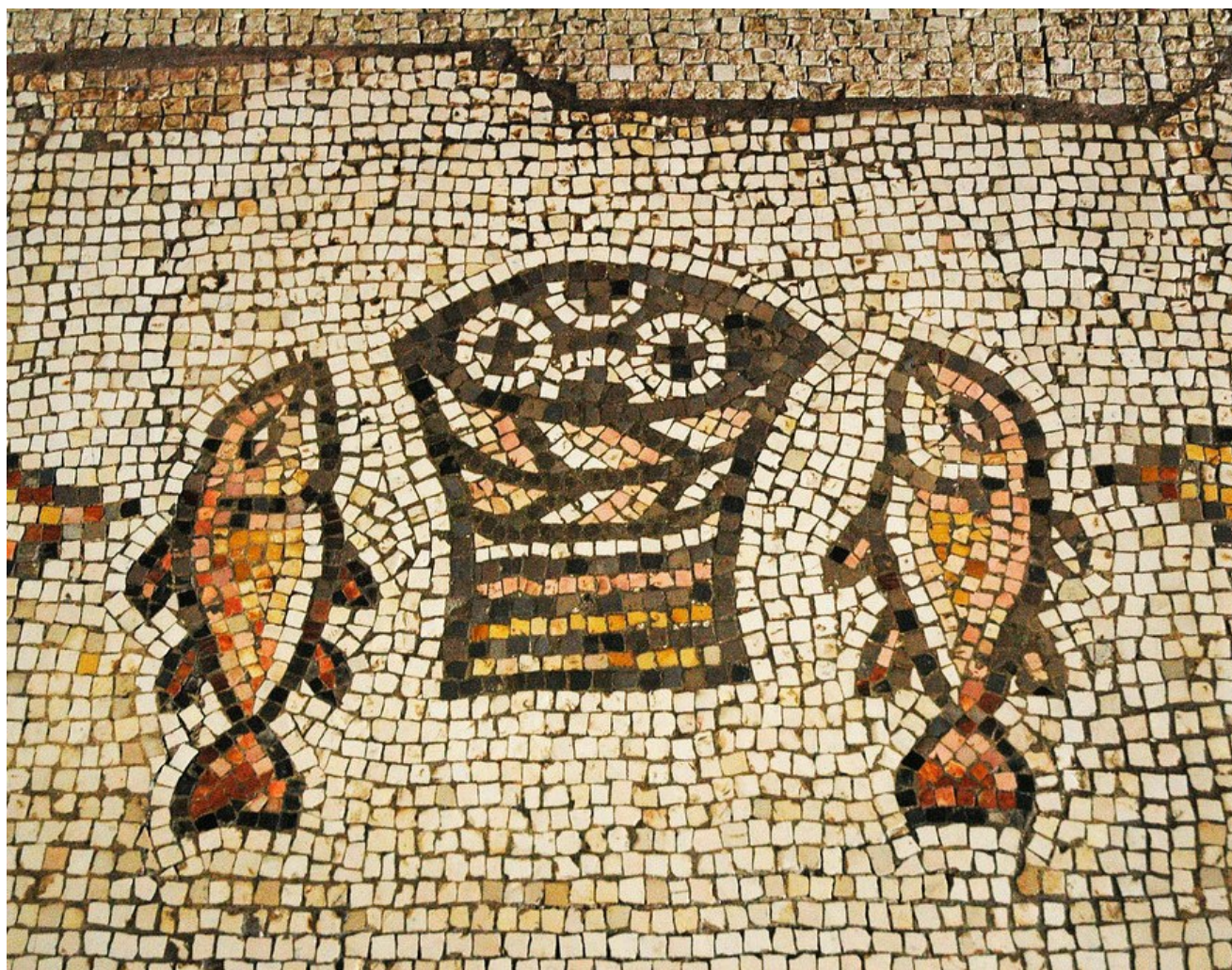


Grace Lutheran



Yoked parish of faith and service: *Bethel & Zion*

Love is spoken here! Be the living Eucharist!



Ninth Sunday after Trinity

August 2nd, 2026

8:45 AM Zion
10:30 AM Bethel

All are welcome!

The altars of this parish belong to God, and not to us. All people are welcome to participate in every aspect of our worship, including our open table for the Eucharist. We are honored by your presence this day and hope you find peace and refreshment as we celebrate the extravagant love of God, as followers of the Way of Jesus.

We live into the ongoing revelation of Jesus! There is a place for you, here!

We Gather

The Holy Spirit calls us in community as people of the Way.

PRELUDE

The congregation stands

GREETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all!

And also with you!

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Let us pray; Almighty God, who sent Your Holy Spirit to be the life and Light of Your church: open our hearts to the riches of Your Grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in Love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen!***

GATHERING HYMN

United at the Table

ELW (red book) 498

The congregation is seated

We listen to God's Word

God speaks to us in poetry, creative writing, scripture, preaching & song.

A READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE (*Tanakh*): Isaiah 55:1-5 from the NRSVUE*

God invites Israel, and anyone hearing the words of the prophet, to take part in that which helps a person be whole, well and able to thrive in life: practicing faith, in metaphor partaking of the great feast at which both food and drink are free.

