Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St Hastings MI 49058



Website: www.grace-hastings.org Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00am-1:00 pm

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

Pastor Ken Scheck II Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music October 6, 2024

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 6, 2024

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.

Welcome

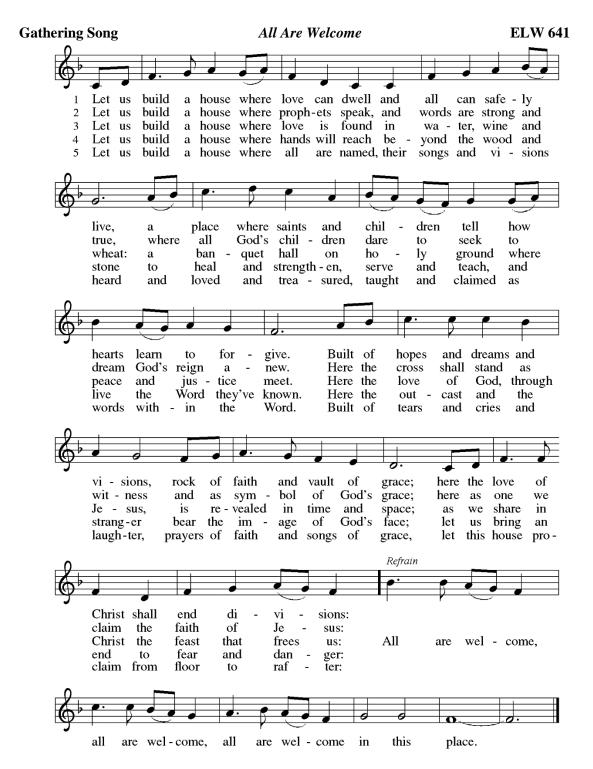
Gathering Music

Arise in body or Spirit

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- P The love of our Creator, revealed by Christ Jesus our Lord and sustained through the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **And also with you.**



Dialogue

- P Come, let us celebrate, let us rejoice, let us give God the glory!
- **☑** For the Lord our God reigns, Alleluia!
- All nations come and worship you, Holy God.
- **■** Holy, holy, holy God, you are the beginning, the present and all that is to come.
- P All colors and races give hearty praise!
- **Q** Let us share your love with all. Amen

Song of Praise

Glory be to God

ELW pg. 204



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for ev er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth: Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove; Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa-ther's splen-dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise. Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand. For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

- A Let us pray... Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another.
- Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading Genesis 2:18-24

Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live in isolation but in relationship. Out of love for humanity, God creates them male and female, to provide companionship for each other and to become with each other "one flesh." The Hebrew words used here are ish (man) and ishshah (woman).

L A reading from **Genesis**:

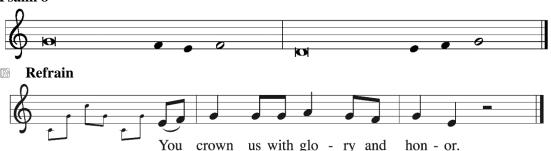
¹⁸The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."

²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

- L The word of the Lord.
- **9** Thanks be to God.





¹O | LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in | all the earth!—

 2 you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of in- $^{\mid}$ fants and children;

you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe | and avenger.

³When I consider your heavens, the work ¹ of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set ¹ in their courses,

 4 what are mere mortals that you should be mind- † ful of them, human beings that you should † care for them? \blacksquare

⁵Yet you have made them little less | than divine; with glory and hon- | or you crown them.

 6You have made them rule over the works $^{\dag}$ of your hands; you have put all things un- $^{\dag}$ der their feet:

⁷all | flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts | of the field, ⁸the birds of the air, the fish | of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths | of the sea.

⁹O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in ¹ all the earth! ■

Quoting from the psalms, this passage from Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus, the one through whom God created everything and who sits at God's right hand, is also the one who experienced human suffering and death in order to blaze the path of salvation for us.

L A reading from **Hebrews**:

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

^{2:5}Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere,

"What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them?

You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor,

subjecting all things under their feet."

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

- **L** The word of the Lord.
- **©** Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation





Gospel Reading Mark 10:2-16

Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

ఆ Glory to you, O Lord.

²Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" ³He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." ⁵But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' ⁷'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

- **P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ.

