

Grace Lutheran Church

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Unity, Not Sameness

In the Gospel of John, Jesus' last prayer before his arrest is a prayer for unity: May they be one, as we are one (John 17:22). His prayer continues to be relevant for us. We are divided along countless lines—race and ethnicity, political ideology, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, class, and more. Suspicion, resentment, and outright hatred harden these lines and tear us apart. What's worse, Christians have made even our faith a basis for separation. Differences in theology, church governance, and positions on social issues have divided the body of Christ. The Apostle Paul once asked, "Has Christ been divided?" (1 Cor. 1:13). The church in our time seems to say, Yes!

On this day we remember that we have a God who loves us as we are and desires our good. Just as mothers delight in their children for their own sake, with their own unique personalities and attributes, so God delights in each of us. For us to be united, we need not all look, act, play, vote, love, work, pray, or even believe exactly alike. In fact, for the body of Christ to be whole, it needs a diversity of members. "If all were a single member, where would the body be?" (1 Cor. 12:19). Our unity is different from homogeneity. It is love, rejoicing in variety.

This vision is reflected in the eucharist: Some people receive the bread in hands cupped like a bowl, others pinch it between their fingers. In some churches the bread is a thin wafer, in others a flavorful loaf. Some worshipers kneel as they receive it, others stand. Some take large gulps from a single chalice, others sip from a small cup. The difference in form and reception does not undo the unity of the worshipers—Christ's body—gathered around the bread and wine. So, in the eucharist, we can see: Jesus' prayer has begun to be answered.

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BEFORE WORSHIP

Please fill out our 2-sided Participation Card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday morning. The purpose for this card is two-fold: 1) to help the Shepherds determine who has not been in worship so that they can respond to any needs those members might have (illness, pastoral concerns, etc); and 2) to meet our visitors

7th Sunday of Easter

May 8, 2016

We celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday and throughout the year. It's because of his death and resurrection that we are assured of forgiveness from our sins, and everlasting life with God. The liturgical colors are white, a color of triumph and glory, and gold, a color of joy.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre-service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able.

Gathering Music

Soli Deo Gloria

ELW 878 (red book)

Choir sings verse 1

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

Now the Feast and Celebration

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

Refrain

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

Refrain

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

Refrain

God; to make all things new.

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray . . . O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will.

G Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

First Reading: Acts 16:16-34

The owners of a slave-girl who used her powers to tell fortunes threw Paul and Silas into jail for “healing” her and, consequently, ruining their business. In prison, Paul and Silas bring the good news of the gospel to the jailer and his family.

L A reading from **Acts**:

¹⁶One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.” ¹⁸She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it

came out that very hour. ¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews ²¹and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.” ²²The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” ²⁹The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹They answered, “Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³²They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

▲ The word of the Lord.

■ Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 97

All Sing Refrain

Cantor sings verses/light print




¹The LORD reigns; let the | earth rejoice;
let the multitude of the | isles be glad.

²Clouds and darkness sur- | round the LORD,
righteousness and justice are the foundations | of God’s throne.

³**Fire goes be- | fore the LORD,**
burning up enemies on | every side.

⁴**Lightnings light | up the world;**
the earth | sees and trembles.

⁵The mountains | melt like wax
before the Lord of | all the earth.

⁶The heavens declare your righteous- | ness, O LORD,
and all the peoples | see your glory. 


⁷**Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight | in false gods!**
Bow down before the LORD, | all you gods.

⁸**Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju- | dah rejoice,**
because of your judg- | ments, O LORD.

⁹For you are the LORD, most high over | all the earth;
you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.

¹⁰You who love the | LORD, hate evil!
God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand | of the wicked.

¹¹**Light dawns | for the righteous,**
and joy for the hon- | est of heart.


¹²**Rejoice in the | LORD, you righteous,**
and give thanks to God's | holy name. 

Second Reading: Revelation 22:12-14, 67-17, 20-21

The ascended Christ, hidden from our sight, promises to come again. We eagerly pray, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus," with all who respond to this invitation.

 A reading from **Revelation**:

¹²"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." ¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. ¹⁶"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." ¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. ²⁰The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

 The word of the Lord.

