

A still life photograph featuring a bundle of wheat and autumn leaves tied together with a piece of twine. The bundle is positioned on the left side of the frame. The wheat stalks are golden-brown and some have heads. Several autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and brown are scattered around the bundle and on the surface. The background is a textured, brown fabric, possibly burlap, with visible stitching along the edges. The overall lighting is warm and golden, creating a cozy and rustic atmosphere.

Holy Communion
Thanksgiving Day
November 25, 2021
10:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

We welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ as we gather to hear God's holy Word and celebrate the meal of Holy Communion. 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. Should you have no church home, you are invited to consider Grace. We encourage you to fill out the perforated page on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering plate. Welcome!

Children's resources, including activity bags, worship bulletins and booster seats, are available in the narthex and from the ushers.

Altar Flowers

The mum plants in the chancel are given in loving memory of Walter and Maxine Christopher, Nancy Christopher, and Lottie Goraj, by their family.

Assistance in Worship: For those who find it difficult to stand during any part of the service, please remain seated and contact an usher if you would like Holy Communion to be brought to you. Sound enhancement units are available in the back of the church. Large print bulletins are available from the ushers in the back of the church and at the Division Street door.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices. Thank you.

In Holy Communion the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. All baptized Christians are invited to the table where Christ himself is host. If you desire to be baptized, or to learn more about Holy Baptism, please speak to one of the pastors.

Grace Council Statement on Racism: 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.

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE: Variations on “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Jacques Berthier

We stand and face the processional cross as we sing.

ENTRANCE HYMN: Come, You Thankful People, Come

(green) **LBW #407**

Concertato by Michael D. Costello

Stanza three is sung by the choir.



- 1 Come, you thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
- 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield.
- 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
- 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to your fi - nal har - vest home.



All is safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way,
 Gath - er all your peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in your gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all your an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR. George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- 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: Glory to God

Setting by Richard Hillert

We sing the Refrain as printed below; the choir sings the verses.

C Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his
peo - ple on earth.

Choir Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

C REFRAIN

Choir Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

C REFRAIN

Choir For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

C REFRAIN

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Let us pray.
Almighty God our Father,
your generous goodness comes to us new every day.
By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness,
give thanks for your benefits,
and serve you in willing obedience;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

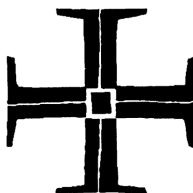
We sit.

FIRST READING: Joel 2:21–27

²¹Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! ²²Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. ²³O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. ²⁴The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. ²⁵I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. ²⁶You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. ²⁷You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

℣ The Word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.



PSALM 126 ANTIPHON: The LORD has done great things for us.

Michael D. Costello

- ℣ When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,*
then were we like | those who dream.
- ☩ Then was our mouth | filled with laughter,*
and our tongue with | shouts of joy.
- ℣ Then they said a- | mong the nations,*
“The LORD has done great | things for them.”
- ☩ The LORD has done great | things for us,*
and we are | glad indeed.
- ℣ Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,*
like the watercourses | of the Negev.
- ☩ Those who | sowed with tears*
will reap with | songs of joy.
- ℣ Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,*
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1–7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

We stand, facing the procession for the Gospel Reading.

GOSPEL VERSE: 2 Corinthians 9:8

Richard Hillert

Alleluia. God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. Alleluia.

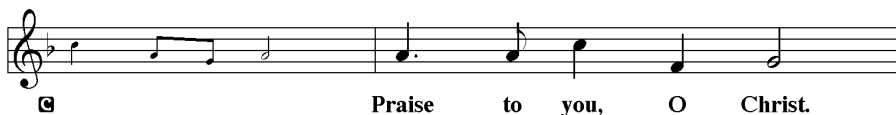
HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 6:25–33

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.



²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: At the Harvest, in the Autumn

Stanza three is sung by the choir.



1. At the har - vest, in the au - tumn, at the
2. In the win - ter, in the still - ness, in a
3. When the buds a - long the tree branch re - main
4. We may rage and we may sor - row, feel new
5. Anx - ious souls, trust your Cre - a - tor, the great



wan - ing of the year, as we come to count our
bar - ren, cold new year, as we wait and watch, we
brown and tight - ly furled, when the wa - ters from the
grief each time we wake. The old friends we love may
God of bound-less grace. Whose re - deem - ing love can



bles - ings, we con - front the an - cient fear:
wor - ry, will the spring - time soon ap - pear?
rain - storms rise and flood fa - mil - iar worlds.
leave us, we may live with hearts that ache.
en - ter ev - 'ry dark and lone - ly place.



Is there e - nough— the bush - els laid up— will they
Where is the light, the voice that called us from the
And when the sum - mer's heat o'er-takes us, when our
Yet Christ is here and walks be - side us, knows our
Praise Love un - chang - ing, Love e - ter - nal, Love im -



last un - til the spring? Can we tru - ly count on
dim light of the womb? Will God come to lead the
souls are parched and dry. Oh, where is the God who
an - ger and our pain. And is pres - ent and made
me - di - ate and strong. Love that reach - es in - to



God for e - nough of ev - 'ry - thing?
way through the dark - ness and the gloom?
an - swers when his chil - dren ask him why?
known in what can - not be ex - plained.
hearts and turns weep - ing in - to song.

