

Grace Lutheran
Worship Folder

October 24 & 25, 2026



Watch worship online - connect through www.gracelutheran-alpena.org

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Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement

"We share God's love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world."

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

(the assembly stands as they are comfortable)

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, our sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

R504



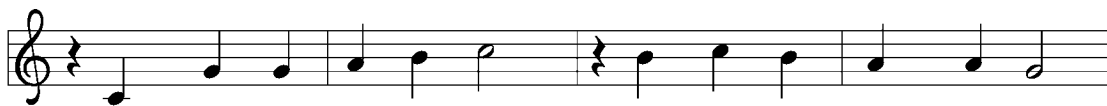
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham-pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

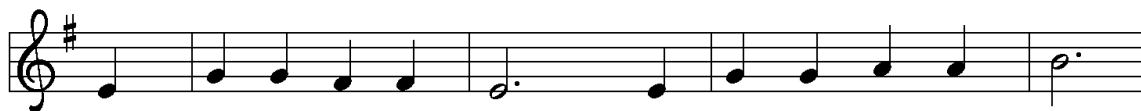
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GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

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HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Text: Martin A. Seltz; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven. Text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress. Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-708784.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. 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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The Holiness Code in Leviticus urges people to be holy because God is holy. Holiness is lived out as God's people exercise justice and love in their dealings with one another. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves.

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ² “Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

¹⁵ “You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the LORD. ¹⁷ “You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1

Their delight is in the law of the LORD. (Ps. 1:2)

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with
leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Paul uses maternal imagery to depict the caring and nurturing relationship he shares with the Thessalonian Christians. When he first came to their city it was not to benefit himself but to share the gospel with them, which was his responsibility as an apostle of Christ.

¹ You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain,
² but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as
you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of
great opposition. ³ For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or
trickery, ⁴ but, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the
message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals but to please God,
who tests our hearts. ⁵ As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with
words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, ⁶ nor did we seek praise from mortals,
whether from you or from others, ⁷ though we might have made demands as apostles
of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own
children. ⁸ So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you
not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very
dear to us.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(The assembly stands as they are comfortable for the Gospel)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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.

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P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Matthew 22:34-46

Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments and by demonstrating the Messiah must be more than the son of David.

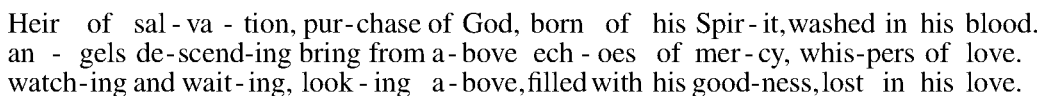
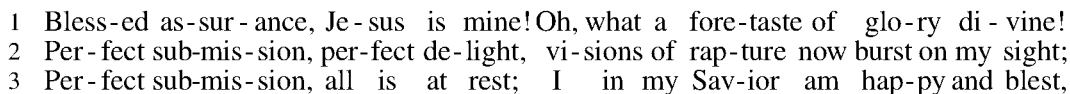
³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” ⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³ He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴ ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet” ’? ⁴⁵ “If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.

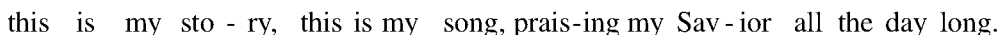
C: Praise to You, O Christ.

(The assembly stands as they are comfortable)

R638



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908 This selection is in the public domain.

