

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

Phone: (269) 945-9414
(269) 945-2645

Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
September 6, 2026

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 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

Earth and All Stars

ELW 731 (red book)

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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy.

G Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

📖 A reading from **Ezekiel**.

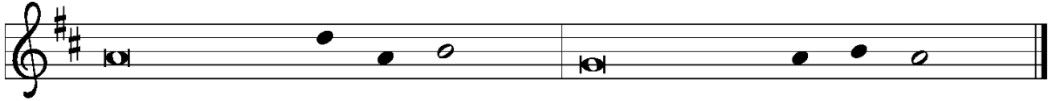
⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 119:33-40



Refrain



I de - sire the path of your com - mand - ments.

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain.** 

³⁷ Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven me.** 

Second Reading

Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

📖 A reading from **Romans**.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

📖 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 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

☞ 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

In All Our Grief

ELW 615 *(red book)*

Please be seated.

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Gracious God.** The assembly prays, **Your mercy is great.***

☞ Reminded of God’s gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence

A Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God. Walk with and guide *Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Christ Lutheran Church in Wyoming; Hope Church of the Brethren in Freeport; Hope United Methodist Church in Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* Gracious God,

G **Your mercy is great.**

A Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster. Gracious God,

G **Your mercy is great.**

A Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. 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).* Gracious God,

G **Your mercy is great.**

A Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. We pray *especially for Jennie Anderson, Vickey Argo, 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, 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., Brody, Tom, and Kathy.* Gracious God,

G **Your mercy is great.**

A Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Gracious God,

G **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intersessions may be offered.

A Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for all who have gone before us. Gracious God,

G **Your mercy is great.**

▮ Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

▮ **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

In the Singing

ELW 466



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,

Refrain



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

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

☐ 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.**

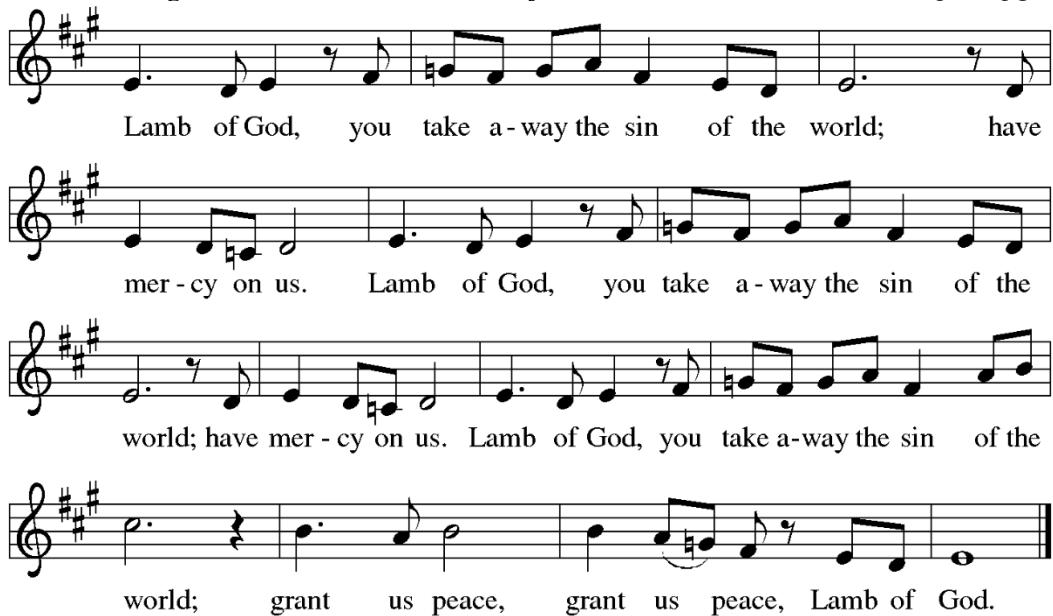
Invitation to Communion

- Ⓟ 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.

*Bind Us Together
Thy Holy Wings*

WOV 748 (blue book)
WOV 741 (blue book)

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.
- C** 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.
- C** Amen.

Sending

☐ Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Postlude

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin

Lector – Anna Scheck

Cantor – Ken Scheck

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Cup Bearer – Brenda Teegardin

Usher – Greg & Erin Franks

Fellowship - 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 next 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.

The Social Activities Committee has planned a trip to Chihuly at Meijer Gardens on Friday October 9th. We may be able to get group rates if we have 15 individuals. Please sign up as soon as possible on the bulletin board. With group rates the tram can meet us at the front door. . Please consider this fellowship activity.

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

Community Is Complicated

Navigating life with other humans is not always easy. We who call ourselves the church likely know this all too well. Perhaps you've witnessed church council meetings gone awry, frustrating conversations about the budget, or intense disagreements over worship styles. Maybe your faith community has had to navigate conflicting visions for mission and outreach, welcome and hospitality, or diversity and justice. Maybe the generational or political divides in your community feel like rifts too big to cross. As the church, we are called to wrestle with difficult questions about faith and life, but at times, even with the best of intentions, we leave one another feeling hurt, overlooked, or misunderstood.

Jesus knew a thing or two about life in community. He knew what it was like to be betrayed by the ones he loved. He shared meals with people of different backgrounds, people whose identities at times put them at odds with one another. Even his disciples never quite seemed to be on the same page! Yet Jesus knew that despite the complexity of these situations, faith is best practiced in community. Accompanying one another, sharing one another's burdens, encouraging one another, forgiving one another, and holding each other accountable are vital to the Christian life.

Therefore, managing conflict is not something to be taken lightly. Disagreements are not to be just swept under the rug, ignored until the next issue emerges. We are instead called to embrace truth-telling, courage, accountability, and compassion in our dealings with one another. The work of conflict resolution is not easy or glamorous. In fact, it can be awkward and downright painful. But it is holy work. And by God's grace, it can be an invitation to build a community that more truly reflects God's love poured out for the whole world.

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 Jesus tells us how to work with each other in love. Let us follow Jesus’ teach and share kindness and love when there is difficulty within the faith community.

Please use this QR
Code to access
online giving.



Stewardship Information

Attendance: 40	Views: 224
Weekly Giving: \$1,155.00	Budget Amount: \$4,363.00
Online Giving in August: \$2,820.12	
Offerings received to date through August 23	\$ 12,242.07
Offerings received on August 30	+ \$ 1,155.00
Online Giving in August	+ \$ <u>2,820.12</u>
Year to date total offerings (<i>fiscal year</i>)	\$ 16,217.19
Non-Budget Giving: Grace Projects: \$ 163.00	

Parking Lot Project is finished. 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 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.

Upcoming meetings (held at Grace):

- **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.**

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.

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