

# 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  
March 15, 2026

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

*Lent is a season of preparation and renewal. The color purple has become a symbol of the extravagance of God. The music of the season reflects our need to prepare for God's forgiveness and renewal, which draws us into God's forgiving action toward humanity and all of creation.*

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** We are promised new life. We may not sense this new life, especially during these winter days. The cold and harshness of life can seem hopeless, but God is committed to renew our lives. God plants seeds of new life by saving us and removing our sin through Jesus Christ. We are called to allow God's reign of life to sustain us in our times of trial and to stand with God who gives us life, so that others can experience God's grace in their life.

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

## Welcome

**Gathering Music**

*Go Light Your World*

**Kathy Troccoli**

*Arise in body or spirit.*

## Greeting

*The pastor and the assembly greet each other.*

☐ The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin through the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

**Gathering Song**

*Baptized and Set Free*

**ELW 453**

## Dialogue

☐ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

☑ **Amen**

☐ Behold, now is the acceptable time;

☑ **now is the day of salvation.**

☐ Let us celebrate that Christ bears our burdens.

☑ **Saving us from sin through the Holy Spirit.**

## Kyrie

*Assistant:* In peace, in peace,

### Refrain

*Assistant:* *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have  
mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. *to Verses*

*Assistant:* For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)

*Assistant:* For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)

*Assistant:*

Help, save and de - fend us, O  
God. A - men.

*Congregation:*

## Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray,  
Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us.
- Q** By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

### First Reading

**1 Samuel 16:1-13**

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.*

📖 A reading from **1 Samuel**.

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” <sup>2</sup> Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” <sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” <sup>5</sup> He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.” <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” <sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” <sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” <sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” <sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” <sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

📖 Word of God. Word of life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 23**

*Shepherd Me, O God*

**ELW 780**

*Refrain*  
All

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from  
death in - to life. life.

*to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5* | *to stanza 4*

Leader or All



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth- ing shall I want, I  
2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you  
3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I



rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I  
lead me by path-ways of righ - teous-ness and truth, my  
fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

*Refrain*



walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.  
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.  
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Leader or All



4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of *Refrain*



ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Leader or All



5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

*Final refrain*

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -



yond my fears, from death in - to life.

## Second Reading

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

*Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

☐ A reading from **Ephesians**.

<sup>8</sup> Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup> for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup> Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup> but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

☐ Word of God. Word of life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

*Please arise in body or spirit.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

(HS 1991 accomp. ed. pg. 10-11)

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and

mer-cy; Come, seek the ten - der faith-ful-ness of God. *Optional Repeat*

## Gospel Reading

**John 9:1-41**

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

☐ The Holy Gospel, according to **John**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup> When he had said this, he spat on the

ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup> saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup> Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." <sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup> He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup> They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup> and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup> He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup> He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup> He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” <sup>38</sup> He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” <sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**G** 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**

*Christ, Be our Light*

**ELW 715**

*Please be seated.*

### **Prayers**

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

**A** Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

**A** God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community and across the globe in right paths for your name’s sake. Empower our leaders and partners, *Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Portage; St. Edwards Catholic Church in Lake Odessa; St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church in Shelbyville; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* God, in your mercy,

**G** Receive our prayer.

**A** God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. God, in your mercy,

**G** Receive our prayer.

**A** God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. 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, in your mercy,

**G** **Receive our prayer.**

**A** God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day *especially Jennie Anderson, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Kim Domke, Greg Franks, Lisa Golnek, Larry Griswold, Cynthia Hansen, Walker Heise, Brenda and Jack Hopkins, Christine Jenkins, Joy Jenks, Martha Klenk, Dana Lepien, Michelle Luedke, Ed Markwart, Larry Maupin, Linda Melcher, Janet Moomey, Tricia Moredock, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, Corey Normandin, Emma Poholski (pregnancy), Rob Smelker, Payton Stancil, Dan Stanton, Kathy Surratt, Mira Thomas, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Brenda Watson & family, and Tom and Kathy*. God, in your mercy,

**G** **Receive our prayer.**

**A** God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. God, in your mercy,

**G** **Receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. God, in your mercy,

**G** **Receive our prayer.**

**P** Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**G** **Amen.**

*Please arise in body or spirit.*

### **Sharing the Peace of God**

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

**G** **And also with you.** *(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)*



1 Seed that in earth is dy - ing grows in - to ears of  
 2 We were bap - tized in Je - sus, in - to his death and  
 3 Seed that in earth is dy - ing ris - es to bear much



grain. Grapes that are crushed in the ves - sel  
 grave, to res - ur - rec - tion's prom - ise:  
 fruit. Christ, as we meet at your ta - ble,



turn in - to gold - en wine. God, through this mys - ter - y grant us  
 praise and e - ter - nal life. Heav - en's own prais - es be - gin here  
 give us the bread of life. Lord, we do thank and a - dore you!



faith in our deep - est dark - ness, life in our night and death.  
 where you your - self are near us, deep in our night and death.  
 Un - ceas - ing praise of the a - ges ris - es from night and death.

