

# 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

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 2:00 pm-6:00 pm

Phone: (269) 945-9414  
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Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
September 7, 2025

# Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 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**

*Arise in body or Spirit*

**Opening Sentences**

**P** You are the treasured people of the Lord,

**G** a people holy to the Lord our God.

**A** Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children

**G** Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

**P** One does not live by bread alone,

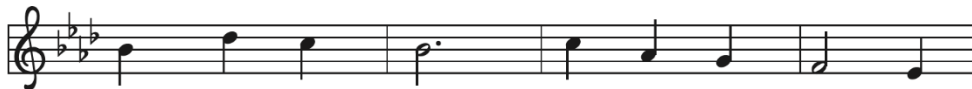
**G** but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

## Greeting

*The pastor and the assembly greet each other.*

☞ The love of God, made known in Christ Jesus our Lord and poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☞ **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

☞ Let us pray... Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name;

☞ **and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## First Reading

## Deuteronomy 30:15-20

*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.*

☞ A reading from **Deuteronomy**.

<sup>15</sup> “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

☞ The word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 1



### Refrain



They are like trees plant - ed by streams of wa - ter.

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel <sup>|</sup> of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats <sup>|</sup> of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup> **Their delight is in the law <sup>|</sup> of the LORD,**  
**and they meditate on God's teaching <sup>|</sup> day and night. R**

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that <sup>|</sup> do  
not wither;  
everything they <sup>|</sup> do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup> **It is not so <sup>|</sup> with the wicked;**  
**they are like chaff which the wind <sup>|</sup> blows away.**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when <sup>|</sup> judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council <sup>|</sup> of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> **For the LORD knows the way <sup>|</sup> of the righteous,**  
**but the way of the wicked shall <sup>|</sup> be destroyed. R**

## Second Reading

## Philemon 1-21

*Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.*

📖 A reading from **Philemon**.

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, <sup>2</sup> to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. <sup>7</sup> I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup> For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, <sup>9</sup> yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup> Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. <sup>12</sup> I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup> I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup> Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

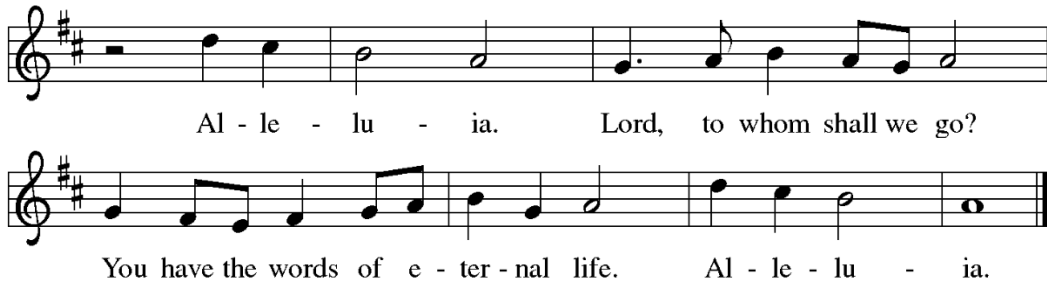
<sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup> Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

*Arise in body or spirit.*

## Gospel Acclamation



## Gospel Reading

**Luke 14:25-33**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup> Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

☐ 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**

***Will You Come and Follow Me***

**ELW 798**

*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**.*

**A** Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.  
*A brief silence.*

**A** We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. Bless our leaders and partners, *including Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Bishop-elect Julie Schneider-Thomas, Assistants Chrisy and Kjersten, our synod companion Immanuel Lutheran Church, Jackson; Faith United Methodist Church, Delton; First Baptist Church, Middleville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* God of Grace,

**C** **Receive our prayer.**

**A** We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of Grace,

**C** **Receive our prayer.**

**A** We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. 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).* On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. God of Grace,

**C** **Receive our prayer.**

**A** We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely *especially Jennie Anderson, the family of 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, Amy Hansen, Joy Jenks, Steve Kaiser, Michelle Kaufman (pregnancy), Dana Lepien, Michelle Luedke, 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, Kathy Surratt, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, Linda Trongo, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, and Tom and Kathy.* May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world God of Grace,

**C** **Receive our prayer.**



**A** We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of Grace,

**C Receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of Grace,

**C Receive our prayer.**

**P** We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**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

## Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 583

*Refrain/Estrillo*



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -  
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón  
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.  
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té  
1 Take my hands and let them move  
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,  
3 Take my voice and let me sing  
4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;  
at the im - pulse of thy love;  
not a mite would I with - hold;  
al - ways, on - ly for my King;  
it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -  
take my feet and let them be swift and  
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry  
take my lips and let them be filled with  
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall



*Refrain/Estrillo*

pul - so de tu a - mor.  
beau - ti - ful for thee.  
pow'r as thou shalt choose.  
mes - sag - es from thee.  
be thy roy - al throne.

## 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 and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n 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, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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.

