

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Rev. Paul E. Kuhlman, Pastor  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

## **Messy Communities, Blessed Communities**

Churches are made up of people. That may be their biggest strength and their biggest weakness. When we work together with other people, whether in a business, a family, or a church, things can get complicated quickly. Having people around can lighten our individual load, but it can also add frustrations and headaches. In a group, we have a variety of gifts, resources, and people to support us, but we also must prepare to be challenged by others' ideas, personalities, and failings. For some people, that's enough to want to stay away from church altogether.

Today's gospel presents the messy work of community as the very place where we learn how to follow Christ and be in communion with God. Here Jesus instructs his disciples on how to resolve differences and how to make decisions together. He points to God's commitment to this process—standing behind us in the choices we make and promising always to be present when we gather. Sometimes we can be quick to read things differently, taking our conflicts as a sign of God's absence. But God gives us one another in community as a way to learn what it means to love the way Christ loved us. Through community, we receive grace.

As you prepare for worship, take a moment to pray. Thank God for the community of people around you. For their faults that give you the opportunity to learn how to love. For the gift of their patience when you are the one who needs to be loved. Look for opportunities to strengthen your connection with people in this community you don't know so well, or if you are new to this gathering, ponder what God's call to the blessings of community means for you at this moment in your life.

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# 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 10, 2017

*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 Song

## *In Christ Alone*

LUYH 770

1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my  
2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh— full - ness of  
3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the  
4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the

light, my strength, my song— this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id  
God in help - less babel— this gift of love and right - eous -  
world by dark - ness slain; then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious  
power of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fin - al

ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of  
ness, scorned by the ones he came to save. 'Til on the  
day, up from the grave he rose a - gain! And as he  
breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny. No power of

G D G A Bm  
G Em7 A D G D G  
A Bm G Em7 A D

love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv-ings  
 cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -  
 stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on  
 hell, no hu - man plan, can ev - er pluck me from his

cease. My com - fort - er, my all in all,  
 fied. For ev - ery sin on him was laid;  
 me; for I am his and he is mine,  
 hand; 'till he re - turns or calls me home,

here in the love of Christ I stand.  
 here in the death of Christ I live.  
 bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.  
 here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

### 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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy.

☑ Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Sit*

## First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-11

*God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.*

### 📖 A reading from **Ezekiel**:

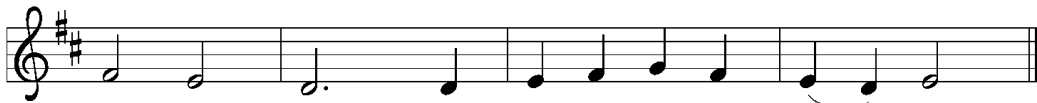
<sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 119:33-40



I de - sire the path of your com - mand - ments.



<sup>33</sup>Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it | to the end.

<sup>34</sup>**Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;**  
**I shall keep it with | all my heart.**


<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of | your commandments,  
for that is | my desire.

<sup>36</sup>**Incline my heart to | your decrees**  
**and not to | unjust gain. 📖**

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;  
give me life | in your way.

<sup>38</sup>**Fulfill your promise | to your servant,**  
**which is for | those who fear you.**

<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach | that I dread,  
because your judg- | ments are good.

<sup>40</sup>**Behold, I long for | your commandments;**  
**by your righteousness en- | liven me. **

## Second Reading

**Romans 13:8-14**

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

### A reading from **Romans:**

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

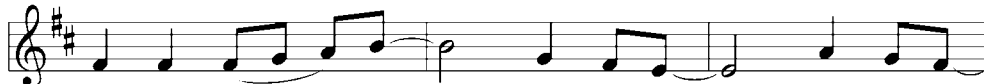
<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

 The word of the Lord.

 **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## 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.

## Gospel Reading

**Matthew 18:15-20**

*Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should show wrongdoers their need for repentance.*

📖 The Holy Gospel, according to **Matthew**.

🔊 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among 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.*

## Message

*Silence for reflection*

**Song of the Day**

*In All Our Grief*

**ELW 615** (red book)

*Kneel or sit as able.*

## Prayers

🔊 Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God’s creation.

