

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 30, 2026

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 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

Son of God, Eternal Savior

ELW 798

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, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world.

G Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

📖 A reading from **Jeremiah**.

¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,

for I am called by your name,

O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;

under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you

to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙌 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 26:1-8



Refrain



Your love is be - fore my eyes; I have walked



faith - ful - ly, faith - ful - ly with you.

¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived | with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and | have not faltered.

² **Test me, O | LORD, and try me;
examine my heart | and my mind.**

³ For your steadfast love is be- | fore my eyes;
I have walked faithful- | ly with you.

⁴ **I have not sat | with the worthless,
nor do I consort with | the deceitful.** 

⁵ I have hated the company of | evildoers;
I will not sit down | with the wicked.

⁶ **I will wash my hands in inno- | cence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession | round your altar,**

⁷ singing aloud a song | of thanksgiving
and recounting all your won- | derful deeds.

⁸ **LORD, I love the house in | which you dwell
and the place where your glo- | ry abides.** 

Second Reading

Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people..

📖 A reading from **Romans**.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

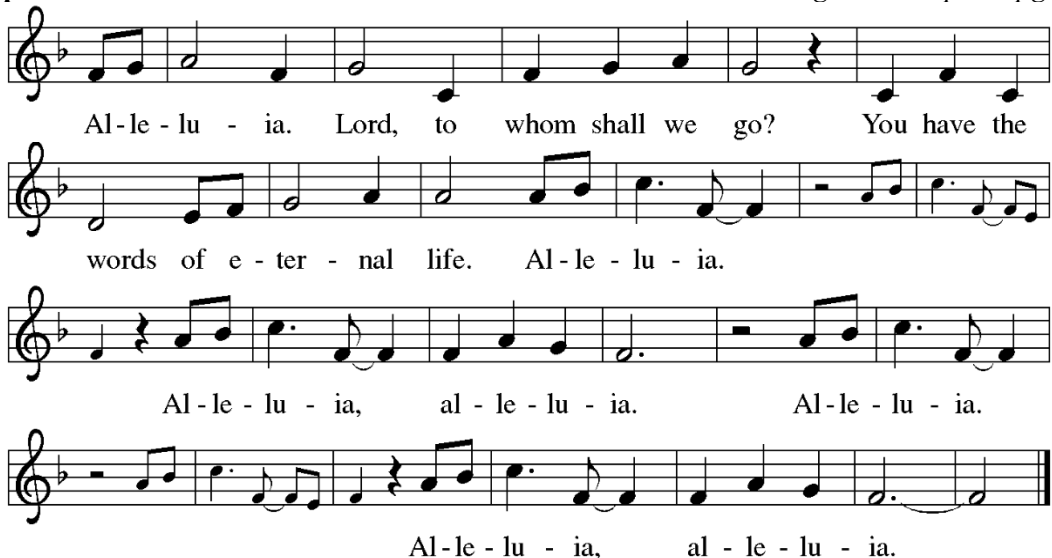
📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 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 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

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

👉 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

📖 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

Will You Come and Follow Me

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

- Ⓐ For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Walk with and guide *Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Zion Lutheran Church in Woodland; Hickory Corners Bible Church; Hickory Corners Wesleyan Church; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* Merciful God,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disaster. Merciful God,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

- Ⓐ For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. 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.**

- Ⓐ For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit, *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, Autumn Henion, Christine Jenkins, Joy Jenks, Martha Klenk, Mindi Longcor, Ed Markwart, Lexi Markwart, Cathy Martell, Larry Maupin, Dick Melcher, Carrie Miller, Virginia Moomey, Sandy Mosteller, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, Ron Neil, 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 Waage, Clyde Watson Jr., and Tom and Kathy.* Merciful God,

☞ **Receive our prayer.**

A For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God,

G **Receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. 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.
C 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.
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 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.

*For the Beauty of the Earth
Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

ELW 879

ELW 659

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

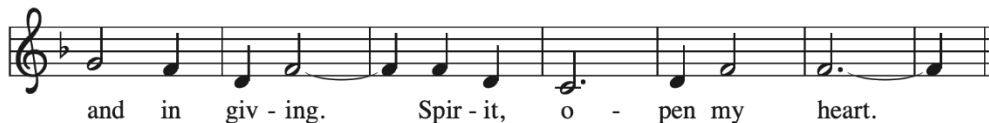
- A** God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- G** Amen.

