

Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



Website: www.grace-hastings.org
Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 2:00 pm-6:00 pm

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
July 27, 2025

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 27, 2025

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

They'll Know We are Christians with Awesome God

1. We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored
2. We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other
We will walk hand-in-hand
And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land
3. We will work with each other
We will work side-by-side
We will work with each other
We will work side-by-side
And we'll guard each one's dignity
and save each one's pride
4. All praise to the Father
From whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus
God's only Son
And all praise to the Spirit
who makes us one



And they'll know we are Christ-ians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christ-ians by our love.



and we'll be sing-in' our God is an awe-some God who reigns ___ from hea-ven a-bove with wis--dom]



pow'r and love our God is an awe-some God.

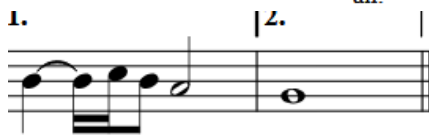
All in All



1. You are my strength when I am weak, You are the trea-sure that I seek,
 Seek-ing You as a pre-cious jewel, Lord to give up I'd be a fool, You are my all in
 2. Tak-ing my sin, my cross, my shame, ri-sing a-gain I bless your name,
 When I am down you pick me up, when I am dry you fill my cup,



all name. all. Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your

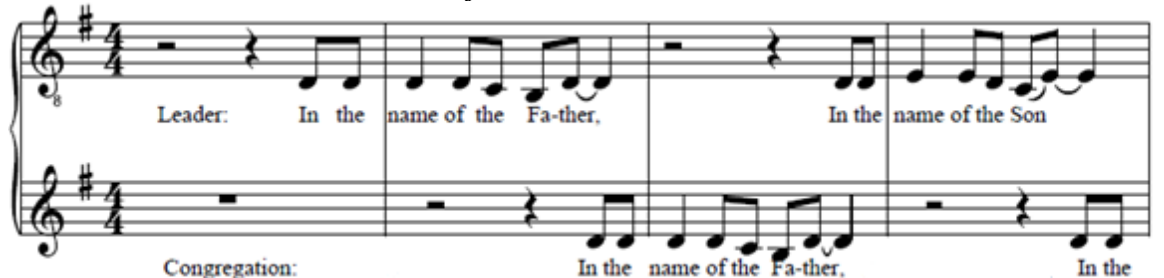


name name.

Arise in body or Spirit

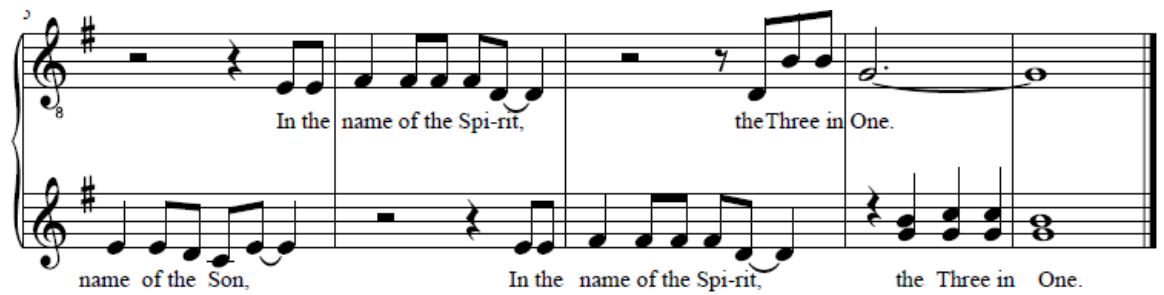
Invocation

In the Name of the Father



Leader: In the name of the Fa-ther, In the name of the Son

Congregation: In the name of the Fa-ther, In the



In the name of the Spi-rit, the Three in One.

name of the Son, In the name of the Spi-rit, the Three in One.

Opening Sentences

- P** O Lord, open our lips,
G and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.
- A** Blessed God, satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
G that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- P** Give praise to the Holy Trinity our true God,
G who gives us life, salvation, and resurrection.

Gathering Song

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

ELW 857

Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord, I love to sing your
prais - es. I'm so glad you're in my life,
I'm so glad you came to save us. You came from heav - en to earth
to show the way, from the earth to the cross,
my debt to pay; from the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- P** The grace of God that extends to all nations in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
- G** And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray. . Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve.
- G** **Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Special Music

Precious Lord *arranged by Jack Schrader*
Tom Kuhs, saxophone, and Carla Neil, piano

First Reading

Genesis 18:20-32

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

- L** A reading from **Genesis**.

