

September 2020  
volume XIX  
issue 9

# Grace GATHERINGS

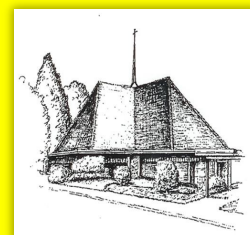
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

**Whoever you are, Whatever your past, However you live, Whomever you love – You are welcome here.**



*Our VISION is  
"to be a Christ-centered  
Community who  
welcomes all, grows in  
faith, and reaches out  
In love."*

*Our MISSION is  
"to follow Christ into our  
community and world  
manifesting with caring  
hearts and helping hands  
the good news of the  
Kingdom of God."*



**We believe that God loves us without regard** for our race or culture, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, relationship status, physical or mental health, life circumstance or socio-economic situation. Therefore, we extend that same grace-filled love to you.

**The work of welcome is hard;** the way of love is always a work in process. But we're committed to the biblical call of reconciliation and to change what we need to, both personally and as a community, so that we – all of us together – become a living sign of God's extravagant grace.

**In Christ's name, all are welcome here.** We are honored by your presence and by your participation in helping us make this vision of welcome a reality for all people.

Dear Members and Friends of Grace Lutheran Church,

We extend to you a deep, sincere and humble thanks for the many cards, sentiments, occasions of presence and gifts of love you blessed us with at the end of our journey as your co-pastors at this congregation. We realize that some of you would have liked to be present in places in which you have not been able to be. Parting during a pandemic certainly is not ideal, yet God provides what we need when we need it. Please know we will carry you in our hearts and prayers, as we move on to the next journey where the Spirit leads us. Thanks for the many ways you have carried and continue to carry us in your hearts and prayers.



In hope and love,  
Pastors Netsie and Wendell

## Prayers

*This prayer list is a compilation of the requests we have received at Grace throughout the month of August. For a more timely update to the prayers, send your email address to [prayers@grace97330.org](mailto:prayers@grace97330.org), and ask to be part of the prayer list.*

## Prayers

- ⇒ Joan Phil, wife of former pastor Ivar Phil
- ⇒ Amy Davis, Kim Wernz Hinshaw's sister-in-law
- ⇒ Gemma Mae Eastin, Hayden Talley's niece
- ⇒ Shirley Caro, Friend of Grace
- ⇒ Marilyn Walsh
- ⇒ Donna and Herb Hansen, Former members of Grace
- ⇒ Pastors Steve Brauner and Wendy Gordon Hal Brauner's son and daughter-in-law
- ⇒ Mrs. Brown
- ⇒ Patriarch John and family, Martha Anderson's friends
- ⇒ Jan Cressman, Pastor Netsie's dear friend
- ⇒ All affected by Hurricane Laura
- ⇒ All members of Hayden Tally's home church

### Deaths:

- ⇒ Ida Faye Gunstanson, Pr. Netsie's stepfather's sister
- ⇒ Nancy Hult and her husband, Sten, Dave Lundahl's Aunt
- ⇒ Mary Briskey, Bill Briskey's mother
- ⇒ Larry Boersma
- ⇒ Joan Sandeno

## Grace Personnel

**Pastor—Coming Soon**

**Bookkeeper** - Robin Comforto

**Custodian** - Outside Contractor

**Director of Discipling Ministries** - Donna King

**Director of Music Ministries** - Hayden Talley

**Facebook Administrator** - Rebekah Hadlock

**Financial Secretary** - Mary Stephens

**Nursery** - Mackenzie & Rachel Burnett,

Christina Lundahl, Katie Olsen & Melissa Smith

**Office Administrator** - Andrea Barnhurst

**Office Assistant** - Jody Parker

**Organist/Pianist** - Sunghee Kim

**Prayer Chain** - Cathy Mueller & Bruce Stephens

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If you would like a visitation or to schedule an appointment with a member of the ministerial staff, please call the office at 541.757.1600. You are welcome to leave a message on the answering machine at any hour.