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

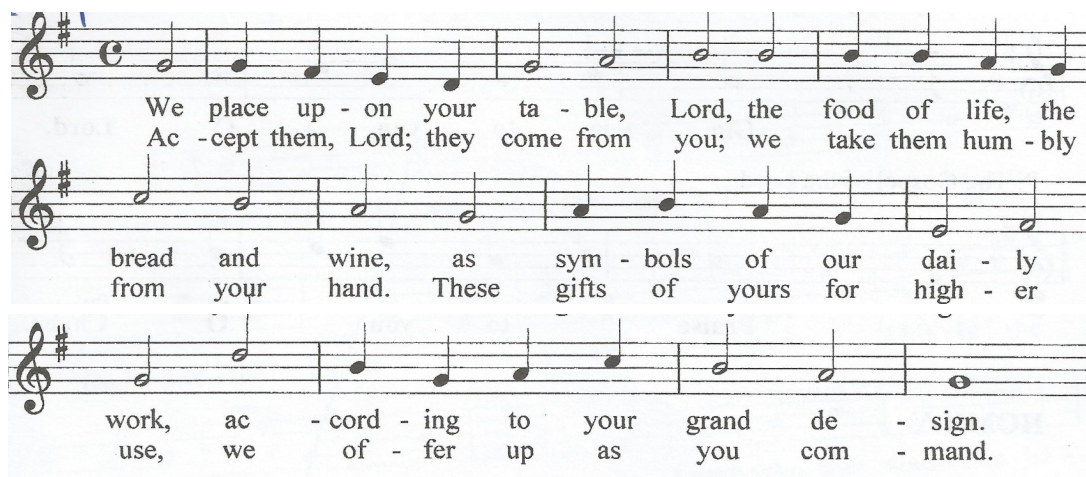
(Response after each petition)

P: God of grace,

C: **hear our prayer.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *(the assembly stands as they are comfortable and sings as the gifts are brought forward)*



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P: Let us pray...Loving God,

C: **we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.**

P: This is Jesus's table. He invites all to come and receive the gifts that strengthen us, that help us be God's people this day and always.

(There are gluten-free wafers available. Please ask the Pastor for one. And there is grape juice in the center of each tray, the clear juice.)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

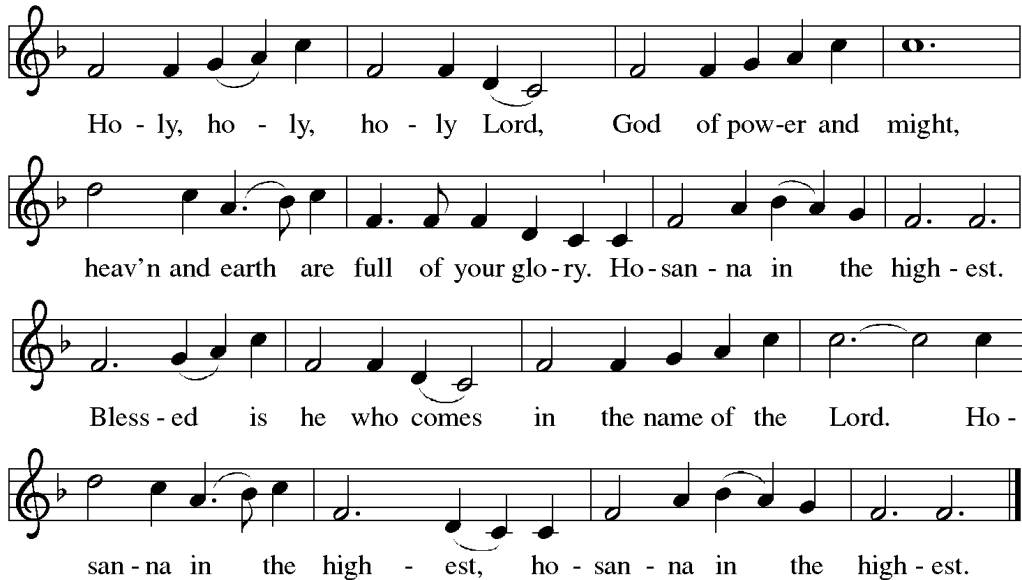
P: Lift up your hearts.

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 indeed our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER/WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

(All who desire to receive Christ's presence in bread and wine are welcome to participate in the Eucharist)

P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!



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.

COMMUNION HYMN

“One Bread, One Body”

R496

Refrain

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of
bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y
through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,

Refrain

wom - an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ

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(the assembly stands as they are comfortable)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray...Compassionate God,

C: through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, + one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

R543



- 1 “Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 “Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 “Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.”
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.”
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

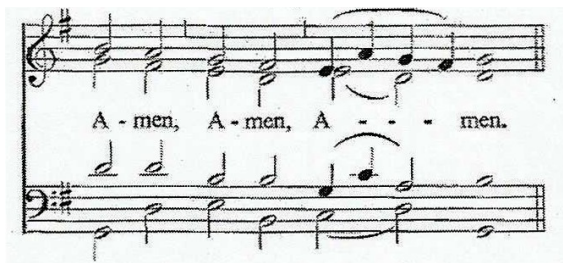
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Go in peace. Seek equality and justice for all.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



POSTLUDE



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GRACE LUTHERAN

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We are glad to have you here worshiping with us. For visitors, we would be glad to tell you more about Grace Lutheran and how we share God's love. Please leave the best way to contact you on the visitor sheets in the Sanctuary Narthex or the Office Lobby or use the bulletin and give it to an usher.

