

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
October 4, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 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

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 I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ELW 803 (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... Beloved God, from you come all things that are good.

G Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

📖 A reading from **Isaiah**.

¹ I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

² He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

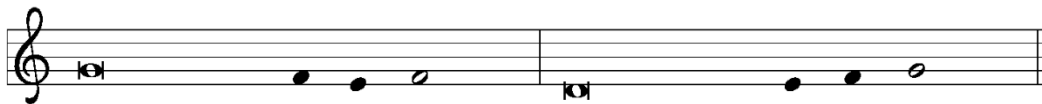
⁶ I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

📖 The word of the Lord.

📖 Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:7-15



📖 Refrain



Look down from heav'n, O God; be - hold and tend this vine.

⁷ Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

⁸ **You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and | planted it.**

⁹ You cleared the | ground for it;
it took root and | filled the land.

¹⁰ **The mountains were covered | by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs.** 📖

¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea
and its branches | to the river.

¹² **Why have you broken | down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?**

¹³ The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.

¹⁴ **Turn now, O | God of hosts,
look | down from heaven;**

¹⁵ behold and | tend this vine;
preserve what your right | hand has planted. 📖

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

📖 A reading from **Philippians**.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

📖 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 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

☞ 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

There in God's Garden

ELW 342 *(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.***

A Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence

A God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church. Inspire us to follow their example in our own day. Walk with and guide *Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Alpena; Lifegate Community Church in Hastings; McCallum United Brethren Church in Delton; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* Gracious God,

G Your mercy is great.

A God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation (*especially Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church*). Gracious God,

G Your mercy is great.

A God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones and shelter those who live within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees. 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 God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering, *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, the family of Tom Girrback, 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, Bob Power, 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, and Clyde Watson Jr.* Gracious God,

G Your mercy is great.

- A** God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. Gracious God,
- C** **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- A** God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you. Gracious God,
- C** **Your mercy is great.**
- P** Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 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 - 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.
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. 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.



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.

Faith Begins by Letting Go

ACS 1004



- 1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
- 2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem-'ry's roots a - live
- 3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch-ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press-ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar-ing strug-gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust-ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com-mon-place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Jesus Loves Me

ELW 595 (*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

All Creatures Worship God Most High

ELW 835 (*red book*)

Sending

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

Postlude

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Traci Wales

Lector – Anna Scheck

Cantor – Kate Watson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Cup Bearer – Anna Scheck

Usher – Doug Neeb

Fellowship Hot Dog Roast – Social Activities Committee

Noisy Offering collected today will benefit Barry County Cares. Noisy Offering is collected on the second Sunday of each month.

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.

Pasty Sale November 7: Unbaked \$7.00 & Baked \$8.00. Dough making is Wednesday, November 4. Signup sheets for helping and ordering are on the bulletin board.

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 today. You are welcome to join us!

“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. If you would like to contribute refreshments for the donors, please see the list of needs on the signup list on the bulletin board.

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!

One Word: *Jesus*

The tennis team had a word for the season: *rally*. That one word centered everything: “Extend each rally.” “Rally when you’re down.” “Rally back after a rough week.” Each practice began with the word “Rally” at the top of the chalkboard above the conditioning drills. The huddle before each meet was broken with the shout “Rally!” And it wasn’t just on the team. At night, when the coach’s family sat down to dinner, they all shared what they’d done that day to “rally” in their lives. Everything and everyone was centered, gathered around that one word. In our lives of faith, that one word is *Jesus*.

Jesus reminds his hearers that he is the cornerstone of faith: for the Pharisees, for the rest of the crowd gathered at the temple that day, and for us, the church here and now. The grace we find in Jesus’ love—the love that goes to the cross, to the empty tomb, and even beyond for us and our salvation—is the bedrock of our faith as we live out the life to which we are called in baptism. *Jesus* is the one word—indeed, Jesus is the Word—that gathers us together, that centers our lives. United to Jesus, the cornerstone of our lives, in baptism, we are also united with one another.

Today’s parable certainly showcases what human division can be and do at its worst, but in Jesus, we are not divided. Where division causes hurt and suffering, unity in Jesus brings hope, healing, and restoration. Where hope seems lost, Jesus rekindles that flame. Centered and united around Jesus’ baptismal grace, we are empowered and emboldened to proclaim the good news of Jesus, the cornerstone of our faith.

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 have respect and care for one another. We are called to love, not hate. We are called to forgive, not seek revenge. We ask God to help us attain this goal.

Please use this QR
Code to access
online giving.



Stewardship Information

Attendance: 32 Views: 208
Weekly Giving: \$1,330.00 Budget Amount: \$4,363.00
Online Giving in September: \$2,040.84

Offerings received to date through September 20	\$ 36,173.76
Offerings received on September 27	+ \$ 1,330.00
Online Giving in September	+ \$ 2,040.84
Year to date total offerings (<i>fiscal year</i>)	\$ 39,544.60

Grace Projects: \$250.00 + \$4,106.54 (Shirley Beck Memorial Fund)

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 **Tuesdays from 11am – noon**. We have started a new **Bible Study: Spiritual Gifts**. All women are welcome.

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

There will be a free screening of the documentary “Jesus Was a Migrant” next Sunday, October 11th, at the Hastings 4 Theater. This showing is offered by Roundtable Companions for Racial Equity. There are brochures with more information on a few of the tables in the Gathering Area. If you’d like to see the trailer for this film, you can scan the QR Code on the letter of notification which is on the bulletin board. Or type in this code:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9USIzZuSzk>