

Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II

Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

Always a New Beginning

Sometimes life feels like a dead end. We get stuck. Bad things happen and things don't get better. Long awaited change seems like it will never come. What do we do when life feels like a dead end?

The story of Jesus' baptism in Mark is about a radically new beginning. Mark describes the baptism like this: "And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him" (Mark 1:10). All the signs are there, telling us that whatever dead end the world has hit, Jesus is a new beginning.

In Genesis 1 we read that the Spirit moves to form the new creation, and a dome is placed over the newly created land, with water above and below it. Later, in Genesis 7, we read that the flood comes when windows in the dome are opened and water pours in from above and below. In both stories, a new creation is formed out of the old through water and Spirit. Now in Mark we hear again that the heavens are opened, and there is water, and there is Spirit pouring out. In Jesus' baptism, God is creating again. Jesus is God's new beginning for all who face dead ends.

Today is a day to remember your baptism, and to do so along with all your brothers and sisters gathered around font, word, and table. This is a day to give thanks that in Jesus God created a new beginning for all persons, all humanity, and all creation, a fresh start poured out of the open windows of God's loving heart. Today is a day to contemplate all the ways we face dead ends in life, even in death itself. Today we remember that God's Spirit creates us anew out of God's free flowing grace in the new life that is Jesus Christ.

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Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2018

The season of Epiphany begins January 6th (the 12th day after Christmas) and marks the revelation of the baby Jesus as the Son of God. The Epiphany season, therefore, celebrates the spread of the Good News from its source in the Jewish community to all nations on earth. The color is green, for growth, as Scripture texts explore the mission of the church in the world.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre- Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able.

Thanksgiving for Baptismal Water

☐ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

☑ **Amen.**

☐ Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

ELW 310 (red book)

Greeting

☐ The grace of God that extends to all nations in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

Now the Feast and Celebration

WOV 789 (blue book)

Prayer of the Day

☐ Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters.

☑ **Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after 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

First Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the primeval darkness, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for any person living in the chaos and darkness of despair. God created and continues to create new life.

☐ A reading from **Genesis**:

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

☐ God, we thank you for your Word,

☑ **the story of your grace.**

Psalm 29



- ¹Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.
- ²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God’s name;
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**
- ³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.
- ⁴**The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor. ☑**
- ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;
- ⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**
- ⁷The voice | of the LORD
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.
- ⁸**The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. ☑**
- ⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, “Glory!”
- ¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace. 

Second Reading

Acts 19:1-7

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptized them, the Holy Spirit came upon them and empowered them with gifts of the Spirit.

A reading from Acts:

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

 God, we thank you for your Word,

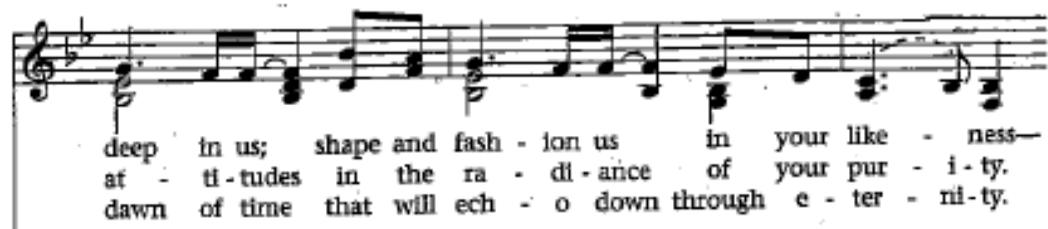
 the story of your grace.

Stand

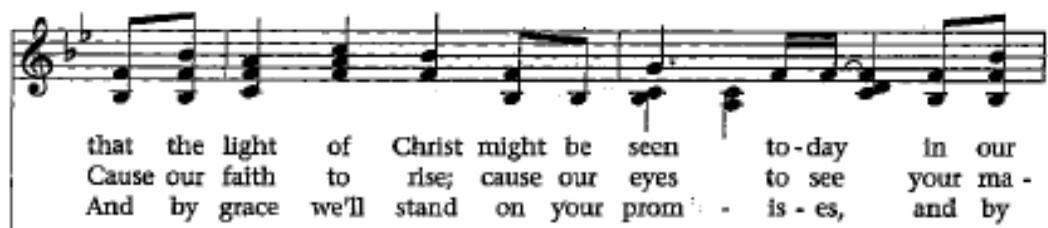
Gospel Acclamation



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



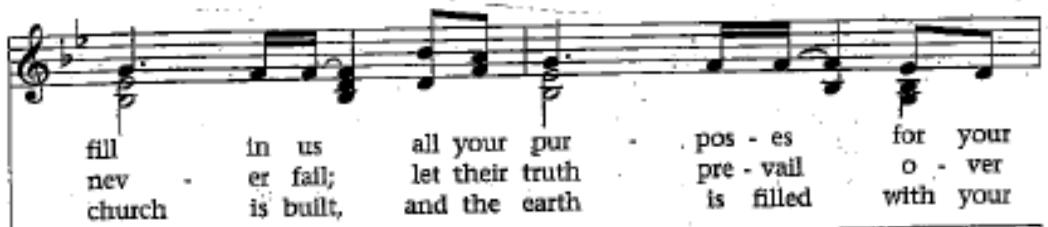
deep in us; shape and fashion us in your likeness—
attitudes in the radiance of your purity.
dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.