*A brief silence.*

🔊 We pray for the church universal. Reconcile our differences. Forgive our divisions. Unite us at your table. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David, Chrysanne and Sarah, our companion churches in Latvia, Honduras and Papua New Guinea; Lutheran Church of the Savior in Kalamazoo, Nashville Assembly of God;* and Minister of Music Cindy. Pour out your spirit of courage and faith upon the leader you will call for service to Grace. Lord in your mercy,

🔊 **hear our prayer.**

**A** For your creation. Increase our stewardship of all that you have given to us. Let the earth flourish for those who come after us. Be present with those feeling the effects of the hurricanes and forest fires, and give strength to those who are serving in relief efforts. Lord in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayers.**

**A** For peace in the world. End conflicts among nations. Help leaders and citizens truly to listen to one another and to act for the good of all. Teach us by your example. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, especially *Myrina Clements, Lance and Kayla Champaco, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten*. Lord in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayers.**

**A** For all those in need. Bind up our hurts. Heal divisions in our families, friendships, and neighborhoods. Comfort those who need your special care. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Victoria Steadman, Danny Gillons, Kris Gilbert, Barbara Macaully, Janice English, Kathy & Ken Plourde, Judy & Bill Heil and Jeanne & Ron Bush*. Lord in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayers.**

**A** For this congregation. Make us signs of your love and forgiveness in this community and in the world. Help us to grow in our love for one another. *We ask your blessing of discernment and wisdom upon our Call Committee, and patience for our congregation while we wait for our next Pastor. Let your will be heard clearly by all involved in this process.* Lord in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayers.**

**A** Be attentive, gracious God, to the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** Lord in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayers.**

**A** In thanksgiving for all the faithful witnesses who put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Keep us faithful until the day we rejoice in your majesty with them. Lord in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayers.**

**P** Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## **Offering of Gifts and Music**

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

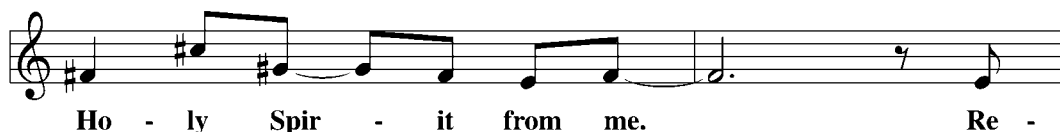
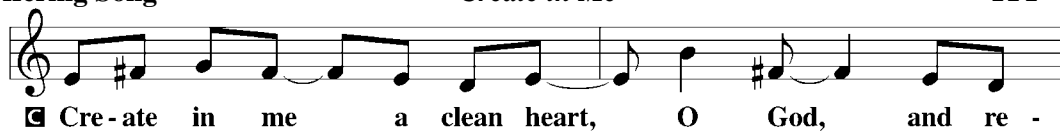
*After the usher passes your pew, you are invited to drop your coins in the metal bowl at the front of the nave. These gifts are sent to Barry County Cares.*

*Stand as you are able.*



**Offering Song***Create in Me*

TFF

**Offering Prayer**

**A** Let us pray . . . God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor.

**G** Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen

*Stand as you are able*

**Sharing the Peace of God**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**G** And also with you.

*(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)*

## 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 our 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, Lord God of pow-er and might.



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



san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer

Ⓟ Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation everything was whole and well in your praise.

Ⓢ **When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.**

Ⓟ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; He 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.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death,

Ⓢ **we await that day when all the people of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.**

- ☐ Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
- ☑ **let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.**
- ☐ Through him all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
- ☑ **both now and forever. Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

- ☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us always to pray:
- ☑ **Our Father in heaven, holy 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

- ☐ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

#### *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, have mer-cy on us.

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

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

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

*In the Singing*

*Here is Bread*

ELW 470 (red book)

ELW 466

ELW 483

*Stand as you are able.*

### Prayer after Communion

**Ⓐ** Let us pray . . . Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous.

**☐** May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

*Sit*

## Congregational Announcements

*Stand as you are able.*

### Blessing

☐ God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☑ **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 Song

