

Hope Lutheran Church
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Grace Lutheran Church
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Reverend Matthew Converse, Pastor
Kirsten Jines, Preschool Director
Joyce Dubach, Organist
July 5, 2026
6th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction to the day The 2026 semiquincentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence arrives at a fraught time in the nation's history. While Sundays and Seasons and other ELCA worship resources in general refrain from commemorating Independence Day as a liturgical occasion outside of intercessory prayer, this milestone anniversary and its broader national context present a unique situation. In witness to the church's ardent stand against Christian nationalism in its various and insidious forms, and in response to aproval of the social statement on *Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All* (Assembly Action CA25.05.24) at the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the Worship Resource Development Working Group of the ELCA Churchwide Organization and Augsburg Fortress has developed resources for this specific occasion that both celebrate and lament our nation's history, affirm the reality of the current moment, and seek to unite the diverse body of Christ for the life of the world.

Food pantry need: cereal and soup
Attendance for June 21 . 2026 – 35

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
source of hope in every nation,
rest for the weary,
glory and peace to the ends of the earth.
Amen.

Let us bring every burden to God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all mercy,
**we have sinned against you,
our neighbors, and your creation.
Within ourselves and our communities,
our desire to do what is good
is at war with the evil that dwells in us.
We lament the evil that holds us captive.
We repent of the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us
for lives of compassion and courage
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

All-merciful, Almighty God
forgive you all your sins
through the grace of ✙ Jesus Christ,
and by the Spirit's power
strengthen you in doing what is good.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG This Is My Song (ELW 887)

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912-1993, sts.1-2; Georgia Harkness,
1891-1974, st.3

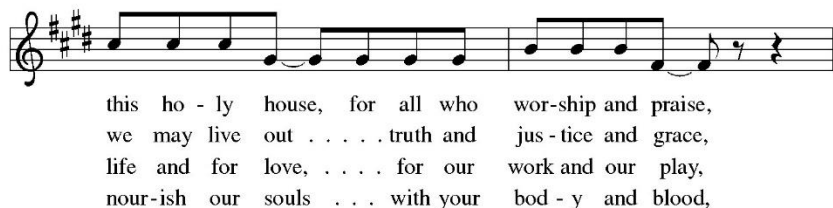
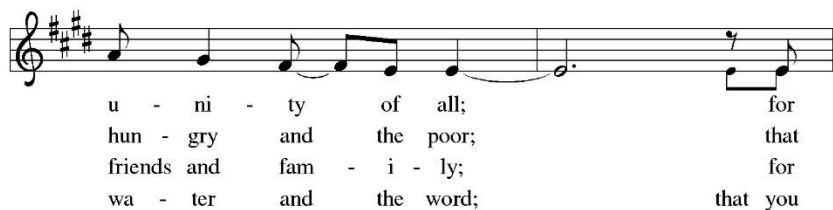
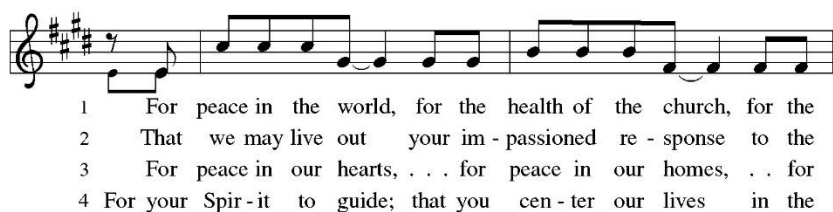
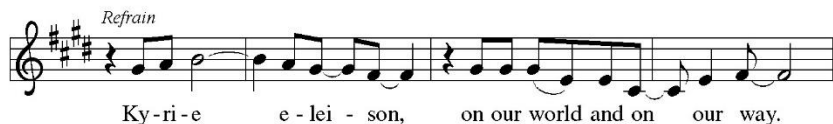
Music: Jean Sibelius, 1865-1957