Sending Song

Spirit, Open My Heart

ACS 1043

Refrain



- 1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
- 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
- 3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Sending

☐ Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

☒ Thanks be to God.

Postlude

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Traci Wales

Lector – Vickey Argo

Cantor – Anna Scheck

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Cup Bearer – Jan Schreiner

Usher – Mark Anton

Fellowship - Art Beaute & Laura Scheck

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 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!

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

We are collecting individually packaged snacks for area students. Bring thing in and put them on or around the Giving Tree, located near the main entrance.

Brown Bag Bible Study is in the middle of a real cliff hanger. Join us **Thursdays noon to 1pm at church** as we discuss the final message from Jesus in the book of Revelation. Communion is offered before each study begins.

“God’s Creation” 2027 wall calendars are available for \$10 each. (Get yours soon – when they’re gone, they’re gone.)

Take Up Your Cross

Jesus issues a difficult invitation to his disciples: “Take up [your] cross and follow me” (Matthew 16:24). While the disciples may have hoped for a Messiah who would set the world right through satisfying displays of force and strength, Jesus offers them a different vision. His new kingdom or reign will not be built on traditional concepts of power and glory. It is instead a kingdom centered on the cross.

Today we, too, may long for a mighty Messiah to put the world back in order, throw down corrupt rulers from their thrones, and take away suffering once and for all. And like Peter, we may find ourselves crying out in disbelief, “God forbid it, Lord!” (v. 22) when Jesus redirects our gaze to the cross.

The cross reminds us that following Jesus requires nothing less than our whole lives. To follow Jesus is to love our neighbors with a self-sacrificing love, to sit in the discomfort of another’s struggle, and to be willing to lay down our own power and privilege to see the world from our neighbor’s point of view. Following Jesus requires practicing courage as we show up for one another in the least glamorous moments of life: in the hospital room, at the gravesite, in the living rooms of the brokenhearted, in the streets marching for justice. To follow Jesus is to open our hearts to the world’s pain and to practice loving others with God’s generous love, trusting that there is always more than enough.

Putting love of God and neighbor above power, prestige, and comfort is countercultural. It might even get us into trouble. But through Jesus’ own life, death, and resurrection, we are freed to enter into the world’s suffering, trusting that God’s love always gets the last word and that we will indeed be brought to new life through God’s resurrection power.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Welcome to worship today! We are thrilled that you are here. We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. Today we are given an invitation to come to Jesus. Let us take up that invitation and discern where God is leading us in the crossroads. In doing so, we pick up our cross and follow Jesus' example of taking everything to God in prayer.

Please use this QR
Code to access
online giving.

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 38	Views: 198
Weekly Giving: \$1,205.00	Budget Amount: \$4,363.00



Offerings received to date through August 16	\$ 11,219.07
Offerings received on August 16	+ \$ 1,205.00
Year to date total offerings	<u>\$ 12,424.07</u>

Non-Budget Giving: Grace Projects: \$ 100.00
Outreach (for Barry County Cares): \$5.00

Parking Lot Project is almost finished. As you can tell, the pavement is finished. We expect to have painted lines for parking spaces in the near future, maybe even before today's worship service. They were not painted as of Wednesday. We are pleased that Murray Asphalt Company was able to install the pavement in two different 2-day periods, so our events at Grace were not interrupted. **We are thankful for the very generous gift from the Anton Family that made the pavement of our parking lot possible.**

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.

Upcoming meetings (held at Grace):

- Social Activities Committee - tomorrow at 1:30pm
- Brothers of Grace (BOG) – Saturday, September 12 at 10:00am
- Congregational Care Committee – Monday, September 14 at 1:00pm
- Outreach Committee – Monday, September 14 at 3:00pm
- Women of Faith (WOF) returns September 15, 2026, 11am – noon. We are starting a new Bible Study: Spiritual Gifts. All women are welcome.