*Christ, Be Our Light*

**ELW 715** (red book)

### Dismissal

☐ Go in peace. Sound the good news.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

### THIS WEEK AT GRACE

**Today, September 17**

Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am

Children's Church 10:45 am

**Monday, September 18**

LACS rehearsal 6:30-9:00 pm

Youth & Families committee 6:30 – 8:00 pm

**Tuesday, September 19**

Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm

Council 6:00 pm

Women of Faith 6:30 pm

### Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 71

Weekly Giving: \$2,191.00

Budget Amount: \$4,181.22

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of sugar, canned pasta (ie, ravioli, spaghetti-o's, etc) , instant mashed potatoes.

**Noisy Offering** benefiting Barry County Cares will be received during worship this morning.

**Children's Church** starts up again this Sunday at the 10:45 service. The children will be dismissed at their usual time (after the Children's Message), then we will have the Offering right after the Prayers, THEN sharing of the peace, and then the children come back in.

**Brothers of Grace** will begin meeting on Tuesday, September 12, from 7-8:30 p.m. at Grace. All fellows over 18 are welcome for fellowship, devotional, light snack, and a "bit" of story telling for sure. If you have questions, please contact Joe Longcor.

**Bell Basics Ring-a-Long** Thursday, September 14, 5:30-8:00 pm, for all youth (minimum of 4<sup>th</sup> grade), new adults interested in exploring the bells and handchimes, parents of interested students and for past adult members who would like some review. Please contact Kim Domke, 269-908-0024, if you have questions or you are planning to come.

The next Grace **Adopt-a-Highway** will be Saturday, September 16. We'll meet at the church at 8:45 and leave for the site at 9:00 a.m. We will likely be done about 10:30 a.m. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the coffee area. Any questions...please ask or call Joe Longcor (269)623-2348.

**Congregational Care Committee** will meet on Monday, September 25 at 3:00 pm. Please contact Sharon Varkula, Committee Chair, with any questions.

**PLEASE SAVE the DATE for CROP WALK October 8, 2017.** Grace Lutheran is hosting this event for Barry County and we need your help to welcome 10-15 churches and up to 300 people. You can sign up to donate food or be a volunteer the day of the event. You can participate as a walker by signing up with Kim Domke or on line <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/hastingsmi>

**Donations will be collected Sept 17 – October 8. Checks should be written to CWS-CROP** Please see the board in the Gathering Space for more details, or talk with Kim Domke.

**Pastor Paul and Mary Kuhlman** would like to thank the members of Grace for the wonderful "send-off" you gave them and for the many gifts they received from you. The day was wonderful—worship, food, fun, and conversations—and they will remember it well. They wish Grace a "grace-filled" future, and they pray you will have a pastor very soon.

**Grace Outreach Committee** meets the second Monday of each month at 5:00. We welcome any one who has new ideas for outreach in our community or wants to help organize one particular event, such as the Halloween Trick or Treat inside of Grace. Please contact Mike Kemper for more details on how to get involved.

### Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Chris Bush	Vickey Argo
<b>Cantor</b>	Jack Vos	Kate Watson
<b>Lector</b>	Steve Kaiser	Carla Neil
<b>Communion Server</b>	Jan Schreiner	Phyllis Lietz
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Mark Anton	Clyde Watson
<b>Usher</b>	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	Mark Anton, Ed Domke
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Steve/Peg Kaiser	John/Mark Kleinbrink
<b>Children's Church</b>		
<b>Chancel Team</b>	Wales Family	Ingrid Morgan

### Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, September 17, 2017

<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Mark Anton	Traci Wales
<b>Cantor</b>	Jack Vos	Volunteer
<b>Lector</b>	Carol Vos	Victoria Steadman
<b>Communion Server</b>	Brenda Teegardin	Diane Neeb
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Volunteer	Hope Peck
<b>Usher</b>	Randy/Brenda Teegardin	Doug/Diane Neeb
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Jack/Carol Vos	Gwen Hansen, Sandy Mosteller
<b>Children's Church</b>		Kristi Winick, Ingrid Morgan
<b>Chancel Team</b>	Wales Family	Ingrid Morgan