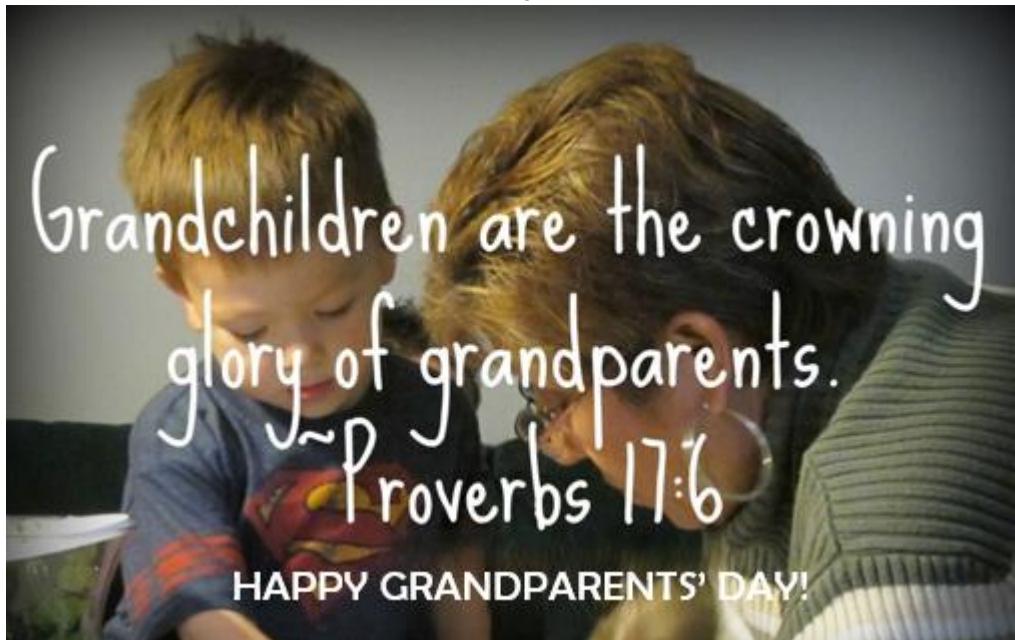


Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost



September 7, 2025 10:30 AM

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



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Rev. Doug Hefner cell: (980) 234-8848 email: pastorhefner@aol.com

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 *Please observe silence for meditation and prayer.*

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: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just

will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (*1John 1:9*)

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: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you 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** “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

WOV 771

* **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: Almighty and everlasting God, you have given great and precious promises to those who believe in your Son. Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, you bring us into your kingdom and grant us eternal life. Keep us faithful to your holy will, trusting in your promises of salvation and new life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING: Genesis 12: 1-8

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak^[d] of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord.

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

PSALM 105: 1-10

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

² Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

³ Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

⁴ Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!

⁵ Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

⁶ O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

⁷ He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

⁸ He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

⁹ the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac,

¹⁰ which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11: 1-22

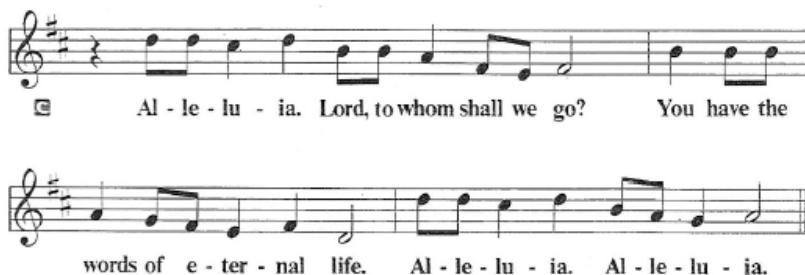
Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. ⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commanding him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ⁷ By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. ⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they

were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ¹⁹ He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. ²⁰ By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. ²¹ By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. ²² By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

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

The congregation is invited to stand.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** “Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go”



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL: Mark 10: 13-16**

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

¹³ One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him.

¹⁴ When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. ¹⁵ I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn’t receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them.

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

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON



*“Thank you Jesus for Faithful Grandparents –
Models of Faith from the Hall of Faith!”
F.A.I.T.H. – For All I Trust Him
Pastor Doug*

***HYMN OF THE DAY** “Oh, Blest the House” Tune: Duke Street LBW 512

***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.

Worshipers 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** Let the Vineyards

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and
give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

* **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Holy and loving God, C: Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we here offer to you, to be salt for the world as you call us to agents of your grace and love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*** 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.

