

# Grace Lutheran Church

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## Late-Night Catechism

Perhaps as a young person you experienced religious education that was based on questions and answers. That's what a catechism is. Martin Luther published his Small Catechism in 1529 so that people could hear and understand the basics of the Christian faith. For the most part, Luther sticks to one question throughout: "What does this mean?"

Nicodemus has heard about Jesus and comes to him with questions. He comes by night, a time of day representing mystery, ignorance, and hiding. It would be risky for this religious leader to ask his questions in the light of day. Nicodemus thinks he is coming for information, like getting answers to questions in a catechism. What he finds is a teacher who speaks the language of symbol, spirit, and experience. While a befuddled Nicodemus tries to wrap his analytical and literal mind around Jesus' strange talk about being born from above, Jesus patiently points him toward the Spirit. Can a person so far along in life have a new beginning? Yes! In baptism we are born again of water and Spirit, a birth that shapes the rest of our lives.

Jesus' use of birth imagery suggests that sometimes we would rather stay in the warmth, darkness, and safety of the womb than take any risks in life. The season of Lent gives us spiritual encouragement for our birthing. At times it may seem like we don't get any answers to our questions, or that nothing is clear-cut and simple anymore. But the Spirit is brooding and the wind is blowing where it will. We may not always know what is happening to us or where we are going, but we trust that God is leading us and guiding us.

Nicodemus's late-night catechism leads him to a new kind of faith. Likewise, in baptism we begin a lifelong journey of renewal and transformation. Jesus, our teacher, leads the way.

, minister to others only through the leading and partnership of the Spirit.

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### BEFORE WORSHIP

Our Participation Card has two sides to complete. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2017

*Lent is a season on contrition and renewal. The color purple has become a symbol of penitence. The music of the season reflects our need for repentance and renewal, which is our effort to turn, again, towards God.*

*Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.*

Pre-Service Music

*Holy Spirit, Breath of God*

Grace Notes

10:45

*Hope & Faith*

Clapper Kids

### Confession

☞ Merciful God, you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost.

☞ **We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

☞ Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation.

☞ **Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

### Welcome/Worship Instructions

*Stand as you are able.*

Gathering Hymn

*Bless now, O God, the journey*

ELW 326 (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.**

Kyrie

*Your Heart, O God, is Grieved*

ELW 602

### Prayer of the Day

☞ Let us pray . . . O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children.

☞ **Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Sit*

Special Music

*Old Irish Air*

Grace Notes

First Reading

**Genesis 12:1-4a**

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

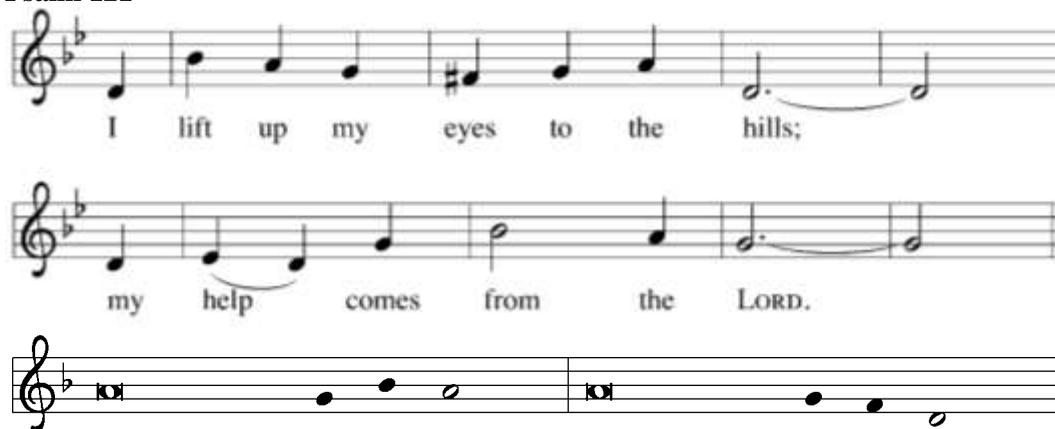
📖 A reading from **Genesis**:

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” <sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

📖 The word of the Lord.

