

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St
Hastings MI 49058



Website: www.grace-hastings.org

Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI

Phone: (269) 945-9414

(269) 945-2645

Fax: (269) 945-2698

Pastor Paul E. Kuhlman

E-mail: gracehastingspastor@gmail.com

Peace Be with You

When we read or listen to the news, things just seem to be getting worse. Violence in homes, schools, communities, around the world. Neighbors hurting neighbors, countries declaring war, terrorists kidnapping, trafficking, murdering . . . Jesus, come back! The words of the Kyrie echo in our ears all week long: “For the peace of the whole world . . . and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.”

Jesus’ words in the gospel today sound harsh. They are not what we expect, and certainly not what we want. “Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!” (Luke 12:51).

Ever since Christmas, when the angels announced, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” (Luke 2:14), we have come to expect peace on earth from Jesus. Jesus, however, has not promised to bring peace to the earth—at least not in the sense of negotiated truces and U.N.-sponsored peace treaties. Rather, he has promised to bring peace to each one of us, deep into our hearts. But following Jesus has consequences. Sometimes, when we let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts (Col. 3:15), others around us are not so impressed. They might wish we let something or someone else rule our hearts. Perhaps they would like us to follow them instead of Jesus. Yes, the peace Jesus brings to our hearts can end up separating us from others, which doesn’t always seem to quite make sense.

The world rages on. We are all sinners. Broken relationships, broken communities, broken treaties all seem to have the upper hand. But the Holy Spirit, in its own time and own way, is working to bring the peace of Jesus to all hearts. For this peace—for ourselves, and for others—let us pray to the Lord.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23413.

13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 14, 2016

Pentecost is a season for growing represented by the color green. We celebrate the founding of the church and the fruits of the Spirit.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre-service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able.

Gathering Music

O Holy Spirit, Enter In

ELW 786 (red book)

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 . . . O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth.

☑ **Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading:

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

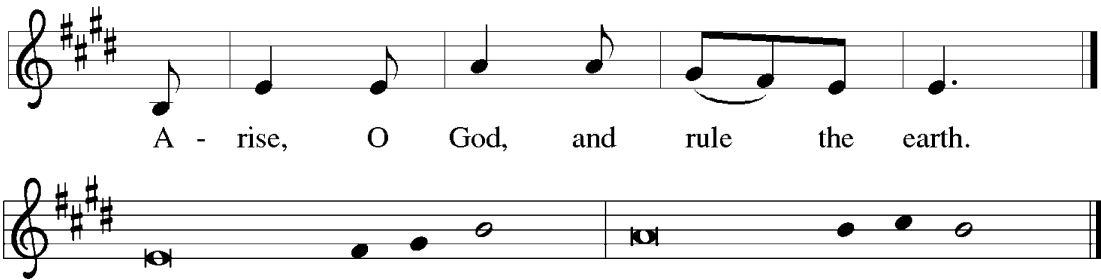
☐ A reading from **Jeremiah:**

²³ Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 82



¹God stands to charge the divine coun- | cil assembled,
giving judgment in the midst | of the gods:

²**“How long will you | judge unjustly,
and show favor | to the wicked?”**

³Save the weak | and the orphan;
defend the hum- | ble and needy;

⁴**rescue the weak | and the poor;
deliver them from the power | of the wicked. ☩**

⁵They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander a- | bout in darkness;
all the foundations of the | earth are shaken.

⁶**Now I say to you, | ‘You are gods,
and all of you children of | the Most High;**

⁷nevertheless, you shall | die like mortals,
and fall like | any prince.’”

⁸**Arise, O God, and | rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations | for your own. ☩**

Second Reading:

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

☩ A reading from **Hebrews:**

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed

by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

▣ The word of the Lord.

▣ **Thanks be to God.**

Stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading:

Luke 12:49-56

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

▣ The Gospel according to **Luke**.

▣ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴⁹ “I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

☐ 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.

Message

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword,
His truth is marching on.

CHORUS:

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!

Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watchfires of a hundred circling camps;
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps,
His day is marching on.

CHORUS

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His Judgement Seat.
Oh! Be swift, my soul, to answer Him, be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.

CHORUS

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
As he died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on.

CHORUS

Stand as you are able.