COMMUNION SONG **Lamb of God**

C Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

The congregation is invited to stand.

*** COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim the Gospel this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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 “Jesus, Still Lead On ”**

LBW 341

***DISMISSAL**

P: Dismissal: Beloved of God in Christ, we walk by faith, not by sight! Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run the race of faith with perseverance, keeping our eyes fixed on Christ our Lord. Let us go in peace and joy to love the Lord and our neighbor. **C: Thanks be to God!**

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Glenda Childers by Todd Childers.



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, 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.

COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Today: Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

9:30am – Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Celebration

Wednesday

7:00pm – Vespers with Bible Study – Introduction to Book of Philemon

Saturday

9:00am – Grace Prayer Breakfast at Four Peas in a Pod - Conover

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

September 1 – Larry Jarrett

September 2 – Glenda Childers

September 4 – Gene Crouse, Brenda Jarrett, Mike Pisko, Ted Whisnant

September 12 – Jeff Scronce

September 13 – Debi Pisko

September 15 – Kathy Leatherman

September 24 – David Wilfong

September 25 – Joe Momier

September 27 – Kandra Johnson

PRAY & GO PRAYER JOURNEY



Dear Grace Family, Thank you for going on the "Pray and Go" Prayer Journey. Some of you (including me) need a little more time to complete the journey. Take more time in September to finish the book and complete the inviting activities for some of the chapters. We will have a Pray and Go Celebration Continental Breakfast on September

28 at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. You will be invited to share a story of how you invited, wrote, prayed for, and/or visited someone. We will also gather to encourage each other to make "Pray and Go" a way of life, a way of discipleship. Praying for, inviting, and sharing the Gospel are activities that we are blessed to do as God's people. God loves us in such an amazing way in Christ Jesus! How can we not share that Good News and invite others to experience this in the life of His Church!

In Jesus' name, Pastor Doug

UPCOMING EVENTS

Vespers and Bible Study on Wednesdays at 7pm for September

September 10 Bible Study - Philemon

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

September 7 We will celebrate Grandparents Day! We will give thanks to God not only for Grandparents, but all members of our family. We will also celebrate that we, the Church, are the family of God.

September 14 Team Sunday - Everyone is invited to wear your favorite team jersey (high school, college, or pro team) as we celebrate that we, as the Church, the body of Christ, are part of God's team. We will also talk about our ministry teams and invite everyone to be a part of the Dream Team.

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 & Tim Eckard

Let Us Honor Grandparents on Their Special Day

Grandparents Day is a special occasion to celebrate the influential role grandparents play in our lives. As Christians, we can look to the Bible for wisdom on how to honor our elders and pass down a legacy of faith.

Biblical Examples of Honoring Elders

The Bible emphasizes the importance of respecting and honoring our elders, including grandparents:

- “You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the Lord.” ([Leviticus 19:32 NKJV](#))
- “The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness.” ([Proverbs 16:31 NKJV](#))

These verses remind us that God values the wisdom and experience of older generations. By honoring our grandparents, we demonstrate reverence for God and His design for the family. The Bible also provides examples of the impact grandparents can have on future generations:

- Timothy’s faith was nurtured by his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice ([2 Timothy 1:5](#))
- Jacob blessed his grandsons Ephraim and Manasseh ([Genesis 48:14-16](#))

These stories illustrate the spiritual influence grandparents can have and the importance of passing down a godly heritage.

Teaching Children to Respect and Appreciate Grandparents

As parents, it’s our responsibility to teach our children to honor and appreciate their grandparents. Here are some practical ways to foster a strong grandparent-grandchild relationship:

1. Encourage regular communication through phone calls, letters, or video chats
2. Plan special outings or activities for grandparents and grandchildren to enjoy together
3. Share family stories and history to help children understand their roots
4. Teach children to express gratitude for their grandparents’ love and support
5. Pray together for grandparents and their health, wisdom, and spiritual well-being

By intentionally nurturing these relationships, we help our children develop a deep appreciation for the role of grandparents in their lives. As [Proverbs 17:6 \(NKJV\)](#) reminds us, “Children’s children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their father.”

Celebrating Grandparents Day is an opportunity to honor the special bond between grandparents and grandchildren and to recognize the valuable contributions grandparents make to our families and faith communities.