Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



Website: www.grace-hastings.org
Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 2:00 pm-6:00 pm

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

Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
November 15, 2026

Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 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.

Welcome
Gathering Music

Arise in body or Spirit
Opening Sentences
A You are the treasured people of the Lord,
C a people holy to the Lord our God.

P Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children
C 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,
C but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Gathering Song ***Christ, Be Our Light*** **ELW 715** *(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.
C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day
A Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have.
C Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading **Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

L A reading from **Zephaniah.**

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD,
for the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.

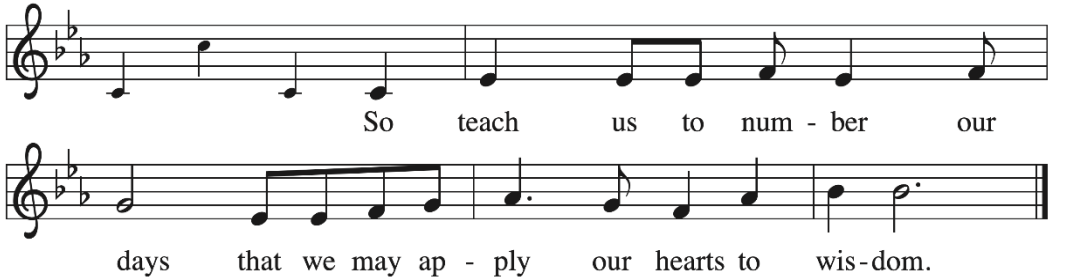
[18] Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

L Word of God, word of life.
C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90:1-11



R = Refrain



[1] Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
[2] **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,**
from age to age | you are God.
[3] You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
[4] **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past**
and like a watch | in the night; R

[5] you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
[6] **in the morning it is | green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.

7 For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
8 Our iniquities you have | set before you,
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance. R

9 When you are angry, all our | days are gone;
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.
10 The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly
and | we are gone.
11 Who regards the power | of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your | indignation?
12 So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom. R

Second Reading **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

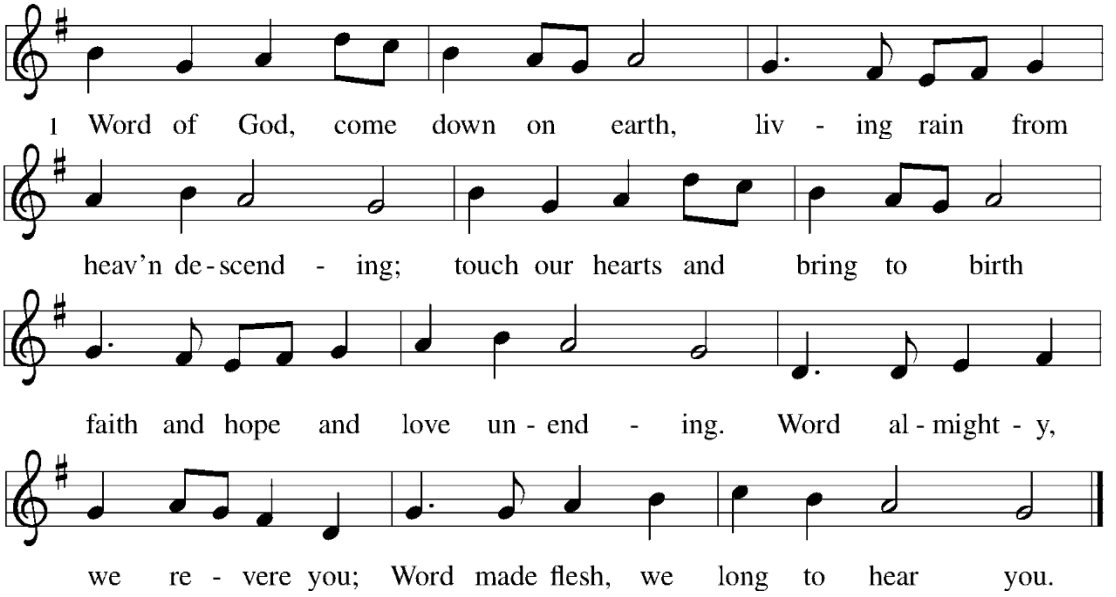
L A reading from **1 Thessalonians.**

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

L Word of God, word of life.
C Thanks be to God.

