

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

## **Giving to the Giver**

Does anyone really like paying taxes? Even though we know that money paid to the government helps fund important items such as roads, bridges, and public safety, the mysteriously small paycheck each month and the arduous accounting process each year remind us how much cash we must hand over. It doesn't end there, of course. If you've ever looked at a cell phone or cable TV bill in detail, or examined the fine print of your airline ticket, you know the reality of government fees and taxes. "Do I get to keep any of my money?" we cry in frustration.

On top of that, this is the time when many of our churches are discussing stewardship, budgets for the coming year, and the need for each of us to support the mission and ministry of the congregation and the wider church with our time, skill, and material resources. Give to God what is God's, we are told. And indeed, we should. But let us not give to God, or our neighbor who is served by our giving, as though we were paying a tax. Let us not give grudgingly, believing that stewardship is essential to retaining our salvation. Eternal life is not a bridge, road, or fire department, and we do not earn it with money or good works.

Rather, as we consider how and what we ought to give to God, let us remember that all we have—ourselves, our time, our possessions—are gifts from God, who loves us, cares for us, and sees to it that we have "daily bread." Even the government is a gift, given for the peaceful ordering of society. As we examine what we have and wonder if there is enough to give, let us first be grateful and rejoice that God has given us something to give.

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

October 22, 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

***Gather Us In***

**ELW 532** (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 . . . Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts.

☞ **Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Sit*

### First Reading

**Isaiah 45:1-7**

*The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.*

▮ A reading from **Isaiah**:

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: <sup>2</sup>I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, <sup>3</sup>I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. <sup>4</sup>For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. <sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, <sup>6</sup>so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. <sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

▮ The word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**


## Psalm 96:1-13



<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD | a new song;  
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**


<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations  
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,  
more to be feared | than all gods. **

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD. **


<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo- | ples  
with equity."**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

<sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD,  
for you come to | judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the | world with righteousness  
and the peoples | with your truth. 

## Second Reading

## Thessalonians 1:1-10

*Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul is giving pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic pagan environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.*

### ▮ A reading from **Thessalonians**:

<sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup>For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

▮ The word of the Lord.

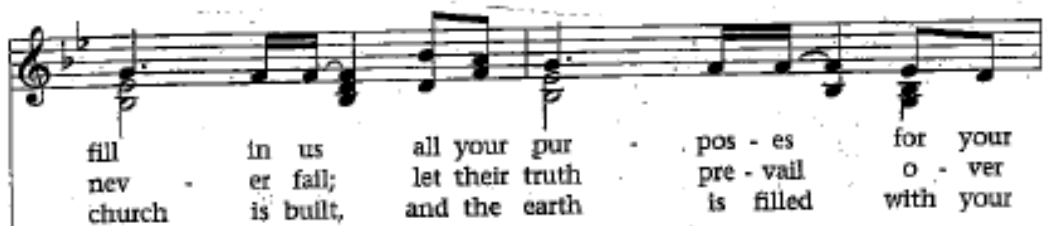
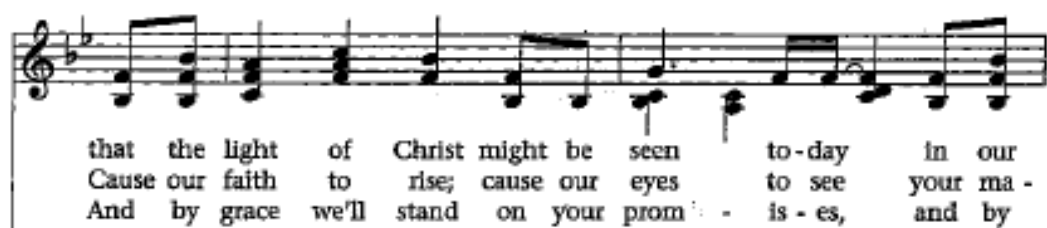
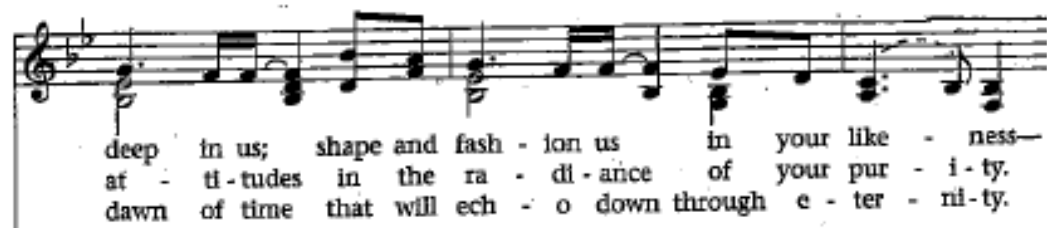
### ▮ **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand as you are able*

## Gospel Acclamation



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food  
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,  
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights  
of your ho - ly Word. Take your truth, plant it  
true hu - mil - i - ty. Test our thoughts and our  
of your plans for us. Truths un - changed from the



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## Gospel Reading

**Matthew 22:15-22**

*After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.*

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

▮ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" <sup>21</sup>They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

▮ The Gospel of the Lord.

