

# 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

Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
November 26, 2023

# Christ the King

November 26, 2023

*Christ the King is the end of the season for the Christian calendar. Today's color is white representing the purity and glory due Jesus our king. We praise God for our servant king, who stands at the end of time welcoming us into the eternal kingdom of God's reign.*

Today we gather as the body of Christ. We wear the crown of baptism and trace his royal sign — the holy cross — over our brows and bodies. We leave here strengthened to serve those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, sick, and imprisoned.

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

## Gathering Music

### Welcome

*Arise in body or Spirit*

### Greeting

*The pastor and the assembly greet each other.*

- ☐ As the earth shows signs of seasons end, the life and peace we share in the Creator, the Redeemer and the Sustainer be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

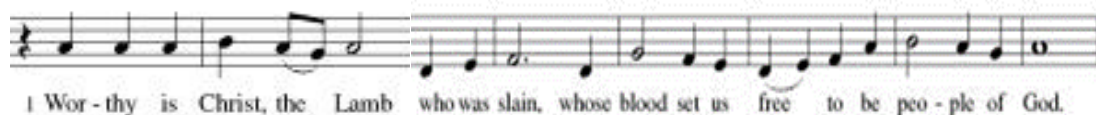
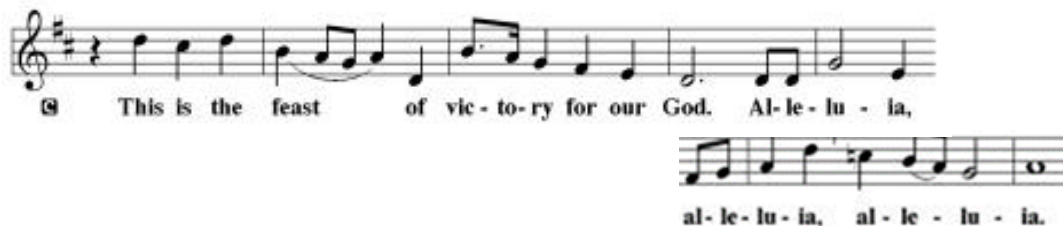
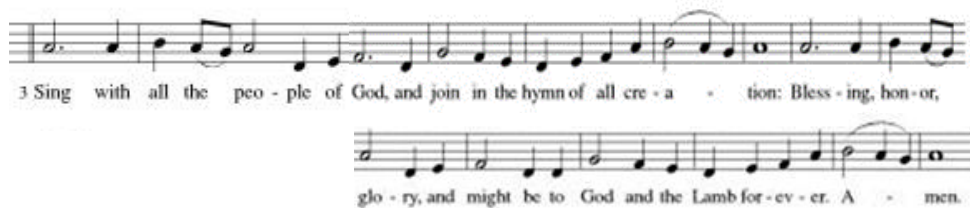
## Gathering Song

*Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

ELW 389

## Opening Sentences

- ☐ We thank you, O God, for still creating.
- ☑ **We bless you for the abundant harvest you provide.**
- ☐ We are blessed with your mercy and power of life.
- ☑ **All of creation gives you praise.**
- ☐ We see the diversity of your creation.
- ☑ **We give you praise for the hues you show forth today and for all time. Amen**

**Refrain****Refrain****Refrain****Refrain**



## Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray... O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace.
- Ⓑ Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## First Reading

**Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

*Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.*

- Ⓐ A reading from **Ezekiel**.

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

📖 Word of God, word of life.

🎵 Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 95:1-7a



#### 🎵 Refrain



<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing | to the LORD;  
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

**<sup>2</sup>Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, | are a great God,  
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.

**<sup>4</sup>In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are | also yours. 📖**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, | for you made it,  
and your hands have molded | the dry land.

**<sup>6</sup>Come, let us worship | and bow down,  
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.**

<sup>7a</sup>For the LORD | is our God,  
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand. 📖

## Second Reading

## Ephesians 1:15-23

*In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.*

📖 A reading from **Ephesians**:

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

📖 Word of God, word of life.

