

Sunday Service

July 9, 2023 - 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM

Livestream at 10:15 AM



Born & Light

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Cris Escher

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Welcome...

We are so happy that you are here with us today. Our desire is to be like another home for you. If you are new to Grace or to the area and are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider joining our family here at Grace. A Fellowship Time is held after each Worship Service, and we invite you to stay for a few minutes so we can get acquainted.

To our many members and friends worshiping at home, whether near or far, we are so happy that you are sharing this worship with us from your homes.

To Everyone: Please check Grace Lutheran's website daily! www.GraceLutheranPSL.com

HOLY COMMUNION

This meal is weird and wonderful: weird because we actually believe that the bread and wine are the Body and Blood of Jesus the Christ; wonderful because Jesus is with us. We take this meal very seriously here at Grace. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out and allow us to answer your questions. **Children** who have not been instructed in the meaning of the Sacrament may come to the Lord's Table with their parents for a blessing but are asked to fold their arms across their chests to indicate they are to receive a blessing.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMMUNION: After the closing hymn, Pastor Cris will pronounce the sending and then for those who wish to share in the celebration of communion shall remain. ***For those who have an intolerance to wine, grape juice is lighter colored on the tray, center.*** Those who find it difficult to walk to the altar can be communed at your seat. Please inform the usher of your need. After Pastor Cris has given your group the blessing at the altar, you may place your cup in the basket and depart from the Sanctuary down the center aisle, and enjoy fellowship in the hall.

WE WELCOME TODAY PASTOR ED SCOTT filling in as Pastor Cris takes a brief respite this week. Thank you Pastor Scott for your service.

Missio Dei: The Heart of God Part 2

From the beginning, God has been sending his spirit out to bring life and beauty in the universe. It's a great sending. In this sending, we can see the heart of God as we join in with God's mission.

Today: Born & Light

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned. But how is this light dawned by being born again?

---- THE OPENING HYMN

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee” (LSB 702 Vs. 1-4)

1. My faith looks up to Thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day be wholly Thine!
2. May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee,
Pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire!
3. While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.
4. When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

--- Opening

Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”
- John 3:3

--- THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(Take a moment of silent reflection upon our need for God's forgiveness)

Pastor: *O Almighty God,*

PEOPLE: GOD, OUR LOVING FATHER,

WE CONFESS THAT WE ARE OFTEN IMPATIENT AND RUSH TO CRITICIZE.

WE TAKE OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR GRANTED.

WE ARE OFTEN UNGRATEFUL AND NOT GRACIOUS.

WE OFTEN EXPECT CHURCH TO MIRROR OUR OWN BIASES.

WE FORGET TO ASK FOR OUR CHURCH TO MIRROR YOU.

WE OFTEN USE YOUR SCRIPTURES TO SUPPORT OUR OPINIONS.

WE FORGET THAT THEY ARE A LAMP TO OUR FEET AND A LIGHT TO OUR PATH.

OUR HOPE IS CENTERED ON OURSELVES AND NOT ON YOU.

RENEW US, LORD, THAT WE MAY DELIGHT IN YOUR WILL

AND WALK IN YOUR WAYS, TO THE GLORY OF YOUR HOLY NAME. AMEN.

Pastor: The story of Jesus is about life and forgiveness.... You are God's beloved; you are a child of the resurrection. Live in the hope of new life. God loves you, and God is the restorer of hope. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN

--THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your name, and increase our devotion; nourish us with all goodness, and by your mercy preserve in us what you have nourished; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN

--THE HYMN OF PRAISE

“My Jesus, I love Thee” (MM 137)

1. **My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.**
2. **I love thee because thou hast first loved me
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:1-4

When God's people haven't seen a hint of light or hope of day, God will do something new.

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.
For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE SECOND LESSON

1 John 5:7-12

We reflect our worship of God by living in respect with our neighbors. How we treat the people around us on a daily basis is the real test of our love for God.