▮ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## Children's Message/Children's Church

*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*

*Stand as you are able*

## Song of the Day

***Great is Their Faithfulness***

**ELW 733** (red book)

*Kneel or sit as you are 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.*

▮ Trusting in God, we pray for the church. Fill all worshipers with your Holy Spirit. Grant them generous hearts to share God's splendor revealed to them in Jesus Christ. 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; St John Lutheran Church in Lake City, Peace Reformed Church in Middleville*; 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.**

Ⓐ We pray for creation: for the power of sun, wind, and water, for the riches buried in rock and soil, for the magnificence of life in forms too many to number. Lord in your mercy,

☞ **hear our prayer.**

Ⓐ We pray for the nations: for leaders of governments, for fair commerce between nations, for treasurers, boards of directors, and all who justly distribute monetary resources. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, especially *Myrina Clements, Lance and Kayla Champaco, Joshua Wright, Parker Stancil, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten*. Lord in your mercy,

☞ **hear our prayer.**

Ⓐ We pray for the poor and outcast, for those who cannot afford food, medicine, clothing, and shelter, for the communities and agencies who serve the needy and advocate on their behalf. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Danny Gillons, Tim Neeb, Mary Golnek, Bob Crankshaw, JR Chadwick, Archie Chadwick Sr, Kathy & Ken Plourde, Judy & Bill Heil and Jeanne & Ron Bush*. Lord in your mercy,

☞ **hear our prayer.**

Ⓐ Trusting in God's healing power, we pray for this congregation: for the unemployed and overworked, for all who are burdened by debt, for the sick and those in particular need. *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,

☞ **hear our prayer.**

Ⓐ 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.*

Ⓐ Lord in your mercy,

☞ **hear our prayer.**

Ⓐ We give thanks for the saints of every time and place. By your Spirit, grant us sure confidence in the everlasting glory you promise. Lord in your mercy,

☞ **hear our prayer.**

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

☞ **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.*

*Stand as you are able*



## Offering Song

### *Create in Me*



☐ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me.  
Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your  
Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## Offering Prayer

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

☑ 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

▮ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☑ And also with you.

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

*Continue standing as you are able*

## 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*

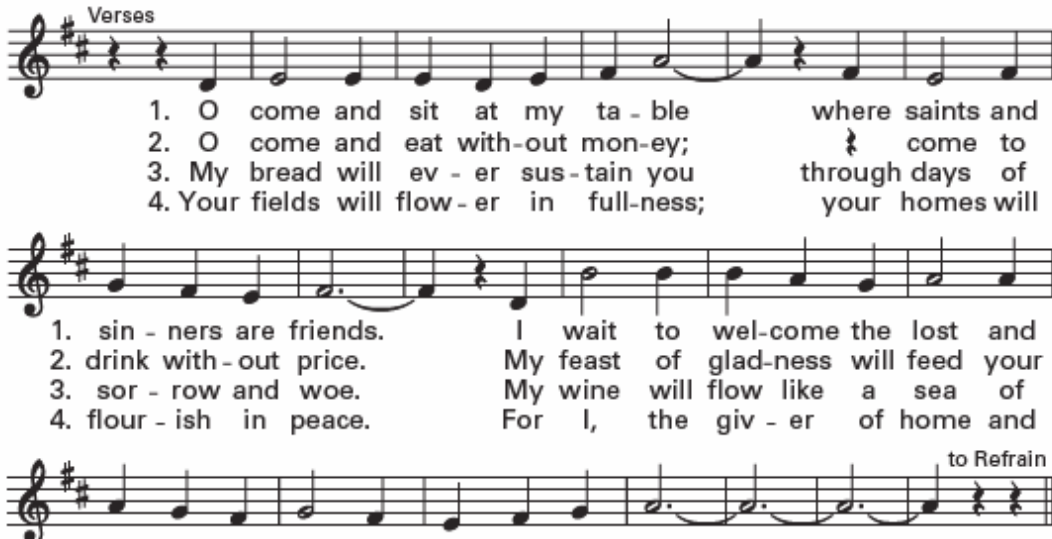
### *Lamb of God*

**■** 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.

### *Table of Plenty*

**Refrain**  
Come to the feast of heav-en and earth! Come to the ta -  
ble of plen - ty! God will pro-vide for all that we  
need, here at the ta - ble of plen - ty.

