

Grace Lutheran Church

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Active Ingredient

If you have ever made bread, you know that yeast is a very important ingredient. Yeast causes the dough to expand and rise, allowing it to bake into soft, spongy bread. Without yeast, the bread would be hard, dense, and flat.

Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to yeast, or more accurately, Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to the active leavening agent of yeast. Yeast is alive, and when paired with other ingredients, it expands and grows, stretching to many times its original size. The kingdom of heaven acts in the same way, but like bread, it needs a special, active ingredient in order to grow. That is where we come into play. Jesus needs us to be the yeast in the kingdom.

There are so many ways to be active in bringing forth the kingdom of heaven. For example, sharing your faith with others by speaking honestly and from your heart. Listening carefully to others and showing them that you really hear them. Treating everyone with respect, regardless of differences. These are all simple but powerful ways to be Christ to the world.

For dough to rise, it needs the active ingredient of yeast. For the kingdom of heaven to spread throughout the world, it needs the active ingredient of God's holy people. God's message of love is about so much more than what happens on Sunday morning in a church building. At the end of a worship service, we are sent out into the world, called to be the hands and feet of Christ to all whom we encounter. When we take this calling seriously, bringing God's message out of church and into the world, we are active participants in bringing forth God's kingdom, stretching and expanding it into every nook and cranny.

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8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 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.

Gathering Songs

Sanctuary

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you.*

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

*Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay;
from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your name on high.*

I Believe, I Do Believe

Chorus:

*I believe, I do believe, truly I believe it,
Truly I believe it, truly I believe it. (Repeat)*

*I believe in God the Almighty Lord creator,
Mighty Lord creator, mighty Lord creator. (Repeat)*

(Chorus)

*I believe in Jesus the Savior of the people,
Savior of the people, Savior of the people. (Repeat)*

(Chorus)

*And I do believe in the power of the Spirit,
Power of the Spirit, power of the Spirit. (Repeat)*

(Chorus)

Welcome/Worship Instructions

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 . . . Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy.

☑ **By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well. In verse 13 God gives him additional honor and riches beyond compare.

☐ A reading from **1 Kings:**

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you."⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have

given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 119:129-136

¹²⁹**Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.**

¹³⁰**When your word is opened | it gives light;
it gives understanding | to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my | mouth and pant
because I long for | your commandments.

¹³²Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,
as you always do to those who | love your name. ☒

¹³³**Order my footsteps | in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.**

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those | who oppress me,
and I will keep | your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.

¹³⁶My eyes shed | streams of tears,
because people do not | keep your teaching. ☒

Second Reading

Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

☐ A reading from **Romans**:

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

☐ 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

Leave it in the Hands of the Lord

♩

Leave it in the hands of the Lord. —

♩

Leave it in the hands of the Lord.

CHORUS

♩

Do not wor-ry o-ver what to eat,

♩

What to wear or put up - on your feet.

♩

Trust and pray, go do your best to-day, Then

B7A7 ED G#m

leave it in the hands of the Lord. —

B7A7 EAE EAE

Leave it in the hands of the Lord. Lord.

VERSE:

E D

1. The li - lies of the field, They
2. The Lord — will — guide you
3. The Lord — knows — all Your

AG B7A7

1. do not spin nor weave, Yet Sol - o - mon was not Ar -
2. in his hid - den way, Show you what to do And
3. needs be - fore you ask, On - ly trust in him, For

ED ED E7D7

1. rayed like one of these. The birds — of the air, They
2. tell you what to say. When you pray for rain; Go
3. he will do the task Of bring - ing in your life What -

AG

1. do not sow or reap, but
2. build a dam to store;
3. ev - er you must know, He'll

D7A7

1. God tends to them, like a
 2. Ev - 'ry drop of wa - ter
 3. lead you through the dark - ness wher-

1. shep - herd tends his sheep.
 2. You have asked him for.
 3. ev - er you must go.

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Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

A Generous, compassionate God, we gather before you to pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A Shine the light of understanding on your church on earth. Bind us together in the word to share your love with the 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 companion churches in Latvia, Honduras and Papua New Guinea; Trinity Lutheran Church in Hillsdale, Middleville Christian Reformed Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul.* Lord in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Protect birds and their nests, fields full of crops, the seas and the fish that swim in them. Inspire us to care for the creation you love. Lord in your mercy,

C hear our prayers.

A Raise up just and wise advocates and judges from small-town courts to international tribunals. Enlighten all leaders to discern what is right and do what is good. 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 Nurture faith in those who doubt. Lift up those who are weak in body, mind, or spirit. Heal the sick, comfort the grieving, and surround with love those facing their last days. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Keenan Rudesill, Kris Gilbert, Victoria Steadman, John Glasgow, Danny Gillons, Sharon Duits, Corrina Palmer, Tim Lowe, Jane Secor, Bob Crankshaw, Barbara McCaully and Rob M..* Lord in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayers.

A Expand the understanding of this assembly to see our neighbors as you see them. Let the yeast of your word grow beyond us to expand your boundless love to those around us. *We ask your blessing of discernment and wisdom upon our Call Committee, and bless our congregation with patience while we wait for our next Pastor. Pour out your spirit of courage and faith upon the leader you will call for service to Grace, and let your will be heard clearly by all involved in this process.* Lord in your mercy,

☞ 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,

☞ hear our prayers.