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation **ELW 510, vs. 1**



Gospel Reading **Matthew 25:14-30**

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

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

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave!

You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **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

Please arise in body or spirit.
Song of the Day ***O Christ the Same*** **WOV 778** *(blue book)*

Please sit or kneel.

Prayers
We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **God in your mercy,** *The assembly prays:* ***Hear our prayer.***

A United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. Bless our leaders and partners, *including Bishops Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate, our synod companion Immanuel Lutheran Church in Big Rapids; Pleasant Valley United Brethren Church in Lake Odessa; Pleasantview Church in Dowling; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. God, in your mercy,
C ***Hear our prayer.***

A As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy,
C ***Hear our prayer.***

A Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. 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).* God in your mercy,

C ***Hear our prayer.***

A In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing*, especially for Jennie Anderson, Vickey Argo, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Kay Corrigan,0 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, Joe Longcor, Ed Markwart, Cathy Martell, Larry Maupin, Dick Melcher, Carrie Miller, Virginia Moomey, Jody Neagle, Corey Normandin, Bob Power, Samantha Replogle, Steve Sensiba, Rob Smelker, Payton Stancil, Kathy Surratt, Gary Teegardin, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, Linda Trongo, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Ron Waege, and Clyde Watson Jr.* God in your mercy,

C ***Hear our prayer.***

A Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy,

C ***Hear our prayer.***

Here other intersessions may be offered.

A The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. God, in your mercy,

C ***Hear our prayer.***

P Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

C **Amen.**

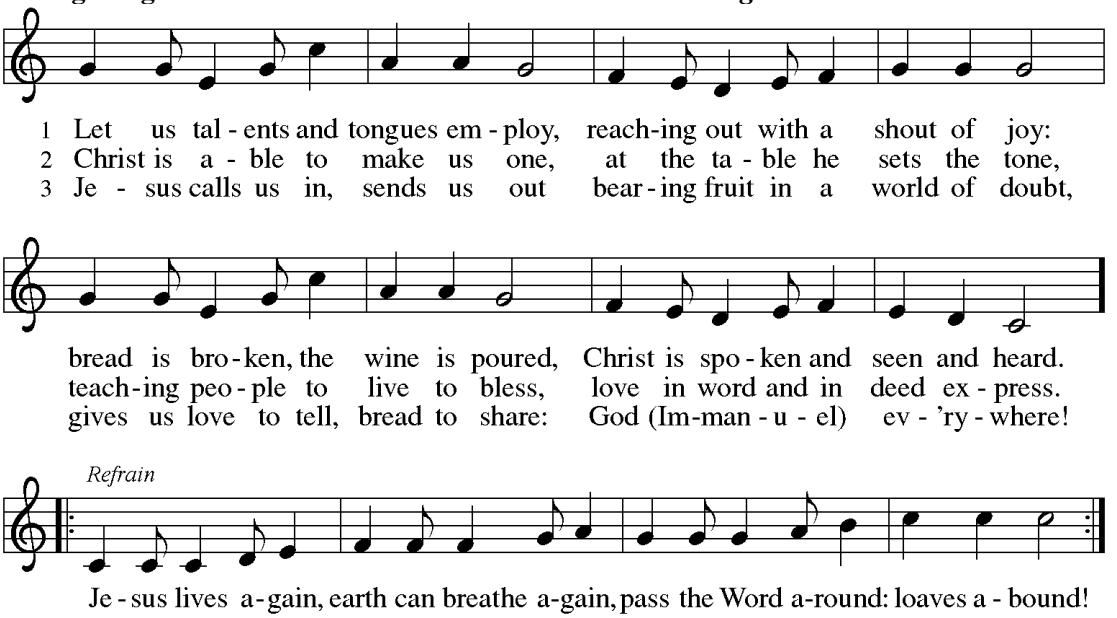
Please arise in body or spirit.