📖 **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 121**



The image shows the musical notation for the first two lines of Psalm 121. The first line of music is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The lyrics 'I lift up my eyes to the hills;' are written below the notes. The second line of music is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The lyrics 'my help comes from the LORD.' are written below the notes. The third line of music is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat, showing a double bar line and a repeat sign.

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes | to the hills;

from where is my | help to come?

<sup>2</sup>**My help comes | from the LORD,  
the maker of heav- | en and earth.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD will not let your | foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, the keep- | er of Israel  
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep; 📖**

<sup>5</sup>the LORD watches | over you;  
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

<sup>6</sup>**the sun will not strike | you by day,  
nor the | moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will preserve you | from all evil  
and will | keep your life.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,  
from this time forth for- | evermore. 📖**

## Second Reading

Romans 4:1-5,13-17

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

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

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### Gospel Acclamation



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

## Gospel Reading

**John 3:1-17**

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

*(The congregational responses before and after the Gospel Reading are omitted during Lent.)*

☞ The Holy Gospel, according to **John**.

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

*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*

**Song of the Day**

***Baptized in Water***

**ELW 456** (red book)

*Kneel or sit as able.*

## Prayers

**A** Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

**A** God of Abraham and Sarah, God of all earth's families, bless your church to be a blessing and bestow your grace to a hurting world. 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 synod companion churches, St Paul Lutheran Church in East Lansing, Grace Brethern Bible Church in Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul.* Hear us, O God.

**G** Your mercy is great.

**A** O God, you love the entire cosmos. Help us to love all of the creatures and life within it. Hear us, O God.

**G** Your mercy is great.

**A** O God, our help is in you. Keep the nations, their governments, and their people from all evil. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, especially *Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten.* Hear us, O God.

**G** Your mercy is great.

**A** O God, your promises ease our pain and sorrow. Grant comfort, healing, and joy to all who are in need. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Victoria Steadman, Danny Gillons, John Burdick, Corinna & Hope Palmer, Kaylee and Mattea Markwart, and Kris Gilbert.* Hear us, O God.

**G** Your mercy is great.

**A** O God, lead this assembly in its Lenten journey toward faith, works of love, and prayer. Let those gathered here be fed and nourished by your word. *Guide the work of our Transition Team.* Hear us, O God.

**G** Your mercy is great.

**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** Hear us, O God.

**G** Your mercy is great.

**A** O God, we give thanks for the faithful departed who have joined your saints in light. Let their lives be guides to our own. Hear us, O God.

**G** Your mercy is great.

**P** Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord.

**G** Amen.

*Stand as you are able*

## Sharing the Peace of God

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

**C** **And also with you.**

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

*Sit*

**Offering of Gifts and Music 8:00 To Be Announced**

**Grace Notes**

**10:45 Meditation of Chimes**

**Clapper Kids**

*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

WOV 732 (blue book)



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 un-to me the



joy of your sal - va-tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## Offering Prayer

**A** Let us pray . . . Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives,

**C** **that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

## Great Thanksgiving

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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,

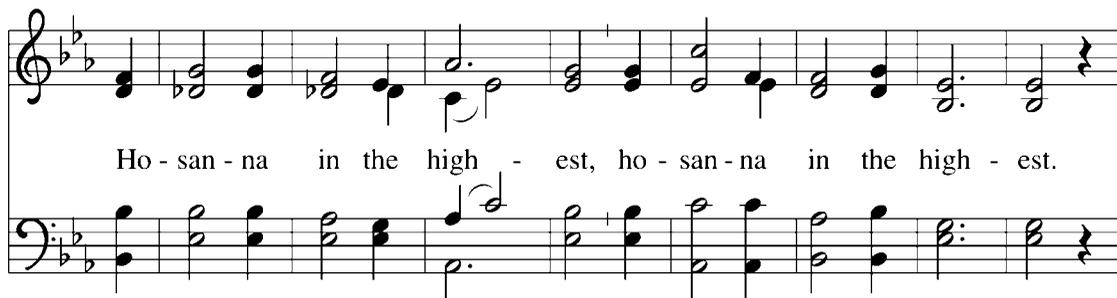
The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in B-flat major (two flats). The treble staff contains the vocal melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,"