55 Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Response Word of God, Word of Life! ***Thanks be to God!***

PSALM 145:8-9,14-21

read responsively

⁸ The LORD is Gracious and Merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast Love.

⁹ ***The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.***

¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵ ***The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season.***

¹⁶ You open Your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷ ***The LORD is just in all his ways and kind in all his doings.***

¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹ ***He fulfills the desire of all who [respect] him; he also hears their cry and saves them.***

²⁰ The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked [will fail against his Grace].

²¹ ***My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.***

The assembly stands to welcome our resurrected Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 172

***Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah.
Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah.***

Preface Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus! ***Glory to you, O Lord!***

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 14:13-21 from the NRSVUE*

¹³ Now when Jesus heard [about the death of his cousin, John the Baptist], he withdrew from [Nazareth, taking] a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Response The gospel of our Lord! ***Praise to you, O Christ!***

COLLECT

Let us pray; Gracious Father, revive your church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for Your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen!***

The congregation is seated

MESSAGE

Pastor Andrew

The congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

ELW 484

The congregation is seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

For Your church in every place, that it satisfies those who hunger for Your Word. Bless the ministry of readers, translators, bible study leaders, and writers, that God's Word is revealed and shared with all. God of Grace,

Holy One, hear our prayer.

For Your wondrous creation and all the bounty it provides, that Your creatures are fed and nourished. Bless the work of farmers, farmworkers, those who fish, and all whose labor brings Your abundance to our tables. God of Grace,

Holy One, hear our prayer.

For Your children in every nation, that they learn to love justice and live in harmony. As this week we remember the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, keep us mindful of the horrors of war; draw our hearts instead toward Your reign of distributive Love, hope, and peace. God of Grace,

Holy One, hear our prayer.

For all who cry out with great sorrow and unceasing anguish, that they are comforted. Feed all who struggle with food insecurity; have Mercy on all who are suffering in body, mind, and spirit (*especially*). God of Grace,

Holy One, hear our prayer.

For this parish, that it bears faithful witness to the abundance and joy of life in You. Bless all Your faithful people gathered here, that they may become blessings for this parish. God of Grace,

Holy One, hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving for the faithful who now rest in Your Mercy, that their witness continues to inspire the church. By their example, may we trust Your promises in life and in death. God of Grace,

Holy One, hear our prayer.

Lord of the church:

hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve You with joy for ever. Amen.

The congregation stands

PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES

Christ the Light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his Light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most Merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have committed errors in thought, word and deed.

We have not loved You with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In Your Mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love Mercy, and walk humbly with You, our God. Amen.

The Almighty and Merciful Lord ☩ grant us pardon and forgiveness of all our error and sin, time for amendment of life, and the Grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with us always! **And also with you!**

We share in God's Holy Communion

God feeds us with the risen Christ's presence!

GATHERING OF GIFTS

choir (Auburn)

OFFERTORY

ELW 182

As the gifts of bread, wine, and currency are brought forward, the assembly stands.

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

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 dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we offer now.

Grace our ta-ble with Your Pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray: Loving God, we offer at Your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in You and share freely of Your Love, so that all creation can taste Your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen!**

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendor, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is Yours. **All things come from You, and of Your own do we give You.**

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

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

Open up your hearts! **We open them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God! **It is right to give God thanks and praise!**

We give You thanks because, by the Power of the Holy Spirit, Your Son took our nature upon himself and was born of the Virgin Mary his mother, that being himself without sin, he might lead us into righteousness: his life given up upon the cross, his rising from death and ascension to Your right hand proving that the world cannot overcome Your Power, cannot overcome the fruits of faith.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim Your great and glorious name, forever praising you and singing:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

ELW pg. 207

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

☩ On his last night with the disciples... ☩

We pray You, Gracious God, to send Your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to Your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable in Your sight, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready and all are welcome!

AGNUS DEI (*Lamb of God*)

ELW pg. 154

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, grant us peace.

THE EUCHARIST

Bread is distributed to the hand by the pastor, individual pre-filled cups of grape juice or wine may be taken from the silver trays: the inner-most ring on each tray is the grape juice.

A gluten-free alternative is available from the Assisting Minister.

Believing in the real presence of Christ, Grace practices open-table, Eucharistic hospitality.

All people, baptized or not, are welcomed to The Meal.

Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing signified by crossed arms.

