

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 27, 2026

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 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.

<i>Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.</i>

Gathering Music

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

All Are Welcome

ELW 641 (*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... God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings.

G Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

L A reading from **Ezekiel**.

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Psalms 25:1-9



Refrain



Re - mem - ber, O LORD your com - pas - sion and love.

¹ To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.** 

⁵ Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹ You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way. 

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

📖 A reading from **Philippians**.

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

📖 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 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

☞ 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

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

ELW 818 *(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

- Ⓐ Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Walk with and guide *Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Allegan; Lake Odessa Grace Brethren Church; Lake Odessa United Methodist Church; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* Gracious God,

- ☑ **Your mercy is great.**

- Ⓐ You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Gracious God,

- ☑ **Your mercy is great.**

- Ⓐ Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. 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.**

A Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in 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, Gabby Kriebiehl, Ricky Long, Ed Markwart, Lexi Markwart, Cathy Martell, Larry Maupin, Dick Melcher, Carrie Miller, Virginia Moomey, Jody Neagle, Corey Normandin, Lincoln Osborn, Samantha Replogle, 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.* Grant us your salvation. Gracious God,

C Your mercy is great.

A Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Gracious God,

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intersessions may be offered.

A Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Gracious God,

C Your mercy is great.

P 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.

C Amen.

Please arise in body or spirit.

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of Christ be with you.

C 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 - spect - 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.
- 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.

☐ 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. 176



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

***We Eat the Bread of Teaching
 Take, O Take Me as I Am***

**ELW 518 (red book)
 ELW 814 (red book)**

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 Song

A Mighty Fortress

ELW 504 (*red book*)

Sending

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

Postlude

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Gwen Hansen

Cantor – Vickey Argo

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Cup Bearer – Jan Schreiner

Usher – Joe Longcor

Fellowship – Art Beute & Laura Scheck

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 today at 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.

Pasty Sale November 7: Unbaked \$7.00 & Baked \$8.00. Dough making is Wednesday, November 4.

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.**

Currently, hand2hand is helping provide food for 76 students. The foods being collected are: 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

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 Annual Fall Heritage Potluck is scheduled for Sunday, October 25th. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board so we can have an idea of how many will attend and meal contributions! Thanks!”

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.

Trunk - or – treat Join us in sharing the fun, on October 31, by handing out candy and some good cheer for this annual event 5:00 until 7:00 pm. Doors open at 4 pm for decorating.

It’s time for a new photo directory! Plans are made for a photographer to be at Grace after church on Sunday, November 1st. (Backup date: November 22nd) A directory will be created from these pictures and available for purchase, as desired. More information to come!

Marching Orders

Members of the string quartet look around at each other, nod, and begin tuning up to play. The basketball team huddles around the coach as she draws up the play on a dry-erase board. The volunteer teams go over their assignments one last time before heading off to their positions for the charity run. In each instance, before beginning their mission, the group takes a moment to get on the same page, to get their marching orders. In our lives as disciples of Christ, that moment is baptism.

Our marching orders, our mission guidelines, are marked on our hearts in baptism. The good news of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in Jesus Christ that is poured over us spills out in our lives, and we are called to be agents of restoration: to bind up the brokenhearted, to care for all people and all creation. Just as the coach draws up the play or someone makes a list of the things that need to get done, we are imbued with a way of life in baptism's waters. Our motivation for this way of life is the love that has also been shown to us in Jesus: the love that feeds us each week as we gather around our Savior's table.

Even if we are sometimes reluctant, like the son in Jesus' parable who initially says he will not go to the vineyard but eventually goes, we are motivated to carry out the work to which God has called us because of the baptismal grace we have received. And whenever we pause to collect ourselves—whether it's tuning up before the performance, getting the play in the huddle, or just taking a deep breath before beginning the next item on the to-do list—we think of baptism, when our marching orders and our motivations are indelibly marked on us by Jesus.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

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 we are called to interact with each other and do what we promise to do. Let us be mindful of one another and share grace, forgiveness and love.

Please use this QR
Code to access
online giving.



Stewardship Information

Attendance: 38 Views: 210
Weekly Giving: \$950.00 Budget Amount: \$4,363.00

Offerings received to date through September 13	\$ 35,223.76
Offerings received on September 20	+ \$ 950.00
Year to date total offerings (<i>fiscal year</i>)	\$ 36,173.76

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 from 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 29, 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. Today is the last day.

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