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³² Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

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

Psalm 138

1 With grate - ful heart my thanks I bring; be - fore the "gods" your
 2 I cried to you, and you did save; your word of grace new
 3 O LORD, en - throned in glo - ry bright, you reign a - lone in
 4 You will stretch forth your might - y arm to save me when my

praise I sing. I wor - ship in your ho - ly place and
 cour - age gave. The kings of earth shall thank you, LORD, for
 heaven - ly height; the proud in vain your fa - vor seek, but
 foes a - larm. The work you have for me be - gun shall

praise you for your truth and grace; for truth and grace to -
 they have heard your won - drous word; yes, they shall come with
 you have mer - cy for the meek. Through trou - ble though my
 by your grace be ful - ly done. Your love for - ev - er

geth - er shine in your most ho - ly Word di - vine,
 songs of praise for great and glo - rious are your ways,
 path - way be, you will re - vive and strength - en me,
 will en - dure: your mer - cy, LORD, is ev - er sure;

in your most ho - ly Word di - vine.
 for great and glo - rious are your ways.
 you will re - vive and strength - en me.
 your mer - cy, LORD, is ev - er sure.

Second Reading

Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about “the empty lure” of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

☐ A reading from **Genesis**.

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

[¹⁶ Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.]

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia

ELW 174

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

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

Gospel Reading

Luke 11:1-13

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to **Luke**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."² So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵ And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷ And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

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

Please arise in body or spirit.

Song of the Day

What a Friend We Have In Jesus

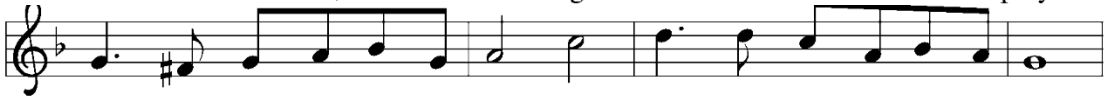
ELW 742



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rowsshare?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Please sit or kneel.

Prayers

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

Ⓐ In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Ⓐ Loving God, create in your church a desire for union with you in prayer. Raise up leaders to teach Christ's devotion to prayer and model Christ's way of prayer, until all people experience prayerful intimacy with you. Bless our leaders and partners, *including Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrissy and Kjersten, Green Street United Methodist Church, Hastings; Gospel Light Baptist Church, Hastings; Cedar Creek Bible Church, Delton; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* God of Grace,

☑ **Receive our prayer.**

A Reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your Spirit, realign the balances of nature. Grant persistence in prayer and action for the sake of the earth, our common home. God of grace,

C **Receive our prayer.**

A Teach rulers of the earth to sing of your ways, caring for the lowly and having no preference for the powerful. Direct the heart of every person to seek your will on earth as in heaven. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund)*, *Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements)*, *Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen)*, *Joel Taggart (Varkula)*, *Seth Domke (Domke)*, *Hudson Schick (Markwart)*, and *Leopold Schick (Markwart)*. God of grace,

C **Receive our prayer.**

A To all whose prayers are cries for help, give your good gifts, and satisfy their deepest needs.

We pray especially for Jennie Anderson, Pastor Michael Anton, Mark Arens, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Kim Domke., Greg Franks, Lori and John Giacalone, Lisa Golnek, Larry Griswold, Cynthia Hansen, Joy Jenks, Michelle Kaufman (pregnancy), Dana Lepien, Larry Maupin, Dawn McElgunn, Bev McManaway, Ed McManaway, Linda Melcher, Sandy Mikolajczyk, Martha Misak, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Valeria Poholski, Tammy Rodriguez, Lynnze Rudesill, Angie Stanton, Kathy Surratt, Ed Szumowski, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr. and Jeanette Ulrich. Gather them to your constant, loving presence, that they may rest in the confidence of life with you. God of grace,

C **Receive our prayer.**

A Center the ministries of this assembly on prayer and service. Guide our relationships in the wider community, being ready to assist those who seek help. Strengthen feeding, clothing, and housing ministries and community partnerships. God of grace,

C **Receive our prayer.**

Here other intersessions may be offered.

A We give thanks for all who have gone before us. May we trust your steadfast love and continue in hope until we are united with all your saints. God of grace,

C **Receive our prayer.**

P Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

Please arise in body or spirit.

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.)

Offering Song

Sanctuary

Lord pre-pare me to be a sanc-tu---a-----ry, pure and ho-----ly, tried and true _____ with thanks-giv-ing, I'll be a liv-----ing sanc-tu---a-----ry for _____ you.

