

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St
Hastings MI 49058



Website: www.grace-hastings.org

Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI

Office Hours: Tues, Wed, & Thur 9:00am-3:00pm

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
October 31, 2021

Reformation Sunday

October 31, 2021

The color for Reformation Sunday 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.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! We gather renewed by God to praise the One who forgets our sin. God gives us hope, as we realize that grace liberates us from sin and allows our faith in Christ. As children of God, we can realize the truth of God's grace and freedom we have to express love to one another.

Pre-service Music (10:45 only)

Glad Day

by JC Dare
Grace Notes

Welcome/Announcements

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music (10:45 only)

Golden Moments

by JC Dare
Grace Notes

Reformation Litany

P On this Reformation Sunday, let us celebrate that our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer renews.
G **We thank you for giving us new life.**

A Look, Lord: an empty vessel that needs to be filled.

G **My Lord, fill it.**

P I am weak in the faith;

G **strengthen me.**

A I am cold in love;

G **warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor.**

P I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times, I doubt and am unable to trust in you.

G **O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you.**

A I am poor; you are rich –
C and you came to be merciful to the poor.

P I am a sinner; you are upright. With me there is an abundance of sin;
C with you is fullness of righteousness.

A Thank you for remaining with us,
C for by your grace we are healed.

P We are blessed with your renewing life.
C We thank you for giving us new life. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ELW 504

Prayer of the Day

A Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people.
C **Keep us steadfast in your word, protect and comfort us in times of trial, defend us 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**

Please be seated.

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

L A reading from **Jeremiah**.

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.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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.
C **Thanks be to God.**

The psalm is spoken. The leader will read the light text. The assembly will read the bold.

Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

**⁶The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**⁸Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹behold 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.

**¹⁰“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Grace Notes (10:45 only)

Jesus Loves Me, Jesus Loves Me

Swedish Folk Tune
arr. ML Thompson

Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28

📖 A reading from **Romans**.

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.

¹⁹Now 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. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom 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; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For 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.**

Arise in body or spirit. All speak the Gospel Acclamation in unison.

Gospel Acclamation Spoken

Alleluia!

Alleluia. Alleluia. If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. Alleluia.

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.**

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They 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?’”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Time

Message

Silence for reflection

Hymn of Day

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

ELW 517

Prayers of Intercession

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Hear us O, Lord.** The assembly prays: **You give us grace.***

☐ Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God’s creation.

A brief silence

☐ We pray for your creation, for mountains, rivers, streams, cities, homesteads, and neighborhoods. Write in our hearts a new love and care for creation. Give us the will to curb wasteful habits and to hold accountable those who neglect the vulnerable. Hear us, O God. We thank you for our church leaders especially, *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Bread of Life Lutheran Church, Hudsonville, Church of Nazarene, Hastings, Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us O, Lord.

☑ **You give us grace.**

A We pray for all who aspire to public office and for all who will vote on Tuesday at local polling places. Pour wisdom and understanding upon all who govern so that communities of justice and peace may thrive. Hear us O, Lord.

G **You give us grace.**

A We pray for all who long for healing in mind, body, or spirit. Strengthen hospitals, clinics, counseling centers, nursing homes, and recovery centers to be holy spaces of renewal that all might live the abundant life you intend. Be with those who serve in the military, especially *Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Austin and Aaron Endsley, Alexis and Carlos Garcia (Burdicks), Brady and Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas), Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls), and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads)*. Hear us O, Lord.

G **You give us grace.**

A We pray for all who seek to grow in faith and love of you. Guide teaching and learning in confirmation, small groups, Sunday school, youth groups, schools, seminaries, and universities. Send healing and relief to all who are sick, especially *Doris Allerdig, Amber Andrews, Vickey Argo, Chris Bush, Ron Bush, Donna Buehl, Cherie Clements, Ann Cusack, The family of Joyce Daugherty, Mary Dawson, Pat Wales Depew, Ray Depew, Mike Fruth, Lori Glayness, Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, Henry Heil, Mike Hoppe, Jay Joseph, Bill Melcher, Darlene Olson, Cynthia Rudesill (healthy pregnancy), Jane Secor, Mike Shoemaker, George Ulrich Jr., Sharon Varkula, Cheri Wilke, Deborah Wilke, Kristi Winick, Eve Wright, Lynnze, Kaylee F., Lily & Ali B. and Laney F.* Hear us O, Lord.

G **You give us grace.**

*(You may share your prayers at this time)
Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A We give thanks for all the saints and reformers who have gone before us who dwell in your holy habitation, especially Martin Luther, Joyce Daugherty and others we name aloud at this time. Give us courage through their example to challenge unjust systems and work toward life-giving reformation. Hear us O, Lord

G **You give us grace.**

P Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth, and life.

G **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit. The pastor and the assembly greet each other giving a sign of Christ's peace.

Sharing the Peace

- ☞ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☞ **And also with you.**
(We share the peace of the risen Lord with one another.)

After a sign of Christ's peace is given the prayer is prayed, as the assembly continues to stand.

Offering Prayer

- ☞ Let us pray . . . God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us.
- ☞ **Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

- ☞ The Lord be with you.
- ☞ **And also with you.**

- ☞ Lift up your hearts.
- ☞ **We lift them to the Lord.**

- ☞ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- ☞ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

- ☞ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by the glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name forever.
- ☞ **Amen.**

- ☞ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; 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 that Jesus is among us.
- ☞ **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

☞ Lord teach us always to pray:

☞ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

☞ Holy food for Holy people.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

We partake of the Body and Blood of Christ

Please be seated. You are invited to come forward to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. At this time, we only offer the pouring chalice and prefilled grape juice cups. There is a gluten-free option for the bread. Please let the pastor know.

