



Grace Sanctuary 1921-2021

*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ August 29, 2021*  
*Grace Lutheran Church*  
***Welcomes You to Worship***

*202 Second Street SE, Watertown, South Dakota*  
**Web Site: [glcwn.org](http://glcwn.org) ~ [gracelc@midconetwork.com](mailto:gracelc@midconetwork.com)**  
*Church Office: 605-886-5737*  
*Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett ~ 605-237-1501*

**PRELUDE**

**Congregation responses in Bold Print**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us be quick to listen and doers of the word, Honoring God with our hearts.  
For it is in love for one another, the world will know whom we worship.

**Come let us abide in the word and worship the Lord.**

**GATHERING HYMN:**

**“Gather Us In”**

**ELW 532**

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face; we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

3 Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4 Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away— here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,

the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

**Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

God, our provider, **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.**

**Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**Thanks be to God**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

Let us pray... **Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9                      Pew Bible p 140**

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" <sup>7</sup>For what other

great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? <sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 15**

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear  
the LORD.**

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes  
against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

### **Second Reading: James 1:17-27      Pew Bible p 980**

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. <sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. <sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Word of Life, Jesus Christ”** **WOV p 48**

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you! Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the Scriptures.

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you! Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!

**GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23** **Pew Bible p 818**

The Holy Gospel according to St Mark, the seventh chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; <sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ <sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.” <sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” <sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE**

**SERMON SONG:        “When Seed Falls on Good Soil”**

When seed falls on good soil, it's born through quiet toil.  
Where soil receives, the earth conceives:  
the blade, the stem, the fruit, the leaves.  
Good soil, oh, mother earth, the womb, where seed takes birth.  
God's Word in Christ is seed; Good soil its urgent need;  
For it must find in human kind The fertile soil in heart and mind.  
Good soil, a human field, a hundred fold to yield.  
Plow up the trodden way, And clear the stone a way.  
Tear out the weed and sow the seed.  
Prepare our hearts your Word to heed,  
that we good soil may be. Begin, O Lord with me!

**MISSION OF THE MONTH – “Neighbors in Solidarity”  
First Lutheran African Ministry - VIDEO**

The African Ministry at First Lutheran Church is a vital, growing ministry with and among African people in Sioux Falls. While the spiritual leaders and founders of this community are Liberian, worshipers on a Sunday afternoon come from many parts of West Africa. All came here fleeing the violence of various civil wars and the desperate poverty of cross-border refugee camps. The people of this community share a powerful bond of hardship and a common strength of hope in Jesus Christ. First Lutheran African Ministry is an emerging ministry of African immigrants with the heart for God. We gathered and worshipped regularly celebrating God's goodness and proclaiming Christ's promise in a contextualized manner. We're always a happy congregation; this is always reflected in our worship style. Take one Sunday with us and you'll be thrilled by our worship spirit. Ministry Leader is Abraham Gayetaye. Support can be made for this ministry, through the SD ELCA Synod.

**SHARING OF THE PEACE:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.** *(We greet you all in peace.)*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING FOR THE MISSION AND MINISTRY  
of Grace Lutheran Church**

Giving is not a casual act— it relates God's work to our work.

Peter writes: “as each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace, that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”

**Let us give as people whose work is inextricably linked to God’s great works of creation, redemption and empowerment. Amen.**

**SONG of OFFERING: “We Are an Offering” ELW 692**

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering.

Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,

Lord, use our lives, they are yours; We are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are,

all that we hope to be we give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, We lift our lives up to you;

We are an offering, we are an offering

### **PRAYER OF OFFERING DEDICATION**

Let us pray... **Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you not with our words only, but with our whole lives. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Made children and heirs of God’s promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

**PRAYER SONG: “Hear Our Prayer” ELW 178**

*Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole: peace to all people, hope for each soul. God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.*

### **PRAYER PETITIONS:**

We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence. We lift up those who are oppressed or live in dangerous conditions because of their faith. Hold them in your protective care and help them walk through these fearful times. Grant them peace in knowing your saving grace in the life to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals have habitat and resources needed to thrive and flourish. Inspire us to protect threatened



**THE LORD'S PRAYER:** 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.

**BLESSING** *(inspired by Mark 5:21-43)*

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✚ be upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:** ***“Glory to the Love”***

*(Refrain)* Glory to the Love, Glory to the Life. Glory to the child of Light.

From heaven to earth across the universe glory to the peace of Christ.

