



Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

# UNFAIR Grace

17th Sunday after Pentecost | Sunday, September 20, 2026, 9:30 a.m.

## Welcome

Inspired by the abundant hospitality of Jesus Christ, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer welcomes **all** of God's children into the life of the church as 'we make God known through word and deed'.

## Confession and Forgiveness

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

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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

## Opening Song

"I Will Follow"

## Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. **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.**

## Special Music

"How Beautiful" arr. L. Larson

Darla Adolphsen & Ruth Haugerud

## First Reading

Jonah 3:10—4:11

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it. <sup>4:1</sup> But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. <sup>3</sup> And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup> And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” <sup>5</sup> Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. <sup>6</sup> The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup> Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

*Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.*

## Psalm

Psalms 145:1-8

<sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup> **Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

<sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

<sup>4</sup> **One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

<sup>5</sup> I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

<sup>6</sup> **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

<sup>7</sup> They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

## Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

<sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup> so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. <sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

*Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.*

## Children's Church

## Gospel Acclamation

“Speak O Lord”

*The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20<sup>th</sup> Chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.*

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup> and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup> They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup> When

those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?' <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

## Sermon

"Unfair Grace"

Abby Kruger, Brooklynn Varilek, Pastor Laura Overbo

## Song of the Day

"Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)"

## Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Prayer Song

"Lord I Need You"

## Prayers of the Church

Hospitalized/Ill:

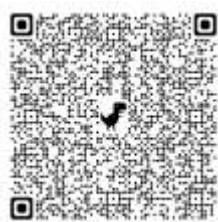
**Dianna Lambert**, **Sophie Holida**, **Karla Stimson**, **Larry Haaland**- Friend of the Congregation,  
**Michelle LeBlanc**- Granddaughter of Bev Eggen, **Nicole Rude**- Daughter-in-Law of Allen & Julie Rude,  
**Chad Jutting**- Brother of Todd (Lesli) Jutting and Joy (Todd) Freimark, **Delana Bleeker**- Friend of Wendy Olson,  
**Nicole (Wilkinson) Meier**- Niece of Nancy & Darwin Brinkman

## Prayer Song

"Lord I Need You"

## Offering

*Text to Give: 888-303-5012 or Scan the QR code located in the pew*  
*Noisy Can Offering (for all ages) Mission of the Month:*  
**LCOOR Feeding Ministries**



### Offering: September 6-12

Promised \$7,648.50

Non-Promised \$8,491.00

Mission of the Month \$135.10

## Offertory Response

"Father I Adore You"

## Offering Prayer

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

## Great Thanksgiving

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.**

## Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

## Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## Distribution

## Post Communion Prayer

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

## Announcements

*Altar Flowers are given in honor of Larry & Marlys Lenning's 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on August 31.*

## Blessing Song

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

#884

## Sending Song

"Your Grace is Enough"

## Call to Service

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please greet one another with a word of peace as well as your name.*

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## Serving

**Preaching:** Abby Kruger, Brooklynn Varilek, Pastor Laura Overbo; **Worship Team;** **Lector:** Megan Major; **Acolyte:** Bennett Turbak;

We still need **several volunteers** to join us as we make God known through Word and Deed by serving our community! This year, we'll be **cleaning gravestones at Mt. Hope Cemetery**, caring for this sacred place while honoring those who came before us. Please join us at **11:00 a.m. on Sunday September 20**, at Mt. Hope Cemetery. We'll provide all cleaning supplies, T-shirts, water, and snacks.

To sign up, please visit our website at [www.lcoorwatertown.org](http://www.lcoorwatertown.org) and click the "Serve" button in the main menu or just show up.

# THE WEEKLY WORD

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER



## Meet Crossroads 78

Crossroads 78 is a **NEW** youth group for students in **7th and 8th grade!** Our first youth group will be **Monday, September 21 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** Scan the QR code to get signed up for reminders.

SCAN  
ME!



## Adult Bible Study

Pastor Dan will be leading a five-week Adult Bible Study beginning **Thursday, October 1, at 6:00 p.m.** The study will focus on *The Me I Want to Be: Becoming God's Best Version of You* by John Ortberg.

The cost of the study guide is \$8. **Please sign up at the Welcome Center** and contact Pastor Dan with any questions. We look forward to our first Bible study of the fall season.

## The Latest Word - Monthly Newsletter

Please read our monthly newsletters for important information not covered in weekly announcements.

SCAN HERE



## Volunteer at Worship

We are always seeking volunteers to assist during worship services. We encourage you to sign up!