Visit our Grace web page at: [www.grace97330.org](http://www.grace97330.org)

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### Teams & Committees

**Property Committee** - Ron Larson, 541.752.0754

**Communications Committee**

Bob Keith, 541.990.2883

**Sunday Hospitality**

Dayle Christensen, 541.602.2818

**Events Hospitality**

Molly Hallgrimson, 541.753.8581

**Christian Education Team**

Deaconess Donna King, 541.757.6636

**Altar Guild** - Linda Samuels, 541.929.4222

**Worship & Music Committee**

Michael Beachley, 541.754.5501

**Finance Committee** - Hal Brauner, 541.753.0023

**Personnel Committee** - Nancy Strohlein,

541.926.5747

**Hospital Visitation Team** - Dale Weber,

541.757.3043

**Healing Prayer Team** - Sue Davis, 541.924.2922

**Mission Groups** - Bob Saathoff, 541.929.3045

**Stewardship Committee**

Dave Lundahl, 541.757.1358

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**Campus Ministry at Luther House**

Mike Ostrom, Pastor, 541.753.5213

**Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers**

Norma Moody, 541.754.2555



Please **PRAY** for those  
affected by **COVID-19**



# Oregon Synod

Walking Together Toward Courageous Love



This one-day virtual event is for ALL of us, not just rostered leaders.

This event will be:

- A day of rest
- A day of learning
- A day of delighting in what God can do in us when we come together to take seriously Christ's call to love our neighbor as ourselves, and scripture's challenge to heed the wisdom of the eloquent and of the "least of these"

**Tell your friends and invite your congregation!**

September 19  
9:00 am-5:30 pm

Session topics include:

- Innovative and Online Worship Ideas
- Oregon Synod Horizon, Values, and Stepping Stones for the Future
- Health Care and Racial Equity: What COVID-19 has Revealed
- And more!

Only \$25 per person for adults over 21; under 21s are free!

For more information and to register click the link below:

<https://oregonsynodelca.regfox.com/synod-day-of-learning-liberating-our-hidden-stories>



## Address Changes

Anne & Patrick  
Schroeder  
1760 Rosecrest Dr.  
Philomath, OR 97370

Dana & Joel Howe  
3313 NW Poppy Dr.  
Corvallis, OR 97330

Scott & Courtney Shaff  
1616 NW Becca Ave  
Corvallis, OR 97330

Jaime & Keith Foster  
3253 SW Willamette  
Ave  
Corvallis, OR 97333

## Welcome Mike and Elaine Franklin to Grace Lutheran Church

On August 1, 2020, Grace Lutheran Church welcomed our newest members Mike and Elaine Franklin. Mike, who is not a stranger to Corvallis or Grace Lutheran Church, was born and raised in Corvallis, Oregon. Mike was Baptized and Confirmed at Grace Lutheran Church and has many memories of worshiping in the old sanctuary (Ronnenkamp hall) and remembers many of the old pastors and the Ronnenkamps. Mike received his degree in Chemistry from Oregon State University in 1969. Mike worked locally for 10 years and then moved farther north and worked for the former Newberg Paper Mill.



Elaine was born in Indiana where she spent all of her school years attending very small schools and graduating in a class of 37. Elaine was raised in the Church of the Brethren where her grandfather was the pastor. Growing up, Elaine remembers Sunday dinner (lunch) at her grandparents home after worship and her mother making dinner and packing it up in the car with her siblings and driving to where her father was working in the fields. Elaine received her nursing degree from Goshen College in Goshen, Indiana and spent her nursing career working as a hospice nurse. This career led her to spend 2 ½ years in Puerto Rico where she heard stories about Oregon. After vacationing in Oregon, Elaine moved to Beaverton, Oregon and lived there for 8 years before meeting Mike.

Mike and Elaine were married in 1983. Mike's job has taken them to different cities around the United States including Baton Rouge and, most recently, Nashville and now as Mike and Elaine are both retired, their path took them back "home" to Corvallis and Grace Lutheran Church. Mike and Elaine enjoy reading and are looking forward to assisting where they can as members of Grace Lutheran Church.

Mike and Elaine Franklin  
2197 SW 45th Street  
Corvallis, Oregon 97333  
Home number: 541-752-9968

Mike Cell: 615-517-8134  
Elaine Cell: 615-714-2268  
Mike's email: MichaelEFranklin@comcast.net  
Elaine's email: elainefranklin@comcast.net

# Grace Gatherings

While the church is closed, printed copies of Grace Gatherings are available by request. Please contact the church office to request a printed copy of Grace Gatherings to be mailed to your home.