👏 **Thanks be to God.**

*Arise in body or spirit.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

**ELW Page 151**



*Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.*

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

👑 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

📖 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.*

## Hymn of the Day

## Come Now, You Blessed

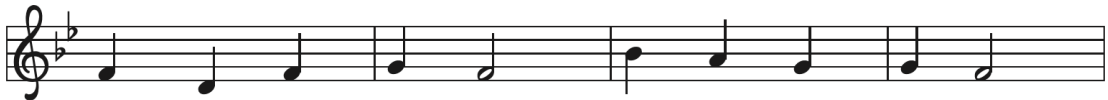
ACS 1059



1 "Come now, you bless - ed, eat at my ta - ble,"  
2 When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y?  
3 "When you gave bread to earth's hun - gry chil - dren,  
4 Christ, when we meet you out on life's road - ways,



said Je - sus Christ to the righ - teous a - bove.  
When were you home - less, a strang - er a - lone?  
when you gave wel - come to war's ref - u - gees,  
look - ing to us in the fac - es of need,



"When I was hun - gry, thirst - y, and home-less,  
When did we see you sick or in pris - on?  
when you re - mem - bered those most for - got - ten,  
then may we know you, wel - come and show you



sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love."  
What have we done that you call us your own?  
you cared for me in the small - est of these."  
love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.

## Apostle's Creed

See Insert

*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**.*

Ⓐ Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*



**A** Holy God, from Christ we receive our call to feed, clothe, and welcome. Direct your church to respond to this call with faithfulness and generous love. We pray for the work of ELCA World Hunger and partnerships with global feeding ministries. We lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companions Immanuel Lutheran Church, Jackson; Kilpatrick United Brethren, Woodland; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* God of Grace.

**C Receive our prayer.**

**A** In Christ, the rock of our salvation, we are brought into union with all of creation. With mountains, seas, dry lands, and animals of the field, we seek your guidance and protection. God of Grace.

**C Receive our prayer.**

**A** In Christ we know merciful judgment. Guide rulers of every nation in ways of humble leadership and wise decision-making. Allow aid to come to all who are underserved and care to any who are neglected. 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** In Christ we feel the depth of your love and care toward us. Nourish all who hunger, connect any who are isolated, and surround all who experience rejection or abuse. We pray for those who suffer *especially Pastor Michael Anton, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Diana Brown, Doug Brown, the family of Audrey Burdick, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Andy and Kristen Cove, Jet Cover, Pat DePew, Lisa Golnek, Lorraine Handsbarger, Norma Ludlow, Martha Misak, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Rick Palmer, Annette Poholski, Kathy Politis, Patty Renne, Jennifer Rohr, Mike Shoemaker, Jeanette Ulrich, and Al Throop.* God of Grace.

**C Receive our prayer.**

**A** In Christ we are made the people of his pasture. Inspire the outreach and social ministries of this congregation. We pray for all people who serve and attend to the needs of others. God of Grace.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** Holy God, in Christ we are welcomed home. We praise you for the faithful witness of those who have served you and extended your welcome and love to us. Unite us with them as one body of Christ. God of Grace.

