

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 - Wed 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

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.

Welcome

Gathering Music

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

ELW 773

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.

Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

ACS 942

Refrain

Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing
in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the



spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.



1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,
2 . . All a - round me looked so fine,
3 . . Jor - dan riv - er, chilly and cold,

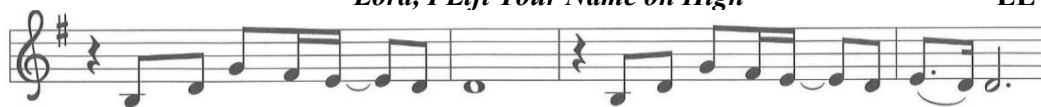


Refrain

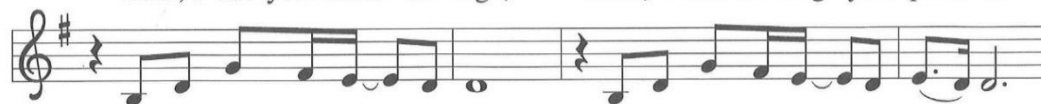
out of his mouth came fire and smoke.
asked my Lord if all was mine.
chills the bod - y but not the soul.

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.

Call to Worship

Come Jesus Come

by S&T McWhirter, B Fowler & H Be

Arise in body or Spirit

Opening Sentences

P You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C a people holy to the Lord our God.

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

C 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,

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

Gathering Song

Gather Us In

ELW 532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

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

Prayer of the Day

- ☐ Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy.
- ☑ **By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

- ☐ A reading from **1 Kings**.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

Psalms 119:129-136

Light print – Lector; Bold Print - Assembly

¹²⁹ Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.
¹³⁰ **When your word is opened | it gives light;
it gives understanding | to the simple.**

¹³¹ I open my | mouth and pant
because I long for | your commandments.
¹³² **Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,
as you always do to those who | love your name.**

¹³³ Order my footsteps | in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.
¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those | who oppress me,
and I will keep | your commandments.**

¹³⁵ Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.
¹³⁶ **My eyes shed | streams of tears,
because people do not | keep your teaching.**

Second Reading

Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

📖 A reading from **Romans**.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

W&P 6

1. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (*Repeat*)
2. He's my Savior, alleluia, he's my Savior, alleluia. (*Repeat*)
3. God, we praise you, alleluia, God, we praise you, alleluia. (*Repeat*)
4. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (*Repeat*)

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

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

👉 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

📖 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

Bring Forth the Kingdom

W&P 22



1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the king-dom of God!
2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the cit - y of God!
3 You are a seed of the word, O peo-ple: bring forth the king-dom of God!
4 We are a blest and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the king-dom of God!



Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the king-dom of God!
Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the king-dom of God!
Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the king-dom of God!
Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the king-dom of God!



Bring forth the king - dom of mer - cy, bring forth the



king - dom of peace; bring forth the king - dom of jus - tice,



bring forth the cit - y of God!

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.*

- Ⓐ Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence

Ⓐ God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. Walk with and guide *Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Traverse City; Gospel Light Baptist Church in Hastings; Gull Lake Ministries in Hickory Corners; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken*. God of grace,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. 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,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. *We pray especially for Jennie Anderson, Vickey Argo, the family of Shirley Beck, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Aurora Collins, Kay Corrigan, Kim Domke, Celina Eichler, Greg Franks, Melanie Franks, Lisa Golnek, Larry Griswold, Bill Halstead, Jamie Heise (pregnancy), Walker Heise, Autum Henion, Christine Jenkins, Joy Jenks, Martha Klenk, Michelle Luedke, Lexi Markwart, Ed Markwart, Cathy Martell, Larry Maupin, Dick Melcher, Carrie Miller, Virginia Moomey, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, Corey Normandin, Lincoln Osborn, Corrina Palmer, Ricky Palmer, Josh Reynolds, Rob Smelker, Payton Stancil, Kathy Surratt, Gary Teegardin, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Ron Waage, Clyde Watson Jr., and Tom and Kathy*. God of grace,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Ⓐ God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

☐ Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

☑ **Amen.**

Please arise in body or spirit.

Sharing the Peace of God

☐ The peace of Christ be with you.

☑ **And also with you.**

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

Offering Song

We Are an Offering

ELW 692

The musical score is written on six staves of music. The melody is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are written below the notes. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes) on the first, third, and sixth staves. The lyrics are: 'We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.'

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Offering Prayer

☐ Let us pray . . . Be known to us, O Lord, as you were made known to the disciples.

☑ **Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

G We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G 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.

G 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.

G Amen

Lord's Prayer

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

G 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 Taste and see that the Lord is good.

G Thanks be to God!

Please be seated.

