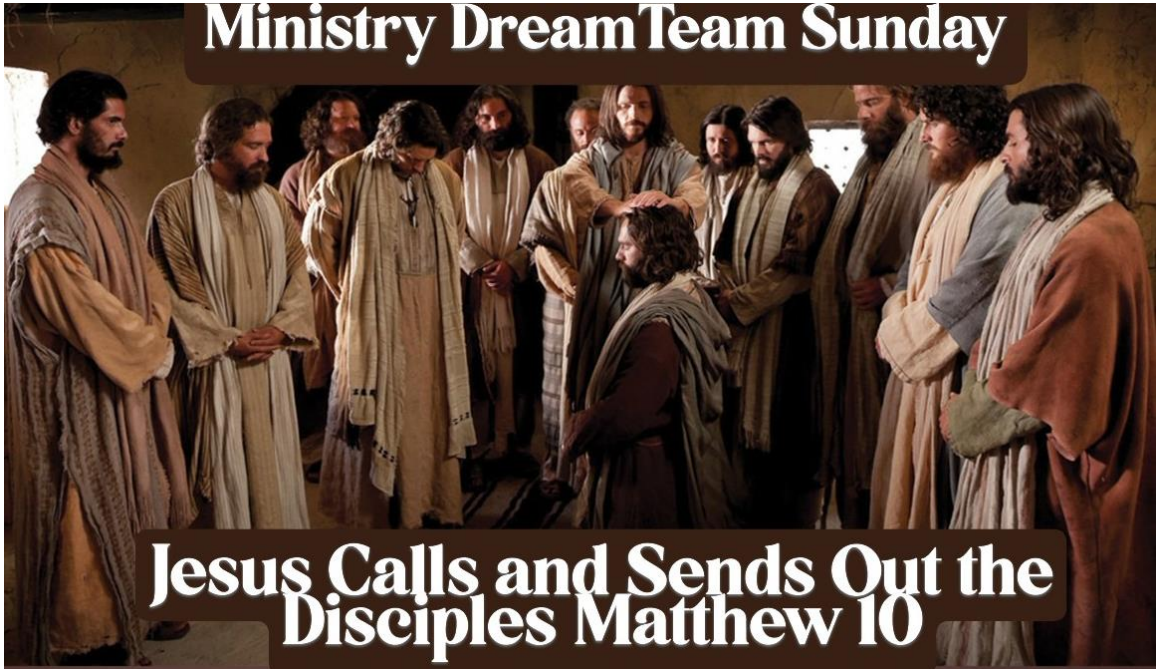


Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost Ministry Dream Team Sunday



Jesus Calls and Sends Out the Disciples Matthew 10

September 14, 2025 10:30 AM

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



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Sandi Tallant – Organist Todd Childers – Administrative Assistant

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9am to 1pm

Tuesday and Thursday 12pm to 4pm

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 Pastor Doug (980) 234-8848.

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

PRELUDE **Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ**

WOV 754

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: In the presence of God, who sees our hearts and our minds, who forgives all our sins, whose mercy endures forever, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and confession of our sins before God and one another.

P: Eternal God, merciful and holy,

C: in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

P: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we were sinners and

through Christ, God has granted us the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

* **GATHERING HYMN** “What a Fellowship”

WOV 780

* **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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Gracious and holy God, through your Son, Jesus, many came to faith in you. Bring us to faith by your grace that we may obediently worship and follow you as disciples, proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING: Exodus 18: 13-27

¹³ The next day Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood around Moses from morning till evening. ¹⁴ When Moses' father-in-law (Jethro) saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, “What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till evening?” ¹⁵ And Moses said to his father-in-law, “Because the people come to me to inquire of God; ¹⁶ when they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make them know the statutes of God and his laws.” ¹⁷ Moses' father-in-law said to him, “***What you are doing is not good. ¹⁸ You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone.*** ¹⁹ Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you! You shall represent the people before God and bring their cases to God, ²⁰ and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do. ²¹ ***Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.*** ²² And let them judge the people at all times. Every great matter they shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves. ***So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you.*** ²³ ***If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace.***”

²⁴ So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. ²⁵ Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, chiefs of

thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. ²⁶ And they judged the people at all times. Any hard case they brought to Moses, but any small matter they decided themselves. ²⁷ Then Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went away to his own country.