### Offering Prayer

- A** Let us pray....Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives,  
**C** that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection, 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. The Proper Preface

☞ 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast that, renewed in the waters of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with all the faithful of every time and every place, we praise your name.

☞ **Amen**

### **The Prayer of Consecration**

☞ Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as Jesus comes to us in his holy supper.

☞ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

☞ In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to the 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.

### **Lord's Prayer**

☞ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☞ **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**

☞ All who are hungry, Come! The feast of grace is spread.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

## Communion Songs:

*Piano music*  
*Awesome God*

W&P 13

Our God is an awe - some God, he  
reigns from heav - en a - bove with wis - dom,  
pow'r, and love— our God is an awe - some God!  
Our God is an awe - some God! Our God is an awe - some God!

## Prayer after Communion

- Let us pray . . . Generous God, you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
- Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Mission Minutes

*Arise in body or spirit.*

### Blessing

- God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, ✠ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.
- Amen

## Sending Song

*I Am the Bread of Life*

ELW 485

### Sending

- Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
- Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

**9:30 am**

**Assisting Minister – Mark Anton**

**Lector – Anna Scheck**

**Musician – Cindy Olson**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck**

**Fellowship – Bill and Lorraine Freedlund**

**Usher – Deb Watson**

**Worship opportunities during Lent continue this Wednesday, March 11, with the noon Luncheon at First Presbyterian Church (topic LOVE). Holden Evening Prayer is at 6pm, here at Grace, with dinner afterwards.**

**Next week on Wednesday**

March 18	12 noon	Ecumenical Luncheon here at Grace	Topic	
March 18	6 pm	Holden Evening Prayer		Meal to follow

**Join us on Wednesdays in Lent for Seeking God’s Way**

**There are just a few more packages of brats available, \$6.00 for a package of 4. Get them while you can!**

**Good Friday Cross Walk** will be April 3, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 239 E. North St., Hastings. Participants walk in silence during the 60- to 90-minute walk, using the time to reflect on the meaning of Jesus' crucifixion. The route includes going south on Michigan Avenue to State Street, to the courthouse, then back on State Street to the city hall and north on Michigan Avenue back to the church. Drivers will be available to furnish a ride to people who cannot walk the entire distance, or participants may drop in and out, as needed.

**Zion Lutheran Church invites you to join them for Pastor Ken’s Installation next Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 11:00 am. There will be a meal following worship. Please sign up TODAY, if you plan to eat so they can prepare enough food.**

**Holy Week Schedule:**

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>Cross Walk</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
<b>March 29</b>	<b>April 2</b>	<b>April 3</b>	<b>April 3</b>
<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>
Sunday Service	Evening Service	Reflective Group Walk	Evening Service

**Women of Faith** will meet Tuesday, March 10, at 11:00 am. All women are welcome.

**Lenten Devotionals** “Places of the Passion” are available in the Gathering Area.

**The Hastings Women's Club invites you to join us** for our next fundraising event at **Culver's, 5-8pm on Tuesday, March 31st**. All funds we receive will go to our Scholarship Fund. If you have any questions, please contact Deborah Wilke at 269-953-8216. Thank you for your support!

**Social Activities Committee** has two upcoming events planned: **Game and Pizza Day: after worship on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**. We hope to see you there for a time of fellowship and fun! There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area by next week for the purpose of ordering enough pizza for everyone present. Also, an **outing to see "Shrek" at the Dennison Center** is planned for **May 9<sup>th</sup>, with dinner following**.

**Brown Bag Bible Study** will meet Thursday, March 12, at 12:00 noon – all are welcome to come to communion at the beginning of the study and leave if you cannot stay for the bible study. The time for communion is designed to give those who cannot come on Sunday mornings another opportunity and to deepen the experience for those who can stay for the bible study with Christ's body and blood.