Song of the Day *God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind*

ELW 400 (red book)

Kneel or sit as you are able.

The Prayers

A Rooted in Christ and rising to serve, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A God, near to us, increase your people's passion to share how Christ transforms lives. Raise up prophets in your church, Lord, to interpret the word and the world today. Accompany our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Sarah; our companion churches throughout the world, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Traverse City, Cedar Creek Bible Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul. Hear us, O God.

G **Your mercy is great.**

A Renewing God, we pray for scorched places that need rain, those recovering from disaster, and those needing balance. Hear us, O God.

G **Your mercy is great.**

A God of power, administer justice. Pour your spirit of compassion and mercy into those who hold the lives of others in their hands. We pray for all who are persecuted or imprisoned for their faith. Protect those who serve in the military, especially Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson. Hear us, O God.

G **Your mercy is great.**

A Compassionate God, save us from being overwhelmed by addictions, medical conditions, competition, and fear. Comfort all in need in body, mind, or spirit, especially *Sue Steeby, George Ulrich Jr, Joe Rathbauer, Al Miller, Roland Curtiss, MacKenzie Maupin, Corrina Palmer, Lynnze Rudesill Nuyen, Debra Wood, Chuck Harmon, Sue Rider and Jennifer Andersen*. Hear us, O God.

G **Your mercy is great.**

A Give wisdom to our community, Lord. Help us discern your will for our life and ministry together, even when it may divide or challenge us. Hear us, O God.

G **Your mercy is great.**

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.

G **Your mercy is great.**

A We thank you, O God, for the great cloud of witnesses that surrounds us. Gather us with all the saints around your throne on the last day. Hear us, O God.

G **Your mercy is great.**

P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting your promise to hear us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

G **Amen.**

Stand as you are able.

Sharing the Peace

☞ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☞ **And also with you.**

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

Sit

Offering of Gifts & Music

Noisy Offering

Those who desire, come forward and place your noisy offering in the pan on the stand next to the organ. Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill it out and place a Participation Card in the offering plate every Sunday morning.

Stand as you are able.

Offertory Hymn

We Are an Offering

ELW 692 (red book)

Offertory Prayer

☞ Let us pray . . . God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing.

☞ **Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. 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 God thanks and praise.**

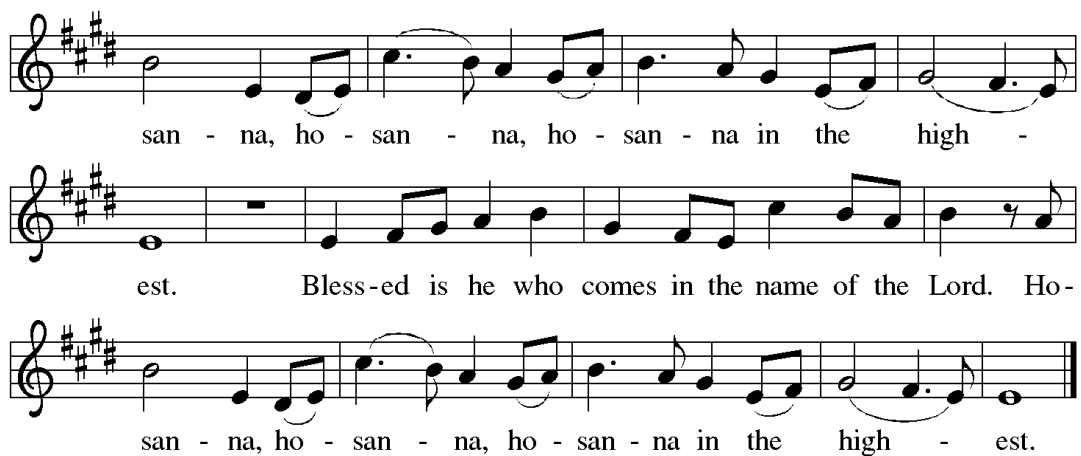
☞ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

☒ Blessed are you, Holy God, the First and Last, life's Beginning and its End. You called us to live as your people and promised to be our God. When time and again we failed to trust your promise and refused to walk in your ways,

☑ **you sent your Word made flesh, the root and offspring of David, to dwell among us and draw us back to you.**

☒ 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."