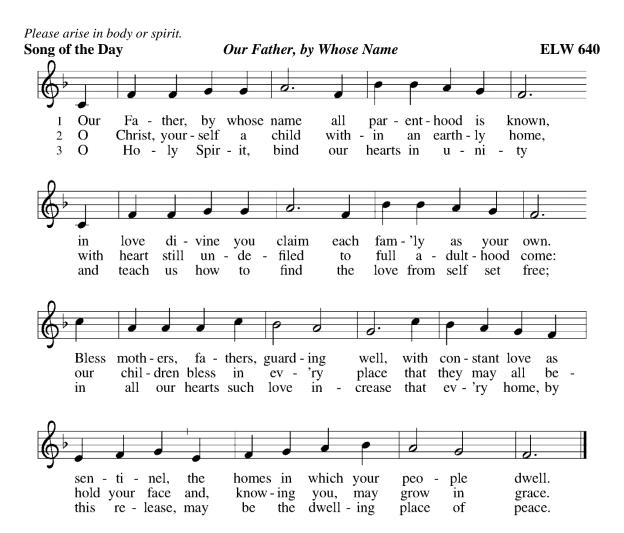
Please be seated.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Page 8

Children's Message

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



Please be seated.

Pravers

We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, God of grace. The assembly prays, Hear our prayer.

A Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

A brief silence

A God of our ancestors, we give thanks for the church in all times. May we listen for the prophets of this age who bear messages that stir the church toward renewal and justice. Bless our leaders and collaborators in this ministry, Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companion St. Peter Lutheran Church, Unionville; First Congregational Church of Lake Odessa; First Presbyterian Church, Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken. God of grace,

G Hear our prayer.

A Creator of every creature on earth, direct our lives toward the renewal and sustaining of cattle, birds of the air, animals of the field, and those who share our homes. Reveal the ways we can work alongside creation for the health and well-being of all. God of grace,

G Hear our prayer.

Accompany us when hardness of heart gets in the way of justice between people and nations. Endow leaders with minds for justice and hearts for 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), Seth Domke (Domke), and Nathen Schick (Markwart).* God of grace,

G Hear our prayer.

A Restoring Lord, grant healing and wholeness to those who are sick and suffering, especially Pastor Michael Anton, Mark Arens, Dennis Baarson, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, the family of Carol Comp, Pat DePew, Kim Domke, Bonnie Ehredt, Magdalena Garcia, Ruby Gibbons (adoption process), Opal Gillons, Lisa Golnek, Caitlyn Habben (pregnancy), Cynthia Hansen, Joy Jenks, Dana Lepien, Jef Melcher, Martha Mizak, Dawn McElgunn, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, the family of Linda Olson, Shirley Peterson, Kathy Politis, the family of Bob Rebone, Patty Renne, Tammy Rodriguez, Jennifer Rohr, Cynthia Rudesill (pregnancy), Mike Shoemaker, Ron Smith, John Surratt, Deb Talsma, Al Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Brenda Watson, and Erika Wood. Work through medical professionals to diagnose, ease pain, and give life to all who seek their wisdom and experience. God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

- Meanuther of the Land of th
- **G** Hear our prayer.

Here other intersessions may be offered.

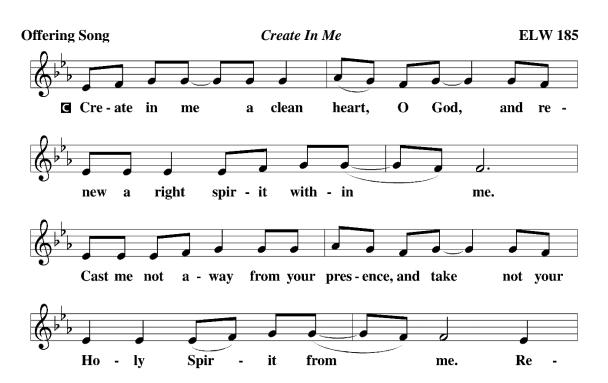
- A God of resurrection, you prepare a place in the kingdom through Christ's death and resurrection. We give thanks for the saints who have taken their place at your heavenly banquet (*especially William Tyndale, translator and martyr, whom we commemorate today*). God of grace,
- Hear our prayer.
- Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.
- Amen.

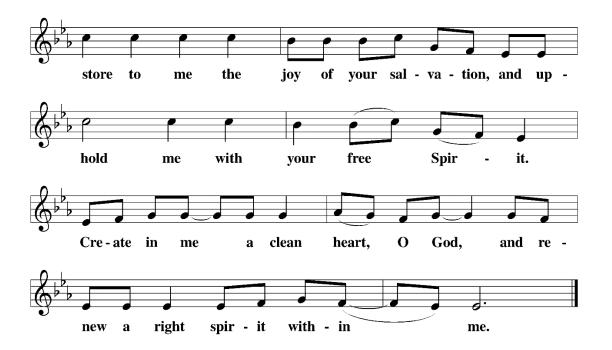
Please arise in body or spirit.

Sharing the Peace of God

- P The peace of Christ be with you.
- And also with you.

