

# Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St

Hastings MI 49058



Website: [www.grace-hastings.org](http://www.grace-hastings.org)

Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI

Phone: (269) 945-9414  
(269) 945-2645

## Free Indeed

The beginning of today's reading from John places the gospel at the heart of Christian discipleship: "If you continue in my word," Jesus says, "you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31-32).

Today many congregations will observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, begun by a small-town German monk and university professor named Martin Luther. Luther was deeply concerned about the concept of truth and searched the scriptures diligently, looking for facts and certainty about the grace of God. What he found caught him by surprise. During Luther's time people were given the impression that good works and sincere hearts earned the love and forgiveness of God. But Luther read the Bible for himself and found that Jesus' love and forgiveness come without strings attached. This simple rediscovery sent shock waves through the church.

Jesus himself is the truth, and Jesus is the Son who sets every one of us free—free from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Our gathering for worship brings us into direct encounter with this truth-telling, life-giving word. We encounter this word in scripture reading, preaching, and song. Most of all, we encounter Jesus, the Word of God, the Word made flesh. All of our other understandings of the word spring from our understanding of Jesus as God's Word to us.

God has a profound and deep desire to be revealed to us. God wants to communicate with us, to let us know we are loved, claimed, valued, blessed, and called. God also makes it clear that we are called to repent, turning from sin to live for God alone. Jesus himself directly and clearly reveals the fullness of God with us. This is the good news, the truth, that makes us free—free indeed!

# Reformation Sunday

October 29, 2017

*The color for Reformation day is red, which represents the fire of the Holy Spirit. Luther's Rose, a primary emblem of the Lutheran church, is comprised of the following: a black cross, for faith in Christ crucified; the red heart, for faith in the Savior; the white rose, to show that faith causes joy, consolation and peace; the blue sky, symbolizing that such joy of faith in the Spirit is the beginning of the heavenly joy to come; and the golden ring surrounding all, to signify the endless bliss that heaven will bring.*

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

**Pre-Service Music**

***Hymn Sing***  
***A Mighty Fortress***  
*arr. by Donald Busarow*

**Congregational Choice**  
**Thomas Melcher, trumpet**

## Welcome/Worship Instructions

*Stand as you are able*

## Litany

- Look, Lord: an empty vessel that needs to be filled.
- My Lord, fill it.**
- I am weak in the faith;
- strengthen me.**
- I am cold in love;
- warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor.**
- I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times, I doubt and am unable to trust in you.
- O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you.**
- I am poor; you are rich –
- and you came to be merciful to the poor.**
- I am a sinner; you are upright. With me there is an abundance of sin;
- with you is fullness of righteousness.**
- Therefore I will remain with you,
- from whom I can receive but to whom I cannot give. Amen.**

**Gathering Music**

***What is this Place***

**ELW 524** (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.**

**Hymn of Praise**

***Now the Feast and Celebration***

**ELW 167** (red book)

## Prayer of the Day

**A** Let us pray . . . Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age.

**G** Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Sit*

## First Reading

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

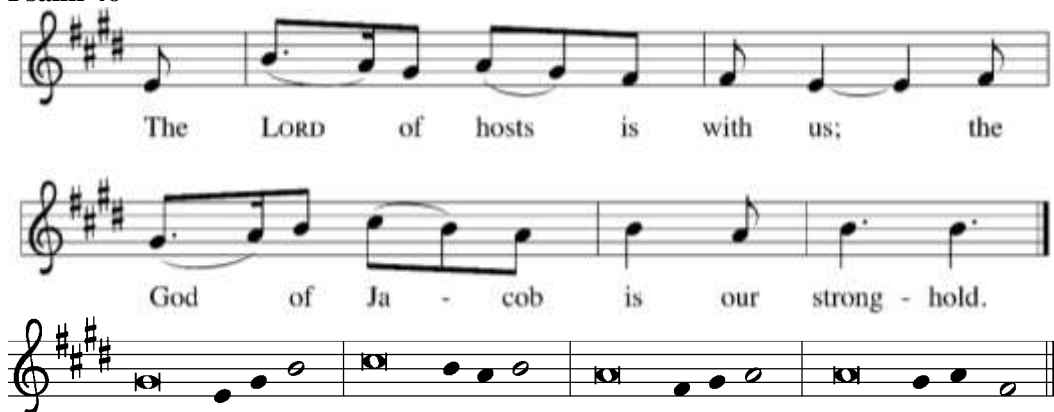
**L** A reading from **Jeremiah**:

