

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost



September 13, 2026 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 - Thursday 8am to 12pm

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. (*1John1:9*) 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: Gracious God, we give you praise and thanksgiving for the love you have poured out upon us in Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Jesus comes all good gifts and today, we thank You for the gift of grandparents. They are a precious blessing in family life, offering love, wisdom, and a faithful example. As we gather here today to worship You and to celebrate them, we ask that You bless this service, fill our hearts with gratitude, and inspire us to honor and cherish the grandparents in our midst. May this time of worship draw us closer to You, O God, and may it strengthen our bonds with one another. In Jesus' name, we pray. **C: Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4: 9-10, 6: 4-9

⁹“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children—¹⁰ how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, ‘Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.’

⁴“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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

PSALM 71:1-6, 15-18 (Prayer for Lifelong Protection and Help)

¹ In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

² **In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.**

³ Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

⁴ **Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.**

⁵ For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

⁶ **From my birth I have leaned upon you, my protector since my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.**

¹⁵ My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all day long, though their number is past my knowledge.

¹⁶ **I will come praising the mighty deeds of the Lord God; I will praise your righteousness, yours alone.**

¹⁷ O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

¹⁸ **So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come.**

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 1: 3-9

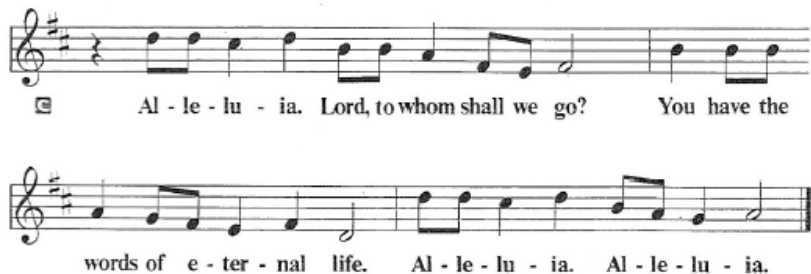
³ I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸ Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

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”



***GOSPEL: Matthew 12: 46-50**

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

⁴⁶ While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. ⁴⁷ Someone told him, “Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.”^[d] ⁴⁸ But to the one who had told him this, Jesus^[e] replied, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” ⁴⁹ And pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!” ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

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

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON



“Grandparents - What a Blessing! God’s People are Blessed to be a Blessing!”

Pastor Doug

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“The Blessing”

Verse 1 Two Times:

The Lord bless you And keep you Make His face shine upon you And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His Face toward you And give you peace.

Chorus: Amen Amen Amen Amen Amen Amen

Verse 2:

The Lord bless you And keep you Make His face shine upon you And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His Face toward you And give you peace.

Chorus: Amen Amen Amen Amen Amen Amen

Bridge 1 Two Times

May His favor Be upon you And a thousand generations And your family
And your children And their children And their children

Bridge 2

May His presence Go before you And behind you And beside you All around you
And within you He is with you He is with you

Bridge 3

In the morning In the evening In your coming And your going
In your weeping And rejoicing He is for you He is for you

Chorus: Amen Amen Amen Amen Amen Amen

Bridge:

May His favor Be upon you And a thousand generations And your family
And your children And their children And their children

Ending:

The Lord bless you And keep you Make His face shine upon you And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His Face toward you And give you peace.

Chorus: Amen Amen Amen Amen Amen Amen

***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.**

*** 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 HYMN** **“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”** **LBW 200**

*** 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. **C: 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**

“How Firm a Foundation ”

LBW 507

***DISMISSAL**

P: In Christ, through His love, we are God's family! We are called with a holy calling, according to God's grace and purpose, to pass on the faith and to be a blessing in Jesus' name! **C: Thanks be to God!**

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and in honor and memory of all grandparents by Rick and Cindy Bivens.



In the Grace Church Family:

Jeffrey Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Harvey Leatherman, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Joe Momier, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Michael Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Mike, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Alice Parris, Todd Setzer, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Ken Welch, Scott & Carolyn Whisnant, and Nancy Willis.