 **Thanks be to God.**

Stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

Congregation:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, - Lord to whom shall we

go? _____ You have the words of e - ter - nal

life: Al - le - lu - ia! _____

Gospel Reading: John 17:20-26

Jesus prays that the life of his followers will be characterized by an intimate unity of identity with God. To be so identified with God means also to share in God's mission: to proclaim the word that will bring others into this same unity.

☐ The Gospel according to **John**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus prayed:] ²⁰“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵“Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Children's Message

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children's sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children's message.

Children's Church (10:45 only)

Children ages 0 to 5th grade are invited to follow our volunteers to the Elementary Classroom for a brief lesson. Parents of children 3 and under should accompany their child. The children will rejoin worship during the passing of the peace.

Message

Stand as you are able.

Kneel or sit as you are able.

The Prayers

Prayer Response

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from
death in - to life.

A Rooted in the abundant life and love of Christ Jesus, we pray for the life of the church, the lives of people in need, and the life of all creation.

A brief silence.

A God of renewal, fill us to overflowing with the grace we receive in word, in water, in the meal. Draw others to join the life we share in your church. Bless the faithfulness of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Sarah; our companion churches, Ascension Lutheran Church in Saginaw, St Cyril Catholic Church in Nashville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul. Hear us, O God.

C (prayer response).

A Declare your righteousness through the blossoming of creation. By the joyful songs of all that you have made, inspire us to join in the hymn of all creation. Hear us, O God,

C (prayer response).

A Be the source of all strength and peace for people who are imprisoned. Renew them with the overwhelming power of your salvation, and give them release for their spirits. Protect those who serve in the military, especially Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Andrew Dean. Hear us, O God,

C (prayer response).

A Reveal yourself to those who feel isolated because of illness, grief, status, or the prejudice of others. Comfort and welcome them into your Spirit-filled community. We pray especially for *Dean Wenk, Marcia Morgan, Sandy Thomas, Al Miller, John Burdick, Cynthia Hansen, Dave Hills, John Robert Kleinbrink, Karl Golnek, Rick Palmer, Kathy Ryan and Dave Gilby*.. Hear us, O God,

C (prayer response).

A Bless those who serve in a mothering role for others. Send your Spirit to those who mourn, who have not known their mothers, or who long to be a mother. Hear us, O God,

C (prayer response).

A Gracious God, hear the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Hear us, O God,

C (prayer response).

A You draw all the saints into your presence. Draw us into the mystery and wonder of your presence until Christ comes again. Hear us, O God,

C (prayer response).

P We deliver all this into your care, O God, trusting in the work of your Holy Spirit to bring all things into the risen life of Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Stand as you are able.

Sharing the Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

(We share the peace of the risen Lord with one another.)

Sit

Offering of Gifts & Music

Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill it out and place a Participation Card in the offering plate every Sunday morning.

After the usher passes your pew, you are invited to drop your coins in the metal bowl at the front of the nave. These gifts are sent to Barry County Cares.

Stand as you are able.

Offering Song

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465 (red book)

Offertory Prayer

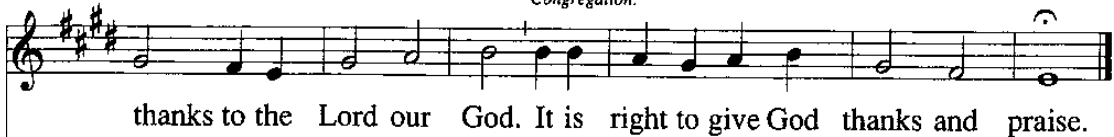
A Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

C Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

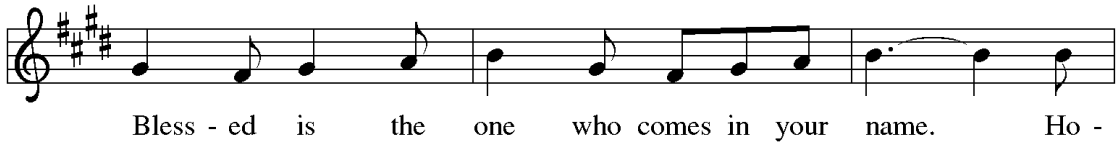
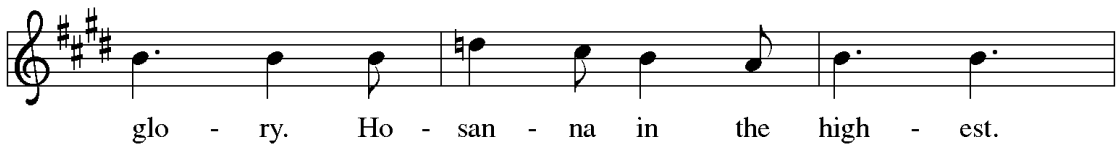
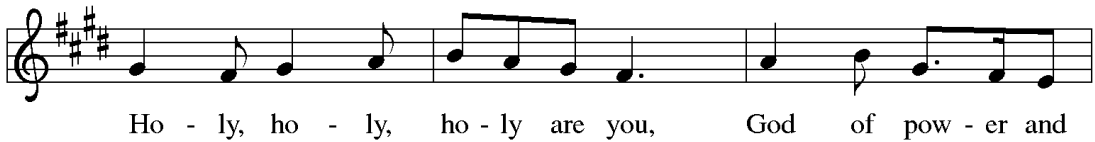
Great Thanksgiving

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a 4/4 time signature. The first measure is a whole rest, labeled "Presider:". The second measure is a half note G4, labeled "Congregation:". The rest of the staff contains a melody of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." are written below the staff. The second staff also begins with a treble clef, the same key signature, and 4/4 time signature. It starts with a half note G4, labeled "Presider:". The rest of the staff contains a melody of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give" are written below the staff, with "Presider:" above the final measure.

Congregation:



☐ It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and earth and gave life to all creation, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and joint their unending hymn:



Eucharistic Prayer

☐ You are indeed holy, gracious and merciful God, creator of heaven and earth; everything, everywhere is filled with your glory. We give you thanks for the promise you gave to our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah, that through their descendants you would bless the whole family on earth. We give thanks for the steadfast love you showed to their offspring: You delivered them from Egypt, bound yourself to them in covenant, sent them liberators and prophets, brought them home from exile.

When the time had fully come, you kept your promise by sending Jesus, born of Mary, who in word and deed announced your gentle rule of justice and peace. He was obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

We remember how on the night of his betrayal 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. 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 his command that we love one another, his life and death, and his glorious resurrection and ascension, we pray for his coming again even as we cry: Amen, Come Lord Jesus; Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

Congregation:

A - men, Come Lord Je - sus; A -

men, Come Lord Je - sus.

☐ Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation. Empower us by that same Spirit to love and forgive, that our lives may anticipate that day when you will make all things new. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Congregation:

A - men. Come, Ho - ly

Spir - it. A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.

☐ Gather our prayers with those of the apostles, prophets, martyrs, and all the faithful who have gone before us, and unite them with the unceasing prayer of the One who lives in us and in whom we live, Jesus Christ.

Congregation:

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, _____ in the
u-ni-ty of the Spir-it all glo-ry and hon-or is
yours, O God, now and for-ev-er, _____
A - - - men. _____

Lord's Prayer

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

☑ **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation To Communion

☐ The table of life is spread before you. Feast on the goodness and mercy of God.

Communion at Grace

All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.

✠ **Bread** is served by the Pastor. **Wine** is served from a *common cup* by the Assisting Minister.

✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.

✠ If you prefer wine from the *pouring chalice* in an **individual cup**, take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Worship Assistant. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.

✠ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.

✠ A **Verbal Blessing** may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.

✠ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the usher.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us,
 mer-cy on us.

Additional Verses:

You break the chains of hatred and fear:

You are the way of justice and peace:

You are the way of mercy and love:

You are the bread of life for us all:

You pour your Holy Spirit on us:

Final time:

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

Bind Us Together

WOV 748 (blue book)

Thine The Amen

WOV 801

Now We Join in Celebration

ELW 706 (red book)

Stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

Ⓐ Let us pray . . . We give you thanks, O God, that you make your home with us, bringing heaven to earth in this holy meal.

☑ **Fill us with your Spirit as we go from here, that we may wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

Announcements

Stand as you are able

Blessing

Ⓟ The blessing of the Lord God Almighty, the blessing of † Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of truth be among you and remain with you always.

☑ **Amen.**

Godspeed from Grace

All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Sending Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing.