Tune: Harvest Time, by Carl F. Schalk. Copyright © 2014 by GIA Publications, Inc.
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AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

P On this Thanksgiving Day,
we gather as the children of God
to give thanks for the gifts God has provided for us.
Above all, we give thanks for God's gracious call to each of us in holy baptism.
We affirm our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
and receive a reminder of our baptism into Christ in the rite of sprinkling.

P Let us pray.
Merciful God,
we thank you for making us your own by water and the Word in baptism.
You have called us to yourself,
enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished us in the community of faith.
Uphold us in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **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.**

P You have made public profession of your faith.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

C **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

P People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

C **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit
you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,

the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C Amen.

We sing as water is sprinkled as a reminder of our baptism. The sign of the cross may be made.

[illegible]

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

A Lord, in your mercy,

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.

✠ MEAL ✠

PEACE OF CHRIST

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

We sit.

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY: We Praise You, O God

Setting by Michael Burkhardt

We stand as the gifts are presented.

OFFERTORY VERSE: Psalm 148:9–13

Richard Hillert

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
Beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!
Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and maidens together, old men and children!
Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;
His glory is above earth and heaven.

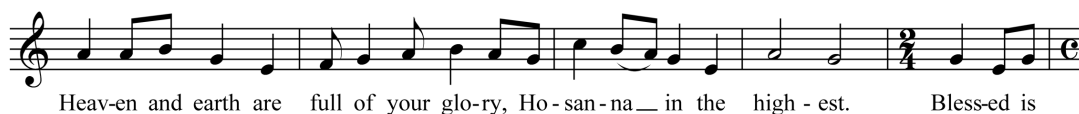
OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** Let us pray. Merciful Father,
C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—
our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.
Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary
 that we should at all times and in all places
 offer thanks and praise to you,
 O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord;
 who overcame death and the grave,
 and by his glorious resurrection
 opened to us the way of everlasting life.
 And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff is in 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "(organ) Christ has died; Christ is risen,". The second staff is in 3/4 time, also starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It contains the melody for the second line: "Christ will come a - - - gain!". The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating long notes or rests.

P Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

- P** To you, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

(organ) A - - - men, A - - - men, A - - - - - men.

- P** Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom as Jesus taught us.

Our Fa-ther, who art in heav-en, hal-low'd be thy name; thy king-dom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heav-en. Give us this day our dai - ly bread;
and for-give us our tres-pass-es as we for-give those who tres-pass a-gainst us;
and lead us not in - to temp-ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil,

- P** Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day.
In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety
as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

For the king - dom, the pow'r and the glo - ry are—
yours, now and for - ev - - - er.

P The gifts of God for the people of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Come, for all is now ready.

We sit.

AGNUS DEI

The musical score for the Agnus Dei is written in 3/4 time. It begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff is marked "(organ)" and contains a melodic line. The second staff is marked "(sung twice)" and contains a vocal line. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us." The third staff is marked "(last time)" and contains a vocal line. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, grant us peace." The score ends with a double bar line.

(organ)

(sung twice)

Lamb of God,

you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us.

(last time)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes you to this meal of the baptized. The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper, giving us his true body and blood as food and drink.

Please remove your mask as you approach the head of the aisle, where we receive the consecrated wafer and then drink from one of the individual cups.

Non-alcoholic wine is in the center of the tray.

Those with a gluten allergy may pick up a gluten-free host from the table at the head of the aisle.

MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION

ANTHEM: Psalm 150

Setting by Paul D. Weber

Choir Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

C **REFRAIN** (*below*)



C Let ev - 'ry - thing that has breath praise the Lord, Hal - le - lu - jah!

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Choir Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy temple;
Praise him in the firmament of his power.

C **REFRAIN**

Choir Praise him for his mighty acts;
Praise him for his excellent greatness.

C **REFRAIN**

Choir Praise him with the blast of the ram's horn;
Praise him with lyre and harp.
Praise him with timbrel and dance;
Praise him with strings and pipe.

C **REFRAIN**

Choir Praise him with resounding cymbals;
Praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

C **REFRAIN**

HYMN: We Plow the Fields and Scatter

(green) **LBW #362**

HYMN: For the Fruit of All Creation

(green) **WOV #760**



We stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

A Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart,
and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ.
Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day
and evermore; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

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

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN: Now Thank We All our God

(green) **LBW #533**

Concertato by Michael D. Costello

Stanza two is sung by the choir.



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

DISMISSAL

- A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: Now Thank We All Our God

Paul Manz

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. David R. Lyle, presiding minister
The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, preaching minister
Julie Hinz, assisting minister
Paulette Reddel, deacon
Rhea Sprecher and Mary Beth Logas, lectors
Ryan Koehne and Raya Conley, crucifer/bible bearer
Donna Serpico, gift bearer
Donna Serpico and Jane Andrew, preparing the altar
The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor
Jeremy Zimmer, assistant cantor
Christian Anderson and Candace Horton, trumpeters
Tim Coffman and Bradley Payne, trombonists
Tina Laughlin, timpanist
Anne Claud and Al Swanson, livestream audio/video

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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
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CHURCH
& SCHOOL

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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
José Meza, Technology Manager