## Free Cloth Face Masks Available Sewers needed

From Elizabeth Wyatt & the CorvallisSewingBrigade:

We can help get cloth masks or face shields to anyone free of charge. Folks can go to [bentoncounty.recovers.org](https://bentoncounty.recovers.org) and click on "I have a need" for the fastest turn around time and easy tracking for us (these requests come right to us). If you would like to volunteer to sew cloth face masks, the need is still very much alive! Info on how to volunteer can be found at [CorvallisSewingBrigade.org](https://CorvallisSewingBrigade.org)



## Are you getting face irritation from Wearing a Mask?

Here is an article and video if you or somebody you know is struggling with irritation from wearing a mask.

<https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/rashes-breakouts-how-to-treat-common-side-effects-of-wearing-masks-192226820.html>

## Smoking, vaping and COVID-19

Here are three important things to know about COVID-19 and smoking or vaping:

- People who smoke or vape are at an increased risk of developing more severe symptoms of COVID-19
- Smoking or vaping doubles the risk of developing respiratory viruses, such as COVID-19
- If you quit, your health can improve within days and weeks, which could increase the odds of recovering more quickly if you get COVID-19

If you or your loved one need help quitting, call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or visit [quitnow.net/Oregon](https://quitnow.net/Oregon).

## If you go to the hospital . . .

It used to be that our pastors and the members of our Hospital Visitation Team could go to the hospital and see if any of our members had been hospitalized. In these days of Covid-19, however, we are unable to go into the hospital lobby. Neither can we receive information over the phone. So, if you become aware that any of our members or family of our members have been hospitalized, the pastors would greatly appreciate you sharing this with them. Also, please know that we will respect any and all requests for confidentiality.



**Women's Luncheons  
are canceled  
until future notice**



## Birthday Blessings!

*Please let the office know if there is a birthdate listed incorrectly, or if we have omitted someone in error.*

Sue Davis	09/01
Gordon Matzke	09/01
Jim Zeller	09/01
Bud Helpenstell	09/04
Mark Stephens	09/05
Shelly Bilotta	09/06
Darlene Leklem	09/06
Franklin Raze	09/07
Patrick Schroeder	09/09
Erika Donner	09/13
Kris Saathoff	09/14
Juan Guzman	09/15
Karen Stephenson	09/15
Marjorie Kinch	09/16
Eli Geist	09/18
Mary Ann Brenan	09/19

Rick Osborn	09/19
Martha Anderson	09/20
Anita Upenieks	09/20
Dan Hallgrimson	09/22
Seamus Harrington	09/23
Bob Keith	09/23
Andrea Barnhurst	09/24
Rachel Harrington	09/24
Avi Hadlock	09/25
Annikka Howe	09/25
Elaine Franklin	09/26
Cyndi Wahrmund	09/28
Gail Bartee	09/29
Evelyne Hendrix	09/29
Gloria Chaves	09/30

## How to ask for a Prayer Request to the Grace Prayer Chain

We at Grace are very fortunate to have an email Prayer Chain and have had this for many years. The proper way to have a prayer request sent out is to simply email the information to [prayers@grace97330.org](mailto:prayers@grace97330.org). This will ensure your request is sent out in a timely manner. You may do this for prayers for yourself or someone else who is in need of prayers. Before requesting prayers for someone else, please seek that person's permission to place them on the prayer chain. Some people wish personal prayer requests not to be made public. If you are not currently on the Prayer Chain and want to be added, contact the church office.

For the latest updates on the Grace Foundation and to see the September Newsletter, please click the link below.

<http://grace97330.org/Foundation/news/newsletter.html>

As of August 1, 2020, the codes to ALL lockboxes have been changed. To maintain the health and safety of all individuals entering Grace, the reopening committee decided to change the codes of the lock boxes. To request the new code, please email the office at [office@grace97330.org](mailto:office@grace97330.org) or call 541-757-1600

## August Council Minutes

August Council Minutes, Executive Committee meeting, and other interesting items can be found in a binder on the church office counter. Should you want them emailed to you, please just notify us at [office@grace97330.org](mailto:office@grace97330.org). You are also welcome to attend council meetings, should you want to know what is going on or have something you would like to talk about.