Communion Songs

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**

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW 473

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dore you.

My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

The musical notation is for a two-part setting. The top part is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It features a melody with eighth and quarter notes, and some chords. The bottom part is also in treble clef, providing a harmonic accompaniment with chords and some moving lines. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Fill Me Jesus

Fill me, Je - sus, fill me now fill me, Je - sus

with Thy pre - cious ho - ly power. I am yours, my Lord,

to do with as you will, So fill me Je - sus

right now.

The musical notation is for a single-melody setting in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written on a single staff with lyrics underneath. The piece includes a triplet of eighth notes in the second line. The lyrics are: 'Fill me, Je - sus, fill me now fill me, Je - sus with Thy pre - cious ho - ly power. I am yours, my Lord, to do with as you will, So fill me Je - sus right now.'

Prayer after Communion

- A** 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.
- G** **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

- A** 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.
- G** **Amen.**

Sending Song

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 continue to 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, then Verse, end with)

Oh, happy day!

Sending

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

Postlude

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Dave Neeb

**Musicians – Cindy Olson, Kristi Winick, Carla Neil, Anna Scheck, Curt Johnson,
Beth Lepek, Tom Kuhn**

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Cup Bearer – Traci Wales

Usher – Bill Freedlund

Fellowship – Social Activities Committee

It's the Small Things

Children like to collect things: rocks, sticks, and more. Adults tend to pretend-love the items that are brought to them: “Oh, how beautiful!” “Oh, that’s a good one.” Children, encouraged, continue their collections, finding the smallest of things and displaying them like they are the most valuable items in the world.

Jesus’ parables in today’s gospel reading teach the disciples about things that are so small they are often overlooked: a mustard seed, a little bit of yeast, a tiny pearl, and even a net that is quite small until it is filled with fish. These little things in his parables are treasures important for understanding the reign of God.

Adults tend to overlook the small things while seeking larger things, heavier things, shinier things. We walk right past the tiny flower in the crack of a sidewalk, which once would have caught our eye. One pearl? A full necklace is better. A shrub that provides creatures a home? It’s now in an inconvenient place.

But Jesus teaches that in God’s reign all things, large and small, matter. All people matter. It is a wise disciple who recognizes this. Even King Solomon, with all his wealth, prayed for wisdom. Wisdom helps us see more clearly and begin to understand the depth of God’s grace.

And that grace Jesus displayed immediately. “Have you understood all this?” he asked. The disciples answered simply, “Yes” (Matthew 13:51). What a bold answer! They were too worried to admit they did not understand. A little yeast, though, goes a long way. Jesus knew this. Each parable would build on another until the disciples understood the entire collection.

For us today, understanding God’s grace takes study, prayers for wisdom, and walking the path while looking for the small things that matter. The reign of God is like a rose among a bramble bush? A child’s picture of their home? However you visualize it, it is a treasure to cherish and to share.

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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 see many ways that the kingdom of God breaks into our world. May we recognize God's grace that breaks forth in our lives and share God's grace with others.

Stewardship Information



Attendance: 56	Views: 196
Weekly Giving: \$4,535.00	Budget Amount: \$4,363.00
Non-Budget Giving: \$200.00 Outreach Fund	
\$200.00 Helping Hand Fund	
Offerings received to date through June	\$200.752.29
Offerings received in July	+ \$ 6,800.00
Year to date total offerings	\$207,552.29

Update on the Parking Lot Project. Please be careful when entering the building. We have gotten our ducks in a row to enter into a contract with the asphalt company. We are thankful for the very generous gift from the Anton Family that makes this phase of our parking lot project possible. We are blessed by everyone who has shared generously with Grace.

Brown Bag Bible Study will not meet this Thursday.

The nursery is available weekly during the worship service.

Parish Administrator Cindy Olson's office hours are 10 am to 2:30 pm Mon – Wed.

Pastor Ken's office hours are 10 am to 12 noon Mon & Wed.

The lunch served after worship thank you for all who brought desserts and those who help with the meal clean up activities. We appreciate your willingness to help with this event.

Women of Faith will not be meeting in July and August. We will resume September 15, 2026. Our next Bible study topic will be revealed closer to September. Have a nice summer everyone.

Our next Blood Drive will be August 24, 2026, 10am-4pm. Our theme: Pajama Party. Please consider donating blood by calling 1-800-RedCross or by signing up online. Tell your family and friends. There will soon be a Refreshment Need sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area, should you wish to donate some food for the cause.

There are several books on Faith and Biblical topics in the Gathering Area. Please feel free to take as many as you would like.

Barry County Relay for Life will be held September 12-13. Luminary bags will be available for a donation of \$10.00. More information to come.