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 46



The LORD of hosts is with us; the  
God of Ja - cob is our strong - hold.

<sup>1</sup>God is our ref- | uge and strength,  
a very present | help in trouble.  
<sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;  
<sup>3</sup>**though its waters | rage and foam,**  
**and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.**  
<sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,**  
**the holy habitation of | the Most High.**  
<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the | break of day.  
<sup>6</sup>The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth | melts away. ☒  
<sup>7</sup>**The LORD of | hosts is with us;**  
**the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.**  
<sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,**  
**what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**  
<sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.  
<sup>10</sup>“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”

## Second Reading

## Romans 3:19-28

*Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.*

### ☐ A reading from **Romans:**

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

*Stand as you are able*

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Speak O Lord**



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



deep in us; shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness -  
at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pur - i - ty.  
dawn of time that will ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty.



that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our  
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see your ma -  
And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by



acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -  
jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of power that can  
faith we'll walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your

fill in us all your pur pos - es for your  
nev - er fall; let their truth pre - vail o - ver  
church is built, and the earth is filled with your

glo - ry.  
un - be-lief.  
glo - ry.

*Final ending*

Words and Music (SPEAK, O LORD 8.10.8.10.10.10.8.9): Keith Getty, Stuart Townend © 2006 Thankyou Music admin. worldwide at [EMICMGPublishing.com](http://EMICMGPublishing.com) (excl. Europe admin. by Kingswaysongs)

## Gospel Reading

John 8:31-36

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.

<sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever.

<sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

☐ 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**

*The Church of Christ, in Every Age*

**ELW 729** (red book)

*Kneel or sit as you are able*

**Prayers**

**A** Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

**A** We pray for the unity of your church. Free us to be Christ's one body, graciously receiving his life and boldly offering it to a world in need. 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; Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lansing, Peace United Methodist Church in Nashville;* 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,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** We pray for the renewal of creation: for a shared, plentiful harvest, for lands unable to bear fruit, for what is neglected or destroyed by our hand, and for the earth's advocates. Lord in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** We pray for all nations of the world: for leaders of villages, cities, states, and nations, for lawmakers and judges, for teachers and students, and for all who work for peace. 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,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** We pray for those who seek refuge and strength: refugees, the imprisoned, and those bound by addictions or burdened by guilt. We pray for the ill or injured. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Danny Gillons, Steve Kaiser, Danielle Lydin, Mary Golnek, Tim Neeb, Mary Golnek, Bob Crankshaw, JR Chadwick, Archie Chadwick Sr, the family of Dick Harding, the family of Kim McMellen, Barbara Macaully, Kris Gilbert, Tim Lowe, Gary Burdick, Zeus Duites, Hohn Glasgow, Kathy & Ken Plourde, Judy & Bill Heil and Jeanne & Ron Bush.* Lord in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** We pray for continual reformation in this and every assembly. In new beginnings, impart wisdom. In established traditions, inspire creativity. In all ministries, revive our hope in the one who makes all things new. *We ask for 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 prayer.**

**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 prayer.**

**A** We give thanks for your saints. United with them in the covenant of baptism, increase our faith in your promised life for all. Lord in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**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.*

*Stand as you are able*

### Offering Song

### *As the Grains of Wheat*

*Refrain*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with - in our midst,

2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*



may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

## 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.

**C** 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.

**C** And also with you.

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

*Continue standing as you are able*

## Great Thanksgiving



The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise." The score includes labels for "Presider:" and "Congregation:" above the notes. The first staff is labeled "Presider:" and "Congregation:". The second staff is labeled "Presider:" and "Congregation:". The third staff is labeled "Presider:". The fourth staff is labeled "Congregation:". The fifth staff is labeled "Congregation:".

