

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St
Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
October 8, 2023

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

October 8, 2023

Pentecost is a season for growing represented by the color green. We celebrate the founding of the church and the fruits of the Spirit, and the continued growth given by our gracious God.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Arise in body or Spirit

Confession and Forgiveness

☞ Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ☩ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

☞ **Amen.**

☞ Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

☞ Steadfast and faithful God,

☞ **you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

☞ Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ☩ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

☞ **Amen.**

Gathering Song

Majesty

W&P 94

Majesty, worship His Majesty.
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise
Majesty, Kingdom Authority
Flow from His throne, unto His own
His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the Name of Jesus
 Magnify, come glorify, Christ Jesus the King.
 Majesty, worship His Majesty;
 Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings!

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

☐ The steadfast love of God, the life of Jesus Christ, and the growth of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

This is the Feast

ELW pages 140-141

Refrain

☑ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

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

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his,

Refrain

3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men.

Refrain

4 For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

Guitar refrain
This is the feast of victory for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray... Beloved God, from you come all things that are good.
- Ⓒ **Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

Ⓖ A reading from **Isaiah**.

¹Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
²He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:7-15



Refrain



Look down from heav'n, O God; be - hold and tend this vine.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**⁸You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.**

⁹You cleared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.

**¹⁰The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

¹¹You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.

**¹²Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

¹³The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

**¹⁴Turn now, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven;**

¹⁵behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

☐ A reading from **Philippians:**

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

☐ Word of God, word of life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

TTF Page 50



☑ Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

📖 The Holy Gospel according to **Matthew**.

🔊 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the people:] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🔊 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Time

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. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

*Silence for reflection. After reflection,
Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.*

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **God of Grace**. The assembly prays, **Receive our prayer**.*

A Trusting in the transformative power of God’s loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A God of all grace, you are the source of life and joy. Strengthen the resolve of your church throughout the world, that together we press on toward the goal of your heavenly call in Jesus Christ. We lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companions St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Herron; Hastings Seventh Day Adventist Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. God of Grace.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A God of all creation, you plant and nourish the earth as your own precious vineyard. Bless fields and orchards and the hands of those who labor in them, that your people are fed with an abundant harvest of good fruit. God of Grace.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A God of all the earth, you desire peace and justice between nations and peoples. Guide leaders of nations, states, provinces, and cities, that they faithfully govern your people with wisdom, integrity, and compassion. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke)*. God of Grace.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A God of all compassion, in Christ, you lovingly poured yourself out like wine for your people. Have mercy on all who mourn, who struggle with their mental health, who cry out for justice, who hunger, and all in any need *especially Veronica Baarson, Annette Bonogofsky, Diana Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Andy Cove, Pat and Ray DePew, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Bill Frutiger, Mike Gibbons, Lisa Golnek, Henry Heil, Tina Kemper, Norma Ludlow, Martha Mizak, Virginia Moomey, Lisa Nurenberg, Abbie and preemie Charlotte Osborn, Corrina Palmer, Ricky Palmer, Sherry Palmer, Bill Parsons, Annette Poholski, Kathy Politis, Patty Renne, Jennifer Rohr, Theresa Strefling, Randy Teegardin, Jeanette Ulrich, Al Throop, and Kay Wagner*. God of Grace.

C **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ God of all steadfastness, you set Christ as the cornerstone and foundation of the church. Build up this congregation as living stones, that it stands in the community as a witness to your enduring faithfulness and love.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- Ⓐ God of all hope, the saints who came before us lived and died with their hearts fixed on you. We give you thanks for their faithful witness, and we wait with hope for the great day when we join their voices in praise. God of Grace.

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓟ Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

☑ **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Offering Song

Create in Me

TFF Page 55



☑ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me.



Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your



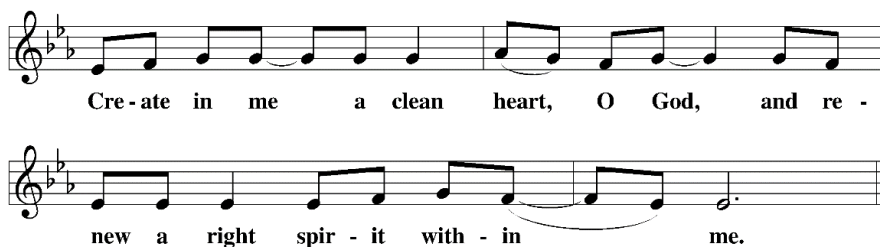
Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -



store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -



hold me with your free Spir - it.



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me.

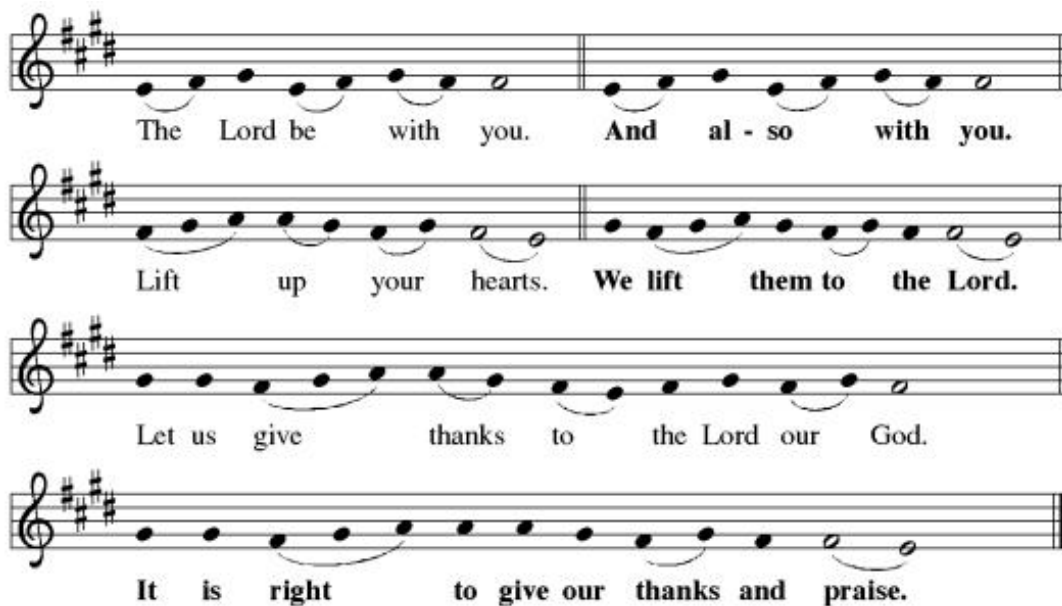
Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Be known to us, O Lord, as you were made known to the disciples.
- ☑ **Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your hands and feet in the world.**

Sharing the Peace of God

- ⒫ The peace of Christ be with you.
- ☑ **And also with you.**
(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Great Thanksgiving



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 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 his 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 and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

TTF Page 38



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Table Prayer

- ☐ Holy God, our 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 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; 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.
- ☑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- ☐ Remembering, therefore, Christ's 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.**
- ☐ By this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.
- ☑ **Through Christ all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen**

Lord's Prayer

- ☐ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:
- ☑ **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.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Sit.