For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given

about his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:1-8

At this time, Israel's Roman occupiers have given a small group of Sadducees and Pharisees limited powers to rule, and Nicodemus is one of the Pharisees.

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST

--- PROFESSION

THE APOSTLES CREED

--- HYMN OF DAY

“Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways” (LW 392 Vs. 1-4)

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|---|---|
| 1. Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
To keep his statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
To know and do his will! | 3. Assist my soul, to apt to stray,
A stricter watch to keep;
If ever I forget your way,
Restore your wandr'ing sheep. |
| 2. Order my footsteps by your Word
And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
But keep my conscience clear. | 4. Make me to walk in your commands,
A most delightful road;
Nor let my head or heart or hands
Offend against my God. |

--- THE SERMON

Missio Dei - Born & Light

--THE OFFERTORY

“We Give You But Your Own” (LW 405 vs 1,2,6)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <i>We give you but your own,
In any gifts we bring;
All that we have is yours alone,
A trust from you our King.</i> | 2. <i>May we your bounties thus
As stewards true receive,
And gladly, Lord as you bless us,
To you our first-fruits give.</i> |
| 6. <i>And we believe Your Word,
Though dim our faith, it's true;
What we do for your people, Lord,
We do it all for you.</i> | |

--- PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(after each petition)

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

PEOPLE: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

--- THE LORD'S PRAYER

----- THE BLESSING

*Pastor: May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord look upon you with grace and redemption.
May the Lord always walk before you and give you peace*

PEOPLE: AMEN

----THE CLOSING HYMN

"I Love Your Kingdom, Lord" (LW 296 Vs. 1-4)

- 1. *I love Your Kingdom, Lord, The place of Your abode;
The Church our blest Redeemer saved With His own precious Blood.***
- 3. *Beyond my highest joy I prize its heav'nly ways,
Its sweet communion, solemn vows, Its hymns of love and praise***

----- SENDING

*Pastor: Have peace knowing we are all with you.
Serve others knowing God walks before you.*

Those who wish to share in the celebration of Holy Communion may be seated.

--- THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: May the Lord be with you!

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

Pastor: The tree of life in the midst of the garden was the tree of our defeat. Christ was lifted up on the tree of victory; and where life was lost, there life has been restored. And so we praise you.

PEOPLE: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT, HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY. HOSANNA, HOSANNA, HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST. BLESSED IS HE THAT COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST



---- THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

After the pastor has consecrated the elements you are invited to come to the altar and receive communion. Please use the right or left aisle as you come forward to the altar. After the pastor has pronounced the blessing for your side, you may place your cup in the basket and depart the sanctuary down the center aisle. Go in peace, Serve the Lord.

(Please remember that as you are leaving the sanctuary, others are still communing, please refrain from talking to others until you are in the Fellowship Hall, Thank You.)

--- ADDITIONAL HYMNS (On Projection Screens)

“Just as I Am”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

“Jesus Loves Me”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

“Lord God, to Thee We Give all Praise”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

---- THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today

July 9, 2023

Services

Sunday, 8:30 & 10:15 AM

Live-streamed on www.gracelutheranpsl.com

10:15 AM

Korean Church Worship

1:00 PM

Rest of the Week

July 10 - 15, 2023

Adopt-A-Street

Tuesday, 8:30 AM

Pastor's Circuit Meeting

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Summer Kids Bible Club

Tuesday, 6:00 PM

ACC Meeting

Wednesday, Noon - 1:30 PM

Bible Study, also live streamed

Thursday 11:00 AM

Korean Church Prayer Gathering

Saturday, 6:00 AM

For complete calendar information, go to www.gracelutheranpsl.com/calendar

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: None listed for this week!

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: Bob & Rochelle Fiebelkorn - 7/12/1973 (50 Years), Jim & Piper Neagles 7/14/1973 (50 yrs) and Robert & Teresa Decklever 7/15/1989 (34 yrs)

THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God by Laura Peeler in celebration of all her family members' birthdays!