Presider: Congregation:  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with  
you. Lift up your hearts. We  
lift them to the Lord. Let us give  
thanks to the Lord our God. It is  
right to give God thanks and praise.

☐ It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow his way of humble service and love, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Congregation:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the  
One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

☐ Holy God, Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and you fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

☑ **You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.**

☐ 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 given for us and his rising from the grave,

☑ **we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.**

☐ By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:

☑ **strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of 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, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours. Now and for ever. Amen.**

### Invitation to Communion

☐ From the beginning Jesus shared meals with his disciples. Breaking bread and sharing the cup are powerful ways we remember that God shares the very stuff of life, and so do we. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more. So come to this table, you who have been to this meal often and you who have not been for a long time. Come to this table, it is the Lord who invites you. Come to this table, you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who feel you have failed. Come to this table for Jesus, the Christ, invites you to eat with God and meets us here.

*Sit*

### *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.

*Lamb of God*



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

**Additional Verses:**

**You break the chains of hatred and fear:**

**You are the way of justice and peace:**

**You are the way of mercy and love:**

**You are the bread of life for us all:**

**You pour your Holy Spirit on us:**

*Final time:*



Lamb of God, you  
take a-way the sin of the world: grant us peace,  
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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*Here Is Bread, Here Is Wine*  
*One Bread, One Body*

ELW 483 (red book)  
 ELW 469 (red 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*

### **Congregation Meeting/Vote**

### **Congregational Announcements**

*Stand as you are able*

### **Blessing**

**P** 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.

**G 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**

*A Mighty Fortress*

**ELW 504** (red book)

### **Dismissal**

**A** Go in peace. Sound the good news.

**G Thanks be to God.**

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for a Reformation luncheon.

## Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: no count    Weekly Giving: \$3,131.00    Budget Amount: \$4,181.22

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of sugar and boxed instant mashed potatoes.

**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 today. There will also be a potluck luncheon after worship.

**Truck or Treat** – don't forget to bring in candy for our Trunk or Treat event, which is on Halloween night from 5:00 – 8:00 pm. We will have dog biscuits too, for the pooches that trick-or-treat with their families.

**Grace's World Famous Pasty Sale is November 4!** Be sure to sign up for your pasties, and to help make them, on the bulletin board by the coffee station.

**All Saints Sunday – November 5.**

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!)

**Snow birds** - If you are a snow bird, please make sure the office has your winter contact information and the dates you plan to be away.





## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

<b>Today, October 29</b>	Worship at 10:00 am Children's Church 10:00 am Call vote
<b>Monday, October 30</b>	LACS rehearsal 6:30 - 9:00 pm
<b>Tuesday, October 31</b>	Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm Trunk or Treat
<b>Thursday, November 1</b>	Clapper Kids bell choir 3:45 – 5:00 pm Grace Notes bell choir 5:45 – 7:00 pm

### Today's Worship Leaders

	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:45 am</u>
<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

### Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, November 5, 2017

<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Randy Teegardin	Vickey Argo
<b>Cantor</b>	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
<b>Lector</b>	John Burdick	Gwen Hansen
<b>Communion Server</b>	Melissa Patton	Sandy Mosteller
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Gavin Patton	Lance Ogden
<b>Usher</b>	Dan & Grayson Patton	Mark Anton, Ed Domke
<b>Greeter/Coffee Hr.</b>	Jack/Carol Vos	Eve Wright
<b>Children's Church</b>		Traci Wales, Kristi Winick
<b>Chancel Team</b>	<b>Volunteers needed</b>	