GREETING

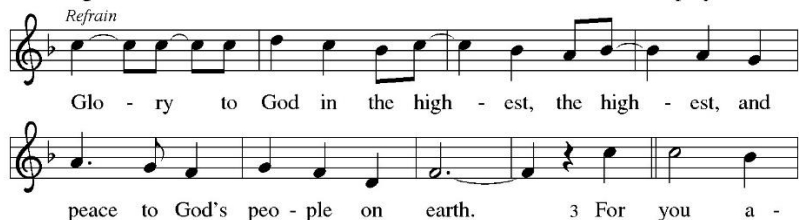
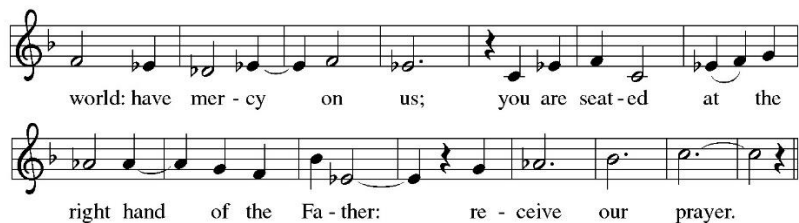
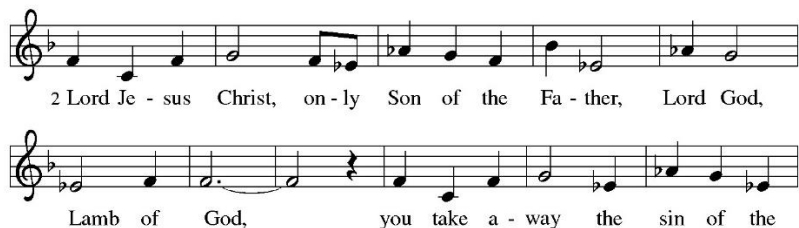
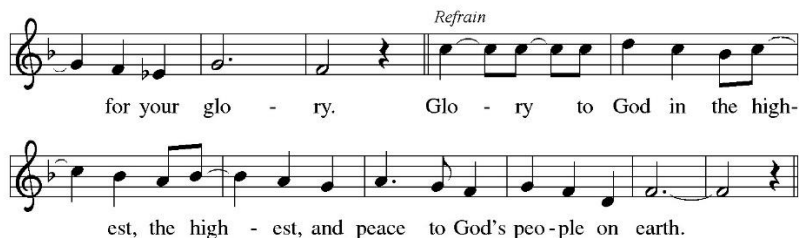
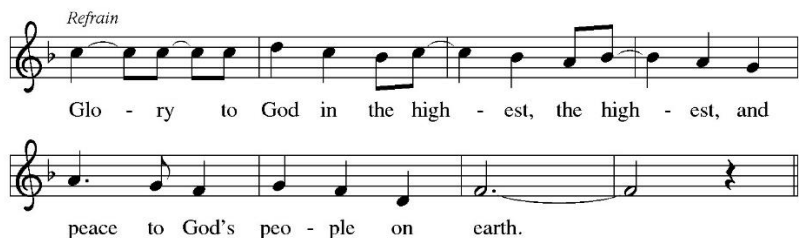
During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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



Canticle of Praise



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
 A - men. A - men. A - men.
Final refrain
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's
 peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -
 est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Word *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

A reading from Zechariah.

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 145:8-14

⁸ The Lord is gracious and full [|] of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in [|] steadfast love.

⁹ **Lord, you are [|] good to all,**

and your compassion is over [|] all your works.

¹⁰ All your works shall praise [|] you, O Lord,
and your faithful [|] ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory [|] of your kingdom
and speak [|] of your power,**

¹² that all people may know [|] of your power
and the glorious splendor [|] of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion
endures throughout all ages. You, Lord, are faithful in all your
words, and loving in [|] all your works.**

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all [|] those who fall
and lifts up those who [|] are bowed down.

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

A reading from Romans.