Please remain seated.

Prayer after Communion

☞ Let us pray . . . Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.

☞ **Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

After the Mission Minutes are shared, we arise in body or spirit, as the pastor shares the blessing.

Blessing

☞ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

☞ **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

ELW 729

Dismissal

☞ Go in peace. Remember the poor.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

REFORMATION DAY

Free, Indeed?

Today the scriptures tell us that God's grace comes freely, as a gift. But is anything really free? Advertisements claiming "free" goods or services pique our attention: What's the catch? What does the small print say? Even beyond the world of commerce, we know that nothing comes without a price: time and sacrifice are required for a scholarship to college, a promotion at work, a happy marriage, a worry-free retirement. Our worthiness and success can seem to hang on our ability to perform, to do well, to get things right, to excel. Even with those closest to us—friends, coworkers, and family members—we may feel just one mistake or misstep away from losing their approval. In such a world, is God any different?

Yet before we were even born, before our first exam or job interview, before our first failure or sin, before our first fight or our first loss, Jesus Christ hung on a cross to be a sign that God's grace is free indeed. To his cross he drew every cost, every pain, every judgment, every failure—and what poured forth was only love, as pure gift. In his cross, there is no catch or small print; there is simply the divine love that has been there for us all along. This is the love of a God who made the world and called it good. It is the love of a God who formed us and gave us life. It is the love of a God who sees us, suffers with us, and binds up all our wounds.

Child of God, God loves you, deeply and freely. As an assembly, we are gathered by this truth. We practice it in the font and at the table, through our words and in our offerings. It calls us to always be reformed so God's grace and love may pour forth through us into the world, free of charge.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Stewardship Information

Attendance: 37 Views: 52 Weekly Giving: \$2,695.00 Budget Amount: \$4,163.28

We welcome the bell choir today, as they play at our 10:45 worship service. It is good to hear the Grace Notes. This year's ringers are Chris Bush, Kim Domke, Joan Hefflebower, Vicki MacKellar, Lisa Pohl, Jan Rounds and Anita Shaw. We are thankful that they have been able to gather to make music and share it as an offering this morning to the glory of God.

Pasty Sale: Pick-up on Saturday, November 6th.

Flouring mixing: *Thursday 11/4 @ 9:00 am*

Meat Cutting: *Friday 11/5 @ 5:00 pm*

Pasty Making: *Saturday 11/6 @ 7:00 am*

The website DONATION button has changed. The new vendor will save Grace Lutheran Church hundreds of dollars a year. If you have questions or are uncomfortable with how you can donate online, please view the how-to video that has been posted to Grace's Facebook page.

Adult Forum continues to gather in the Gathering Area and will continue its study on the book of **Genesis** at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there!

God's Creation 2022 Calendars. Available for \$5.00 each. This is not a fundraiser, but you can pick them up for a very reasonable price. These are made available by the Outreach Committee.

Seeking readers, fellowship providers (*make coffee and lemonade for our fellowship time*), **ushers, greeters, and Assisting Ministers.**

Mask wearing. The Worship Committee is asking you to wear your mask during singing. You are welcome to wear your mask at all times if it makes you more comfortable. *Thank you for your flexibility, as we keep needing to adjust to the virus changing.*

We are putting on hold at this time the collection of plastic shopping bags. The "plarn" makers and crocheters need time to play catch up! **Thank you** to all of you who have donated bags: to date the Hastings Women's Club members have made and donated over 25 sleeping mats for those in need. It takes about 600 bags to make just one mat. Your participation in this mission is greatly appreciated. *~Deborah Wilke*

ELCA Hunger Appeal Community Outreach Committee invites you to experience a **Lasagna Meal** and an **Apple Crisp** style dessert for either a "stay-at-the-church" and/or a "take-home" meal on Sunday, November 14th. A suggested donation for each meal is \$10, the proceeds of which will be forwarded to the ELCA Churchwide headquarters in Chicago for its ongoing mission to alleviate world hunger.



The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis. Keep praying for our youth and adults as they try to make decisions about their ability to go.

Increase Your Savings And Increase Your Comfort With A FREE Energy Analysis from Consumers Energy. Sign up for a virtual or in-person appointment and one of Consumers Energy trained Energy Analysts will conduct an assessment of your home that will provide you with energy savings tips along with a personalized home energy report. Included in the Home Energy Analysis are upgrades such as:

- LED bulbs
- LED nightlights
- Pipe wrap, showerheads, and faucet aerators *Electric water heater customers (Eligibility determined at the time of appointment)

Please use POMO CODE: **GLEE**. If you have electric only call (833) 685-1312
If you have gas only or a combination of gas and electric call (888) 316-8014

DEADLINE TO CONTACT CONSUMERS ENERGY IS DECEMBER 12, 2021.

Calling all YOUth! Jamie Heise and Pastor Ken invite youth of any age (yes that does mean some who are 70) to come and join us for a fun time at Heidi's. We are going to go through the corn maze and enjoy some cider and doughnuts while there. We will come back to the church for some good pizza. Join us at 10 am on Saturday, November 13.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin
Lector – Jamie Heise
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo
Lector – Jack Vos
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship – Laura Scheck