SUMMER KIDS CLUB: Grace is holding a "Summer Kids' Bible Club" called "God's Living Water - Covered in Jesus' Grace! See you every **Tuesday evening** from 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM during the Summer. Contact Coli Escher for more details.

GIVING: We are here to provide "Grace and Peace in a Confusing and Trying Time" to those in our church and community. Thank you for your past and continual prayers and financial support to Grace and your community.



ADOPT-A-STREET will be **THIS Tuesday, July 11th at 8:30 AM!** The meeting place will be on the corner of Torino and Conus. For more information contact: Judy Fredrich (561) 315-9555 or retslvnlg@outlook.com

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: THIS Thursday at 11:00 AM, we will be studying 1 & 2 Kings. Come here to the church or watch the Live Streamed for those at home.



THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBER? If you have "Choice Dollars" available, please consider directing them to Grace Lutheran Church. All "Choice Dollars" that are received go to paying down our mortgage on the new building. For this year we have received \$1,746 from Thrivent Choice! Thank you: Vance, Bernard, Shirley, Bertha, Sandra, Robert Z., Carol, Jacqueline, Leona, Kevin and Robert B. for your Grace designation of Choice Dollars.

OFFICE HOURS: The "Church Office" is open in the ACC Complex from 9:00 AM through 12:00 (Noon) daily, Monday - Friday. The office is overseen on Monday by Diane Heinz, Tuesday - Thursday, Kevin Garbers and on Fridays by Pam White. Please feel free to stop by or call anytime during those hours. Office phone is 772 - 871 - 6599. After hours you can contact Kevin at 772-971-9200 or Pastor Cris at 770 - 328 - 5078.

COMMUNION: If you, or someone you know, would like to celebrate Holy Communion but prefer a small group or are unable to attend Sunday service, Pastor Cris is happy to celebrate the meal in a small group with you. **Please call the church at (772) 871-6599**, and Pastor Cris would be happy to set aside a time for you to come in and receive communion and partake of this wonderful meal.

FROM THE ALZHEIMER'S COMMUNITY CARE CENTER! There is a wish list of needs to assist in our operation of this center to help provide care for our clients. If you could help it would be greatly appreciated. **Wish list:** Blueberry muffins by 07/11, Cotton candy and Popcorn by 07/21, Ice cream sandwich by 08/02, Chocolate chip cookies by 08/04, Creamsicles by 08/14, Peach pie by 08/24. (Dates listed above indicate a special celebration on that day)

These items are needed regularly, Seasonal Crafts/Decorations, Wild Bird Feed, Gift cards to Walmart for crafts, Assorted Bingo Prizes, Assorted Sugar Free Chocolate and Decaf Coffee.

Thank you for your support!

07/09 *Worship assistants: 8:30 - Phil F. & 10:15 - Ed B*
Scripture Readers: 8:30 - Jennine V. & 10:15 - Harry D.

07/16 *Worship assistants: 8:30 - Bob F. & 10:15 - Dave V.*
Scripture Readers: 8:30 - Vance A. & 10:15 - Nancy O.
Readings: Ezekiel 2:1-5, 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5, Mark 6:6b-13 (NIV)

QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK: *Born & Light*

1. What sources of darkness surround you and the people in your life? How does the light of Christ shine in your darkness and the darkness of those you know and love?
2. What is the importance of repentance and forgiveness in your personal / family / professional life and relationships?
3. How do you as a Christian overcome any feelings of unworthiness to be a representative of Christ Jesus, Savior of the world, and Lord of the universe?

REMEMBER THOSE ON THE PRAYER LIST In an effort to keep our prayer list up to date and be sure everyone is listed, please make your requests in writing or email.



- **place the** pink completed prayer form into the offering plate or on the office desk.

- **or by email** to: www.GraceLutheranPSL.com/pray

Your loved one/ones will remain on the list for three weeks. If you wish someone to remain longer, you will need to make another request. By doing this, we will also ensure that Pastor Cris is aware of updates to the status of everyone's needs.

***PINK PRAYER REQUEST FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON THE COUNTER IN THE NARTHEX.**