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





Offering Prayer

- A Let us pray . . . Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor.
- Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

Great Thanksgiving

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **☑** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **■** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P 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:

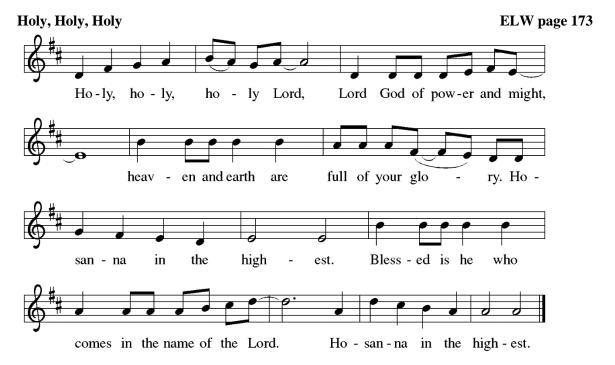


Table Prayer

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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.

Remembering Christ's love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. Amen.

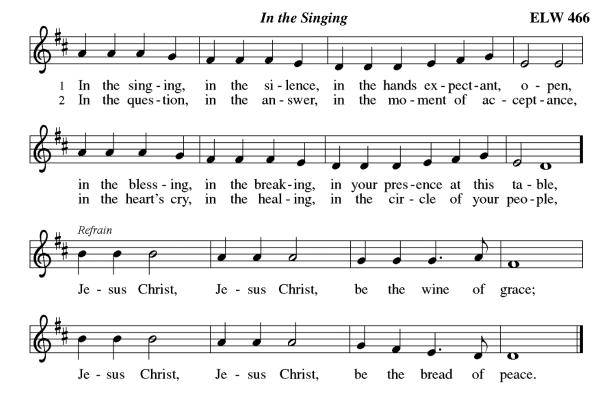
Lord's Prayer

- P Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:
- ② 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

- P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.
- **☑** Thanks be to God!

Lamb of God ELW page 174 Lamb of God, you take the sin of the world; have a - way mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take sin of the the a - way world; have us. Lamb of mer - cy on God, you take of the world; way the sin grant us peace, grant us peace. **ELW 644 Communion Songs:** Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue Al - though I with an - gel's tongue, faith, my speak my 2 For love tient, love is kind. and nev - er is pa For now at dark-ened glass; vi - sions we peer our The gifts are man - y, the Bod - y one, and in - to knowl-edge all but have love. my gifts are sur - pass, no things, with boast - ing pride; love bears all things en vain all our tongues all cease. In part know, part now end; we in one are all bap - tized. Be - lov - ed, share one heart, one vain clang - ing blar brass. as gong or ing bide. All things must end; love will dures. a see: then will see love face face. we to mind, one hope, faith, love in Christ. one one



Prayer after Communion

- ⚠ Let us pray . . . We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life.
- **I** In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

- **P** Be strengthened with the power of God, + the love of Christ, and the help of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- Amen.

- Now thank we all our God
- 2 Oh, may this boun-teous God
- 3 All praise and thanks to God

with hearts and hands and voic - es, through all our life be near us,

the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won-drous things has done, with ev - er joy - ful hearts the Son, and Spir - it blest,

in whom this world re - joic - es; and bless - ed peace to cheer us, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth-ers' arms, and keep us all in grace, the one e - ter - nal God,

has blest us on our way and guide us when per - plexed, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



Sending

A Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin Lector – Mark Anton Musician – Cindy Olson Cantor – Cindy Olson Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Traci Wales Lector – Paul Kuhlman Musician – Cindy Olson Cantor – Mary Kuhlman Pastor – Ken Scheck Fellowship – Diane Neeb

Relationships over Rules

This gospel reading is one that hits everyone's ears as uncomfortable. Divorce has touched the lives of most listeners in some way, whether it's themselves, parents, siblings, children, colleagues, or friends. We all know and understand the sting of pain that divorce can cause. Holding this pain and naming its vulnerability in our lives might just be exactly what Jesus is getting at in his reply to the Pharisees.

The Pharisees are testing Jesus once again. "Is it lawful . . . ?" Lawful, yes, but if that's the sole focus, we miss the point. It's not primarily about the law; it's about relationship. In Jesus' response to the Pharisees, he draws his listeners to the Creator and to relationships. Jesus points to Genesis, where God sets the intention for relationships to be filled with love, respect, and accountability. The law is there because we human beings fail to comprehend the value of relationships.

Jesus' seemingly absolute prohibition on divorce is not meant to justify staying in a harmful or toxic relationship—quite the opposite. He is challenging the Pharisees to understand the damage that is caused when we discard another human being. This hurt is the opposite of what God intends for our relationships.