**The Easter Bulb Flower Sale** is underway. Extra order forms are available in the Gathering Area. Options are Daffodils, Hyacinths, Tulips, and Easter Lilies, \$10 per plant. The flowers will decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, then will be available to take home or donate, as indicated on the order form. Please mail the forms to Grace or give them to Cindy in the office.

**The Hand2Hand Program** is under new leadership at Green Street Church (with whom we partner) and suggest the following items for donation. This list will stay the same each month. Due date is the last Sunday of each month. From the Outreach Committee: Thank You so much to all who donate to this program which helps feed local students in need over the weekends. The foods needed are:

SLIM JIMS  
FRUIT CUPS  
CEREAL BARS  
INDIVIDUAL APPLESAUCE CUPS  
RAMEN NOODLES  
INDIVIDUAL MAC AND CHEESE  
INDIVIDUAL OATMEAL OR CEREAL

FRUIT SNACKS  
CHEEZ-ITS  
GRANOLA BARS PROTEIN BARS  
TRAIL MIX  
RAISINS  
MICROWAVE POPCORN

**MI Fiddler's Association Jamboree** will be Saturday, April 11 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. in our fellowship hall. This is not a church event, but the community has been invited to come enjoy the music by Mary Hansen, the organizer of the event. Fiddlers will be playing from 1-4, and open jam is 4-5. Musicians and dancers are welcome.

**Reach the Forgotten Jail Ministry** is hosting a Barry County Jail Fundraiser at Venue1230 (1230 N. Michigan Ave) on **March 26<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at 6:00 pm with Fellowship time and dinner at 6:30. You are invited to hear how God is transforming lives in Barry County Jail and celebrate over 60 years of ministry faithfulness. Your support helps bring hope, discipleship, and care to inmates. **Please RSVP by March 19<sup>th</sup>** at [jailministry.org](http://jailministry.org). If you have questions regarding this ministry, you may contact Chaplain Sallie Nyenhuis at [SallieN@jailministry.org](mailto:SallieN@jailministry.org), or by phone at 616-784-4620 x101. The Winter 2026 Reach the Forgotten/Barry County newsletter is on the bulletin board, which tells of the ministries happening within the jail by volunteers and inmates alike.

## Unbelievable!

This story from the Gospel of John captures the religious leadership in Jerusalem in a struggle to understand this Jesus who restores sight to a person born blind. This miraculous healing is so unbelievable, so contrary to the leaders' understanding, that they reject it altogether, even accusing the man of lying. Their quest for a certainty that feels familiar forces them to reject the miracle in front of them and closes them off to a greater truth—that the Messiah has come in Christ Jesus. Certainty and its pursuit often disrupt our ability to see reality, which is at its core a mystery. *Mystery* in the Christian tradition refers to that deep truth that surpasses our understanding, as in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity or the efficacy of the sacraments. We know them as true, but not how or why they are so. Mysteries transcend the world of certainty, and our efforts to possess certainty, like those of the religious leaders in John 9, can cut us off from something miraculous happening right in front of us.

How much conflict and division in our church and in our world is amplified by our pursuit of certainty? How many possibilities have we missed in our commitment to the way things are? How often in our pursuit of certainty do we use it to hoard power and keep others on the outside looking in? Certainty is the enemy of community because it rejects the very notion that God may be doing a new thing.

Embracing mystery in our life of faith looks like learning to say “I don’t know,” “Maybe,” and “What if . . . ?” It asks us to let go of our need to control and understand, and to trust God’s promises more than our evidence. Mystery requires a posture of humility and curiosity, a willingness to look for God in inexplicable and unbelievable places and events. After all, we preach Christ crucified (1 Corinthians 1:23), an unbelievable notion if ever there was one.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).  
Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

**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 receive the good news of God healing through Jesus' love and care for the blind. Let us walk with Jesus who gives us sight and heals us with God's grace, forgiveness and love.**

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



**Stewardship Information**

Attendance: 39 Views: 160  
 Weekly Giving: \$755.00 Budget Amount: \$4,363.02

<b>Grace Projects Goal</b>	<b>\$ 25,252.00</b>	<b>Repay HVAC in Fellowship Hall</b>
Received To Date	- \$ <u>25,252.00</u>	
<b>Total Needed</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	

**Zion: \$5,706.57**

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$325.00 for HVAC  
 Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$3,000.00 for Cement Project

Given this week toward Non-Budget Funds: \$367.00

**Parish Administrator** is Cindy Olson. Her office hours are 10:00 am to 2:30 pm Mon-Wed.

**Pastor Ken's office hours** are now 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Mon & Wed.

**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.