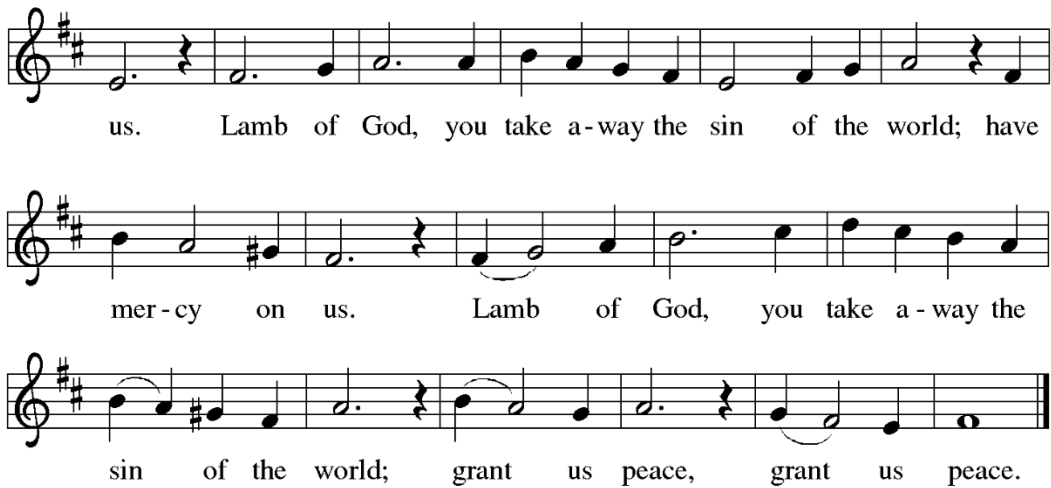
☞ **Thanks be to God!**

*Please be seated.*

## Jesus, Lamb of God



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



Communion Songs:

*Thine the Amen*

ELW 826

*Take, oh, Take Me as I Am*

ELW 814

### 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

*Lift High the Cross*

ELW 660

### Sending

- Ⓐ Go in peace. Christ is sending you.
- ☑ Thanks be to God.

### Postlude

**9:30 am**

**Assisting Minister – Traci Wales**

**Lector – Bill Freedlund**

**Musician – Cindy Olson**

**Cantor – Vickey Argo**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck**

**Fellowship – Diane Neeb**

## **What Is Most Important**

When someone comes to be baptized, they are often joined by family and friends who gather around the font and promise to love and support them as they grow in the faith. In the baptismal waters, God does something wonderful and profound: God connects us with Christ's saving grace. In this moment we are made part of a new community that flows from God's incredible love.

How dissonant it is to read Jesus' words from Luke's gospel today with this sort of an occasion in mind. "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple" (14:26). How can hating family be a faithful response to God's divine grace and love? How can this be the way to live into the baptismal promises of love and care?

We know that Jesus loves the whole world: every person, creature, and molecule reverberates with God's own heart. Scripture and sermons and songs of the faith proclaim time and again: we all are recipients of God's love! And when we are baptized, we are unapologetically claimed as God's beloved. Such belovedness is the very foundation of our identity in faith.

Perhaps we can take Jesus' words here seriously without taking them literally: Christ's love for us is more important than even our closest ties to friends, family, or chosen family. Christ's love is more important than any paycheck we receive or how much cash we keep in our pockets. Jesus prioritizes life-changing love over all other loyalties we might have. When we are baptized, our lives are grounded in this countercultural compassion, justice, and care. Our relationship with God may indeed strain some of our other relationships, but perhaps it is exactly the sort of love that renews our hearts and truly transforms our world.  
invited!

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

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School is back in session! Please consider donating to the **Hand2Hand Program** which helps local needy students! **September needs** are: Individual Snacks, Slim Jim's, Snack Pack Pudding, Granola Bars, Individual Applesauce, Ramen Noodles, Mac & Cheese, Raisins, and Individual Instant Oatmeal packets. Items are due by September 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for any donation – Outreach Committee.

**The Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas** will be installed as **bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod** on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at 4:00pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids (2700 Fulton Street E). All are welcome to attend! Rostered ministers are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is red.

**Relay for Life** is **September 13<sup>th</sup> noon until noon September 14<sup>th</sup>**. Luminaries are a \$10 donation. Looking for walkers – sign-up on bulletin board. Survivor lap is at 6pm. Dinner for survivors is at 6:30. We are also collecting canned goods for the luminaries. “Walking” is not required for participation – any one is welcome to be present and supportive.

**Called to the Church Triumphant** Our brother in Christ, Reverend Doctor Michael Anton. Visitation will take place here at Grace Lutheran Church on Friday, September 19 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Service will be at Hastings Performing Arts Center on Saturday, September 20 at 11:00 am. There will be a time of visitation at the Hastings Performing Arts Center beginning at 10:00 am.

Please join the ***Hastings Women's Club*** at Culver's on Tuesday, **September 16th, 5pm-8pm** for our next fundraiser supporting our "Jumpstart Your Future" Scholarship Fund. Dine-in or Drive-thru, we will receive a portion of the proceeds on all sales during those 3 hours only. Don't eat at Culver's? We also accept donations - cash or check! Thank you for your continued support. Please contact Deborah Wilke at 269-953-8216 with your questions.

**Adult Forum** continues studying the book of Hebrew. The class will be right after worship.

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. We welcome and affirm all people, which includes the LGBTQIA+ community. 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. Jesus warns about the difficulty we may encounter for proclaiming the gospel. Even when we are called to share God’s grace, we may have problems with hatred and evil.

Please use this QR  
Code to access  
online giving.



**Stewardship Information**

Attendance: 32 Views: 204  
Weekly Giving: \$5,750 Budget Amount: \$4,363.02

Monthly Giving for August: 2,550.74

**Grace Projects Goal \$ 25,252.00**  
Received To Date -\$ 4,822.00  
**Total Needed \$ 20,430.00**  
Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$72

**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; **NEW office hours are 10:00 am to 2:30 pm Monday-Wednesday.**

**Women of Faith** will meet on Tuesday, here at Grace, at 11:00 am. All women are welcome.

**Crop Walk** Information is available beginning today for the Crop Walk. You can find information and materials to get sponsors on the table in the Gathering Area. If you desire, there are envelopes to give money toward this ministry.

**Save the Date:** A **Fall Hot Dog Roast** will be held **Sunday, September 28** after worship. The Social Activities Committee will host a campfire here at Grace after church. Mark your calendars, and be on the look out for more information to come soon.