1. Moving, reaching into our lives, seeds of promise stirring inside. *(Refrain)*

2. Teaching, healing, seeking the lost,

Turning tables, bearing the cross. *(Refrain)*

3. Guiding Spirit open us wide To see Christ in each others' eyes. *(Refrain)*

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ... **Thanks be to God. We Will!**

***Thank you for worshiping with us today!***

## **Announcements for August 29<sup>th</sup>**

***Keep in your prayers - Those dealing with Health Issues:***

Rhys Arnold, Roy Arnold, Jim Bakeberg, Shannon Beck, Joyce Brever, Dennis Carlson, Carla Frost, Tammy Giessinger, Bella Hatch, Duane Holker, Bruce Jahraus, Doug Koutz, Judy Lien, Rick Raml, Deb Schlenner, Scott Schooley, Dana Thompson, Donnie Vrtacnik, Carol Wagner, and Robert Wittrock, the family of Loren Holzwarth, those in Care Centers, Assisted Living, or who are Homebound. Pray for members of the Armed Forces and their families, our Law Enforcement personal, Fire Fighters, EMT and all First Responders.

**On the CALENDAR - For the week of August 29<sup>th</sup> thru September 5<sup>th</sup>**





FaithX Strategic Missional Consulting is a nonprofit organization helping faith-based communities and organizations acquire knowledge to equip leadership with tools and strategies to anticipate, identify, and effectively engage emerging missional opportunities and challenges.

They provide qualities in several ways, including:

- Congregational Vitality Assessment
- Strategic Missional Planning
- MapDash for Faith Communities and other missional analysis tools
- Research on Church Vitality, Sustainability, and Missional Opportunity
- Webinars and Online Content

Faith communities are given the data and resources to discern the community they are based in to quickly assess congregational vitality and sustainability, forecasting emerging missional opportunities and challenges, respond rapidly in the present, and plan adaptive strategies for rapidly changing context.

Visioning is an activity to engage the whole diverse and varied community of Grace in dialogue to exchange ideas and dreams of the church bringing together community-wide voices with various backgrounds and unique contributions. Common ground is often found to build on each other's strengths for the good of the whole community.

Everyone has an opportunity to contribute and is encouraged to participate especially youth and those under 40 who will carry on the vision of Grace forward.

We want your voice heard as part of the mission and ministry planning for your future at Grace.

### **MISSION OF THE MONTH – “Neighbors in Solidarity” First Lutheran African Ministry**

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Ministry Leader is Abraham Gayetaye. To support this ministry, contact the SD ELCA Synod.

A RADIO BROADCAST of the Sunday morning worship service can be heard at 10:05 a.m. each Sunday on KWAT (95 AM). **The RADIO BROADCAST** today is given in loving memory of Roy and Doris Schmelling from the Schmelling Radio Fund. Altar Flowers today are given by Art and Marcia Jelsma in celebration of their 48<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Your gifts are greatly appreciated for the Mission and Ministry of Grace Lutheran. If you would like to help with these special weekly needs, please call the office or send your donation to *Grace Lutheran, 202 Second Street SE, Watertown, South Dakota 57201*

**Ever ask yourself - How can I serve the Lord?  
Here are ways you can!**

### **Altar Guild**

Want to volunteer to help do your part for the church but don't have much time. Altar Guild is an opportunity to help each month with changing the paraments on the altar, filling oil in the altar candles, preparing communion elements, caring for the flowers, and hanging banners at appropriate times. The work is not hard and the opportunity is for men as well as women and even couples can do with work together. If you can help, contact Krisma Dewitt or Pastor.

### **Coffee Fellowship:**

On Sunday morning beginning September 12<sup>th</sup>, coffee fellowship between services will begin with coffee at 9:30 am. The first Sunday we will have the beautiful cake decorated with a picture of Grace Lutheran made for our celebration this summer. It will be a great time to get back together after this long absence. Please come and join in coffee and fellowship. If you are able, please sign up as the coffee server for a week or two as well. We need everyone to take a turn.

### **God's Work – Our Hands Sunday is September 19<sup>th</sup>**

This is a day kits for World Relief are put together. Volunteers take individual items that go into the kits and bundle them together. It is not hard and does not take long as many hands make work light. If you can spend a little time helping that morning, please come and be the hands of God as we work together to prepare the kits.

**Sunday and Wednesday school** begins in September. There is always a need for more teachers, assistants, and helpers. Perhaps you can be on call as a substitute. There will be a teachers/education committee meeting on Tuesday evening, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm. The children also enjoy attending lock-in's with games and activities but more parental involvement is needed. If you are able to help with a one-time activity like this, please let the Youth Director, Becky Sprouse know.

**Adult and Parent help with Youth Group.** Some activities we'd like to hold with the 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Youth are bowling, attending concerts together (such as LifeLight), or a lock-in. We NEED adults and parents to help with these events. That is how we develop the family of Grace Lutheran Church, by being the face of Jesus to others.

*Please help do your part with any of these ministries you can.*

**Check us out on our website at [glcwn.org](http://glcwn.org)  
And Grace Lutheran Watertown FaceBook.**