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW 515

POST EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Let us pray: Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of Your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where You reveal the fullness of Your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We go out to serve God

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation stands

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold us today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Let us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW 674

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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*Scripture translations are in the public domain and sourced through <http://www.biblegateway.com>

IN OUR PRAYERS: Donald Tremblay, Rose Marie Faragoli, Donna Brunnell, Russ Terrien, Sandy Staples, Jim Mooney, Judy Garneau, Paul Josephson, Edla Bloom, Steve Hynes, Dennis, Peter & Georgia Kosciusko, Tony Genga, Henry Lewis, Glenna Brownell, Billy Rogan, Mark Glandville, Jack Fenton, Mark Stevens, Jill Ducat, Jim Mahoney, Tami Briggs, Amy Runge, Heather Gregar, Kenneth Johnson, Lois Kane, Beth Johnson, Pr. Judy L., Gary Kaufman, Betty Jane Weagle, Valerie Cotter, Judy Sawicki, Anne Berberian, Carol Katagher. Julie Dawes, Elaine Peterson, David Nevard, Paul Valleli, Louise Young, Lina Dickey, Courtney Cronin, Theresa Adams, Cherry Harris, Kristen Woods, Diane Ela-Lauzon, Alan Wiinikka, Mark, Misty Johnson, Peter Karl, Nancy & Paul Cater, Shirley Connor, Sheela Fisher, Lois Toepfner

Music for August 2, 2026

Prelude: “Adagio” by Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)

Postlude: “Allegro” by E. A. Hoffmann (19th century)

Today’s Music: The prelude is an organ composition by French 19th century composer, teacher, and musician, Theodore Dubois (1837-1924). Dubois is best-known for his sacred works, particularly the oratorio *The Seven Last Words of Christ* composed in 1867.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - Wow, BEGINS TOMORROW MORNING!!!

This week @ our Auburn Campus of Bethel

Monday-Friday 9 AM - Noon

ECUMENICAL HAPPENINGS - There is an *energy* taking place, the **Spirit** is moving! Coming off of the recent healing service held at Salem Covenant, our ecumenical clergy have planned three more services for this year:

Sunday, August 23rd, 10 AM - *Summer Ecumenical Service @ Shore Park-Shore Drive, Worcester*

handicap friendly location

POT LUCK lunch, swimming can commence at noon with City lifeguards on-duty
RAIN LOCATION – almost across the street at The Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester

No 10:30 AM Service @ our Bethel campus this day

Sunday, November 22nd, 4 PM - Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service @ The Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester

Thursday, December 17th, 7 PM - Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service @ our Zion campus in Worcester

Come, share the Spirit, *never just for Pentecost* :)

NEXT SUNDAY AT THE 10:30 AM SERVICE we welcome The Rev. Gina “T” Colorio as preacher and presider while Pr. Andrew leads worship at First Congregational Church on Pleasant Street in the Tatnuck section of Worcester where Pr. “T” is called as pastor. Please make yourself known to Pr. T!



AUBURN WALK FOR HUNGER



For the Benefit of
Auburn Youth and Family Services Food Pantry
and Kateri's Kitchen

Walk begins @ 1:00 at 21 Pheasant Court, Auburn, MA 01501
with registration @ 12:30

Please bring a non-perishable food item for the food pantry.

Scan the QR code to make an online donation



ADULT STUDIES These will return on Wednesday, 2 PM, September 16th in the Bethel Library. We will be looking into archaeological finds and dives into historical elements relating to Jesus' life & times, and those of his mother.

The Lost Mary, James D. Tabor, 2025, Knopf

The Jesus Discovery, James D. Tabor & Simcha Jacobovici, 2013, Simon & Schuster

LUTHERAN & CHURCH HISTORY SESSIONS These 2nd Sunday opportunities to learn what it means to be "Lutheran" and why the "church" in Jesus' name has so many versions of being church, will commence again on September 13th :)

Grace Lutheran



Yoked parish of faith and service: Bethel & Zion

MISSION STATEMENT

"To boldly share God's Love and Grace universally in and through our communities."

VISION STATEMENT

Modeling the welcoming nature of God, we are humbly called and driven by the Spirit to witness, engage and walk with each other authentically, as Jesus' hands and feet, providing spiritual, emotional and physical nourishment.

Through evolving partnerships with ecumenical and other social service organizations we affirm justice and wholeness under the "agency of Grace" that feed the needs and hope of all.

The Rev. Andrew H. Borden, Pastor

pastor_andrew.b@verizon.net

Ann Spinner, Parish Administrator

bethelauburn@verizon.net

Main Office: 508-832-3427

grace-lutheran-elca.org

Randy Bloom – Minister of Music **Lois Toepfner**, Deacon – Minister of Music Emeritus

Shannon Papandrea - Sexton

Garret Peters - Treasurer

Kate Valleli – Christian Education Coordinator

Adam Hanks – Bell Director

Ann Spinner, Kate Valleli – Financial Secretaries

Marie Sturdevant, Adam Hanks – Lay Worship Leaders: NES Lay School of Theology: Auburn 8 AM, Worcester 2nd Sundays

Parish Council

President – **Dave Valleli (B)** Co-Vice-Presidents – **Jennifer Courtney (Z)**, **Jessica Caminero (B)**

Council – **Dave Spinner (Z)**, **Ruth Thompson (B)**, **Joan Parker (B)**, **LeAnne Carraher**
Virginia Carlson, (Z), **Adam Hanks (B)**, **Donna Hayes (Z)**

Worcester Campus - **Zion Lutheran**

41 Whitmarsh Avenue, 01606

Auburn Campus - **Bethel Lutheran**

90 Bryn Mawr Avenue, 01501

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



NST
Refugee Accompaniment



Grace  Lutheran
Café

