

Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Office Hours: Mon - Wed 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
October 18, 2026

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 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

Crown Him with Many Crowns

ELW 855 (*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 Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts.

G Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

📖 A reading from **Isaiah**.

- ¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
- ² I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
- ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
- ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
- ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
- ⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 96:1-13



Refrain



¹ Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.

² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**

³ Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods. **

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD. **

⁹ Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will
judge the peo- | ples with equity."**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD,
for you come to | judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth. 

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

📖 A reading from **1 Thessalonians**.

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

📖 The word of the Lord.

👏 Thanks be to God.

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

ELW 509



God's word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;
to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - deav - or.
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while
time shall last your church may hold it fast through-out all gen - er - a - tions.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

☞ 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

Here I Am, Lord

ELW 574 *(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.***

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

A brief silence

Ⓐ Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry. Walk with and guide *Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, St. John Lutheran Church in Baroda; Nashville Assembly of God; Nashville Baptist Church; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* Gracious God,

☞ **Your mercy is great.**

Ⓐ We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. 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.**

Ⓐ We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, 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, 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, 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, the family of Jerry Wagner, and Clyde Watson Jr.* Gracious God,

☞ **Your mercy is great.**

Ⓐ We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Gracious God,

☞ **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to 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

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW 679



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.



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.
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

- P** 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.
- C** **By dying on the cross, Jesus has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.**
- P** 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:
- C** **Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.**
- P** Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
- C** **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.**
- P** With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the mystery of faith.
- C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
- P** Pour your Holy Spirit upon us as we share this meal in the body and blood of our Lord.
- C** **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.

O God, You Search Me

ACS 1082



1 O God, you search me and you know me.
2 You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing.
3 Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord,
4 Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me,
5 For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me,



All my thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze.
You dis - cern my pur - pose from a - far,
you have known its mean - ing through and through.
still I search for shel - ter from your light.
gave me life with - in my moth - er's womb.



When I walk or lie down you are be - fore me:
and with love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me:
You are with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing:
There is no - where on earth I can es - cape you:
For the won - der of who I am, I praise you:



ev - er the mak - er and keep - er of my days.
in ev - 'ry mo - ment of life or death, you are.
God of my pres - ent, my past, and fu - ture, too.
e - ven the dark - ness is ra - diant in your sight.
safe in your hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 583 (red 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

☞ 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

Give Me Jesus

ELW 770 (*red book*)

Sending

☞ Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

☞ Thanks be to God.

Postlude

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Anna Scheck

Lector – Bill Freedlund

Cantor – Paul Kuhlman

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Cup Bearer – Vickey Argo

Usher – Deb Watson

Fellowship – Bill Freedlund

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 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.

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. **Items are due Sunday, October 25th. Thank You!!** - Outreach Committee

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. Please bring your candy and place it on the table in the Gathering Area.

AED Training is being offered on **November 2 at 6:00 pm.** If you are interested in learning how to use this saving device, please sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Area.

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.)

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!

Undivided Loyalty

When Jesus holds up a coin in the marketplace and asks the Pharisees and Herodians, “Whose head is this and whose title?” (Matthew 22:20), he is asking a question not about money, taxes, or the Roman Empire—at least not directly. It is likely that the emperor’s title, printed on that coin, proclaimed the emperor’s divinity: an implicit question of loyalty. And when Jesus asks his hearers to give “to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s” (v. 21), he invites his hearers to decide where they will place their loyalty. What will they give to God? What belongs to the emperor?

We might ask ourselves the same question: Where do we place our loyalty? Where do we place our trust? In Jesus, we see an example: Jesus is loyal to us. Jesus is loyal to us when he teaches. Jesus is loyal to us when he bends down to wash his disciples’ feet. Jesus is loyal to us when he goes to the cross, dies, and rises again for us and for our salvation. Jesus is always loyal to us. Jesus is generous with us in pouring out grace upon grace for us. And we respond to Jesus’ loyalty and generosity with loyalty and generosity of our own.

Throughout our lives, we are empowered by the loyalty and generosity of Jesus to give to God the things that are God’s. We offer our resources for the good of our neighbors. We offer our time, investing in the work of the gospel in our communities and beyond. And we offer our very selves, pledging our undivided loyalty to Jesus, who is loyal to us first.

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 we are to be a caring citizen of the world and to be in relationship with God. God invites us to support government officials and to be active in the church.

Please use this QR
Code to access
online giving.



Stewardship Information

Attendance: 42 Views: 204
Weekly Giving: \$2,360.00 Budget Amount: \$4,363.00
Noisy Offering: \$35.00
Zion Lutheran’s Monthly Contribution: \$5,706.57

Offerings received to date through October 4	\$ 41,044.60
Offerings received on October 11	+ \$ 2,360.00
Zion’s Contribution	+ \$ <u>5,706.57</u>
Year to date total offerings (<i>fiscal year</i>)	\$ 49,111.17

Non-Budget (Outreach): \$50.00 (calendars)