



This Sunday

9:30am Fellowship
(Fellowship Hall)

10:10am Worship
(Sanctuary)

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Copies of the week's
announcements are
located in the Narthex.

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please contact
office@gracedurham.org

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church Sunday, July 26, 2026 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



Jon Richter, Supply Pastor

*We go with Good News, teaching, serving,
and sharing Christ with our neighbors.*

TODAY'S VERSE:

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search
of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value,
went and sold all that he had and bought it."

- Matthew 13:45-46

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." -John 10:10

Worshiping with us for the first time?

If you are a first time visitor, welcome! We're glad you're here!

We encourage you to review our statement of communion on page 17.

If you have any questions, please take a moment to speak with the Pastor or one of our ushers.

Please fill out a guest card in the pew racks and tell us about yourself.

If you have any questions, please ask an usher or any friendly face you see.

We welcome children in worship services.

Age-appropriate activity bags are located in the Narthex.

INSIGHT INTO TODAY'S READINGS

The Son of God Has Redeemed Us for Himself with His Holy and Precious Blood

The Lord our God has chosen us to be "his treasured possession," not because of any strength in us, but solely "because the LORD loves" us (Deut. 7:6–8). He is faithful, and He "keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments" (Deut. 7:9). He has searched for us and found us in love, and He has bestowed on us "great value" by the great price that He has paid on the cross (Matt. 13:45–46). In His joy, He has redeemed us by His cross and gathered us into His kingdom by the Gospel. Now we are "hidden in a field," covered by the cross and subject to the persecution of the world (Matt. 13:44), not for destruction, but "to be conformed to the image of his Son" (Rom. 8:29). Since we "are called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28), and because Christ Jesus died, rose again and lives to intercede for us "at the right hand of God" (Rom. 8:34), there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from "the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:39).

The congregation is asked to join in with the bold-faced text.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C Who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence is provided for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, Who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING HYMN — *God of Grace and God of Glory* (LSB 850)

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Your peo - ple
 2 Lo, the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure Your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils

pour Your pow'r; Crown Your an - cient Church's sto - ry;
 sail His ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 Your con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; Let the gift of Your sal - va - tion

Bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom.
 Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom,
 Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
 Be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,

grant us cour - age For the fac - ing of this
 grant us cour - age For the liv - ing of these
 grant us cour - age Lest we miss Your king - dom's
 grant us cour - age. Serv - ing You whom we a -

hour, days, goal, dore, For the fac - ing of this hour.
 For the liv - ing of these days.
 Lest we miss Your king - dom's goal.
 Serv - ing You whom we a - dore.

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KYRIE (LSB 942)



Ky-ri - e! God, Fa-ther in heav'n a-bove, You a-bound in gra-cious love,
Of all things the mak-er and pre-serv - er. E - le - i-son! E - le - i - son!
Ky-ri - e! O Christ, our king, Sal-va - tion for all You came to bring.
O Lord Je-sus, God's own Son, Our me-di - a - tor at the heav'n-ly throne:
Hear our cry and grant our sup-pli - ca - tion. E - le - i-son! E - le - i - son!
Ky - ri - e! O God the Ho - ly Ghost, Guard our faith, the
gift we need the most, And bless our life's last hour, That we leave this
sin-ful world with glad - ness. E - le - i-son! E - le - i - son!

Text: German version, Ordnung der ceremonien, 1537/38, Naumburg; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.
Text and tune: Latin, 9th cent.
Tune: adapt. Kirchen ampt Deutsch, 1525, Erfurt
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227
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SALUTATION AND COLLECT FOR THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray . . .

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OUR LORD SPEAKS TO US

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Deuteronomy 7:6-9 (Pew Bible, pg. 152)

⁶“You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the

oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 125 – *Lord, Your Justice Stands for All*

Congregation sings refrain



1. Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. *Refrain*
2. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore. *Refrain.*
3. For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong. *Refrain.*

4. Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts!
Refrain.

5. But those who turn aside to their crooked ways the Lord will lead away with evildoers!
Peace be upon Israel! *Refrain.*

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 8:28-39 (*Pew Bible, pg. 944*)

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of

God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



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.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44-52 (*Pew Bible, pg. 819*)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th Chapter.

