



GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 9, 2021
8:30 a.m.**

WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you as we hear God's holy Word. We are blessed by your presence, just as you are. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome God's people of all races, social statuses, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities to be together in Christ – to love, to grow, and to serve. We worship online in an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and encourage you to follow along in this document as you also watch or listen to the live stream of our service. May the Lord bless our worship this day.

Grace Council Statement on Racism

The events that have unfolded in our nation in recent months have reawakened us to the deep divides that still exist within our country. Racism, manifested in individual acts and present throughout systems, continues to prevent us from being the beloved community that God intends. Our faith in the crucified and risen Christ compels us to speak. We speak against the sin of racism. We speak in solidarity with Black people and all people of color, each of whom is precious to God. We stand with and for Black people within our church and school and in the larger community.

We commit ourselves to following Jesus Christ into the world in the hope that, by the Spirit's power, God's Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven. We look with hope and anticipation to a season of growth and change as Grace becomes a more faithful witness to God's wide welcome in Christ. We see this as the beginning, not the end, of the conversation. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us, and for the courage to follow.

As We Gather

You are chosen. Long ago, on the tree of Calvary, Jesus laid down his life to choose you. More recently, God moved through water and Word to choose you. You are chosen! For what? As Jesus further unfolds the image of vine and branches, we discover the answer. We have been chosen for friendship and love, for bearing fruit and for joy that is complete. In a world that seems to delight in reminding us of all the ways we are left out, we hear this gracious word: You did not choose me but I chose you. We are not worthy of such selection, of course, but the lifeblood of the Vine flows through us with forgiveness and healing, bringing us back to life. Jesus, friend of the friendless and lover of the lost, chooses you again this day.

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE: Selections from Partita on LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Charles Callahan

ENTRANCE HYMN: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

(green) **LBW #143**



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds in praise of love that
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings, there - fore our heart with
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt-less love; set heart and will on
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring and with the heav'n - ly



still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
things a - bove that we con - quer through your tri - umph;
bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!"



Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song
Now still he comes to give us life and by his pres -
grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's day that by our lives
Be to the Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest,



of glo - ry here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
ence stills all strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
we tru - ly say: Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
most ho - ly God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



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

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

GREETING

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: Worthy Is Christ

Richard Hillert

Women sing parts marked ❶. Men sing parts marked ❷.

All sing parts marked C.


 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,


 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ① Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was


 slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.


 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,


 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ② Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and


 strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.


 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ① Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



② This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ③ For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



④ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God,

you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding.

Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things,

we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire;

through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you

and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

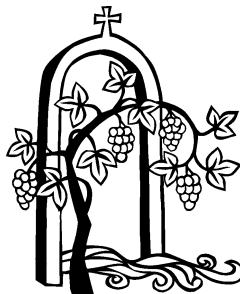
✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44–48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



ANTIPHON: All of the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

- L Sing to the Lord | a new song,*
 for he has done | marvelous things.
- C **With his right hand and his | holy arm***
has he won for him- | self the victory.
- L The Lord has made | known his victory,*
 his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight | of the nations.
- C **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the | house of Israel,***
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.
- L Shout with joy to the Lord, | all you lands;*
 lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.
- C **Sing to the Lord | with the harp,***
with the harp and the | voice of song.
- L With trumpets and the sound | of the horn*
 shout with joy before the | king, the Lord.
- C **Let the sea make a noise and all | that is in it,***
the lands and those who | dwell therein.
- L Let the rivers | clap their hands,*
 and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
 when he comes to | judge the earth.
- C **In righteousness shall he | judge the world***
and the peo- | ples with equity.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1–6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

- L The Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN: Christ Is Arisen

Christ is a - ris - en from the grave's dark pris - on. So let our joy rise
full and free; Christ our com-fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!
Were Christ not a - ris - en, then death were still our pris - on.
Now, with him to life re-stored, we praise the Fa-ther of our Lord. Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia! Now let our joy rise full and free;
Christ our com - fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: German hymn, c. 1100; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909–1967, alt.
Music: CHRIST IST ERSTANDEN, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1533

Text © 1967 Concordia Publishing House

HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:9–17

☞ The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

☛ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☛ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON: The Joy of Being Chosen

Pastor David R. Lyle
John 15:9–17; Acts 10:44–48





- 1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
 2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;
 3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
 but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
 re - sound-ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.
 He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
 But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his
 Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they
 Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!
 thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.
 'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

- 5 They rise, and needs will have
 my dear Lord made away;
 a murderer they save,
 the prince of life they slay.
 Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes,
 that he his foes from thence might free.
- 6 In life, no house, no home
 my Lord on earth might have;
 in death, no friendly tomb
 but what a stranger gave.
 What may I say? Heav'n was his home;
 but mine the tomb wherein he lay.
- 7 Here might I stay and sing—
 no story so divine!
 Never was love, dear King,
 never was grief like thine.
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
 I all my days could gladly spend!

