

October 26, 2026

Reformation Sunday



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

Email: office@gracelutehranspnj.org

Reverend † Elizabeth Frey, Pastor, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

*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!

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

WELCOME

Rev. Elizabeth Frey

PRELUDE

Ein Feste Burg

by Barbara Harbach

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through + Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* **ELW #504**

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.**

KYRIE

ELW S138

HYMN OF PRAISE*This is the Feast*

ELW S140

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who 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.***CHILDREN'S SERMON****CHILDREN ARE DISMISSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL****WORD****FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

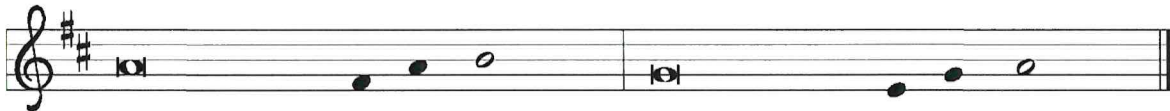
The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the

land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

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

PSALM 46



- ¹ God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
- ² **Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,**
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;
- ³ though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
- ⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of**
God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.
- ⁶ **The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;**
God speaks, and the earth | melts away.
- ⁷ The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
- ⁸ **Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,**
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;
- ⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the |

shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that [|] I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted [|] in
the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of [|] hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob [|] is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ’s death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of

faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to John the 8th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Elizabeth Frey

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Built on a Rock

ELW #652

Verses 1, 3, 5 ALL, Verse 2 MEN, Verse 4 WOMEN

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

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

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.

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.

Please be seated.

OFFERING *God Is Our Refuge and Strength* by Arthur Foote
Tenor: Charles Bowden

OFFERTORY

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Create in Me a Clean Heart O God* **WOV #732**

OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in

**service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.
Amen.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

When the pastor or worship assistant says, “Hear us O God”, please respond with, **“Your mercy is great.”**

P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW S144

PREFACE

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

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to receive communion in front of the altar steps. Once you have received the wafer and the red wine/white grape juice, place your empty cup in the tray and

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

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

The God of grace + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *The Church of Christ, in Every Age* **ELW #729**

Verse 1, 3, 5 ALL, Verse 2 MEN, Verse 4 WOMEN

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

POSTLUDE

Ein Feste Burg

by Johann Pachelbel

DISMISSAL Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God!

We are glad for your presence today.

We hope you come again soon!

We thank all those serving in worship today:

Worship Assistant: Ruth Bowden

The flowers sponsor this week is: Andy Kadlecik,
in memory of loved ones.

The music sponsor this week is: John Staples, in memory of
John and Katherine Staples.

Thank you to the Oktoberfest Committee for their hard work and dedication, and to everyone who contributed to making this year's Oktoberfest another big success and lots of fun! Thank you to all who came to join in the festivities!

FEED THE NORTHEAST: October 1-31

Thank you to all who donated food items for Feed the Northeast 2026! We met our goal of over 500 items!

Seaman's Institute-Christmas at Sea

The Grace Stitchers are working hard to make essential items for the men & women working at sea during Christmas. This Christmas at Sea Donation Drive will take place until November 12, and your donations are very much needed and appreciated! The last Sunday to turn these items in is Sunday, November 8. You may pick up a list of items needed in the narthex. Please place your items in the labeled basket in the narthex.

CAPE SHORE CHORALE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AT GRACE

Back by popular demand, Charlie Zahm, Celtic Entertainer!
www.charliezahm.com

Saturday, November 14 from 6:00-9:00 PM

Before and after the concert, there will be beverages, appetizers, and desserts that are included in the \$50 ticket price.

*for more information and to reserve,
contact Claire Theis @ (609) 214-5323
or clairetheis@hotmail.com*

Next Sunday, November 1, please join us for fellowship following 10:15 worship in the social hall!

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

October 25, 2026-November 1, 2026

Reformation Sunday 10/25/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship
10:15AM Traditional Worship
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Trunk-Or-Treat: Shore Medical Center

MONDAY 10/26/26

9:00AM-11:30 AM Food Pantry
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 10/27/26

9:00AM-11:30 AM Food Pantry
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 10/28/26

9:00AM-11:30 AM Food Pantry
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
6:00PM AA Book Study
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 10/29/26

9:00AM-11:30 AM Food Pantry
9:30AM Bible Study
12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
5:30PM AA 12-Step
7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 10/30/26

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

SATURDAY 10/31/26

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

All Saints' Sunday 11/1/26

8:00AM Spoken Worship
10:15AM Traditional Worship
Fellowship Following Worship

SHORE DINER

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

Office Hours This Week:

Mon-Tues 10:00-3:00

Thurs-Fri 10:00-3:00

You can still turn in the name of a loved one you would like to have remembered during worship next Sunday, All Saints' Sunday, by filling out the bottom portion of this page, tearing it off and putting it in the offering plate or giving it to an usher. These are names of people who have died since last All Saints' Sunday. You will also have an opportunity to light a candle to remember any loved ones who have passed.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Please remember:

Name _____

Date of Death _____