SCAN HERE



## Mission of the Month: LCOOR Feeding Ministries

Our **LCOOR Mobile Soup Kitchen** (*starting back up in October*) brings a warm meal to those in our community who are experiencing food insecurity. Volunteers help prepare, serve, and share a hot cup of soup, creating opportunities to connect with our neighbors and remind them that they are not alone.

Through **Caring Casseroles**, members of LCOOR provide meals to individuals and families who could use a helping hand. Whether someone is recovering from an illness, facing a difficult season, welcoming a new baby, or experiencing another life challenge, a homemade meal is a simple yet meaningful way to show God's love and care. **Thank you for helping LCOOR feed both bodies and spirits through compassion, generosity, and care.**

## Sleep in Heavenly Peace - Community Build on Sept. 26

All are invited to join our 7th & 8th grade confirmation students for a **Community Build Day with Sleep in Heavenly Peace!** We'll be building beds for children in our community on **Saturday, September 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at 1415 26th St. SE, Watertown, SD. We need your help! No experience is needed, just a willingness to lend a hand. **Sign up by scanning the QR code with your phone camera to let Sleep in Heavenly Peace know you'll be joining us!**

SIGN UP!



## Redeemer's Kitchen - September 27

Overwhelmed? Busy? Or maybe you're just tired of the same thing every night for supper? We can help! Redeemer's Kitchen will meet **Sunday, September 27 after the 9:30 a.m. worship to prep seven freezer meals.**

### September Menu:

Chicken Pot Pie, Stuffed Peppers, Honey Chicken with Rice & Broccoli, White Chicken Chili, Beef & Cheese Ravioli Bake, Creamy Sausage Gnocchi, Salisbury Steak Meatballs with Mash Potatoes, and Monster Cookies.

**More information, including pricing and sign-up are available at the Welcome Center** or by contacting Karri in the church office at [karri@lcoorwatertown.org](mailto:karri@lcoorwatertown.org) or (605) 886-2696.

# Calendar & Attendance

## Sunday September 20

8:45 a.m. Church School  
9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
10:30 a.m. Praise & Rejoice Choir Rehearsal  
11:00 a.m. God's Work, Our Hands at Mt. Hope

## Monday September 21

October Newsletter Deadline  
8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry  
6:00-7:30 p.m. Crossroads 78 Youth Group (7-8 Grade)  
6:45 p.m. Al-Anon  
7:00 p.m. Book Club Meets at Watertown Library

## Tuesday September 22

11:00 a.m. Text Study  
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

## Wednesday September 23

8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry  
12:15 p.m. Men's Lunch (Stack LWR Items)  
5:00 p.m. Community Meal  
5:45 p.m. Church School  
6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
6:30-8:00 p.m. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation  
7:15 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal  
7:15 p.m. Luther League Youth Group (9-12 Grade)

## Thursday September 24

11:00 a.m. Preschool Chapel  
5:15 p.m. Al-Anon

## Friday September 25

Church Office Closes at Noon  
8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry

## Saturday September 26

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Service  
Project with Sleep in Heavenly Peace (*congregation is invited to join*)  
5:30 p.m. Worship

## Sunday September 27

8:45 a.m. Church School  
9:30 a.m. Worship  
10:30 a.m. Praise & Rejoice Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 a.m. Redeemer's Kitchen  
1:30-2:00 p.m. LWR Truck at Grace Lutheran

## Monday September 28

8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry  
6:45 p.m. Al-Anon

## Tuesday September 29

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Sewing Ministry Group  
11:00 a.m. Text Study  
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

## Wednesday September 30

8:00 a.m. Watertown Sandwich Ministry  
12:15 p.m. Men's Lunch  
3:45-5:00 p.m. Route 56 Youth Group (5-6 Grade)  
5:00 p.m. Community Meal  
5:45 p.m. Church School  
6:30 p.m. Worship  
6:30-8:00 p.m. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation  
7:15 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal  
7:15 p.m. Luther League (9-12 Grade)

## Attendance

Sunday, September 6 Livestream: 82

Saturday, September 12: 56

Sunday, September 13: 238

## Church Staff

### Senior Pastor

Dan Overbo

### Associate Pastor

Laura Overbo

### Director of Faith Formation

Wendy Kruger

### Faith Formation Assistant

Mallory Kohl

### Welcoming & Caring Ministries

Karri Willhite

### Business Manager

Jodi Spilde

### Business Administrative Assistant

Megan Thyen

### Preschool

Nikki Landmark, Director/Teacher

Wendy Kruger, Paraprofessional

### Sound & Technology

Sam Langner

### Custodian

Roman Gainor



## CAR QUESTION FOR THE RIDE HOME:

What animal reminds you of God's creativity?