**C Receive our prayer.**

**P** We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

*Arise in body or spirit.*

## Offering Song

## Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

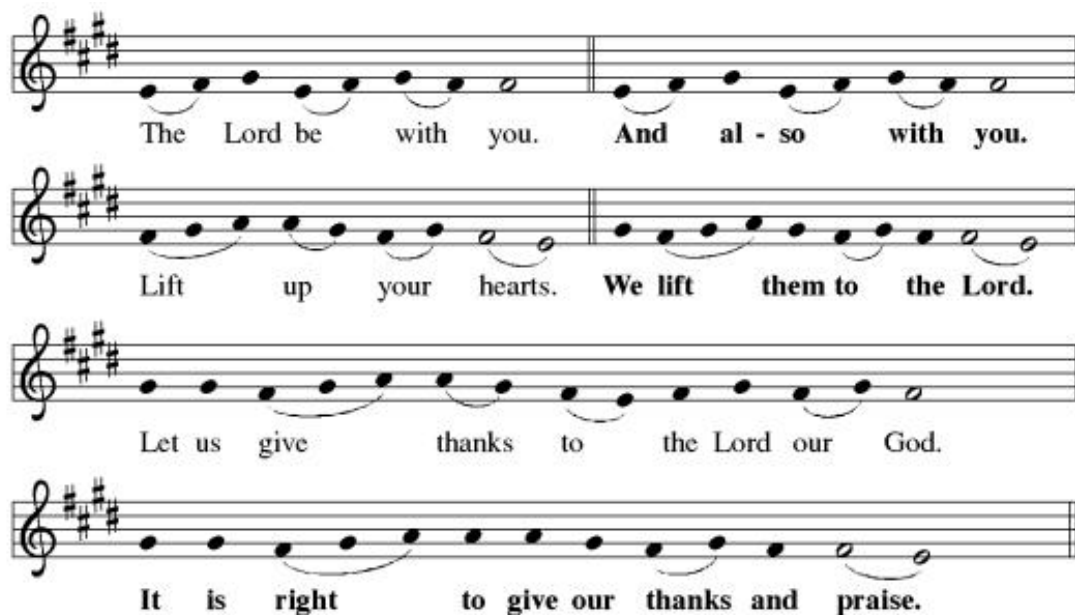
## Offering Prayer

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

## Sharing the Peace of God

- P** The peace of Christ be with you.  
**C** 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

ELW page 153



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



### 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.* *Lamb of God* **ELW page 154**

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

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

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

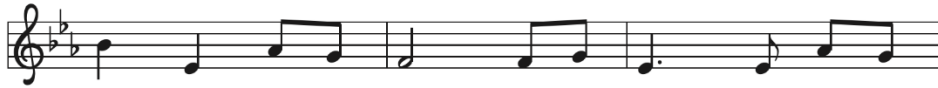
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Songs

## *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken* ACS 633



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the  
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a  
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in  
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



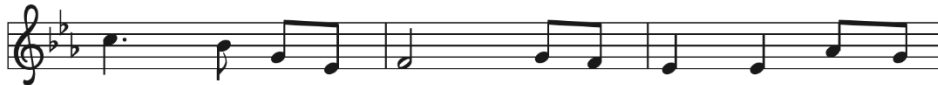
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from  
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you  
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the  
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.  
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.  
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"  
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



*Refrain*  
 By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

## *Thine the Amen*

ELW 826

## 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

- ☞ God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace.  
And may the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.
- ☞ Amen.

### Sending Song

*The Head that Once was Crowned*

ELW 432

### Sending

- ☞ Go in peace. Be a blessing in the world.
- ☞ Thanks be to God.

### Postlude

#### The Coming Kingdom

Jesus' vision of glory is really a humble one. His kingly activity is not concerned with parading around royally, or associating with the powerful or wealthy, or affiliating himself with military might and authority. The pronouncements made from his throne are not ones issued for the sake of protecting his own power. Instead, he is concerned with one question in particular: How do the vulnerable fare?

As we celebrate Christ the King at the end of another church year, we are challenged to see an expression of political power that is far different from that which makes our governments tick. Jesus welcomes his followers into an alternative way of life, one that puts love of neighbor at the center of our daily actions.

To get a sense of how the vulnerable have fared on our watch, we could look at our national and local budgets, government policies, advocacy efforts, social interactions, even our charitable contributions. At the heart of Jesus' teaching is an invitation to see one's neighbor with renewed vision. There is an expectation when honoring Jesus' sovereignty that our attention turn outward, away from ourselves. Similarly, the celebration of the Lord's supper redirects our attention toward Christ and our neighbor.

When we receive the meal, we are not coming forward for a private snack. Instead, we come as people who are shaped by this gift of God. In this gift Christ himself reminds us of the common need we have, and as we partake in the meal, we are invited to see it as a central expression of Christ's reign. In so doing, our idea of neighbor expands and we rehearse an economy that God desires, one in which vulnerable people matter. We share this meal with God's family throughout history and around the world. And this is how the kingdom comes.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

**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. Let us worship Christ the King.**

### **Stewardship Information**

Please use this QR  
Code to access  
online giving.



Attendance: 49

Weekly Giving: \$665.00

Views: 422

Budget Amount: \$4,366.17

**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.

**God's Creation Calendars** are available for \$5.00.

**Adult Forum** Join us this week, as we continue our study of Galatians. We meet 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.

**Book Study** entitled Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist. The next study session is December 17.



Hand2Hand Program provides food over the weekend to students at 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, November items are microwave popcorn, individual fruit cups, Knorr pasta sides, and canned chick noodle soup. **The deadline for this month is November 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**Women of Faith** meet Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. All ladies are welcome.

### **Serving Today**

#### **8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister – Mark Anton**

**Lector – Dave Neeb**

**Cantor – Cindy Olson**

**Musician – Cindy Olson**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck II**

#### **10:45 am**

**Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo**

**Lector – Bill Freedlund**

**Cantor – Cindy Olson**

**Musician – Cindy Olson**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck II**

**Fellowship – Bill and Lorraine Freedlund**