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 ***Let Us Talents and Tongues*** **ELW 674**



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:

tune: Thine the Amen

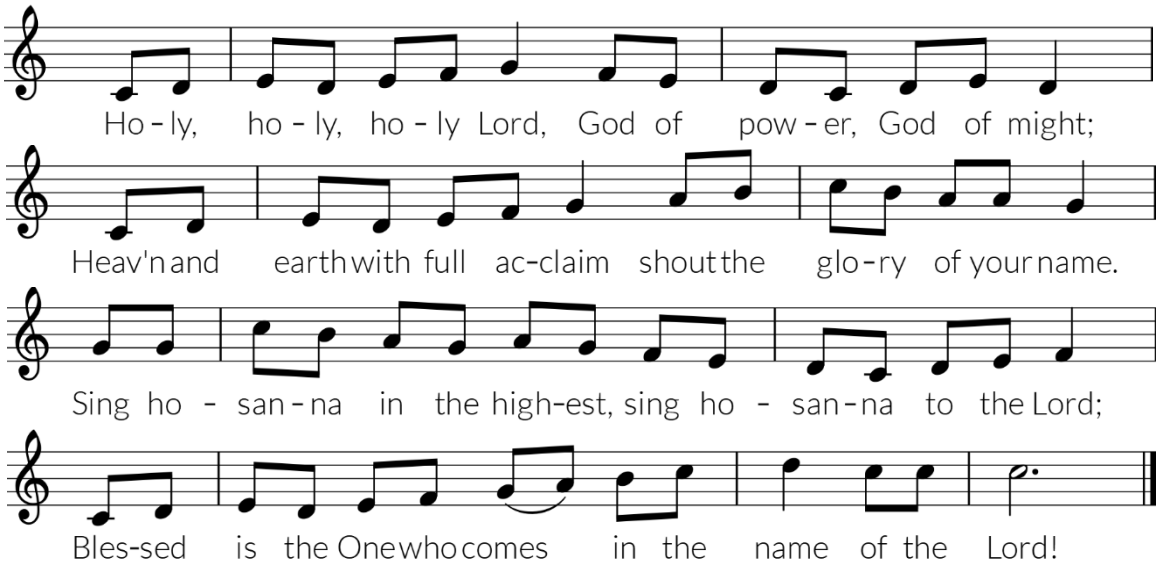


Table Prayer

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

P Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

C **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

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated.

Communion Songs: ***Jesus, Lamb of God*** *(Contemporary Worship 2)*



Light Dawns on a Weary World **ELW 726** *(red book)*
Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal **ELW 464** *(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

P 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 ***O God, Our Help in Ages Past*** **ELW 632**

Sending

A Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin
Lector – Mark Anton
Musician – Cindy Olson
Cantor – Kate Watson
Cup Bearer – Brnda Teegardin
Usher – Erin Franks
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship Hour – Bill & Lorraine Freedlund

A Game Day is scheduled TODAY after the worship service. Some games are provided but bring one along! Round up a group for cards - card table and chairs available. Hope to see you there!

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

Women of Faith (WOF) meets on Tuesdays from 11am – noon. We are studying Spiritual Gifts. All women are welcome. We will not meet the week November 24 (Thanksgiving week).

Brown Bag Bible Study is on Thursdays, Noon – 1pm. We will not meet Thanksgiving Day. Come join us as we study the first book of the Bible: Genesis. Remember communion is offered before the study begins.

There will be a HAMA (Hastings Area Ministerial Association) **Community Thanksgiving Service** held at Hope United Methodist Church **next Sunday, November 22, at 6:00 pm**.

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.

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

Social Activity Event Join us for a Hastings High School Play "Little Women"- Saturday, November 21 at 2:00 PM. **Please purchase your tickets at hastings.ludus.com or Hastings Performance Art Center at the high School.** Dinner at Seasonal Grille after the play. Please sign up for dinner reservations and if you need a ride on the bulletin board. Contact Bill Freedlund for more information.

Styrofoam Recycling – Thank you to Russ and Linda Trongo who have volunteered to take the (clean) Styrofoam containers collected at Grace to the recycling facility. There is a large, clear plastic bag in the High School classroom off the fellowship hall. Please place any Styrofoam you bring in that bag. When the bag is full, it will be taken to the facility.