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and

sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE — *Pastor Jon Richter*

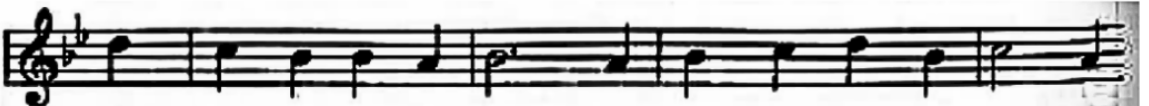
HYMN OF THE DAY — *From God Can Nothing Move Me* (LSB 713)



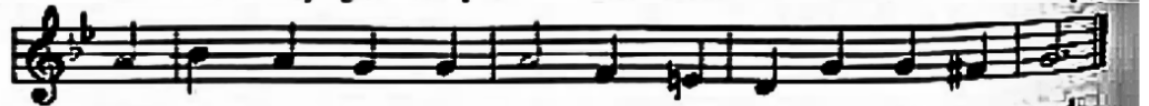
1 From God can noth - ing move me: He will not step a - side
2 When those whom I re - gard - ed As trust - wor - thy and sure
3 The Lord my life ar - rang - es: Who can His work de - stroy?
4 Each day at His good plea - sure God's gra - cious will is done.



But gent - ly will re - prove me And be my con - stant guide.
Have long from me de - part - ed. God's grace shall still en - dure.
In His good time He chang - es All sor - row in - to joy.
He sent His great - est trea - sure In Je - sus Christ, His Son.



He stretch - es out His hand In eve - ning and in morn - ing.
He res - cues me from sin And breaks the chains that bind me.
So let me then be still: My bod - y, soul, and spir - it
He ev - 'ry gift im - parts. The bread of earth and heav - en



My life with grace a - dorn - ing Wher - ev - er I may stand.
I leave death's fear be - hind me: His peace I have with - in.
His ten - der care in - her - it Ac - cord - ing to His will.
Are by His kind - ness giv - en. Praise Him with thank - ful hearts!

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SERMON — *Pastor Jon Richter*

APOSTLES' CREED *(spoken in unison)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

† meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of the Christian doctrine

WE OFFER OURSELVES TO THE LORD

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
and for all people according to their needs. . .

After each prayer, the congregation responds:

P Lord in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord,
with the 'hand wave of peace', as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the
Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3).*

OFFERTORY MUSIC

OFFERTORY



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music is in common time (C). The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes. The first staff starts with a common time signature 'C' in a square box. The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are: 'What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.' The score ends with a double bar line on the sixth staff.

OUR LORD GIVES HIMSELF TO US

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so 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.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary ... and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world, You gave Your only Son,
that all who believe in Him may not perish, but have eternal life.
We give thanks to You for the salvation You have provided to us
through Jesus Christ. Send now Your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in
His holy supper.
- C** Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed...

LORD'S PRAYER

- C** 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.

AGNUS DEI

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; grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

Receiving Holy Communion

As Lutheran Christians, we believe, teach, and confess that Jesus Christ gives us His own true Body and Blood via the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 10:16). We trust His promise that this Supper is for the forgiveness of our sins, the increase of our faith, and the strengthening of our life as the Church. Baptized Christians who share our confession, repent of their sins, and seek the Lord's blessing are welcome to receive. *First time guests are kindly asked to speak to our pastor or an usher before receiving communion.* Those not communing are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

[For silent prayer before communing]

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this Holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

[For silent prayer after receiving the Sacrament]

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having With my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN — *Lord, This Day We've Come to Worship* (LSB 911)



1 Lord, this day we've come to wor-ship; Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,
2 In the pow'r of res - ur - rec - tion We have come to praise the Lord,
3 May Your Word en - rich our spir - it, Give us strength to do Your will,
4 As we meet our bless-ed Sav - ior At the Ta - ble of the Lord,
5 Cel - e - brate the res - ur - rec - tion In the church and sing His praise,



Grace us with Your bless-ed pres-ence; Bless - ed Sav - ior, be our host.
Cel - e - brate His bless-ed sup - per, And to learn His ho - ly Word.
Show the king-dom we'll in - her - it, When at last our voice is still.
May this bod - y bro - ken for us Strength and com - fort, Lord, af - ford.
Till we come to true per - fec - tion: Serve the Lord through all our days.

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



Al - le - lu - ia, praise the Lord! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, praise the Lord!

