



WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LILY LAKE, IL

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Sunday, September 6th, 2026 * 9:30 AM * INPERSON and ONLINE



15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Introduction

TODAY'S THEME: Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP

Print out your bulletin or use it on your phone or tablet to follow along.

Announcements are televised or found on our website

Be creative how you worship and remember God during this time. It will calm your soul, give you peace and enliven your spirit.

*Our community gathers in unity with others in-person and a virtual way.
We hope all people find it easy to follow along.*

We invite you to read/respond to the texts, pray the prayers, using this as a meditation guide all week long.

GOD GATHERS US

PRELUDE

The Solid Rock

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements are found on our website

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✙ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

OPENING SONG

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

ELW 597 v. 1-3/Red Hymnal

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

All: And also with you.

P: Let us pray... O Lord God,

C: 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.

SHARING OF PEACE

P: God has received us, pardoned us and loved us; let us forgive each other in love and share the peace of Christ. Peace be with you.

C: And you also.

Depending on your comfort level, please share the peace with each other with a handshake and a smile.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ 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, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: Word of God; Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.



Children's Message

(Please rise for the reading of the Gospel)

GOSPEL: **Matthew 18:15-20**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

ALL: Glory to you O Lord

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But 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. ¹⁷If that person 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. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, 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. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

ALL: Praise to You O Christ!

MESSAGE FOR ALL

Pastor David Mercurio

SONG OF DAY

The Church's One Foundation

ELW 654/Red Hymnal

APOSTLES' CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 power of 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.**

OFFERING IS WELCOMED

P: God of creation,

C: you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.
Amen.

(An offering will be taken before the prayer.)

Offertory Music

Wonderful Peace

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

See list of those Grace is currently praying for at end of this document or online. Please let us know your prayer needs.

Please respond accordingly.

P: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.



P: Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for all who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

P: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them in the Spirit's love.

P: Let us give thanks to our Triune God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O God. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all who believe in Him should not perish. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his Holy Supper.

P: WORDS OF INSTITUTION

ALL: 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

P: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God

TAKE AND EAT OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion hymn

As We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522/Red Hymnal

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Sustaining God,

C: with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

CLOSING SONG

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

ELW 597 v. 4/Red Hymnal

GOD SENDS US

BLESSING

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

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ADDITIONAL WEEKLY LECTIONARY LESSON

Ezekiel 33:7-11

The prophet's responsibility to warn the people

Psalms 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

9/6/26 ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are donated today by Linda Smykowski in loving memory of John.

COFFEE HOUR Coffee hour is TODAY after worship. Please join us downstairs in Fellowship Hall for sweet and savory treats, coffee and juice, and fellowship!

SUNDAY SCHOOL Sunday school will resume again in September! Our first day back will be our Sunday School Rally Day on September 20th and will continue on the first and third Sundays of the month through May for children ages 3 – fifth grade.

LINE DANCE LESSONS will resume **9/8/26 6:30-7:30pm** in Fellowship Hall through 12/8/26. (Please note the half hour time change of the class.) Questions may be directed to Nancy Corbige [847-212-0237](tel:847-212-0237).

LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP BOWLING LEAGUE Lutheran Fellowship Bowling League is a joint league among area ELCA Churches, and we are open to adults 18 or older to join us every other Sunday for an evening of adult Christian fellowship (2nd & 4th Sundays of the month). Bowling skill or experience NOT required as we just love to have a good time and always love to welcome new faces to our fellowship every year! You can join as an individual or couple (special cases we can have a group of 3 join together). The first session will be Sunday, Sept 13th at 6:00pm at St. Charles Bowl. If you're interested in joining, contact Nick Rex for more information. (630) 742-5836 (please leave Nick a text or voicemail) or lutheranbowling@gmail.com. We are also on Facebook, just search "Lutheran Fellowship Bowling & Softball". If there are times you'll be out of town, do not worry, we have available subs to fill in. If you can't commit to a full season but want to be a sub, please let us know as well.

OKTOBERFEST Grace will again be hosting the annual Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 26th from 4pm to 7pm. Hay rides, line dancing, kids games, bouncy house, food and fellowship!

RUMMAGE SALE ITEMS You may see that many of our leftover rummage sale items continue to be moved out. Our next sale is in October, and we would like to remind everyone that we would like you to hold your donations until that time. Please don't drop off or put items in the garage without contacting Linda or Tricia. If you have clothing donations, ***Cara Turner is now beginning to coordinate clothing donations.*** Thank you all very much for your cooperation.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESCHOOL We are excited to begin the new school year! We are currently full with 18 registered for the Monday/Wednesday mixed-age class. And we are also full for our new 2-year-old class on Tuesdays with 8 students registered. Our first day of school is this week on Tuesday, Sept. 8th. Thank you to God for all of these blessings!

SECURITY FOR PRESCHOOL Please be reminded that our Preschool policies are that all entry doors remain locked during preschool hours. (Mon/Wed: 9:15am – 1:15pm and Tues: 8:45am – 10:45am) If you need to come into church, we ask that you lock the door behind you, and of course ensure it is locked when you depart.