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

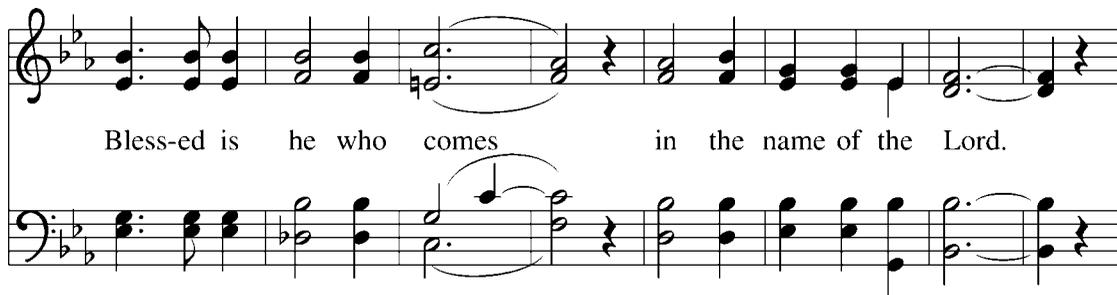
The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,"

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

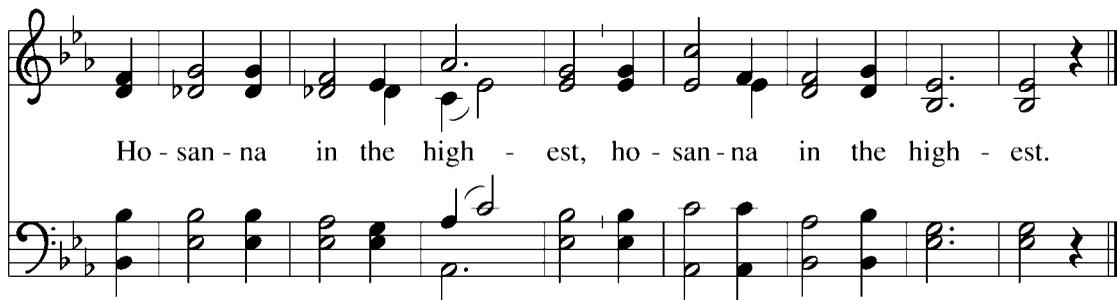
The third system of musical notation concludes the phrase. The lyrics are: "heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry."



Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### Eucharistic Prayer

☞ Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with all creation, we bless and magnify you. You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock.

☑ **We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert experience of life, pouring out his life for the world.**

P 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 life, death and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.**

☐ Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ. Through him all glory and honor 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 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

☐ Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread and wine for the journey.

#### *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*

**ELW 341** (red book)

*Gather Us In*

**WOV 718** (blue book)

*One Bread, One Body*

**WOV 710**

*As Grains of Wheat*

**WOV 705**

*Stand*

### **Prayer after Communion**

**A** Let us pray . . . Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven.

**G** **Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Congregational Announcements**

#### **Blessing**

**P** May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. 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.

**G** **Amen.**

*The cross and the worship leaders will recess in silence.*

### **Dismissal**

**A** Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 93

Weekly Giving: \$3,239.00

Budget Amount: \$4,226.98

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of hamburger/tuna helper, cereal, canned pasta (ravioli, spaghetti-o's, etc).

**Remodeling Project:** You will find a list of work items needed to complete Phase one of our remodeling project. Please check the list and see if there is something you can help us with.