August Meeting Minutes can be found online at:

<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Council-meeting-Minutes-8-10-20.docx>

*Church Council Reports are  
always available in the  
church office for you to read.*



**President:**  
Bob Keith  
**Vice President:**  
Rebekah Hadlock  
**Secretary:**  
Nancy Hemming  
**Treasurer:**  
Hal Brauner  
**Financial Secretary:**  
Mary Stephens  
**Council Members:**  
Meredith Junge  
Jaya Lapham  
Jim Leklem  
Dave Lundahl  
Anne Schroeder  
Sandie Williams  
Kendra Wollert  
Vacant: 2 Spots

## Transition Update August 25, 2020

### WE HAVE AN INTERIM PASTOR!

Following the announcement of May 12 by Pastors Netsie and Pastor Wendell to retire and leave their call as co-pastors of Grace Lutheran Church, the church council is pleased to announce an Interim pastor.

By working very closely with the Oregon Synod and Bishop Laurie, the Rev. Dorthy Nielsen has been selected to become our interim pastor. Pastor Dorthy comes to us from Silverton, Oregon where she resides with her husband John Dallum and dog Millie. Pastor Dorthy has an extensive background in being an interim pastor and also several years as a pastor in the ELCA. She also served as a youth director at two different churches.

Born in Esbjerg, Denmark, Pastor Dorthy graduated from Concordia in Moorhead, MN with a BA in Religion and also from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA with Master in Divinity.

From her autobiography submitted to us, she mentions that, "The work to which I have been called, serving and working with God's people, has been a blessing and a challenge. My theology is Incarnational, my pastoral style is open-door, open communications, and I know and believe that whatever is needed for ministry in the place we are, is available...in you."

We welcome her and look forward to her serving our congregation and helping us through this transition and into the Call Process.

Blessings,  
Bob Keith  
Council President



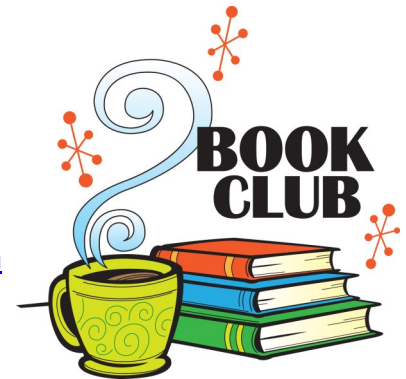
## Adult Bible Study – September 2020

In September the Adult Bible Study will start a new book. We are currently still waiting to receive the books.

If you would like to be put on the list to receive the study please email Frank and Sue Davis at [fssndavis@msn.com](mailto:fssndavis@msn.com)

## September meeting of the Grace Globaliers

Grace Globaliers, a book group focusing on international and cross-cultural issues, will be holding its first fall meeting on Thursday, September 3, at 12 noon via Zoom. We will be discussing "Love Thy Neighbor: A Muslim Doctor's Struggle for Home in Rural America." by Ayza Virji and Alan Eisenstock. Set in Dawson, Minnesota, this is a powerful true story about a Muslim doctor's service to small-town America and how Mandy, the pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Dawson, helps the town overcome a climate of hostility and fear. If you are interested in attending, contact Mary Ann Matzke at [maryann.matzke@gmail.com](mailto:maryann.matzke@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.



### Upcoming Meetings:

Oct. 1 - "Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood" by Trevor Noah and led by Ardis Koester.

Nov. 5 - "House Made of Dawn" by Scott Momaday and led by Sharon Rosenkoetter.

Dec. 3 - "Vikings in the Attic: In Search of Nordic America" by Eric Degni and led by Carol Kamke.

## Giving at a Glance

Support the many ministries of Grace Lutheran

### Contributions as of August 6, 2020

Contributions for the Month of August: \$ 4,120;  
August's Budget: \$ 23,600;  
Last Weeks Giving: \$ 4,120;  
Weekly Budget: \$ 4,720;  
YTD contributions: \$189,819;  
YTD budget: \$ 194,220

### Contributions as of August 25, 2020

Contributions for the Month of August: \$ 22,898;  
August's Budget: \$ 23,600;  
Last 2 Weeks of Giving: \$ 6,403;  
Weekly Budget: \$ 4,720;  
YTD contributions: \$214,597;  
YTD budget: \$ 213,100



Find our Sunday Worship  
services on facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/Grace  
Lutheran Church-ELCA-Corvallis](https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranChurch-ELCA-Corvallis)

Or on our Website at:

[www.grace97330.org](http://www.grace97330.org)



DVD's for each Sunday's worship video are available upon request. Please contact the church office to request a copy. Please call 541-757-1600 or email at [office@grace97330.org](mailto:office@grace97330.org)



## Virtual Talent Show

Grace Lutheran Church is excited to announce an upcoming Virtual Talent Show. This talent show is scheduled for Friday evening, September 11, 2020 via Zoom.