The **Hand2Hand Program** helps to provide needs for 76 local students each weekend. **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 the last Sunday of the month. Thank You!!** - Outreach Committee

It's time for a new photo directory! Plans are made for a photographer to be at Grace after church on **November 22nd**. A directory will be created from these pictures. The pictures are available for purchase, if desired. *You are invited to have pictures of your extended family. These pictures of extended family or friends will not be included in the directory, but the photographer is available to you for free to get a picture of Great Grandma, Grandpa, Mom, Dad and children.* If you aren't an "official" member of Grace, but think of Grace as your home congregation, please have your photo taken for the directory!

All are Welcome!
We believe we are all created in God's image and are all called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, and called to unite all people in God's love. We welcome and affirm all people. We invite those who are seeking God's presence in their lives to join us in our common journey, which includes the LGBTQIA+ community. Our faith community seeks to unite persons of all ages, race, nationalities, ethnic background, sexual orientations, gender identities, mental and physical abilities, socioeconomic levels, and theological backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will continually strive to "Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

Advent is coming! *Bringing the Light of God to All.* Come join us on December 2, 9 and 16 here at Grace Lutheran Church for Holden Evening Prayer at 6 pm. Right after worship we will have a meal. You are also invited to attend community Advent noon lunches and presentations. On December 2 we gather at Hastings Nazarene Church with Pastor Bryce Feighner presenting *Children of the Light.* **On December 9 we gather at Grace Lutheran Church with Pastor Nick Marlatt presenting *Preparing in the Light.*** On December 16 we gather at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church with Pastor Scott Loomis presenting *A Light for All.* We hope you can join us for part or all of these Advent celebrations.

Save the date! A Christmas Fellowship Time will be held after worship on December 20th! Watch for more information later!

Politics, Religion, and Money

A strong impulse to avoid discussing certain contentious subjects exists within many communities. Perhaps you have heard the conventional wisdom to avoid talking about politics or religion at a dinner party, for instance. Or maybe you have been in family or social relationships in which money was never discussed. Sometimes we even prefer not to engage these aspects of our lives through the lens of faith.

Throughout the gospels, however, Jesus challenges his followers not to avoid difficult topics. He challenges systems of economic and political inequality, overturning the tables of temple money changers and dining with those who lived on the margins of society. He has conversation after conversation with religious leaders whose views differ from his own. And in the parable of the talents, he tackles matters of wealth head-on. These events and stories in the life of Jesus invite us not to shy away from challenging topics of faith and life.

Are there aspects of our lives—within ourselves or in our community—that we would prefer to exclude from deeper examination? What is it about those parts of our lives that makes us wary of deeper introspection and conversation? The life of faith involves the *whole* of our lives, including our political action, religious convictions, and financial choices. Just as the enslaved ones in this parable were charged with carefully stewarding the resources entrusted to them, we are invited to probe our own choices around money and wealth through the lens of faith. Nothing is outside the bounds of our call to live faithfully!

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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. We hear the call to always be prepared. We know that God gives each of us different skills, talents and abilities. Today we are challenged to use those gifts and not to bury them or ignore them. Let us prepare ourselves and use what God has given us.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.

Attendance: 46 Views: 208
Weekly Giving: $670.00 Budget Amount**:** $4,363.00
Noisy Offering: $51.19

Offerings received to date through November 1	$ 58,791.29
Offerings received on November 8	+ $ 670.00
Year to date total offerings *(fiscal year)*	$ 59,461.29

Non-Budget (Grace Projects): $250.00
Non-Budget (Outreach): $300.00

Budget Focus Item

Snow Plow	$ 1,500.00	Office Supply	$5,400.00
Given toward line	-$ 1,500.00		- $1,500.00
Still needed to meet goal	$ 0.00		$3.900.00

Budget line-item funding The Grace council voted to invite the congregation to contribute toward line-items of the budget. As you see, the entire budget line for Snow Plow has been received. We also received contributions toward Office Supply. We still have $3,900.00 to go before fully funding the Office Supply line. Once that is near being funded we will start on the next line item being highlighted for this funding project. Thank for your consideration. A reminder, that this program does not replace your "normal or regular" offerings toward the church. It is intended to be a gift beyond regular offerings.