Associate Minister:

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maureenpump2022@gmail.com

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HeatherRHawn@gmail.com

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pianomancharlie03@gmail.com

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dabrunztricia@yahoo.com

Finance/HR Administrator:

Denise Biddle
gracefremont@yahoo.com

Noah's Ark PreSchool:

Andrea Hirt - Director
Susan Sawda - Teacher
noahsark.fremont@gmail.com

Our Custodial Team:

Jim Post
Michaelle Goodman
Andrew Bailey

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

AUGUST 23 - 30, 2026

Today

9:00 – Worship

Monday

Tuesday

5:30 – Juggling Act at The Garrison

Wednesday

4:00 – Youth Milkshake Meet-up at the Sandusky County Fair

Thursday

10:00 – Stewardship Committee Meeting

Friday

Saturday

4:00 – Worship

Sunday

9:00 – Worship

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 122

Called to Present the Light of Christ!