☑ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

☒ 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."

☑ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

☒ Send now your Holy Spirit upon these gifts and all who share this meal. By your Spirit wipe away all tears and mend with mercy what sin has torn apart.

☑ **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

☒ We await Christ's coming with glad and joyful hearts.

☑ **And we long to feast forever at the Supper of the Lamb. Amen.**

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:

☞ Christ invites you to a place of honor at this banquet. Welcome to the feast of the Lord

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.

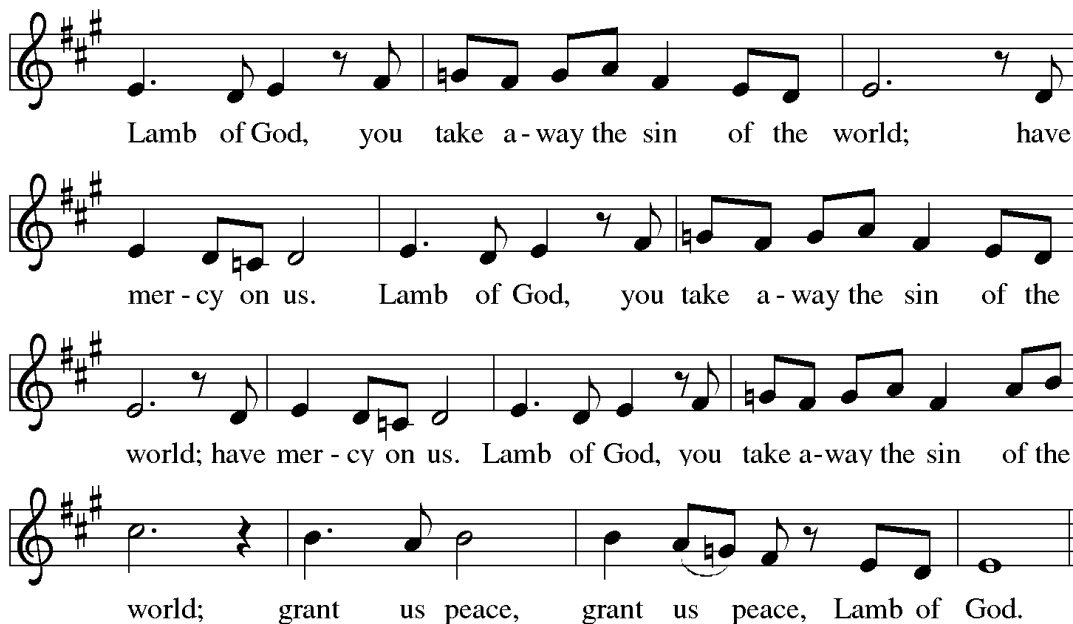
☞ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.

☞ 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.

Sit

Lamb of God



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

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 479 (red book)

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

ELW 814

Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

ELW 492

Stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . O God, as a mother comforts her child, so you comfort your people, carrying us in your arms and satisfying us with this food and drink, the body and blood of Christ.
- ☒ **Send us now as your disciples, announcing peace and proclaiming that the reign of God has come near; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

Announcements

Stand as you are able

Blessing

- Ⓟ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
- ☒ **Amen.**

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

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660 (red book)

Sending

- Ⓐ Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.
- ☒ **Thanks be to God.**

We depart for study, service and fellowship.

Civil War Music: The Battle Hymn of the Republic

Of all the songs written during and about the War, perhaps none is as strongly identified with the Union cause today as Julia Ward Howe's stirring "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." For over 138 years this song has been a fixture in patriotic programs and is still sung in schools and churches across the nation.

In the early days of the War, the song "John Brown's Body" was wildly popular. Although in its original incarnation it had nothing to do with the notorious abolitionist leader hanged at Harpers Ferry on December 2, 1859, it became inextricably identified with him and acquired new verses that were sung by Federal troops and Union sympathizers alike. The tune was borrowed from an old Methodist hymn, "Say, Brothers, Will You Meet Us?" by William Steffe.

