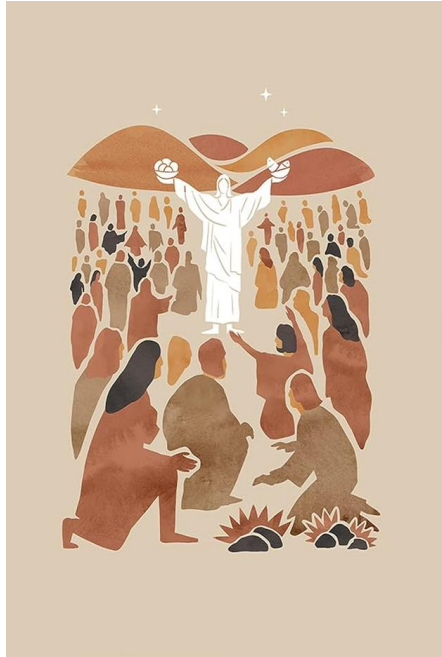


Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 21, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



*Christ-Centered
Mission-Driven*

*Traditionally-Grounded
Congregationally-Focused*

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Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude.....Please Observe Silence For Meditation

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PRAISE

- * Opening Hymn**The Church's One Foundation****LBW 369**
- * The Kyrie page 57
- * The Hymn of Praise.....*Glory to God*..... Page 58
- * The Salutation and Prayer of the Day.....page 62

EQUIP

The First Lesson.....Jeremiah 23:1-6

L: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm 23 Bulletin pg. 3

The Second LessonEphesians 2:11-22

L: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

- * The Holy Gospel.....Mark 6:30-44
- Children's SermonPastor Coble
- The Message....."What Type of Shepherd Are You?" Pastor Coble
- Hymn of the Day.....**Leaning on the Everlasting Arms** **TCH 575**
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- * **The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament**
- * Post-Communion Canticle.....*Thank the Lord*..... page 72
- * Post-Communion Prayer
- * The Benediction

SEND

- * The Sending Hymn**Blessed Assurance**..... **TCH 572**

- * The Dismissal: P: Go in peace. Be the Church! **All: Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

* = Stand Hymnals in Pew Rack: LBW = Green WOV = Blue TCH = Burgundy

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP at Grace Church this morning as we gather to worship the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit in truth. As you entered the sanctuary today, you received this bulletin containing the order for worship and announcements. Please also notice the Prayer List where you will find a listing of all the known prayer concerns. You are invited to use this as a guide for your personal prayers throughout the coming week. If you need information about our congregation or if you'd like to update your information, make sure to fill out the yellow Worship Today Form and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. If you have a prayer concern, indicate that on your Worship Today Form at the bottom or on the reverse side. If you are seeking a Church Home or would like more information about Grace, please contact the Church Office this week.

THIS WEEK'S THEME: How much do you know about sheep? I'll be honest, I'm a city boy and I don't know a lot about them. But I do know the Good Shepherd. In today's lessons we will be challenged to be good shepherds in our lives. We will be challenged that there are shepherds who scatter God's flocks and who ignore God's flock. But we are to follow the example of Jesus and be good shepherds.

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: "You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. ³Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD. ⁵"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'"

PSALM 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³He revives my soul
and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands — ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 6:30-44

³⁰The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. ³⁵And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. ³⁶Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” ³⁷But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them

to eat?" ³⁸And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." ³⁹Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. ⁴¹And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²And they all ate and were satisfied. ⁴³And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 136:1-9; Ephesians 1:14-21; Mark 6:45-56. Readings are based on the recommended use of the English Standard Version (ESV) by the North American Lutheran Church and Lectionary of Sola Publishing. Used by Permission.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God,
in honor of Harvey Leatherman's 92nd Birthday.
By: Gary, Kim & Karen

GRACE PRAYER LIST

In the Grace Church Family:

Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Sheila Drum, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Irene Heavner, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Rachel Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Gary Leatherman, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Debi Pisko, Michael Pisko, Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Richard & Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Carolyn & Scott Whisnant, Betty Wilfong.

Nursing Home: Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Ted Whisnant (Trinity Village),

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Bobby Aderholdt, Jimmy Aderholdt, LeAnn Buckwell, Caleb Bumgarner & Family, Travis Bumgardner, Becky Cartee, Jessica Cassels & Family, Dennis & Evelyn Childers, Harold Crouse, Dennis Di'Alessio, Guy Franzen, Wendy Hannah, J.C., Michelle Kirkland, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Family of Julie Norris, Robyn Reynolds, Lily Rose, Angela Sanford, Jimmy Smith, Donald Smith, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, Monica Thomas, Rodney Stallings, United States of America; Faye White, and especially the families of those who have given their lives in the service of our country and those who continue to protect our freedoms and for all members of our Armed Forces.

(Names are left on the prayer list for 30 days unless the office is notified otherwise.)

PLEASE WELCOME PASTOR GARY COBLE who is leading worship this morning.

HOMECOMING AT GRACE will be held on Sunday, August 25th with Guest Pastor, Nathan Yoder and a Covered Dish Lunch to follow. Make sure to mark your calendars and invite your family and friends to join us as we celebrate!