Offering Prayer

- A** Let us pray . . . Blessed are you, O God, for the greening earth given for all, for the talents we are given to share, and for this bread and wine.
- C** **Transform us to be the body of Christ, that, feasting on this food and drink, our lives may reflect your generosity; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- P** It is indeed our duty and delight that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name forever.
- C** **Amen**

Table Prayer

- P** 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, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him 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!

Please be seated.

Communion Songs: *Seek Ye First*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And its righteousness,
And all these things shall be opened unto you.
Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you;
Seek and ye shall find;
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia.

We do not live by bread alone,
But by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of God.
Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia.

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

- 1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

- 2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. Refrain

- 3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. Refrain

Oh Happy Day

Refrain:

Oh, happy day, (oh, happy day)
oh, happy day, (oh, happy day)
when Jesus washed,
oh, when he washed,
when Jesus washed,
he washed my sins away (oh, happy day)
Aw happy day.

(oh, happy day)

(Repeat Refrain, then sing Verse)

Verse

He taught me how ---- to watch ----
watch and pray ---- watch and pray,
and live re-joi ---- cing ev'ry day,
ev'ry day ---- ev'ry day.

Sing Refrain once, sing Verse, end with

Oh, happy day!

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup,
but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.
- Ⓑ **Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may
we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

☐ God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

Sending Song

Lord of the Dance

1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

2 I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came to me and the dance went on. Refrain

3 I danced on the sabbath and I cured the lame,
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high;
and they left me there on a cross to die. Refrain

4 I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the Dance and I still go on. Refrain

5 They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. Refrain

Sending

☐ Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Amy Poholski

Musicians – Cindy Olson, Carla Neil, Anna Scheck, Beth Lepek, Dave Carr, Tom Kuhs

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Fellowship – Social Activities Committee, Thrivent and the Grace Family

Our Prayer

The disciples' request that Jesus teach them to pray reveals a touching vulnerability. Jesus responds with an invitation into a prayer brimming with gratitude and expectation for the care and intimacy of the divine Parent. While the Lord's Prayer may be familiar, each time we pray it, it still possesses the grace to speak a new word to us and draw forth a desire we were not aware of. Martin Luther felt that Christians who prayed the Lord's Prayer each day, or even portions of it, could be certain their prayer would be more than adequate.

The Lord's Prayer is not the prayer of an individual but of a collective. The prayer begins with "Our Father," not "My Father," and petitions God to address *our* hunger, *our* sins, and *our* practice of forgiveness. Prayer of all kinds, including the Lord's Prayer, is not simply a private conversation between God and an individual, but a unique harmony in the immense choir of those set free in Jesus. Every time we turn our hearts to God in prayer, we do so with and alongside the entire body of Christ.

It's easy in our culture today to dismiss prayer or to trivialize it as empty wishes. And when prayer is offered as a cynical gesture in response to real pain and suffering, such dismissal seems understandable. But the truly countercultural nature of our prayer is our trust that God receives and responds to our praise, petition, and lament, that our persistence and perseverance in prayer are not in vain. The God who gives us our daily bread, forgives us our sins, and saves us from the time of trial hears our prayers animated by the trust that God will be faithful and will keep God's promises. This prayer then becomes for us a spark of hope that guides our daily action and our faith that God is making all things new and inviting us into this redemptive work.

.From sundaysandseasons.com.

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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 God, who teaches us how to pray. Let us turn to God in prayer.

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Stewardship Information

Attendance: 48 Views: 224
Weekly Giving: \$2,660.00 Budget Amount: \$4,366.17

Grace Projects Goal	\$ 25,252.00
Received To Date	<u>-\$ 4,700.00</u>
Total Needed	\$ 20,552.00

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$50

Please join us for food and fellowship after worship! The main meal and beverages are provided by Thrivent. Thanks to the members of Grace who have provided desserts, and the Social Activities for food preparation, setup of tables and clean-up.

Snacks for Kids. The Giving Tree is up, and you can bring snacks to fill the tree. We are supporting two local teachers with snacks for their students. Often teachers need to provide a snack, when children do not have one. These snacks are usually an out of pocket expense. Thank you in advance for lightening the load for these teachers.

Women of Faith meets on Tuesday, 11:00 am, here at Grace. All women are welcome. We are having casual summer meetings, without an official study resource.

The nursery is available weekly during the 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.

Parish Administrator is Cindy Olson; **office hours 11:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Wednesday.**

Adult Forum is not meeting today. Join us in the coming weeks for our with a study of the book of Hebrews.

Living Lutheran has brought back its print magazine publication! The storytelling you know and love will appear in mailboxes with four issues each year (spring, summer, winter, and fall). Subscribe at livinglutheran.org/subscribe to set up a subscription to receive the latest news, reflections, and stories from the ELCA.