In November of 1861, Julia Ward Howe, the daughter of a well-to-do New York City banker, was touring Union army camps near Washington, D.C. with Reverend James Freeman Clarke and with her husband, Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, who was a member of President Lincoln's Military Sanitary Commission and a fervent abolitionist. During the course of their camp visit, the group began to sing some of the currently popular war songs, among them "John Brown's Body." In one of those rare flashes of inspiration that leave their mark on the history of a nation, Reverend Clarke was moved to suggest that Mrs. Howe pen new lyrics to the familiar tune. She replied that she had often thought of doing just exactly that.

The following morning, as Mrs. Howe later described it, she "awoke...in the gray of the early dawn, and to my astonishment found that the wished-for lines were arranging themselves in my brain. I lay quite still until the last verse had completed itself in my thoughts, then hastily arose, saying to myself, 'I shall lose this if I don't write it down immediately.'"

Mrs. Howe's lyrics first appeared on the front page of the Atlantic Monthly in February of 1862. Editor James T. Fields, who paid her \$5 for the piece, is credited with having given the song the name by which it is known today.

After the war, Mrs. Howe was active in the women's suffrage movement. In 1868, she founded the New England Women's Club and was one of the founders of the New England Women's Suffrage Association. She was much in demand as a lecturer. Although she continued her writing, nothing she produced ever achieved the popularity of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." She died October 17, 1910, at the age of 91.

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:00am
Assisting Ministers	Randy Teegardin	Vickey Argo
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	John Burdick	Joyce Daugherty
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Sandy Mosteller
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Jack Barnaart
Ushers	Randy/Brenda Teegardin	Mark Anton, Gwen Hansen
	John Burdick, Kay Marsh	Joe Longcor, Sandy Mosteller
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Steve/Peg Kaiser	Ingrid Morgan, Kristi Winick
Nursery	Cheryl Drumm	Volunteers needed
Chancel Team	Chris Bush	Pastor Paul

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, August 21, 2016

Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Connor Wales
Cantor	Steve Kaiser	Kate Watson
Lector	Carl Schoessel	Sandy Mosteller
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Katie Pohl	Hope Peck
Usher	Dan/Melissa Patton	Doug/Diane Neeb
	Gavin, Grayson Patton	Dave Neeb, Ed Domke
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Chris Bush	John/Mary Kleinbrink
Nursery	Volunteers needed	Steve/Traci Wales
Chancel Team	Chris Bush	Pastor Paul

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, August 14	Worship at 8:00 & 10:00 am
Tuesday, August 16	Congregation Council, 6:00 pm @ Bishop's Home
Wednesday, August 17	Prayer group 6:00 pm in Sanctuary
Saturday, August 20	Worship Committee—Hymn Selection

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 119 Weekly Giving: \$3,238.00 Budget Amount: \$4,233.32

Grace Pictorial Directory – Community Outreach has programmed a new photo directory for Grace. Picture dates have been set for **September 22, 23 and 24**. There is no charge for the directory photograph and each person/family is given a free 8x10 portrait of the picture that will appear in the directory. Schedule your appointment at the table in the narthex/Gathering Space, or online by clicking on the icon on Grace’s website (www.grace-hastings.org).

Noisy-Offering Sunday –The monies collected helps Barry County Cares, an ecumenical ministry, assist with some of the needs of the poor in our area.

Building Renovation—the time has come, the planning is complete and we have set a start date for the much talked-about building renovations. Mark August 27th on your calendar, the date we begin tearing down and rebuilding the Narthex area (Gathering Area).

Renovation Volunteers needed—we are needing volunteers to help with painting and the construction projects. If you can help with either, please sign up on the lists posted next to the mail boxes or complete the back of the Participation Card. If you have any questions please see Doug Neeb.

Pre-K and early 5’s Backpack Project—we are collecting items for the backpack program and you can find the list of those items in the Gathering Space, next to the coffee. We need those items at the church as soon as possible, no later than August 28. If you want to donate money to this ministry, just write out your check to Grace Lutheran Church and mark “backpacks” in the memo area. A box can be found in the narthex to collect your donation of school items.

Backpack Project—is a ministry of Grace. We need members to welcome the children and their parents and help them choose the items they want in their own backpack. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board, and you can sign up for one or more 2-hour blocks over the distribution dates, August 29 – September 2. Another great opportunity for opening a dialogue with the community.

Grace will NOT participate in the Hastings’ SummerFest this year. We hope to be involved next year.