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE - The call committee met Wednesday, July 17th at 6:00 at Sunny Side restaurant in Mt. View. Present were: Tim Eckard, Jason Yoder, David and Belinda Wilfong, Jacob and Twanna Jarrett, Rick and Cindy Bivens, Joe and Lynette Momier, Michael and Shelly Scronce, and Alan and Stormy Shull. Joining us last night was our new secretary, Kristi and her two beautiful children. Joe led us in prayer and fellowship and we discussed the news that there is no news on receiving a pastor at this time. Kristi was very helpful to discuss some options she knew of, due to being a Pastor's wife, and going through the process. It was decided that we would edit our profile to update some of the information and to upload it to an additional Pastoral site that provides us with the Table Talk. All of the members agreed that this may further our chances of getting a pastor. Please continue to pray for the process and God's timing.

ASHURE (FORMERLY ECCCM) food ask for the month of July is snacks. Your donations make a real difference right here in Catawba County! Thank you for helping to keep the food pantry stocked!

STEPHEN MINISTRY SUPERVISION is canceled through August and will resume on September 9th.

THE 2024 FLOWER CHART is posted in the Narthex. If you wish to give the flowers for a given Sunday, please list your name on the chart in the narthex. *You are responsible for ordering the flowers from a florist of your choice; we do not have a standing order with any florist.* Please notify the Church Office the Tuesday prior to your selected Sunday so that the correct information is placed in the bulletin. You can call the Church Office between 8:00 am and Noon on Monday through Thursday, leave a note in the Church Office mailbox downstairs, or send an email to let us know the occasion or memorial for this wonderful gift of beatification of the worship.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! - Please offer your services as a Lector, Usher, or Communion Assistant for the upcoming months. Worship Assistants help to make our worship experience more meaningful. If you would like to serve during a particular month, please notify Tim Eckard.

GRACE PRAYER LUNCHEON Reminder that the Grace Prayer Luncheon will not be held during the summer months.

*“He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.”*

Psalm 23:2

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAY TO:

22 – Aaron Moss

22 – Nicky Jarrett

22 – Scott Whisnant

23 – Herb Travis

24 – Sherry Biggerstaff

27 – Jack Wilfong

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today:

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30A – Sunday School

10:30A - Worship Celebration

Next Sunday:

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30A – Sunday School

10:30A – Worship Celebration

The Ministers.....The People of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor
Organist..... Sandi Tallant
Administrative Assistant Kristi Tucker
Leadership Board President Tim Eckard
Youth Leader Stormy Shull
Lector Tim Eckard
Communion Assistants..... Cindy Bivens and Libby Travis
Ushers Jeff Scronce and Dabid Wilfong
Altar Preparation..... Herb and Libby Travis
Offering Tabulators Todd Childers and Jason Yoder
Custodian Chris Abernethy



Table Talk II

By Rev. Timothy J. Swenson • ILT Dean of Chapel

Eighth Sunday after Trinity | July 21, 2024



MATTHEW 7:15-23

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves."

(Vs. 15)

Christians have certainly suffered the presence of wolves within the sheepfold. The sheep of the Lord, given over as they are to loving trust, prove easy prey to the predators who come to live among them. Later in his ministry, Jesus tells his disciples that it is his intent to send them out among the wolves. The threat is doubled: wolves will be amid the sheep and the sheep will be amid of the wolves. Jesus provides them with a strategy: "Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves" (Mt. 10:16).

To provide his sheep with a sorting mechanism, Jesus delivers a means of recognizing wolves even though they are disguised in sheep's clothing: examine their fruits (Mt. 7:16). The healthy tree—that is, the sheep—bears good fruit. The unhealthy tree—that is, those well-disguised wolves—must bear bad fruit. "Thus, you will recognize them by their fruits" (Mt. 7:20). Well-disguised wolves, though, mimic the good fruit of the good tree. The time may be long, then, for the wolves to dwell among the sheep. Eventually, the wolves' fruit will be exposed as bad fruit, and their tree will be felled and burned.

Well-disguised wolves prolong their time among the sheep by donning the sheep's

clothing, adorning themselves with works and virtues. The outward expression of works and virtues provides no guarantee for discerning wolves from sheep. An unseen inward affection for those works and virtues must accompany them. Without the new affections of the heart present in the sheep of the Lord, the works and the virtues are false fruit, disguising the wolves beneath the clothing of the sheep. Only God knows their hearts. Only God knows the clean heart. Only God knows the good tree. The sheep must be told first that they are sinners, wolves in sheep's clothing. Repentance must follow. The clean heart with its new affections produces good fruit. It produces good fruit until it begins to trust itself... to look to itself and its works rather than the Word of God for faith. Then it must be exposed as the ravenous heart of the wolf and in need of repentance once again.

Table Talk: How do repentance and faith discern between sheep and wolves?

Pray: Father, repent me unto faith that I would be revealed as a wolfish sinner and yet as sheep of my Lord's own fold. Amen