Jesus continues to draw his hearers into the power of loving relationships by welcoming children and blessing them. One way to interpret his words is that one must receive the kingdom of God the way one receives a little child. How we treat each other matters to God. God invites us into relationships to see the belovedness in one another, to uplift each other, and to care for one another. When a person is vulnerable like a child, this is exactly when we are to share grace and love, not the sting of law.

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Social Activities Committee meets tomorrow, October 7 at 4:30 pm.

Women of Faith continues to meet at 11:00 am on Tuesdays here at Grace. This week we are starting our study on the women of the New Testament. Join us on October 8, 15, 22, and 29. All women are welcome

Executive Committee meets this Tuesday, October 8 at 5:30 pm.

Brothers of Grace meets this Thursday, October 10 at 6 pm here at Grace. All men are welcome.

Turkeyville Trip to see *Million Dollar Quartet* is on Saturday, October 12. Those travelling together will depart from the parking lot here at Grace at 10:30 am.

Barry County Cropwalk is next Sunday, October 13 at Green Street United Methodist Church. Information is available at the table in the gathering area, where you can pick up a walker donation envelope. Registration begins at 1:30pm, and the walk begins at 2:00pm. If you have questions, please contact Nolan Hudson 517.852.1821 or noison55hud@gmail.com.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Page 18

Grace is looking to have people share in ministry

Grace is currently looking for servants of God to share the ministry of Jesus Christ by finding a Stewardship Chair, an Outreach Chair, a volunteer Kitchen Manager, and a "fulltime" Treasurer. We thank Chris Bush for her time as Stewardship Chair, Mike Kemper for his time as Outreach Chair, Jane Secor for her work as Kitchen Manager, and Linda Maupin as "fulltime" Treasurer. We are thankful that Randy Teegardin has stepped into the role of Treasurer, but he is away from Hastings for a good chunk of time. If you are interested in sharing ministry in any capacity, please let Tim Schoessel know.

Parish Administrator is Anna Scheck, and she is in office 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Monday through Thursday.

Outreach Committee meets next week on Monday, October 14 at 3:00 pm.

Congregation Council meets on Tuesday of next week, October 15 at 5:30 pm.

The 3rd Annual Heritage Meal will be held on Sunday, October 27 after the 10:45 am service. We encourage you to bring a dish from your cultural heritage - a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Spooky Hallow Blood Drive is on October 28 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Sign up to provide snacks or work the event, or scan the code on the bulletin board to find a time to give blood – information in gathering area. Anna is happy to help you sign up for a time to donate. Let your friends know, as we still have 36 appointments available.

Candy for Trunk or Treat can be dropped off in the gathering area in preparation for our Trunk or Treat on October 31.

Trunk or Treat is happening on Thursday, October 31st from 5-8 pm. We will be set up around the building, welcoming families for some Halloween treats. If you are willing to distribute candy, serve apple cider, decorate a room, or help in another way, please sign up in the Gathering Area.

All Saints Day If you have someone you would like to add to the list for All Saints Day, please sign them up on the list in the Gathering Area by Sunday, October 27, or email to Anna at parishadmin@grace-hastings.org.

Welcome to worship today! We are thrilled that you are here. 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 Jesus who comforts us in our times of sorrow, shame, and sadness.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.

Attendance: 43 Views: 212

Weekly Giving: \$3,460.00 Budget Amount: \$4,173.03

Paper Gator: \$103.62

Online Giving August: \$1,890.30

 Grace Projects Goal
 \$ 25,252.00

 Received To Date
 -\$ 3,026.32

 Total Needed
 \$ 22,225.68

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$0.00

Hand2Hand Here's to another month of combatting local childhood hunger. Needs for this month include chicken noodle soup, Yoo-Hoo chocolate milk, Slim Jims, Snack Pack pudding cups, individual snacks, and toothpaste and toothbrushes. Donations are due October 27! If you have questions, please see Patti Comp. Thank you for the generous support of Hand2Hand.

Calendars are available in the Gathering Area for \$5.00 each.

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.

Adult Forum Please join us at 9:30 am today with Pastor Ken, with a study on the book of Isaiah.

Christ in Our Home and Portals of Prayer devotionals are ready to be picked up on the table in the Gathering Area.

Pasty Sale is November 9, and Joe is looking for folks to help make the pasties, as well as hungry folks ready to buy and eat them! Sign up to help make the dough on Thursday, November 7 from 9:00-11:00am, or to help make the pasties on Saturday, November 9 from 7:30am-1:00pm. Order your baked or unbaked pasties on the bulletin board in the gathering area or call 269.945.9414. Just a reminder that pasties are \$7.00 for unbaked, and \$8.00 for baked. Pickup is Saturday, November 9 from 10:30am-1:30pm for unbaked and 11am-1:30pm for baked.