Sending Hymn

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

ELW 393 (red book)

Sending

Ⓐ Alleluia. Go in peace. Share the good news.

☑ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

We depart for study, service and fellowship.

If you forgot to place your Participation Card in the offering plate, you can still drop it off in the basket outside the sanctuary.

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 124

Weekly Giving: \$3,649.00

Budget

Amount: \$4,233.32

Happy Mother's Day, to all the mothers of Grace! May this day be a blessing to all of you, as you have been a blessing to us.

This coming Friday and Saturday, Grace will be a part of the Hastings annual community-yard sale. With the de-cluttering taking place throughout April at Grace, we have gathered all kinds of valuable things we would like to offer in the yard sale, to be held in our parking lot. The money gathered at this event will go towards the purchase of new carpet and flooring for the church. If you have things you would like to donate to the church for the yard sale, we would appreciate them immensely! A large part of the community of Hastings will visit us that day. We need your help and your service to greet our neighbors with joy.

Welcome Brunch for new members - Plans are underway for a welcome brunch to be held at Grace for our new members. The date has been set for Sunday, May 15th (Pentecost). The brunch will be between the 2 services. Please check the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Plan to participate and welcome our new members to the family at Grace.

Commitment Sunday is next Sunday, May 15. Time and talent sheets and commitment forms will be handed out and collected on that Sunday.

Stewardship Committee Calendar

1. Commitment Sunday ~ May 15
2. Congregation budget review & questions between services on June 5 & June 12
3. Present budget to Council for approval ~ June 17
4. Annual meeting ~ July 10

Grace's updated website is now live! check out the new website at www.grace-hastings.org

[Facebook](#) – not visited Grace's Facebook page yet? Take a look! There is all kinds of good stuff to read and plenty of "food for thought".

Worship Leadership Training - If you are currently serving or are interested in serving during worship in one of the following roles: Usher, Assistant Minister, Lector, Table/Chancel Guild or Acolyte, please join us on Saturday, May 21 at 10 am for Worship Leadership Training. The meeting will begin with an introduction from Pastor Paul on worship followed by group breakout sessions. A worship committee member will work with each group to review each role. The meeting will be completed by noon. Please sign up at the bulletin board. Any questions, please contact Lorie Gladyness (616-889-7216) or Pastor Paul.

Office calendar – it is the responsibility of each group to ensure that their events, meetings, etc are on the calendar on the office door prior to publication of the paper calendar at the end of the month.

Contribution statements will now be provided twice a year rather than quarterly as they have been in the past. The next statements will be available in early July.

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45am
Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Traci Wales
Cantor	Steve Kaiser	Vickey Argo
Lector	Chris Bush	Bill Freedlund
Communion Server	Jana Bishop	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Katie Pohl	Gabe Barnaart
Ushers	Mark/Jana Bishop Tom/Cheryl Drumm	Gary/Lisa Golnek Dollie Larsen, Mark Anton
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Steve/Peg Kaiser	John/Mary Kleinbrink
Nursery	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Children's Church
Chancel Team	Karen Halstead	Jan Schreiner

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, May 15, 2016

Assisting Ministers	David Gladyness	Vickey Argo
Cantor	Jack Vos	Kate Watson
Lector	Mary Kuhlman	Carla Neil
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Sandy Mosteller
Acolyte/Crucifer	Gavin Patton	Emmalee Peck
Ushers	Randy/Brenda Teegardin Lyle/Joyce Proksch	Mark Anton, Gwen Hansen Sandy Mosteller, Joe Longcor
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Mark/Jana Bishop	Kristi Winick, Ingrid Morgan
Nursery	Dan/Melissa Patton	Children's Church
Chancel Team	Karen Halstead	Jan Schreiner

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today May 8	Children's Church 10:45 am
Monday, May 9	Women of Faith 6:30-8:00 pm
Tuesday, May 10	Brothers of Grace 7:00-8:30 pm
Wednesday, May 11	Word Watchers 10:00 am Prayer Group 6:00 pm
Thursday, May 12	Clapper Kids 3:45 pm Grace Notes 5:45 pm Choir 7:15 pm
Friday, May 13	Hastings Community-wide yard sale
Saturday, May 14	Hastings Community-wide yard sale