Communion Songs

Lamb of God

TFF Page 39



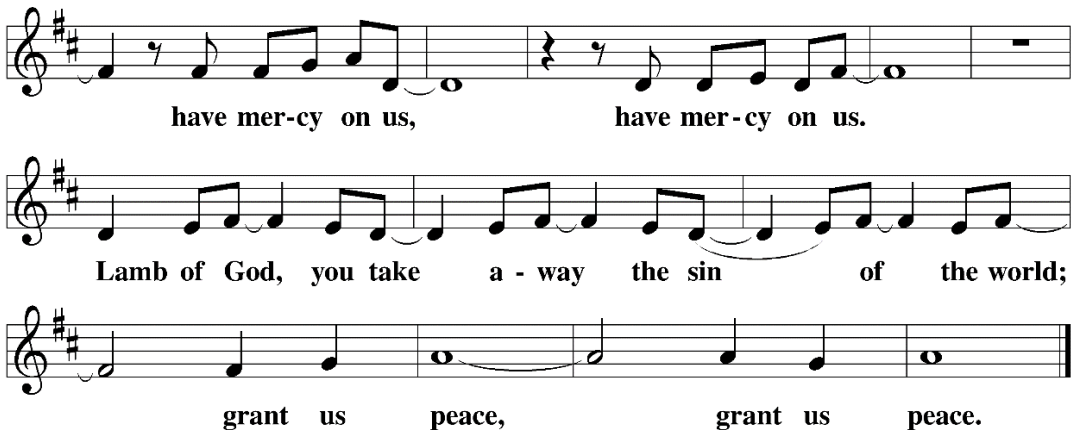
☑ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



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



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Songs

<i>Taste and See</i>	ELW 493
<i>Come, Let Us Eat</i>	ELW 491
<i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>	ELW 473

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy.
- Ⓑ **Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

- Ⓐ Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in God, and abound in thanksgiving. The blessing of the Holy Trinity, ✚ one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.
- Ⓑ **Amen.**

Sending Song

We are Marching in the Light of God

ELW 866

Sending

- Ⓐ Reconciled to God through Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- Ⓑ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Solidarity in Rejection

People face rejection for all kinds of reasons: race, nationality, gender, native language, political beliefs. Rejection is a painful experience that can wound the soul and crush the ego. Anyone who has faced it for one reason or another knows the deep hurt of rejection.

Jesus faced rejection. He faced people with power who rejected his teachings, his ministry, his identity, and ultimately, his whole self. Even many of his followers had a hard time accepting his teaching and walked away. Matthew tells us Jesus understood his rejection in a significant way: “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?’” (Matthew 21:42).

Jesus saw that his rejection could be used for God’s purposes, shocking as it sounds. The Rejected One becomes God’s means of transformation by turning that rejection into an offer of mercy for all, even for those who rejected him. His rejection shows all who face similar fates that even when all others abandon them, God claims them as beloved. Jesus’ rejection becomes the opposite: God’s acceptance of us.

All who face rejection in this life can trust that Jesus lives in solidarity with them. They can even come to see that God can use their pain and hurt to create something new. Baptized, we live in an unbreakable covenant of acceptance. We are invited to the table of inclusion. This doesn’t eliminate the pain or justify the rejection, but it does open up new possibilities for healing and empowerment. Living as siblings of Christ the rejected one, we come to have such bold faith, and it is amazing in our eyes.

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8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Vicki Tebo
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Traci Wales
Lector – Paul Kuhlman
Cantor – Mary Kuhlman
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Fellowship – Lorraine & Bill Freedlund

Women of Faith Bible Study is meeting Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. at Grace. All ladies welcome. Additional information is located on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

Pasty Sale is on November 4. If you would like to order, please see the form in the Gathering Area. If you’d like to volunteer to help, there are sign-ups for that as well.

Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you are here among us to worship the ONE who continues to save each one of us. We don't need to ask, we don't need to be a good person, we don't need to have everything together. Jesus comes and takes care of us, just as we are called to care for others who enter our lives.