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

PSALM 103: 6-10

⁶ The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷ **He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.**

⁸ The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ **He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.**

¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ **For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

¹³ **As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11: 23-31

²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them. ²⁹ By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

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

The congregation is invited to stand.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 9:35 – 10:8**

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁵ And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. ² The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.

L: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You O Christ!**

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON



“The D.R.E.A.M. T.E.A.M. Church – We Are Loved, Chosen, Called by Our Lord Jesus to Be His Church!”
Pastor Doug

***HYMN OF THE DAY** “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”

WOV 78

***THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Response at the end of each petition. P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Worshippers may greet one another with "the Peace of Christ."

The assembly may be seated.

* **OFFERING** In response to God's blessings, we offer our tithes to the Lord

HOLY COMMUNION – MEAL OF GRACE

* **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Generous God, you provide for our every need. **Receive our gifts of money, imagination, talent, passion, and labor, and transform them into a feast of love and grace that welcomes all, in the name of Jesus Christ, who welcomes us to the feast of Holy Communion. Amen**

***DIALOGUE AND PREFACE**

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 him thanks and praise.**

* **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

* **LORD'S PRAYER**

* **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The Gifts of God for the People of God. **C: Thanks be to God!**

The assembly may be seated.

All are invited to receive Holy Communion.

The congregation is invited to stand.

* **COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: Tender and merciful God, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness to joy. **Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen**

*** BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN “Blessed Assurance”**

WOV 699

***DISMISSAL**

P: Beloved in Christ, you are chosen and called to be the body of Christ, the Church, God's Dream Team! In faith and joy, let us go in peace to serve the Lord and our neighbor! C: **Thanks be to God!**

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Eloise Eckard and in honor of Donna Eckard on her birthday by Tim Eckard.



In the Grace Church Family:

Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Harvey Leatherman (at Baptist Hospital), Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Tim Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Joe Momier, Jane Moss, Christine

Norman, Michael Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Mike, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Ken & Tirzah Welch, Scott & Carolyn Whisnant, and Nancy Willis.

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

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Ashlee Bumgardner, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, Randy & Rita Neill, Anita Sabino, Karlee Speagle, Scott Speagle, and Robert Whisnant. Prayers for world peace and for our church, the United States of America, 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. Pray for Charlie Kirk and his family and for peace in our country.

COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Today: Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

9:30am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration

Monday 6:00pm – Leadership Ministry Board

Wednesday 7:00pm – Vespers & Bible Study Focus: Titus part 1

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

September 12 – Jeff Scronce

September 15 – Kathy Leatherman

September 25 – Joe Momier

September 13 – Debi Pisko

September 24 – David Wilfong

September 27 – Kandra Johnson

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. A sign-up sheet for the months of October, November, December, and January will be circulated today during worship.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Vespers and Bible Study on Wednesdays at 7pm for September

September 17 Bible Study -Titus Part 1: **Sept. 24** Bible Study -Titus Part 2

September 21 Homecoming Sunday Worship at 10:30am followed by Covered Dish Dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Please invite friends, extended family, and neighbors! We have invitations for you to send.

September 28 9:30am Pray and Go Celebration Continental Breakfast

October 5 Catawba County Hunger Walk in downtown Newton at 3:00pm

October 12 at 5pm Blessing of the Pets Service (Shelter weather permitting) We will have a short service and a blessing for all the pets. Catawba Humane Society representative will be invited and we will receive an offering to benefit the care they provide pets in our area.

October 26 Reformation Sunday

October 26 Trunk or Treat Outreach Event with Hot Dogs for Community 5-7pm

See Pastor Doug if you would like to help; everyone is encouraged to participate so that we can reach out to our community with the love of Jesus.

November 2 – All Saints Day Service – we will remember and give thanks for all the Saints, especially those members who have died in the past year and are now with the Lord.

Ministers of Grace – All the People of Grace

Pastor – Reverend Doug Hefner Board President – Tim Eckard

Lector – Todd Childers Youth Leader – Stormy Shull

Altar Preparation – Sherry Biggerstaff

Communion Assistants – Tina Hefner & Sherry Biggerstaff

Ushers – Jacob Jarrett & James Hall

Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Alan Shull