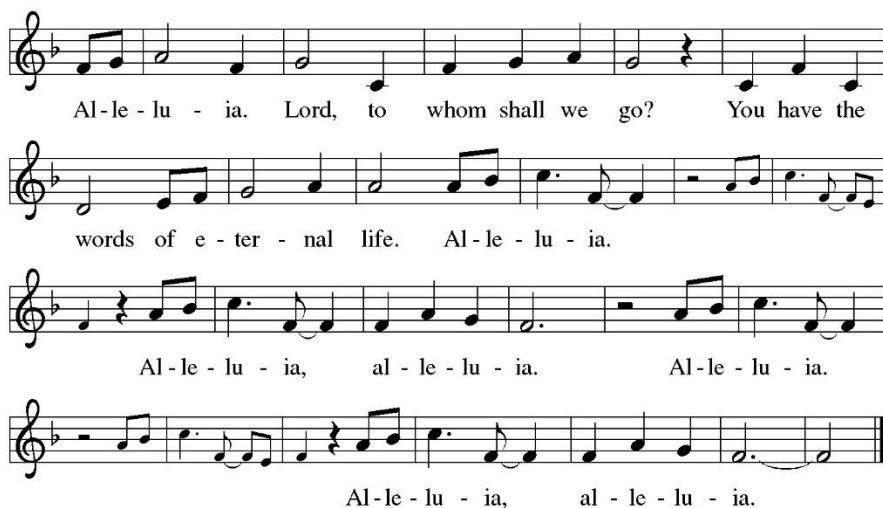
¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day Lift Every Voice and Sing (ELW 841)

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938

Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused. Overcome our timidity to witness and act in the public square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

All your works praise you, O God. From the Arctic to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the western islands, these lands and waters have sustained its peoples over many centuries. As we take our part in creation's praise, revive our wonder at what you have fashioned, and enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As the United States of America marks its declaration of independence, give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, and curb every abuse of that trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are the Mother of exiles, O God. Extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained, or disappeared; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression and need, especially these we name before you now. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember before you those who have died in every generation: Jan Hus, executed for protesting the ecclesial system; Benedict, teacher of a prayerful life; and those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. Gather us, together with those who have gone before us, and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Peace

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

Meal God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering Hymn Now the Feast and Celebration (ELW 167)
Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God,
for waves of grain and harvesters,
fruitful vines and winepresses,
for our labor and our rest,
for the gifts of your hand in this land.
Transform us and what we offer
into the banquet of your compassion,
serving your love without limits
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

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.

PREFACE

The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting
life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
you alone are Majesty,
you alone are Excellency,
you alone are Sovereign.
Within the vast reaches you splashed into being,
you formed our star and this planet:
purple mountains, fruited plains,
crystal waters, towering forests, gleaming mines.

Here you fashioned human beings
in our infinite variety and hue,
yet each one created equal,
to care for one another
and our earthly home.

In a time of peace
enforced by the cruelty of empire,
you came in Jesus to share our life.

Born under the rule of a merciless king,
Jesus revealed the merciful realm of God.
Moving across borders
to people broken and oppressed,
Jesus brought healing, restoration, and freedom.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
Christ's execution at the hands of a ruthless regime,
Christ's resurrection that buries death,
Christ's ascension to rule with love forever,
we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

God, shed your grace on us.
Shower your Holy Spirit
on these gifts of bread and wine
and on your people gathered this day.
Ignite in us the flame of freedom—
freedom from prejudice, from supremacy, from fear;
freedom for acceptance, for welcome,
for the shalom that you have first shown to us.

Faithful God, loving God:
Your Majesty shines forth in weakness.
Your Excellency is revealed to infants.
Your Sovereignty reigns from a cross.
Yours, O God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
is the everlasting kingdom,

the peaceable power,
and the humble glory,
now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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

Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven:

Taste and know that God is good to all.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