Verses



1. O come and sit at my ta - ble where saints and  
 2. O come and eat with-out mon-ey; & come to  
 3. My bread will ev - er sus-tain you through days of  
 4. Your fields will flow - er in full-ness; your homes will

1. sin - ners are friends. I wait to wel-come the lost and  
 2. drink with - out price. My feast of glad-ness will feed your  
 3. sor - row and woe. My wine will flow like a sea of  
 4. flour - ish in peace. For I, the giv - er of home and

to Refrain

1. lone - ly to share the cup of my love.  
 2. spir - it with faith and full - ness of life.  
 3. glad-ness to flood the depths of your soul.  
 4. har-vest, will send my rain on the soil.

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***I Am the Bread of Life***  
***Eat this Bread***

**WOV 702** (blue book)  
**WOV 709** (blue book)

*Stand as you are able*

**Prayer after Communion**

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

**G** 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.**

☩ During the Sending Hymn, those who wish (especially children) are invited to come forward to make music and dance in the area in front of the pews on the left. There are instruments and scarves in and near the basket by the wall. ☩

## Sending Song

*I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*

**WOV 673** (blue book)

## Dismissal

☞ Go in peace. Sound the good news.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

### Today, October 22

Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am  
Children's Church 10:45 am  
Call pastor visits & presides  
Youth groups 6:30 – 8:00 pm

### Monday, October 23

LACS rehearsal 6:30 - 9:00 pm

### Tuesday, October 24

Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm

### Thursday, October 26

Clapper Kids bell choir 3:45 – 5:00 pm  
Grace Notes bell choir 5:45 – 7:00 pm

### Sunday, October 29

Worship at 10:00 am only  
Call vote after worship  
Reformation luncheon after vote

## Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 133

Weekly Giving: \$3,122.00

Budget Amount: \$4,181.22

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

**Call Pastor Kenneth Scheck** visits and presides today.

**For emergency pastoral care** please contact retired pastor Mike Kemper, 269-569-1484. For other needs, please contact the church office at 945-9414 or Grace President Chris Bush at 517-614-5546.

**Call Vote** will be held after worship on **October 29<sup>th</sup>, Reformation Sunday**, with worship at 10:00 am. There will also be a potluck luncheon after the vote. The theme is 'bring your favorite ethnic dish to pass'. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

**Have you seen?** If you have seen a glass 9 x 13 cake pan, after the CROP Walk, with the initials DW on the bottom corner, please contact Deborah Wilke at 269-953-8216.

**All Saints Sunday – November 5.**

If you would like to sing in a small group on All Saints Sunday, meet Cindy at 7:15 pm on **Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>** for rehearsal (in the sanctuary).

Join us for pre-service music on All Saints Sunday at 9:40 am for an old-fashioned hymn sing. Think of the songs we haven't sung in awhile and let us know (drop off a note for Cindy so she can practice!)

### Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Chris Bush	Phil Poholski
<b>Cantor</b>	Jack Vos	Kate Watson
<b>Lector</b>	Carol Vos	Kristi Winick
<b>Communion Server</b>	Jan Schreiner	Mark Anton
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Mark Anton	Clyde Watson
<b>Usher</b>	John Burdick, Kay Marsh	Mark Anton, Gwen Hansen Sandy Mosteller, Joe Longcor
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Mark/Jana Bishop	Doug/Diane Neeb
<b>Children's Church</b>		Hope, Emma & Tom Peck
<b>Chancel Team</b>	Jeanette Ulrich	Mark Kleinbrink

### Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, October 29, 2017 – 10:00 am

<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Traci Wales
<b>Cantor</b>	Vickey Argo
<b>Lector</b>	Jack Vos
<b>Communion Server</b>	Volunteer
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Emma Peck
<b>Usher</b>	Gary/Lisa Golnek Steve Wales, volunteer
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Volunteers
<b>Children's Church</b>	Cheryl/Tom Drumm
<b>Chancel Team</b>	Jeanette Ulrich                      Mark Kleinbrink