Nursing Home: Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Ted Whisnant (Trinity Village), Helen Smith is at Frye Hospital and will be returning Trinity Ridge.

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Ashlee Bumgardner, Danelle Bumgardner, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, Marilyn Childers, Alan Fulbright, family of James McDaniel, Randy & Rita Neill, Anita Sabino, and Scott Speagle. 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: Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

9:30am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration

1:00pm - Jarrett Family Reunion in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday

12:00pm - Grace Senior Luncheon in Fellowship Hall

6:30pm – Evening Vespers Service

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

Larry Jarrett 9-1

Mike Pisko 9-4

Debi Pisko 9-13

David Wilfong 9-24

Ted Whisnant 9-4

Gene Crouse 9-4

Kathy Leatherman 9-15

Brenda Jarrett 9-4

Jeff Scronce 9-12

Chris Jarrett 9-22

UPCOMING EVENTS

+Wed., Sept. 16: Grace Senior Luncheon – 12:00pm

+Sun, Sept 20: Homecoming Worship Service followed by Covered Dish Luncheon in Shelter

+Sat., Oct. 3: Blessing of the Animals Service at Grace Outdoor Shelter 5:00pm

- +*Sun., Oct. 4: Food for the Poor Sunday 10:30am; Catawba Co. Walk for Hunger 3:00pm*
- +*Wed., Oct. 21: Grace Senior Luncheon – 12:00pm*
- +*Sun, Oct. 25: Reformation Sunday Service at 10:30am*
- +*Sat., Oct. 31: Grace Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat 5pm:7pm*

GIVING AND ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Date	Offering		Attendance	
	Total Receipts	General Fund	Worship	Sunday School
9/6/2026	\$3,023	\$2,700	32	17

KNOW YOUR CHURCH SURVEY

As a part of discovering God's vision for His Church here at Grace, you are invited to participate in a "Know Your Church" survey that will help us to see our areas of strength and also our growing edges. Please click the link below, answer questions to the best of your ability, and then submit. Your responses will be tabulated with everyone else who responds. Up to 60 people can respond to the survey. If you want to do the survey but do not have a computer, smart phone, or internet, please see Pastor Doug or Todd and we can get you set up on one of the computers here at the church.

Know Your Church Survey Link <https://churchhealthreport.com/survey/?s=YQ3U7AB>

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

The deadline for submitting your pictures is today! If you have not yet submitted your picture please see Todd Childers immediately after worship and he will take a picture for you. A new directory will be printed and available for pickup next Sunday.

CATAWBA COUNTY HUNGER WALK

Ashure Ministry, Hickory Soup Kitchen, and The Corner Table are proud to come together to host the 2026 Catawba County Hunger Walk! David and Belinda Wilfong are our church team captains. If you choose to register online, please visit cchungerwalk.com and register under our team name which is ***Grace Lutheran NALC Newton***. The password is ***hungerwalk2026\$\$*** and is required for online registration.

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.



Special Prayer and Blessing for All the Grandparents

Dear God, please bless my grandparents. Thank you for the life they gave my parents and for the life, they give to me. For the ways they helped me and made me strong, I give thanks. For the ways, they love me no matter what, I rejoice. For the ways, they have paved the road that leads me here, I am grateful. Let them grow in wisdom and joy in life. Let them find peace and rest from their work. Let them be healed of every sickness and pain. And let them see with their own eyes your glory and the love of their children and grandchildren. Bless them always until they come to rest in you.

Ministers of Grace – All the People of Grace
Pastor – Reverend Doug Hefner Board President – Tim Eckard
Lector – Stormy Shull Youth Leader – Stormy Shull
Altar Preparation – Cindy Bivens
Communion Assistants – Cindy Bivens & Tina Hefner
Ushers – Jeff Scronce & David Wilfong
Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Jeff Scronce