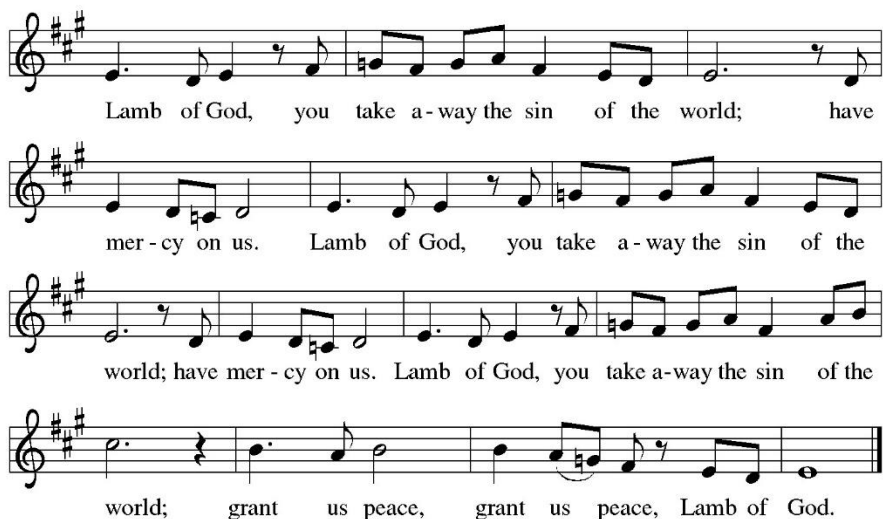
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

The ministers commune either after or before others commune.

COMMUNION SONG



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, Lamb of God.

Song during Communion

(ELW 650)

In Christ There Is No East or West

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.

Music: African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh,
1866-1949

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray:

We thank you, God of heaven and earth,
that you fill our deepest need
with the very gift of Jesus Christ,
broken and poured out for us.
Pour us out into a broken world.
Channel our common life
toward the common good,
following the way our Savior leads us
now and forever.

Amen.

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

AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION IN CIVIC LIFE

People of God, you are chosen and named as God's beloved.

You have received the gift of Christian vocation,
a holy calling lived out in various dimensions of your life,
your relationships and communities,
your work and your rest.

Daily and richly we live in the promises of holy baptism,
sustained by grace to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

I ask you, therefore:

Will you endeavor to pattern your life on Jesus Christ,
in gratitude to God and in service to others?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you strive to pursue the common good in public life,
nurturing mutual care among neighbors near and far?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you pledge to bear witness in word and action,
commending what is true and right,
renouncing what is unjust and harmful,
and working to mend what is flawed?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

The presiding minister continues.

Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth to those in power and challenged systems of oppression. Give to your servants courage, patience, and vision in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Empower us all in our Christian vocation to be courageous disciples and responsible citizens. Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable, and respect for the common life we share, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

The service concludes with the blessing and dismissal.

BLESSING

The Author of life,
the Word of salvation,
the Breath of new birth,
✝ one God, bless you
and equip you for living and serving,
today and every day.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

(ELW 837)

. **Many and Great, O God: Wakantanka taku nitawa**
Text: Joseph R. Renville, 1779-1846; para. Philip Frazier,
1892-1964, alt. Music: Dakota tune; arr. *Songs of the*
People, 1986

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.

Thanks be to God.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

BREAD LOAF OFFERING - JULY- Babe

- The Grace and Hope Lutheran Church garage sale will take place at Grace Lutheran Church on August 6, 7, and 8th (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday). We will begin accepting donations the week beginning July 26th. Normally someone is working at Grace during the day and you can gain entrance to fellowship hall by ringing the doorbell. However, if you need assistance, please call Linda Grawcock, 260-609-5037 for help. We will not accept adult clothing, but children's clothing is always needed. Shoes that are clean and in good condition are good sellers. As always, we appreciate items that are clean and not broken. The members of our two churches have always been generous with their donations and time volunteered for this fundraiser. Let your family and friends know about this project for any donations they might have, and, of course, the invitation to come shopping! Adelphi ladies will answer any questions you might have. Thank you in advance for your help in making this sale a success.

Weekly Agenda at Grace Lutheran Church

Monday, July 6, 2026

Helping hands 12:30 pm

AA 7:30 pm

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

T.O.P.S 9:30 am

WC quilters 4:30 pm

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

Men's Breakfast 8 am

Food Pantry 12 pm

Voucher 4 pm

Thursday, July 9, 2026

AA 7:30 pm

Al-non 7:30 pm

Friday, July 10, 2026

Pastor's Day Off

Office Closed

Food pantry 12 pm

Saturday, July 11, 2026

Independence Day

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Worship @ Hope 8:15 am

**We have new sign-up sheets in the parish hall, for coffee hour.
Coffee hour will be after church service, for anyone that would
like to stay.**