Do you enjoy music, creating Tik Tok videos, do you have an amazing animal who does tricks, or do you have a non-musical talent? We want you to take part in this virtual talent show. The possibilities of entries is endless and categories will be created based on interest. If you are interested, please contact Kendra Wollert so she can know who is interested. Deadline for interested parties is Sunday, August 30, 2020.

No child is too young and no adult is too old to take part. We want to see all the many talents that Grace has to offer.

Kendra can be reached via phone at 541-243-3025 or via email at [Wollertkendra@gmail.com](mailto:Wollertkendra@gmail.com)

## Connecting via Phone



Thanks to those members of Grace who have taken on a ministry of checking in on some of the more isolated members of our community during this time of "sheltering at home." Given this, there may still be a need for conversation that we have not anticipated. If you're someone who would like to be assigned a "phone friend," please call the church office, 541-757-1600, and leave a message to let us know. We will make sure someone gets in touch with you.



## Youth @ Grace

On Sunday, August 23, 2020 during the summer outdoor worship service, Eli Geist and Isaac Hadlock were confirmed. Click the link below to see the confirmation folder.

<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-Confirmation-Folder.pdf>

## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who worked to make the confirmation of Eli and Isaac a memorable and special day. We were honored to share this moment with the congregation and the added touches made it all the more special.

Sincerely, The Geist Family



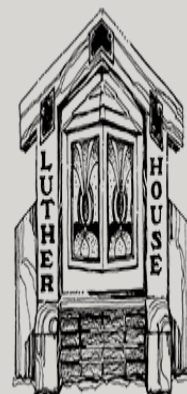
## Luther House Campus Ministry

**At this time, Luther House is closed  
and all campus ministry activities are suspended.**

Follow Luther House on facebook for devotions and  
Luther House updates.

Luther House can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/lutherhouseosu/>



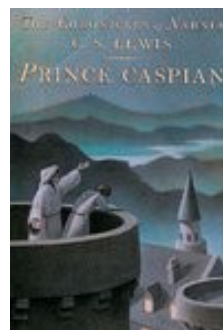
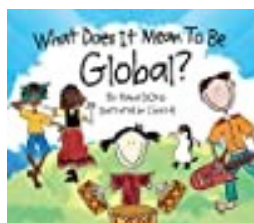
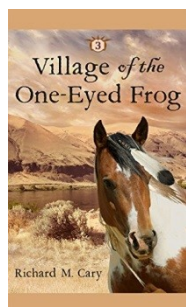


## **Saving Little-Fish** by Richard M. Cary

Accurately set in the Pacific Northwest in 1806, near a Chinook village close to the mouth of the Columbia River, this book lets us experience the times and traditions of Native Americans and early American traders. This series of Richard Cary's books are geared toward readers ages 8 to 12 but this old lady learned a lot and thoroughly enjoyed them!! We met the author at one of our regional church library conferences – he was also one of the devotion leaders. He is passionate about teaching accurate history and letting his readers understand the importance of making good decisions when faced with hard choices.

Born to a white trader and an Indian mother (both former slaves in a nearby native village), ten year-old Miriam's life is formed by both cultures. From the first moment she sees a sickly slave baby, she longs to find a way to set her free. When she and her twin brother Moses find a gold coin on a forest trail, her whole life moves toward that goal. But how can a pair of ten year-olds make that happen?

I think this would make great end of summer/early fall reading for young and old. And take a look at some of these other books you could get from the Grace Library!!



---Linda Samuels



## **Red Cross Blood Drive**

The American Red Cross needs your help. As we continue to move through this time of uncertainty, fear, and sickness the need for blood can not be greater. Our last blood drive was held with great success in June, and our next blood drive at Grace is scheduled for Thursday, September 3, 2020 from 10 am to 4 pm in the Grace Parking Lot. Cleanliness, Safety and Social Distancing will be priority to keep all safe. Please call Marna Renshaw at home at 541 286-4537 or her cell at 541-760-7174. Every little bit helps to save lives.