NICENE CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

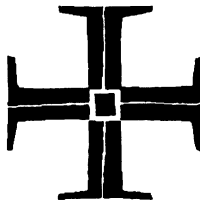
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



OFFERING/VOLUNTARY: If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments

Thomas Tallis
arr. Hal H. Hopson

Giving is one of the ways we participate in all that God is doing through Grace.

[Click here](#) to give online, or visit GraceRiverForest.org.

If you love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another Comforter,
that he, may abide with you forever,
even the spirit of truth.

John 14:15–17

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

A Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

☞ May God, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk in newness of life.

Almighty God: Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☛ Amen.

SENDING HYMN: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

(green) LBW #551

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1933

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

DISMISSAL

- A** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- A** Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Michael D. Costello

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister

The Rev. David R. Lyle, preaching minister

Julie Hinz, assisting minister

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Ellen Pullin, soprano

Bill Pullin, baritone

Justin Martin, videographer

Al Swanson, sound board operator

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LET US PRAY. . .

Those who are sick and recovering from illness

Diane Amati	Ed Borg	Bob Jandeska	Paul Nelson
Rose Mary Anderson	Rosemary Cheatem	Joan Koerber	Pat Scala
Annalise Balock	Carl & Donna Gruendler	Jerry Koenig	Rich and Bonnie Stasack
Cathy Barker	David Gruendler	Carolyn Martin	Tom Swanson
Jim Barker	Don Heimbürger	Karen McMahon	
Len Berghaus	Patricia Herendeen	Jennifer Murtoff	
Felipe Altamirano (<i>friend of Cathy and Paul Schnittker</i>)	Joyce and John Lunde (<i>friends of Susan Messerli</i>)		
Valerie Anderson (<i>friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke</i>)	Kathy Lyons (<i>sister of Karin Danganan</i>)		
Pat B. (<i>friend of Pat Anderson</i>)	Anne Matthys (<i>mother of Susan Curran</i>)		
Vera Leora Barnett (<i>friend of Paul Eichwedel</i>)	Leone, Gracie, and Brian Maxwell (<i>cousins of Tom and Deb Maxwell</i>)		
Greg Ball (<i>friend of Irmgard Swanson</i>)	Carole Nelson (<i>mother of Michael Nelson</i>)		
Sophie Bartell (<i>granddaughter of Marvin and Judy Bartell</i>)	Julie Novak (<i>daughter of Eunice Spurgat</i>)		
James Beglin (<i>cousin of Cathy Schnittker</i>)	Elaine Pierce (<i>friend of Al and Irmgard Swanson</i>)		
Francis Benson (<i>sister-in-law of Eunice Spurgat</i>)	Jacob Pletan (<i>great-nephew of Ruth Rehmaldi & Gick Schmidt</i>)		
Karen Berglund (<i>friend of Carol Stanger</i>)	James Powers (<i>friend of Al Swanson</i>)		
Florence Breed (<i>cousin of Irmgard Swanson</i>)	Sarah Ponder (<i>friend of Hans and Donna Dumpys</i>)		
Ken Briggs (<i>friend of many at Grace</i>)	Susan Prather (<i>cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott</i>)		
Nancy Brinkman (<i>friend of Karen Brunssen</i>)	Ronald Riley (<i>friend of Al Swanson</i>)		
James Cordes (<i>brother of Bruce Cordes</i>)	John Rohleder (<i>friend of Sandy Grams</i>)		
Family of Jim Cozzi (<i>friends of Diana Sicuro</i>)	Florence Saeger (<i>friend of Karl and Ruth Reko</i>)		
Linda DeMeyere (<i>friend of Randy and Ellie Schnack</i>)	John Schuurman (<i>friend of Timothy Douma</i>)		
Peggy Dickenson (<i>mother of Paul Eichwedel</i>)	Lindsay Shaner (<i>brother of Bob Shaner</i>)		
Clara Dorsey (<i>mother of Jo-Ellyn Dorsey</i>)	Kim Shannon (<i>friend of Lance and Stephanie Wilkening</i>)		
Patti and Neal Enslin (<i>friends of Marilyn Heppner</i>)	Mary Lu Shipstad (<i>friend of Marilyn Heppner</i>)		
Seth Flanders (<i>friend of Cathy and Paul Schnittker</i>)	Huxley Shoup and family (<i>friends of Marilyn and Ken Heppner</i>)		
Benjamin Galiher (<i>nephew of Paul May</i>)	Nancy Stelling (<i>friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten</i>)		
Luke Gawencka (<i>friend of Eunice Spurgat</i>)	Lee Stephens (<i>brother of Tony</i>)		
Stacy Gibb and family (<i>friends of Kristin Vogen</i>)	Jennifer Sylvester (<i>daughter of Janet Sylvester</i>)		
Thomas Griffith (<i>son-in-law of Cathy and Paul Schnittker</i>)	Martin A. Thieme (<i>brother of Susan Franzone</i>)		
Mike Guss (<i>friend of Lance and Stephanie Wilkening</i>)	Mary Jo Thies-Dietrich (<i>mother of Heidi Bohlmann</i>)		
Jerry Haase (<i>friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke</i>)	Jan Thomson (<i>sister-in-law of Christine Phillips</i>)		
Jill Hanssen (<i>niece of Ann Mason</i>)	Rev. Mark Van Scharrel (<i>friend of Karl and Ruth Reko</i>)		
Harry Heppner (<i>brother of Ken Heppner</i>)	Mary Lou and Ron Wagoner (<i>sister and brother-in-law of Stan Reddel</i>)		
Alice Hollis (<i>friend of Marge Sanger</i>)	Kim Walsh (<i>niece of Cathy Schnittker</i>)		
John Hunt (<i>friend of Ken and Marilyn Heppner</i>)	Verna Walsh (<i>aunt of Dan and Deanna Marotz</i>)		
Doug Kelner (<i>friend of Irmgard and Al Swanson</i>)	Bob Weaver (<i>husband of Gretchen</i>)		
Don Kersten (<i>brother of Phyllis Kersten</i>)	Daniel Wenzel (<i>friend of Pat Anderson</i>)		
Andrew Korcek (<i>friend of Eunice Spurgat</i>)	Lucy White (<i>friend of Mary Beth Logas</i>)		
George Kozuchowski (<i>friend of Timothy Douma</i>)	Nola Williams (<i>Grace School student</i>)		
Arnold Krubsack (<i>brother of Irmgard Swanson</i>)	Deborah Wilson (<i>niece of Carolyn Garber</i>)		
Kathryn Krubsack (<i>niece of Irmgard Swanson</i>)	Elise Wojack (<i>niece of Pat Gulik</i>)		
Tom Kuehnert (<i>friend of Lance and Stephanie Wilkening</i>)	Randi Woodworth (<i>sister of Tammy Bretscher</i>)		
Maxx Kuser (<i>friend of Deb Maxwell</i>)	Veronica Zurowski (<i>mother of Tom</i>)		
Lily (<i>friend of Carrie Douma</i>)			
Karen Luebbe (<i>mother of Jenny, sister of Stan Reddel</i>)			