A Sustain us by the intercession of your Holy Spirit. Let the Spirit's sighs, too deep for words, comfort us until we rejoice with those already united with you. Lord in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayers.

P Into your hands we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in the mercy of Christ Jesus.

☞ Amen.

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☞ And also with you.

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

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

*Create in me a clean heart of God,
That I might serve you.*

*Create in me a clean heart of God,
That I might be renewed.*

So fill me and heal me and bring me back to you.

*Create in me a clean heart of God
That I might serve you.*

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing.

C **You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Lord's Prayer

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

C **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

If We Could Share this Wine

*Verse 1: If we could share this wine with every nation,
And if this bread we break could end starvation.*

Chorus:

What a wonderful day, what a wonderful way, to share God's love together.

*Verse 2: If every heart and hand, could touch another,
Then every motherless child could find his brother.*

Chorus:

What a wonderful day, what a wonderful way, to share God's love together.

*Verse 3: If we could grow in warmth as we grew older,
This world would live in peace and not grow colder.*

Chorus:

What a wonderful day, what a wonderful way, to share God's love together.

*Verse 4: If every day we woke we looked for beauty,
This life would be a joy and not a duty.*

Chorus:

What a wonderful day, what a wonderful way, to share God's love together.

*Verse 5: If every mind and soul with love were bound,
This inside every one Christ could be found.*

(repeat Chorus 2 times)

Lord of the Dance

*Verse 1: I danced in the morning when the world was begun.
I danced in the Moon and the Stars and the Sun.
I came down from Heaven and I danced on Earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.*

Chorus:

*Dance, dance, wherever you may be . .
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be.
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said He!
(lead you all in the Dance, said He!)*

*Verse 2: I danced for the scribes and the Pharisees.
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for fisherman, for James and John . . .
They came to me and the Dance went on.*

Chorus:

*Verse 3: I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame.
They holy people thought it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high.
And they left me there on a cross to die.*

Chorus:

*Verse 4: I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black.
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body, but they thought I'd gone.
But I am the Dance and I still go on.*

Chorus:

*Verse 5: They cut me down but I leapt up high.
I am the Light that will never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in Me.
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.*

Seek Ye First

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al -

D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
 3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le -

D Em A7 D F#m

righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
 you shall find; knock and the door shall be
 ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

it - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

G D G D Em A D

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 mouth . . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

Stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray . . . Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.

G Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen.

Sit

Congregational Announcements

Stand as you are able.

Blessing

P May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

G 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

The Mass has Ended

Brightly, in 2
Bb



- 1. The Mass is end - ed,
- 2. We wit - ness his love
- 3. Thanks to the Fa - ther,
- 4. The Mass is end - ed,

Eb



- 1. all go in peace;
- 2. to ev - 'ry - one
- 3. who shows the way,
- 4. all go in peace;



1. We must di - min - ish,
2. By our com - mun - ion
3. His life is with us
4. We must di - min - ish,



1. and Christ in - crease.
2. with Christ the Son.
3. through - out each day.
4. and Christ in - crease.



1. We take him with us
2. We take the Mass to
3. Let all our liv - ing
4. We take him with us



1. where - e'er we go
2. where all may be,
3. and lov - ing be
4. where - e'er we go



1. That through our ac - tions
2. So Christ may shine forth
3. To praise and hon - or
4. That through our ac - tions



1. his life may show.
2. for all to see.
3. the Trin - i - ty.
4. his life may show.

Dismissal

- A Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.
- C Thanks be to God.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, July 30	Worship at 10:00 am only 3 rd annual car show 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Monday, July 31	LACS Rehearsal 6:30-9:00 pm
Tuesday, August 1	Executive Board 5:30 pm Worship Committee 6:30 pm

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 126 Weekly Giving: \$3,220.00 Budget Amount: \$4,226.98

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.

Backpack Program – Grace will again be partnering with Barry County United Way to help ensure that children (Pre-K & Young 5's) go back to school with the supplies they need to start the year off. We are currently seeking the following items: pencils, crayons (12-16 color), glue sticks, pencil top erasers, scissors, boxes of tissues, small backpacks, water bottles, plastic ziplocs, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, post-it notes, highlighters, dry erase markers, pencil boxes, cardboard pocket folders. These will be distributed on August 20 & 21. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Mike Kemper.

Today's Worship Leaders

	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:00 am</u>
Assisting Ministers		Traci Wales
Cantor		Vickey Argo
Lector		Carol Vos
Communion Server		Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer		Grayson Patton
Usher		John Burdick, Kay Marsh
Greeter/Coffee Hr.		Mark Anton
Chancel Team	Kay Howell	<i>Volunteers</i> Chris Bush

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, August 6, 2017

Assisting Ministers	Randy Teegardin	Mark Anton
Cantor	Jack Vos	Vickey Argo
Lector	Mary Kuhlman	Victoria Steadman
Communion Server	Jana Bishop	Phyllis Lietz
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Emmalee Peck
Usher	Mark/Jana Bishop	Gwen Hansen, Joe Longcor
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack/Carol Vos	Sandy Mosteller
Chancel Team	Chris Bush	Eve Wright