

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
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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
September 20, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 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

Seek Ye First

arr. Laura E. Wasson

Arise in body or Spirit

Opening Sentences

A You are the treasured people of the Lord,

G a people holy to the Lord our God.

P 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.

A One does not live by bread alone,

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

Gathering Song

When Long Before Time

WOV 799 (blue 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... Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants.

G Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Special Music

TALLIS CANON

Settings by Douglas E. Wagner

Please be seated.

First Reading

Jonah 3:10—4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

📖 A reading from **Jonah**.

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

⁸The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. 

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

📖 A reading from **Philippians**.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

ELW Liturgies accomp. ed. pg. 170



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.

Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

☞ 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

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

WOV 783 *(blue 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

- Ⓐ Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Walk with and guide *Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Feast of Victory Lutheran Church in Acme; Kilpatrick United Brethren Church in Woodland; Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness in Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* Gracious God,

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

- Ⓐ Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Gracious God,

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

- Ⓐ Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie and bring an end to employment disparity. 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,

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

- Ⓐ Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need, *especially Jennie Anderson, Vickey Argo, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Kay Corrigan, Byron Cramsie, Kim Domke, Celina Eichler, Greg Franks, Melanie Franks, Lisa Golnek, Larry Griswold, Bill Halstead, Amy Hansen, Aurora Hawkins, Jamie Heise (pregnancy), Walker Heise, Autum Henion, Christine Jenkins, Joy Jenks, Martha Klenk, Ricky Long, Mindi Longcor, Ed Markwart, Lexi Markwart, Cathy Martell, Larry Maupin, Dick Melcher, Carrie Miller, Virginia Moomey, Kate Muraski, Neagle, Ron Neil, Corey Normandin, Lincoln Osborn, Corrina Palmer, Ricky Palmer, Samantha Replogle, 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., Tom, and Kathy.* Gracious God,

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

- Ⓐ Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community (*especially*). Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Gracious God,

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- Ⓐ Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Gracious God,
- ☑ **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.



Now we join Christians all over the world in worshipping God through the sharing of our financial resources. If you are a first-time visitor, you are our guest and we do not expect you to give an offering. For members and friends, the mission and ministry of Grace Lutheran Church is completely dependent upon your generous giving. Offering plates are located near the baptismal font.

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

- 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 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. 173

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

*Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise
Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup*

WOV 801 (blue book)
WOV 706 (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 Song

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

WOV 780 (blue book)

Sending

A Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

G Thanks be to God.

Postlude

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Carla Wilson-Neil

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Cup Bearer – Vickey Argo

Usher – Deb Watson

Fellowship – Bill & Lorraine Freedlund

Bell Ringers – Kim Domke & Gayle Marsh

The nursery is available weekly during the worship service. Our Attendant is Aurora Hawkins.

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 Lakewood Area Choral Society will present a Pops Concert next Sunday, September 27th, 3:00 pm, at the Hastings Performing Arts Center (HPAC). This concert will feature a variety of musical styles and feature more individual singers and smaller ensembles.

The Social Activities Committee has planned a trip to Chihuly at Meijer Gardens on Friday October 9th. We plan to leave at 9 am. Cost is \$39.00 for general admission for no price breaks. Seniors have a price break on general admission. A group will go out for lunch after our experience. We hope you are able to join us for this merry time.

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

Scandalous Grace

Jesus loved to tell strange, unsettling stories to illustrate God's grace. Theologians and biblical scholars have wrestled with the parables of Jesus for centuries, trying to make them make sense. But perhaps the beauty of these strange illustrations is that they refuse to succumb to our need for logic or neat conclusions. They are wild, confusing, and often scandalous—much like God's love for God's people.

This parable is one such story that has the power to offend us with its backward-seeming logic. A landowner who keeps inviting new laborers to join the workforce, paying them the same amount for different amounts of work? To be sure, this is not a commentary on how to run a business or abide by fair labor practices. Instead, it is a reminder of the outrageousness of God's kingdom or reign and the scandal of God's grace.

The kingdom of God functions by its own rules: It is a table where there is always room for more people, and an endless supply of bread and wine. It is a font where all are welcome, where all are invited to splash in the waters of baptism and be named children of God. It is a realm where our rules of space and time no longer apply, as we enter into ancient story and liturgy alongside the saints who have come before us. It is a sanctuary where we find the courage to confess our sins and receive God's extravagant, scandalous forgiveness. It is a community where love and justice supersede force and greed. It is a safe place where the most vulnerable are the most cared for, and generosity abounds so that all have enough. And it is a kingdom where all are invited to participate. Much like how the landowner hired new laborers until the end of the day, it's never too late to be welcomed by God's mercy!

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 a story about how a person was given forgiveness, but the man could not share forgiveness with another. Let us share grace, forgiveness and love with one another.

Please use this QR
Code to access
online giving.



Stewardship Information

Attendance: 42 Views: 220
Weekly Giving: \$8,840.00 Budget Amount: \$4,363.00
Monthly Contribution from Zion: \$5,706.57 Noisy Offering: \$35.33

Offerings received to date through September 6	\$ 20,677.19
Offerings received on September 13	+ \$ 14,546.57
Year to date total offerings (<i>fiscal year</i>)	\$ 35,223.76

Non-Budget Giving: Grace Projects: \$ 250.00
Outreach: \$340.00

AED Training is being offered. If you are interested in learning how to use this saving device, you will have an opportunity to sign up in the near future. Let us be prepared to help those how might need this life saving device.

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.

Women of Faith (WOF) meets on **Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 11am – noon**. We have started a new Bible Study: **Spiritual Gifts**. All women are welcome.

We are collecting individually packaged snacks for area students. Bring them 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.)

Our Fall outdoor "Hot Dog Roast and Fellowship" (weather permitting) will be held right after worship on **Sunday, October 4th**. Please bring a chair and enjoy this activity.

The next **Red Cross Blood Drive** will be **Monday, October 26, 10am – 4pm**. The theme is **Halloween Special: Let’s Get Batty**. Stay tuned for more information.