Benevolence ministries

New Moms

For those who mourn

Helmut Jung (*brother of Gerlinde VanDriesen*)

Clark Miller (*former member of Grace Church*)

Bess Poulos (*grandmother of Valerie Poulos*)

Those serving in the armed services

Daniel Behrens (*relative of Bob and Kathryn Jandeska*)

Timothy Berghaus (*grandson of Len and Judy Berghaus*)

Kevin Buss (*nephew of Christa Krout*)

Reid Beveridge (*son-in-law of the Schnacks*)

David Danford (*son of John and Karen*)

E. Michael Garcia Goetting (*son of Mary Goetting*)

Matthew Garmatz (*grandson of Margaret Garmatz*)

Bradley Larson (*cousin of Rhea Sprecher*)

Sonny Putman (*nephew of Susan Franzone*)

Rusty Robb (*grandnephew of Margaret Kruse/Roberta Gillespie*)

Matthew Shinkwin (*friend of Eunice Spurgat*)

Christopher W. Sylvester (*grandson of Janet Sylvester*)

Those in the foreign service

Julie Kmet (*friend of Ed and Susan Schumacher*)

Kari Paetzold (*niece of Jim and Sharman Galezewski*)

Those studying abroad

Colleen Lattyak (*Germany*)

Drew Krueger (*England*)

Those who are homebound

Christopher Davis

Carolyn Martin

Marie Gierke

Joanne Nelson

Ronald Gresens

Barbara Rinnan

Gloria Hillert

Kathleen Wrobel

Those who need encouragement

Bruce Burnside (*friend of Bob and Margaret Burke*) in Oakhill Correctional Center

Cheryl Luchetta (*friend of Joan Koerber*) in Logan Correctional Center

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

We are glad that you are worshipping with us!

If you are visiting us for the first time or would like to learn more about Grace, please complete this form, detach, and place it in the offering plate.

NAME(S) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

Check all that apply:

- ☐ I am visiting Grace for the first time.
- ☐ I would like to know more about Grace Church.
- ☐ I am interested in a path toward membership.
- ☐ I would like to know more about Grace School.
- ☐ I would like to receive Grace’s weekly e-mail,
Sunday Is Coming.
- ☐ I would like one of the pastors to contact me
via (check one) ☐ Phone or ☐ E-mail.

GRACE
LUTHERAN
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& SCHOOL

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Fax: (708) 366-0966
www.graceriverforest.org
gracechurch@graceriverforest.org

Bring in, build up, and send out disciples for Jesus Christ

David R. Lyle, Senior Pastor
Troy E. Medlin, Associate Pastor
F. Dean Lueking, Pastor Emeritus
Michael D. Costello, Cantor
Jeremy Zimmer, Assistant Cantor
William Koehne, Principal
Gerald Koenig, Principal Emeritus
Pat Gulik, Parish Nurse
Julie Modrich, Children’s Ministry Coordinator
Gwen Gotsch, Communications Coordinator
Jim McClanahan, Director of Administration & Finance
Rich Brooks, Facilities Manager