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



acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful-
jestic love and authority. Words of power that can
faith we'll walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your



fill in us all your purposes for your
never fail; let their truth prevail over
church is built, and the earth is filled with your



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

Final ending

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:4-11

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

☞ The Holy Gospel, according to Mark.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of the Day

Wade in the Water

ELW 459 (red book)

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

☞ Confident that God our light and our salvation hears us when we pray, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

☞ For the church and the ministry of the baptized, that your Holy Spirit will enlighten all people to forgive sins, allowing peace to end all violence throughout the world. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, including Bishops Elizabeth, and Craig, Assistants David, Sarah and Chrysanne; *All Saints Lutheran Church in Mason, St Andrew and Matthias Anglican Church in Hastings*; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken. Let us pray.

☞ **Have mercy, O God.**

☞ For the earth and all living things, for favorable weather, for plants and animals, that you will cause all creation to thrive in the care of good stewards, let us pray.

☞ **Have mercy, O God.**

A For the leaders of national and local governments, agencies, and organizations, for areas of the world suffering from war, that you will bless all people with plenty. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including *Myrina Clements, Lance and Kayla Champaco, Joshua Wright, Parker Stancil, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten*. Let us pray.

G Have mercy, O God.

A For the sick and suffering, the imprisoned and hungry, the lonely and grieving, that Christ our great physician will soothe and console all in need, let us pray. Comfort all in need in body, mind, or spirit, including *Steve Kaiser, Mary Golnek, Betty Wiest, Sharon Daugherty, Barb Benner, Cheryl Allerdering, Gladys Bishop, Dave Bolton, Bill and Judy Heil, Tim Lowe, John Glasgow, Jim Burdick, Dennis Wilke Sr and Pastor Joe Benedict*.

G Have mercy, O God.

A For our local community, and for this congregation, that in our joys and sorrows we remember that we are God's beloved children, let us pray.

G Have mercy, O God.

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 Let us pray.

G Have mercy, O God.

A In thanksgiving for our ancestors in the faith, both distant and near, who have taught us to believe the good news of Christ, let us pray.

G Have mercy, O God.

P Merciful God, you hear our prayers even before we speak them. Receive them for the sake of the one through whom you have revealed your goodness, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

G Amen.

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

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

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

Stand as you are able.

Offering Song

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 583 (red book)

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions.

G Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Stand as you are able

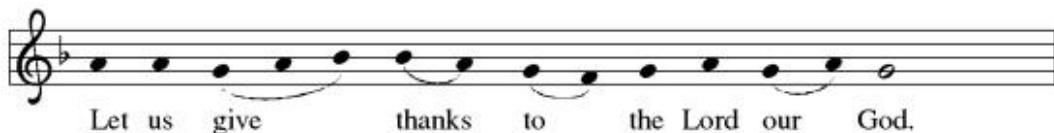
Sharing the Peace of God

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

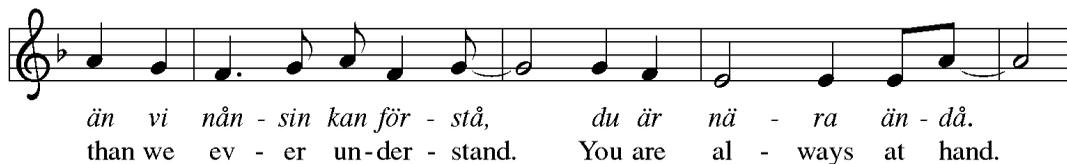
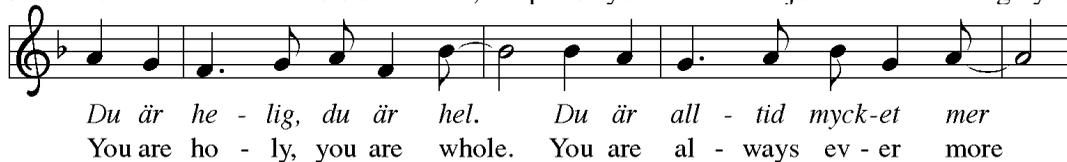
☑ **And also with you.**

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

Great Thanksgiving



☐ It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, through Jesus Christ, who is your light made manifest to all the nations, and so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

²

Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,

du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!

Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!

ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

Eucharistic Prayer

☞ Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

☒ **When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.**

☞ At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering 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.

☞ **For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

☞ Remembering, therefore, his life, death and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

☞ **Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy 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.

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

☞ We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

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, mer-cy on us,
mer-cy on us.

Additional Verses:

You break the chains of hatred and fear:

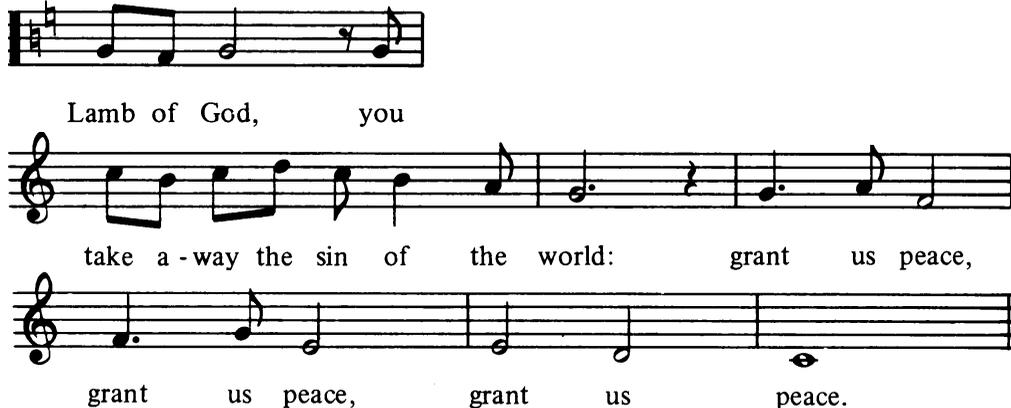
You are the way of justice and peace:

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.

Now the Silence

When Jesus Came to Jordan

Eat this Bread

ELW 460 (red book)

ELW 305

ELW 472

Stand

Prayer after Communion

A O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food.

G You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.

Sit

Congregational Announcements

Stand as you are able.

Blessing

P The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

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

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

ELW 543 (red book)

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

G Thanks be to God.

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 50 Weekly Giving: \$9,809.00 Budget Amount: \$4,181.22

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

Women's Bible Study will meet on **January 9th** at 12:30pm.

Votive Candles – as the Epiphany season is upon us, Pastor Ken is inviting each family to bring a votive candle during the season of light. Its not too late to bring yours. Let your light shine!

Housekeeping items – please check the refrigerator to make sure you don't have any dishes left behind. The Health Department can levy fines for Grace for not complying with regulations.

Participation Cards – all participation cards are recycled at the end of the year, after all identifying information has been shredded. The cards, along with all other office paper is recycled in the Paper Gator in the parking lot, which earns money for Grace, which is used for landscaping maintenance.

Renovation Update - Being good stewards of God, there was a decision to go ahead with the purchase of carpet that was needed for the church. The price for the carpet has risen steadily during our fundraising efforts and the church was faced with another price increase in the near future. We have a current debt of \$16,208.38 for this purchase. We would be blessed if you would be willing to help pay down this debt we owe to ourselves. Thanks for your consideration. If you would like to write a check, please remember to write 'carpet fund' in the memo line.

Worship Committee would love to get your input about our worship here at Grace. Their email address is gracelutheranworshipcommittee@gmail.com

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, January 7	Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am Children's Church 10:45 am Team Grace for Houston 12:00 – 3:00 pm pop can drop off
Monday, January 8	Outreach Committee 5:00 pm
Tuesday, January 9	Communication Team 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm Executive Committee 5:30 pm
Wednesday, January 10	Worship Committee 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Saturday, January 13	Pastor Ken installation & reception 2:00 pm

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Ministers	Randy Teegardin	Mark Anton
Cantor	Jack Vos	Vickey Argo
Lector	Carol Vos	Sandy Mosteller
Communion Server	Melissa Patton	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Grayson Patton	Emma Peck
Usher	Dan & Gavin Patton	Doug/Diane Neeb
		Gary/Lisa Golnek
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack/Carol Vos	Eve Wright
Children's Church		Kim & Lydia Markwart
Chancel Team	Vickey Argo	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, January 14, 2018

Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Phil Poholski
Cantor	Mark Anton	Kate Watson
Lector	John Burdick	Carla Neil
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Phyllis Lietz
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Clyde Watson
Usher	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	Mark Anton, Ed Domke
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Mark/Jana Bishop	Kristi Winick, Ingrid Morgan
Children's Church		Tom, Hope & Emma Peck
Chancel Team	Vickey Argo	

