

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
August 23, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

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.

Gathering Song

We Sing to You, O God

ELW 791

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 . . O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life.

G Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

📖 A reading from **Isaiah**.

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 138



Refrain



O LORD, your stead - fast love en - dures for - ev - er.

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;
before the gods I will | sing your praise.

² I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your
steadfast | love and faithfulness;

for you have glorified your name and your word a - | bove all things.

³ **When I called, you | answered me;
you increased my | strength within me.**

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words | of your mouth. **

⁵ They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,
that great is the glory | of the LORD.

⁶ The LORD is high, yet cares | for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty | from afar.

⁷ **Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right | hand shall save me.**

⁸ **You will make good your pur - | pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works | of your hands. **

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

📖 A reading from **Romans**.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

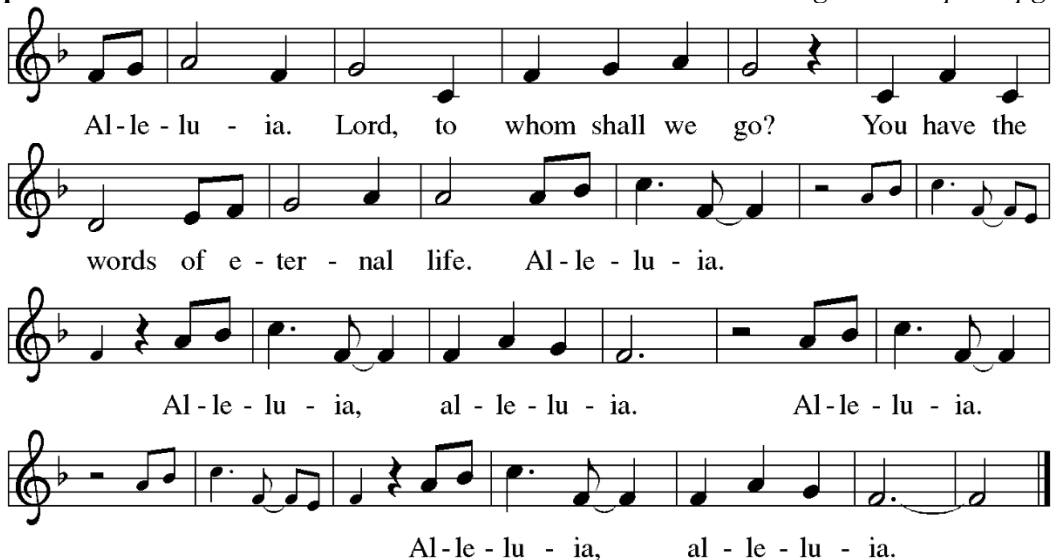
📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

ELW Liturgies accomp. ed. pg. 138



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

☐ 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

Arise in body or spirit.

Song of the Day

Built On a Rock

ELW 652

Please be seated.

Prayers

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

☐ With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence

Ⓐ God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. Walk with and guide *Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Lebanon Lutheran Church in Whitehall; Hastings Seventh Day Adventist Church; Heritage Hills Bible Church in Bellevue; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* Merciful God,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. 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).* Merciful God,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day, *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, Mindi Longcor, Michelle Luedke, Ed Markwart, Lexi Markwart, Cathy Martell, Larry Maupin, Dick Melcher, Carrie Miller, Virginia Moomey, Sandy Mosteller, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, Corey Normandin, Lincoln Osborn, Corrina Palmer, Ricky Palmer, Josh Reynolds, Steve Sensiba, Rob Smelker, Payton Stancil, Kathy Surratt, Gary Teegardin, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Ron Waege, Clyde Watson Jr., and Tom and Kathy.* Merciful God,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Ⓐ You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

Here other intersessions may be offered.

- A** Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. Merciful God,
- G** **Receive our prayer.**
- P** Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 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.)*

Offering Song

Come to the Table

ELW 481



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Offering Prayer

- A** Let us pray . . . Be known to us, O Lord, as you were made known to the disciples.
- G** **Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

☐ The Lord be with you.

☑ And also with you.

☐ Lift up your hearts.

☑ We lift them to the Lord.

☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☑ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

☐ It is our duty and delight, that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow the way of humble service and love, and so, with the church on earth all creation and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW accomp. ed. pgs. 142-143

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Table Prayer

- ☐ We should always and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation.
- ☑ **By dying on the cross, Jesus has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.**

- ☐ 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.**

- ☐ With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the mystery of faith.
- ☑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- ☐ Pour your Holy Spirit upon us as we share this meal in the body and blood of our Lord.
- ☑ **Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful people until we feast at your table in glory.**

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

Lamb of God

ELW accomp. ed. pg. 146



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

*My Hope is Built on Nothing Less
The Church's One Foundation*

ELW 597
ELW 654

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

☐ Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Postlude

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Gwen Hansen

Cantor – Ken Scheck

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Cup Bearer – Vickey Argo

Usher – Deb Watson

Fellowship - Diane Neeb

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.