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Stewardship Information

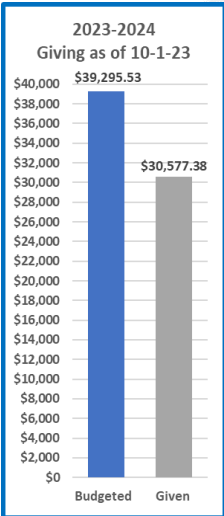
Attendance: 37 Views: 258
 Weekly Giving: \$1,470.00 Budget Amount: \$4,366.17
 September Online Giving: \$2377.38

Grace Projects As you know, we have fully funded a new HVAC system for the Fellowship Hall. The Congregation Council has voted to have a fundraiser to replenish the funds we raised. Much like the roof deductible, we are seeking to make sure we have funds for any future property needs. The cost of the HVAC was \$25,252.00 We appreciate any contributions toward this future need of caring for our building.

Prayer Chain Grace has an activated prayer chain. If you want to be a part of the prayer chain, or have a request for prayer, please text or call Patti Comp at 248.408.5613.

Adult Forum studies normally studies Proverbs in the Gathering Area Sundays at 9:30 am.

The nursery is available weekly during the 10:45 worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.



The Outreach Committee invites you to help the Hand2Hand Program which provides food over the weekend to students in need in Hastings schools. We are collecting donations of Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk, pudding cups, Slim Jims, granola bars, individual size instant oatmeal, ramen noodles, and ready-to-eat mac and cheese. In addition, October

items are as follows, individual snacks, creamy peanut butter (small jar), snack pack pudding, Slim Jims, ranch dressing (small bottle), and microwave popcorn. Please place all donations in the box at the front entrance. This month's donations are due on **October 22**.

All Saints Sunday All Saints Sunday will take place this year on Sunday, November 5. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area to place your saints' name.

Community Worship and Meal On Sunday, October 29, Grace Lutheran Church is having a combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. The Grace Notes Bell Choir is ringing, the worship style will be similar to the outdoor service, and our meal will allow people to express their heritage. You are encouraged to bring a dish of food to celebrate your ethnic background.

God's Creation Calendars are available for \$5.00 and are provided as a ministry of outreach for you to share with relatives, neighbors, coworkers, friends, teachers, letter carriers, the homebound and caregivers...anyone you think who would have their day brightened by this lovely calendar with its inspiring Bible verses. They are provided at a low cost to purchase and share, and are not a fundraiser. Pick up your calendars in the Gathering Area and pay in the envelopes provided. Envelopes can be placed in the offering plate, or on the parish administrator's desk. Thanks for supporting this ministry.

Funeral Meal Coordinator Needed Your help is needed if you have interest in being a volunteer funeral meal coordinator. A funeral meal coordinator arranges and works with volunteers who wish to provide a lunch or dessert for funerals based on family requests. If you are interested and would like to work with other volunteers to provide this service to our congregation, please contact the church office or a social activities committee member.

Social Activities have planned a trip to Turkeyville to see the play *Forever Plaid* on Saturday, October 14 at 12:00 p.m. for those who signed up. We will meet in the church parking lot and leave at 10:30 AM.

Book Study A book study is being considered for Sunday mornings sometime this fall. If you are interested in studying Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist, please contact the church office or Pastor Ken. If we have enough interest, the study would begin in October. Books will be available for the maximum cost of \$24.00.

CROP Walk The annual CROP Walk is taking place **TODAY**, at the Middleville United Methodist Church. Be here at the church at 1:00 if you would like to carpool. The walk begins at 1:30.

Trunk-or-Treat is Tuesday, October 31 from 5:00 - 8:00 PM. We invite you to bring candy. We expect a large turnout once again so many volunteers will be needed to host treat rooms, serve apple cider, donate bags of candy and greet all the little ghosts and goblins who stop by. Volunteer sign-up sheets are posted in the gathering room. We will ask room hosts to gather at the church around 4:00 PM to decorate your room.

Noisy Offering will be collected today to benefit Barry County Cares. You may place coins and other money into the silver bowl located in the front during the singing of the offertory song. Noisy Offering is taken every second Sunday.

Counters Needed Grace is in need of 2 new money counters. Training will be provided, and you will serve on a rotating basis. Please let Deborah Wilke know if you would be interested.