**New Sunday Adult Forum--**Pastor Paul is offering a new class that will run through Lent in between services titled, "Christian Worship 101." He will introduce the topic of Christian worship and will reveal the history of the different parts of our Sunday liturgy throughout the class. Now is the time to ask those questions about worship you have always wondered about.

**Worship Committee** – the meeting for March has been rescheduled. We will meet Tuesday, **March 14<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 pm.

**Brothers of Grace** – will meet on March 14<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00-8:30 pm at Grace. All men over 18 are welcome to join. We look forward to the fellowship of the evening.

**A timeline is coming!** The Transition Team will be hanging a timeline with major world, church, and congregational member milestones to be displayed at Grace. Some milestones will be listed, but it will be an open canvas for you to add important events for you and the Grace family! Be thinking of the events you want to add – pictures, drawings, etc. Timeline coming by **March 18<sup>th</sup>**.

**Choir** – rehearsal time will change to 6:45 pm until Holy Week, beginning March 16. Don't forget - no rehearsal on **March 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

**Transition Team** would like to invite you to a church potluck on **March 26<sup>th</sup>** after second service. Hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass and be ready to share your thoughts and ideas with the team about our congregation and our upcoming pastoral search.

**Lenten Wednesday Events** – Vickey Argo, for Family Promise, will provide the Wednesday Lenten Supper on **March 15**: soups & breads. A free will offering is appreciated. The supper begins at 6:00 and Wednesday Prayer Service is at 7:00 pm.

**Pasty Week** – coming up March 16-18. This is a reminder, if you pledged to help with dough making on the 16<sup>th</sup>, meat cutting on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and/or making/baking on the 18<sup>th</sup>. If you purchased pasties, you can pick them up on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10:45 am. Thanks to all those who volunteered. Your efforts will help with the cost of the new carpet for the church.

**Thank you** to all who helped yesterday to complete the Renovation Project – Phase 1.

## Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:00am
<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Chris Bush	Vickey Argo
<b>Cantor</b>	Steve Kaiser	Mark Anton
<b>Lector</b>	Chris Bush	Gwen Hansen
<b>Communion Server</b>	Brenda Teegardin	Mark Anton
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Katie Pohl	Hope Peck
<b>Usher</b>	Randy/Brenda Teegardin	Ed Domke, Mark Anton
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Steve/Peg Kaiser	Ingrid Morgan, Kristi Winick
<b>Children's Church</b>	n/a	Kim & Lydia Markwart
<b>Chancel Team</b>	Vicky Argo, Kay Howell	

## Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, March 19, 2017

<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Randy Teegardin	Phil Poholski
<b>Cantor</b>	Jack Vos	Kate Watson
<b>Lector</b>	Carol Vos	Joyce Daugherty
<b>Communion Server</b>	Jan Schreiner	Phyllis Lietz
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Gavin Patton	Clyde Watson
<b>Usher</b>	Dan & Grayson Patton	Mark Anton, Sandy Mosteller Gwen Hansen, Joe Longcor
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Melissa Patton	Doug/Diane Neeb
<b>Children's Church</b>	n/a	Kim Domke, Lisa Pohl
<b>Chancel Team</b>	Vicky Argo, Kay Howell	

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

<b>Today, March 12</b>	Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am Adult Forum 9:30 am Children's Church 10:45 am <i>Noisy Offering</i>
<b>Monday, March 13</b>	Community Outreach 5:00 pm
<b>Tuesday, March 14</b>	Women of Faith 6:30-8:00 pm Brothers of Grace 7:00-8:30 pm
<b>Wednesday, March 15</b>	VBS Planning meeting 5:30 pm Prayer Group 6:00 pm Lent dinner 6:00 pm (public welcome) Lent Prayer Service 7:00 pm <i>Grace Choir 6:45 pm</i>
<b>Thursday, March 16</b>	GraceGram article deadline
<b>Friday, March 17</b>	Pasty making/baking/sales
<b>Saturday, March 18</b>	
<b>Sunday, March 19</b>	Transition Team 12:00 pm (immediately after 2 <sup>nd</sup> service)