## Camp Lutherwood

Unfortunately, we are not able to hold our annual Harvest Festival event this year due to social gathering restrictions. However, we are still holding a fundraising gathering, ***Spirit of Harvest, on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 from 7-8pm***. This one-hour online program will highlight stories of camp, offer a virtual tour of our new dining hall, provide updates on our projects, and more. Our goal is to reach even more friends, alumni, and supporters of camp through this digital format.



## Grace Center News

I always learn something new about Grace Center, even when it is not open. For example there is the new word “telehealth”, a reference to some of the new alternative services Grace Center will provide while the Oregon Department of Human Services will not allow adult day centers to fully re-open. Our excellent center staff has been using their skills to develop examples of telehealth such as one-on-one or group video chats. As of September 1<sup>st</sup> they will deliver activity kits at people’s homes while maintaining social distancing. These kits will provide all the supplies and instructions necessary to do one activity per week. They will include games, crafts such as making home-made anti-stress-balls, and other things like beading activities. Participants can do these activities at home on their own or they can follow along on a live instruction video with other participants through a group video conference. There is grant funding so that Grace Center will be able to assist people who do not have the technology to do the telehealth services.

Don't forget upcoming events announced last month:

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Aging Summit: *Adapting in Changing Times*

Free seminar, Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to 12:30.

Must register to attend at our website [www.gracecenter-corvallis.org](http://www.gracecenter-corvallis.org)

Grace Center's 2020 Virtual Open House Celebration

National Grandparents Day: Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

It will be a virtual tour through pre-filmed video.

Video debuts at 1 pm on Grace Center's website [www.gracecenter-corvallis.org](http://www.gracecenter-corvallis.org). From then on, video will be available for viewing on the website.



Grace Center staff preparing activity kits to be delivered to participants"



**Sunday, September 6, 2020  
10:00 am**

There are two ways to engage and watch this Ecumenical Worship Service.

**Watch and Engage via Zoom at:**

You can join our zoom conference, which allows full participation and interaction in the service and participation in the breakout rooms. Click the link below to get going at the Zoom conference.

<https://zoom.us/j/829582710>

We will again have "breakout rooms" at the end of our worship time-- an intentional coffee hour with small groups for anyone wanting to join. If you can join us via ZOOM, please do so, it is a great way to see and hear you.

**Watch via Livestream at:**

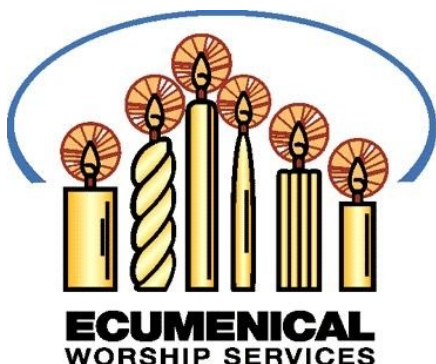
We will host a livestream video:

<http://www.heartofcorvallis.org/livestream>

## Traveling through the Sundays after Pentecost

**Sunday, September 6, 2020**  
**14th Sunday after Pentecost**

Please see page 13



**Sunday, September 13, 2020**  
**15th Sunday after Pentecost**

### ***Introduction***

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

### **Readings and Psalm**

#### **Genesis 50:15-21**

*Joseph reconciles with his brothers*

#### **Psalm 103:8-13**

*LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)*

#### **Romans 14:1-12**

*Accepting diversity in the community of faith*

#### **Matthew 18:21-35**

*A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith*

### ***Prayer of the Day***

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.





Find the Bible online at [bible.oremus.org](http://bible.oremus.org)

## Sunday, September 20, 2020 16th Sunday after Pentecost

### **Introduction**

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

### **Readings and Psalm**

#### **Jonah 3:10--4:11**

*God's concern for the city of Nineveh*

#### **Psalms 145:1-8**

*The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)*

#### **Philippians 1:21-30**

*Standing firm in the gospel*

#### **Matthew 20:1-16**

*The parable of the vineyard workers*

### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



## Sunday, September 27, 2020 17th Sunday after Pentecost

### **Introduction**

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

### **Readings and Psalm**

#### **Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

*The fairness of God's way*

#### **Psalms 25:1-9**

*Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)*

#### **Philippians 2:1-13**

*Christ humbled to the point of death on a cross*

#### **Matthew 21:23-32**

*A parable of doing God's will*

### **Prayer of the Day**

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

