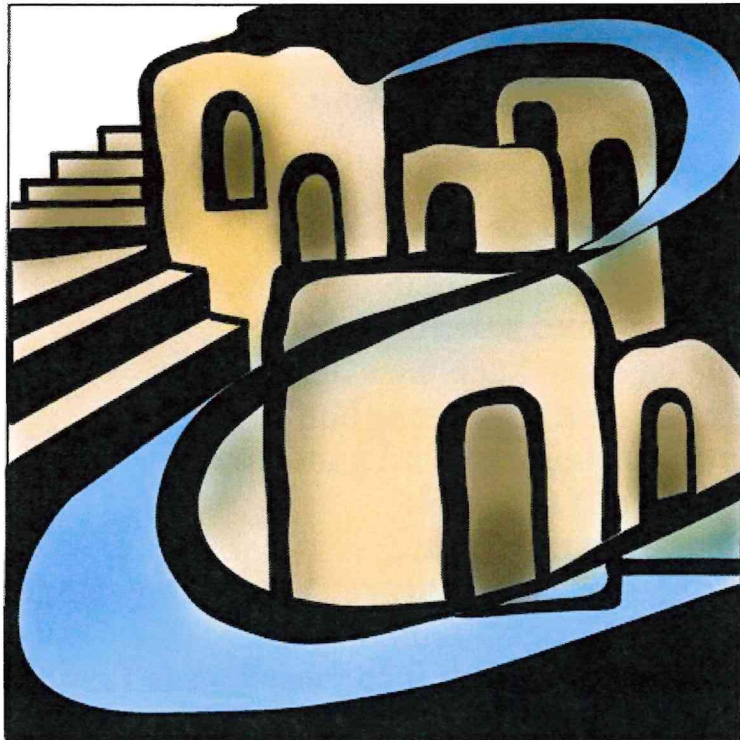


May 3, 2026

5th Sunday of Easter



## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

**Church Office:** 609-927-3082 **Food Pantry:** 609-927-9982

**Website:** [www.GraceLutheranSPNJ.org](http://www.GraceLutheranSPNJ.org)

**E-mail:** [office@GraceLutheranSPNJ.org](mailto:office@GraceLutheranSPNJ.org)

Interim Pastor † Wendolyn Trozzo, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director  
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

**We welcome you to worship here at Grace!**

*Note that all text written in **bold** is for congregation participation.  
Most of our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
red hymnal found in the pews.*

*S=service music in the front part of the hymnal.*

## GATHERING

**Thank you for joining us as we worship our Lord together!**

**WELCOME**

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

**PRELUDE**

*Prelude in G Major*

by Felix Mendelssohn

*Please stand as you are able.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *based on Psalm 31*

In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; deliver me, God of Righteousness.

**You are my refuge and salvation.**

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,

**You are my crag and my stronghold;**

for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

**You are my tower of strength.**

Into your hands I commend my spirit,

**You know my past and my future; You are my Redeemer.**

You have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

**My times are in your hand; into your hands I commend my spirit.**

Let your face shine up on your servant;

**My Savior, I trust in your steadfast love.**

*Please be seated.*

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Dear friends in Christ, we gather today with the Banks family, who have come to witness the baptism of Banks Douglas Stewart and Ryan Brad Stewart. Together, let us welcome them into this community of faith in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray for Banks. O God, **again and again in ages past you showed your mercy and grace to children. You saved the infant Moses from death with the help of his mother and sister. As you blessed Joseph and Mary and the child Jesus, bless also this family, that they may care for this child entrusted to them, bring them to the bread and cup of blessing, and help him mature in faith through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We pray also for Ryan, in gratitude that you have led him to this day. May this celebration be for him a sign of Your covenantal love and of his place in this community and in the eternal communion of the saints. In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

Ryan and Banks, God brings you in peace, hope, and joy to fullness of life in Christ and calls you to the waters of baptism.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

P: Who presents this child to receive the sacrament of baptism?

Parents and Sponsors: **We present Banks for the sacrament of baptism.**

P: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Banks baptized into Christ?

Parents: **We do.**

Assistant: As you bring Banks, to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with several responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the Holy Supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

P: Parents, Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: **We do.**

Assistant: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Banks in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: **We do.**

P: People of God, do you promise to support Banks and Ryan and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

Congregation: **We do.**

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. With all the Church, do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?  
**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?  
**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God, the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **HOLY BAPTISM**

Banks Douglas, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Ryan Brad, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.

Let us pray together. **We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.**

**Sustain Banks and Ryan with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.**

Ryan, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Banks, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

## **WELCOME**

Assistant: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

*Applause may follow as a sign of welcome. All may be seated.*

**HYMN**      *Children of the Heavenly Father*      **ELW #781**

### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**PEACE**      The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

### **GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR**

*Please be seated.*

### **FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60**

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6).*

*Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

<sup>55</sup> Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup> Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man

named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

*Christ is the cornerstone of God’s saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God’s chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” <sup>8</sup> and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: John 14:1-14**

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

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life* **ELW #816**

*Please be seated.*

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** *I Am The Way, The Truth, and The Life* by Gordon Young

*Please stand as you are able.*

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *Doxology* **ELW #883**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God, **accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.**  
**You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will**

**hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

P: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. *Brief silence.*

A: God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ's righteousness throughout the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: Almighty God, You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: God of justice, we thank you for giving your law to humanity. Guide and encourage all who shepherd your people in communities from preschool classrooms to the world stage. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick (*especially those on our prayer list and those we name now, out loud or in our hearts*). Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Eternal Light, God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of your glorious presence. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

ELW S144

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### 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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

### DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion, which will be by intinction. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to receive communion in front of the altar steps. Once you have received the wafer, you may dip it into the red wine or white grape juice before placing it into your mouth. You may then return to your pew via the side aisles. If you do not wish to receive communion, or are worshipping with children who have not had First Communion, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing and cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**SENDING****ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**BLESSING**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

*Borning Cry*

**ELW #732**

*Please be seated. Enjoy the postlude music.  
and meditate on how God spoke to your heart today.*

**POSTLUDE**

*Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen*

by Keith Kolander

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*We are glad for your presence today.  
We hope you come again soon!*

**We thank all those serving in worship today:  
Worship Assistant: June Jordan**



**The flowers sponsor this week is: Carol Gallagher, in honor  
and memory of all mothers.**

*Please join us for cake and fellowship following  
worship to celebrate the baptism of Ryan & Banks!*

# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

May 3, 2026-May 10

**5th Sunday of Easter 5/3/26**

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
**Baptism: Banks Stewart &  
Ryan Stewart  
Fellowship**

**MONDAY 5/4/26**

6:30PM Grief Support Group  
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

**TUESDAY 5/5/26**

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous  
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

**WEDNESDAY 5/6/26**

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge  
6:00PM AA Book Study  
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

**THURSDAY 5/7/26**

12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous  
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal  
5:30PM AA 12-Step  
7:00PM Al-Anon

**FRIDAY 5/8/26**

10:30AM Grace Stitches  
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

**SATURDAY 5/9/26**

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

**6th Sunday of Easter 5/10/26**

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
**Joyful Noise Offering: Lawson's Pride  
of Somers Point (U. S. Coast Guard)**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
**This week:**  
**Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00**  
**Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00**


Present this bulletin on a Sunday and Shore Diner will donate 20% to Grace Lutheran Church. Present this on any other day, and we will donate 10%.
Shore Diner 6710 Tilton Road Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234 609-641-3669