Cindy will NOT be in the office the week of August 24, until the afternoon of Thursday, 8/27.

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

The Social Activities Committee will meet next on Monday, August 31st, at 1:30pm.

Zion Lutheran Church, Woodland, will have a Celebration of 170 years of Worship & Service today, August 23rd. Worship is at 11am, immediately followed with lunch, and then games for kids and a hymn sing. Grace is considered part of Zion's history and invited to join in this event.

The Barry County Relay for Life will be from noon on Saturday, September 12 until noon on Sunday, September 13. It will be held at Tyden Park. Register to walk or support our Grace walkers partnering with a team called GIVE4GOOD. www.relayforlife.org/barrymi Luminaria are available at Grace. Bags are due back on September 6th. Contact Kim Domke or Amy Poholski for more information.

Chihuly Glass Art Exhibit at Meijer Gardens has been changed. New date is Friday, October 9th. More details later!

Women of Faith (WOF) returns September 15, 2026, 11am – noon, at church. We are starting a new Bible Study: Spiritual Gifts. All women are welcome.

Revealing God

Jesus came to earth as God *incarnate*, meaning “in or having bodily form.” This was no accident. The prophets of the past had used their bodies and their words so people could understand God. In Christ, God was revealed in flesh and blood, allowing us to know who God is and what God’s priorities are for creation.

Peter points this out to us, saying that Christ is “the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16). As a *living* God, moving among us as Jesus Christ, God reveals Godself directly. God reveals the divine nature and priorities through Jesus’ earthly life. Jesus lives without possessions, sharing in the suffering of people who are poor and oppressed. On the Galilean coast he feeds thousands of people before teaching them. He befriends outcasts like Zacchaeus the tax collector and the Canaanite woman. He calls out the greed and misplaced priorities of the wealthy by flipping tables. Instead of merely telling us, Christ incarnate shows us that God has a serious concern for all people on the margins of society.

As the church is formed into the body of Christ, we too now reveal to the world who God is and what God’s priorities are. How does our ministry show God’s concern for those who are poor and marginalized today? Do we seek out and walk alongside people cast out by dominant society? Do we not only preach the word but make sure people are fed as well?

By accompanying our neighbors in their struggles for dignity, justice, and the right to flourish, we do the good work of followers of Jesus, striving with God for the end of all oppression and death, for a world made whole.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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School is back in session!! Items needed for hand2hand are as follows:

Microwave popcorn, Protein bars, Trail mix, Raisins, Slim Jims, Individual cereal & oatmeal, Cheez-its, Fruit snacks, Fruit cups, Individual Applesauce, Mac 'N Cheese Cups or boxes, Ramen Noodles, Granola bars, and Cereal bars. **Any amount of any of these items is greatly appreciated.** This list is expected to remain pretty much the same throughout the school year. We will know soon how many students are in need. These food items help students who may otherwise be HUNGRY during the weekend when not receiving meals at the schools.

Thank You!! - Outreach Committee

Brown Bag Bible Study, Thursdays Noon – 1pm: Have you ever been confused about the book of Revelation? Come join us as we discuss this book and our thoughts. Remember Communion is offered before each study begins.

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. Today we recognize that Jesus is God’s chosen one to be our Savior. May we recognize all the times that Jesus enters our lives and share him with others.

Stewardship Information



Attendance: 40	Views: 228
Weekly Giving: \$2,285.00	Budget Amount: \$5,395.46

Offerings received to date through August 15	\$ 8,934.07
Offerings received on August 16	+ \$ 2,285.00
Year to date total offerings	\$ 11,219.07

Non-Budget Giving: Grace Projects - \$300.00	Outreach - \$250.00
Social Activities - \$250.00	

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. **When work begins, the parking lot will have a gravel-type surface, for up to two weeks.** 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. **We will inform you when the parking lot will be completely closed, which will be for one day only.**

Our next Blood Drive is tomorrow, 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.

The Hastings Women's Club invites you, your family and friends to their fundraiser at Culver's on **Tuesday, August 25th**, from **5pm to 8pm**. Dine In or Drive Thru, you will be helping them raise money for their Scholarship Fund. They receive a percentage of all sales on that date, but only from 5pm to 8pm. Hope to see you there!

Shop for Charity at the Hastings Women's Club garage sale on Thursday, August 27th, 9am - 5pm, at 3181 W. State Road, Hastings. One day only. NO EARLY SALES. Proceeds support nonprofit community programs. Browse a wide selection of household items, indoor/outdoor decor & furnishings, sporting goods, and much more! Some items will be priced, but the rest are sold by "donation". Cash only.