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN — *When Peace Like a River* (LSB 763)



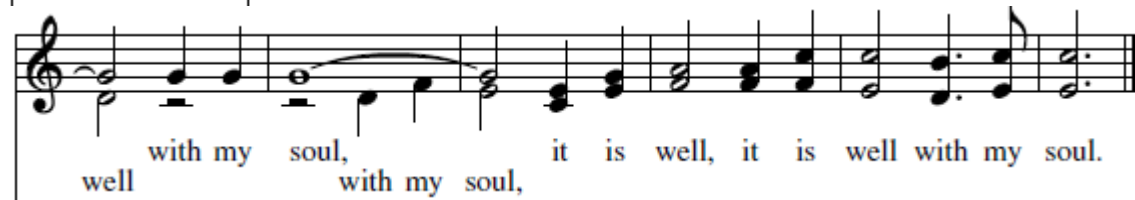
1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when sor - rows like
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let this blest as -
 3 My sin—O, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought, my sin—not in
 4 And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled



sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to
 sur - ance con - trol: that Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -
 part but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no
 back as a scroll, the trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de -



say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 ate, and has shed his own blood for my soul. It is well
 more: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! It is
 scend: "E - ven so"—it is well with my soul.



with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 well with my soul,

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THANK THE LORD



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



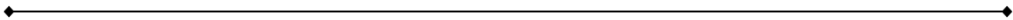
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the promised feast in the Holy Supper. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout the days of our pilgrimage that, on the day of the Lord's approach, we may, with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom that has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US OUT

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN — *What God Ordains Is Always Good* (LSB 760)



1 What God or-dains is al - ways good: His will is just and
 2 What God or-dains is al - ways good: He nev - er will de -
 3 What God or-dains is al - ways good: His lov - ing thought at -
 4 What God or-dains is al - ways good: He is my friend and



ho - ly. As He di - rects my life for me, I fol - low
 ceive me; He leads me in His righ - teous way, And nev - er
 tends me; No poi - son can be in the cup That my phy -
 Fa - ther; He suf - fers naught to do me harm Though man - y



meek and low - ly. My God in - deed In ev - 'ry need Knows
 will He leave me. I take con - tent What He has sent; His
 si - cian sends me. My God is true; Each morn - ing new I
 storms may gath - er. Now I may know Both joy and woe; Some -



well how He will shield me; To Him, then, I will yield me.
 hand that sends me sad - ness Will turn my tears to glad - ness.
 trust His grace un - end - ing, My life to Him com - mend - ing.
 day I shall see clear - ly That He has loved me dear - ly.

5 What God ordains is always good:
 Though I the cup am drinking
 Which savors now of bitterness,
 I take it without shrinking.
 For after grief
 God gives relief,
 My heart with comfort filling
 And all my sorrow stilling.

6 What God ordains is always good:
 This truth remains unshaken.
 Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
 I shall not be forsaken.
 I fear no harm,
 For with His arm
 He shall embrace and shield me;
 So to my God I yield me.

Text: Samuel Rodigast, b.1649. Tune: Severus Gastorius, b.1646. Streamed / reprinted with permission. One License

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DISMISSAL

- P** We go in the strength and joy of God! Let us not forget the things that our eyes have seen or let them fade from our hearts as long as we live (Deut 4:9). So let us recall what the Lord has set before us.
- P** What is the Sixth Petition of The Lord's Prayer?
- C** **And lead us not into temptation.**
- P** What does this mean?
- C** **God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.**
- P** So go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
- C** **Thanks be to God!**

SERVING YOU TODAY

Musician

Erin Hodge, organist

Reader

Janet Dickmander

Altar Guild

Donna Gesell

Ushers

Dave Dickmander,
Tom McGill

Communion Assistants

Marie Snyder
Gary Stuhlmiller

A/V Operator

Joe Wethman

Greeter

Kathy Peterson

UPCOMING AT GRACE

Tuesday, July 28

Growing Thru Grief (4pm, St. Paul's Lutheran Church)

Wednesday, July 29

LWML Quilting Group (10am)

Saturday, August 1

Grace Advisory Board Re-Entry Meeting (9-10am)

Sunday, August 2

Special Voters Meeting (11:30am)

Young Adults Group (3-4:30pm)

Saturday, August 8

Farmer's Market (1-4pm)

Saturday, August 22

Gather @ Grace: Summer Fun (1-4pm)

Saturday, August 29

Youth Escape Room



Grace Lutheran Church

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office@gracedurham.org

919.682.6030

Livestream



Scan the QR code above or
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livestream-channel](http://www.gracedurham.org/livestream-channel)

Call In - Audio Only:

309-205-3325, 312-626-
6799, 305-224-1968

Meeting ID: 859 9393 2922

Passcode: 9196826030

Giving



Grace Generous Giving
Quick Response (QR) Code,
provides a simple and secure
method of giving.

Hover over the QR code with
your phone camera and it
will take you to our giving
page to make a donation.