

At this table, we remember that we have new life because of Jesus' resurrection. In gratitude, O God we come to this table, to be nourished and fed, empowered by the Holy Spirit.
P: AMEN! (please be seated)

BLESSING OF THE MEAL:

On the night of Jesus' betrayal, he ate with his followers. He blessed the bread, broke it and shared it, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." After supper, he took the cup of blessing and blessed it anew with these words, "Take and drink for this is my blood of the new covenant, shed for all for the forgiveness of sins." As long as we break this bread and share this cup, we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus until he comes again.

SONG: "As We Gather at Your Table" #332

SERVING OF MEAL

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:**

L: Jesus says that we are nourished to reflect God's love to both neighbor and stranger, to love those around us.

P: May the grace and hope, peace and love of God the Creator, God the Redeemer and God the Sustainer be with us now and forever. AMEN.

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Lead On, O King Eternal" #573

***POSTLUDE:** "Canticle of Praise" David Paxton

A NEW IDENTITY

September 7, 2025

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Peace United Church of Christ

Elkader, Iowa

PRELUDE: "Chapel Echoes" Steven Scott

BELL RINGING, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE:** (afterwards, please sit)

THEME

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

L: Great God,

P: we confess we have minds of our own. We have shaped our lives not as you have hoped for us.

In stillness we repent. (time of silence)

L: Lay your strong and gentle hands upon us and reshape us according to your delight.

P: Forgive our sins, heal our wounds, and by your grace, make us vessels of your light. AMEN.

SONG OF GRACE AND FORGIVENESS:

"Amazing Grace" arranger: Gordon Hafsos
Sung by Chancel Choir

INVITATION TO WORSHIP:

L: God, like a thoughtful grandmother, you knit each of us a life.

P: Like a weaver at her loom of beauty, you weave us together.

L: Like an artful potter, you shape us for your purposes.

P: And when we are distorted, you re-shape us again.

L: You are the beauty that draws us toward life.

P: You are the love that beckons us from self-centeredness, that strengthens us to respond to our sisters and brothers in compassion and gratitude.

L: You are the treasure that is worth the greatest cost.

P: Alleluia! We gladly give up everything and turn to you. Bless and transform us by your grace. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE WORD:

L: Loving Christ, may we hear your challenge and accept hard teachings.

P: By the power of your Spirit, may you help us follow you. AMEN.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH SONG:

"Take My Life, God, Let It Be" #448

OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 18:1-11 Pastor Paula

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33 Pastor Paula

MESSAGE: "Are We Available?"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

THE LORD'S PRAYER: 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.

OFFERING INVITATION: (unison)

We give because we have been given so much.

Lord, take our gifts and use them to faithfully transform others. May these gifts help in the world where they are most needed. AMEN.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY:

"Thank You, Lord"

Benton Price

***THE DOXOLOGY:**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise all creatures here below; praise him above you heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. AMEN.

HOLY COMMUNION

***COMMUNION PRAYER:**

L: O Lord, you have searched and known us; when we sit down and when we rise up; you are acquainted with all our ways. You lay your hand upon us. You knit us together in the womb.

Blessed be Jesus our Christ who loved us even at the cost of his own life. He was crucified for our sins and died, but by your grace, O God, he was raised from the dead for our sake.

WELCOME

Peace United Church of Christ

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Today-September 7th

Worship: Pastor Paula

Reader: Pastor Paula

Fellowship: Potluck

Organist: Laura Moser

Ushers: Dean, Joanne Gray

Opening/Closing: Pastor Paula

PRAYER LIST: Bob, Cheryl, Greg Anderson, Eli Belser, Betty Buchholz, Jonah Burns and Burns family, Deb Dennler, Wayne & Kim Frentress, Karen Glesne, Linda Glesne, Ruth Grau, Penny Jacobson, Dee Koehn, Jerry Koons, Joyce M., Pat M., Ruth Olson, Elaine Radloff, Sharon Reichert, Father James, Fred, Elaine Possehl, Roger

NEXT SUNDAY: following worship, there is a mtg. for those interested in re-starting the SEEKERS group.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

AFTER WORSHIP TODAY: meeting of Fall Festival committee. All are welcome to join!

Monday-Wednesday—Becky will not be in church office but works Thursday and Friday. Pastor Paula will cover the office hours Monday-Wednesda

MONDAY: 9 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. Office open
5:30 p.m. Barbershop Singers
7:15 p.m. Boy Scouts

TUESDAY: 8 a.m.- 10:45 a.m. Church office open
11 a.m.-Clergy Text Study
1 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Church office open

WEDNESDAY: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Church office open
1 p.m. BULLETIN DEADLINE
5:30-6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
6:30-7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Office open—Becky will be in the office this Thursday only.

FRIDAY: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Office open—Becky will be in the office this Friday only.
Pastor's Day off

SATURDAY: Worship Preparation Day

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BEGINNING TNIS MONDAY: Weekly Grief Support Group: 5:30-7 pm. every Monday evening through Dec. 1st, 2025 at St. Joseph Parish Center, Elkader.