DIRECTORY FAMILY PICTURE Cara Turner is available for your family picture taking on Sundays at 9am, downstairs in first SS room/office on the left, and after church service until 11am. Please contact her if you have further questions or need to schedule a picture taking at your home – her cell #: 630-291-6896. We would like to get this project complete within the next month.

LECTORS ARE NEEDED for readings during our service. Please look for the clipboard. Thank you for your assistance in our service.

BRIDGE TO LIFE DONATIONS The Bridge to Life Group continues to collect donations for the Elgin homeless. For details see the newsletter or Cathy Whiteside. ***Thank you for your generous donations!***

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER is available on-line at www.graceoflilylake.org. If you would like to submit anything for the newsletter, please email the information to Marty Bradley by the 24th of the month: masbradley50@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Are you looking for ways to be a little more involved in our church each week? We have a variety of tasks that take place before and during each Sunday worship service, such as preparing communion and altar, reading our announcements and Bible reading, ushering, running the PowerPoint during the service. A variety of ways to be a part of our worship behind the scenes or up front. Please see Pastor for more information.

SHOE BOX COLLECTION in lower level outside of Fellowship Hall. Please help!

NOISY OFFERING We gratefully accept your "noisy offering" after each service. These funds add up and go towards our capital improvement projects.

OFFERINGS & FAITHFUL GIVING FOR THE MINISTRIES AT GRACE We are thankful and blessed with your offering and donations . Received as of 8/31 - \$ 4,500 (our weekly goal is \$4,000).

~ Blessings upon Grace in our 132nd year of ministry ~

VISIT OUR Website: www.graceoflilylake.org (.ORG not .COM)

FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND SERVICES

Get ALL the news you NEED there – including our weekly services

Our FACEBOOK PAGE for activities and posts of interest:

<https://www.facebook.com/GraceOfLilyLake/>

630-365-6751

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

- * God's Church in all time and place, that God be seen and heard.
- * As we face these times both together and while apart, keep us from fear, suffering and death.
- * Ministries and people of the ELCA and Metro Chicago Synod, especially Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop of the ELCA, and Erik Christensen, our new Bishop of the Chicago Synod.
- * Efforts of Lutheran World Relief, ELCA World Hunger, and Disaster Relief

FOR THE WORLD

- * For every living person facing the threat of war – it affects us all, our loved ones and our worldwide neighbors together.
- * For the healing of the divisions in our Nation.

FOR OUR CONGREGATION

- * For God's Spirit to guide the Vision Team, and whole congregation as we face transition and change.
- * As we plan regarding the future of our congregation.

FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY (members, relatives, and friends of members of our congregation)

- * Nathan Sajdak, grandson of Bill and Lori U'Ren
- * William Delmer, grandson of Kirk and Kathy Hooey
- * David Brazee, Grandson of Steve and Cathy Lindquist

(If you know of someone currently serving our country, please share their information with the Church office.)

FOR ALL

- * The continued support of our members
- * For all members of healthcare around the world
- * For those serving as first responders and in the military
- * For our Nation, to extend peace in all things.

FOR THOSE SICK IN BODY, MIND OR SPIRIT...

For our “Grace Family” members: Betty Boor, Craig Bradley, Dan Burtnette, Travis and Lissa Brown, Lillian Carlson, Alexa Diehl, Natalia Diehl, Jan Docherty, Mitch Hendry, Kathy Hooey, Rich Jackson, Manfred Kaufmann, Kay and Paul Kinsel, Katie Kozeva, Pastor Dave and Carol Langseth, Tom and Lois Larkin, Ray Larsen, Pat and Chili Lindgren, Steve Lindquist, Joan Mortenson, Carol Nelson, Ed Nordwind, Mary Lindquist Rose, Nancy and John Schaefer, Norm Turner, Bud and Marilyn Wise, Wayne Whiteside

For our Families and Friends: Howard, Jim, Scott, Fred Alstadt, Barb Asher, Kathy Barton (mother of Tom Barton), Howard and Christine Baumert, Viola Bradshaw, Cindy Carlson, Joanie Chernick, David Diehl, Rebecca Eagen, Ted Ellingsen, Pat Eineke, Rachel Glancy (friend of the Lindgren family), Joyce Helander, Andrew Kinsel, Bob Koehling, Sally Kruthoff (daughter of Nancy Schnaitman), Gay Leslie, Janelle McDonald, Linda Mowers, Ray Navarro, Oksana & Maria, Donald Overby, Emily Peters, Mary Rose, John Schnaitman, Bob Stanley (Marty Bradley’s brother), Kelly Wilken, Ron Wilken, Greg & Val Williams, and Barbara Zegiel.

If you have requested that anyone (including yourself) be put on Grace's prayer list, thank you for your faith in our work of prayer! In order to keep our list current and accurate, we would like to hear from you regarding the need for continued prayer, praises and new requests. You may place these in a note in the offering plate, send them on-line via our prayer card on our website, leave them on the answering machine at church (630-365-6751) or speak with Pastor or Kathy Hooey. Aren't we blessed to have a God who listens and cares!

ALSO - Do you know someone who could use a reminder of our prayers and God's constant love? We have lovely **prayer shawls** all ready for delivery. Just call or see Vicki Linden for prayer shawls.