COFFEE HOUR AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Join us for a time of fellowship with coffee/tea/juice and treats in the Fellowship Hall off the Office Lobby after our Sunday worship.

ALTAR FLOWERS

In Memory of Michael Moors

Given by Gerri Moors

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Rev. Tom Downs for leading worship, preaching and presiding this weekend.

SYNOD PRAYER PARTNER

Our Synod Prayer Partner for this week: St. Peter Lutheran/Battle Creek, Rev. Edward Ruble; and Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas and Synod Staff.

PRAYER LETTERS

Please sign the prayer letter(s) each week that we send out telling other churches and ministries they have been included in our prayers. **Fill the page with our names.** The letter(s) are on the podium by the table in the Office Lobby.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Meredith Smith, Jon Crow, Larry Garant, Patti Tucker, Bonnie Cross, Darlene Freel, Hope Kamyszek, Sandy Malaski, Janet Chroninger, Elfie Jahnke, Robert Larsen, Elaine Hatch, Scott Lancaster, Emma Nelson, Michele Amelotte, Jim Malaski, Kelly Pankey-- Erin Stokes, Nicole Zbytowski, Dana Cruse-Malcomson, Cheryl Gauthier, Tamyra Rychlinski, Ho-Ok Nam Lin (Pastor Seok Nam Lin's mother), Maria Shelton, Lysie, Becky & Dante, Tyson, Georgia, Lyle Beck, Candy & Tom Laughlin, Joan Vanover, Mychele Allmacher, Sandra Beck, Laura Fettes (Don Cross' granddaughter), Donna Kendziorski, Jeff Kendziorski, Jordyn, Maggie, Joseph Hansen and Baby J. Military: Don Witt, 6-month deployment from Alpena, Will Stafford (Rich & Sherie McTaggart's grandson), Amelia Berles, US Air Force Pilot Training, and Michael Herrmann, US Air Force.

ADULT CHRISTIAN ED - OCTOBER 25

Have you ever heard of Homeboy Industries? Founded in Los Angeles in 1988 by Jesuit priest Father Gregory Boyle, it is the largest gang intervention program in the world. This remarkable man has a lot to teach us about faith compassion, and unconditional love. Find out more at the adult education class on October 25 after coffee hour. It will be time well spent.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Fall is here and winter is approaching. Again the pantry will be collecting hats, mittens and socks to place in the pantries. Thank you and enjoy our beautiful fall colors.

TRICK OR TREAT FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD - OCTOBER 31

Join us as we distribute treats on Halloween, Saturday October 31 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM. *SIGN UP IN THE OFFICE LOBBY.* We will set up at 5 PM. Let our neighbors know about Grace and have some fun meeting people too. **DONATIONS OF TREATS ARE NEEDED** and can be placed in the basket in the Office Lobby. We had many kids stop by last year!

NAMES FOR ALL SAINTS WEEKEND

We will be remembering those who have died this past year during our services the weekend of October 31/November 1. If you have names you would like to submit please send them to the office by 10 a.m. on Monday, October 26, for remembrance during our services. Thank you.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

A reminder that daylight saving time ends on Sunday, November 1 at 2 a.m. Please remember to set your clocks back one hour.

THANK YOU

Our grounds look beautiful and are officially ready for winter, thanks to the wonderful volunteers who came out for our Fall Cleanup. We truly appreciate the gift of your time and hard work.

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAMED AND RECORDED

Our Sunday worship service is livestreamed, shown on the internet, as it is happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday service may be seen as part of the livestream and recording.

GENERAL FUND GIVING FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Average needed in September (4 weeks) to meet budget	\$ 19,252.00
Monthly Giving - September	14,830.98

We received:

92 envelopes, 57 Simply Giving recurring payments,
and 6 Give+ payments made from our website



OCTOBER

Anniversaries of Baptism

October 4
Madelyn Boyd

October 10
Wayne Christopherson

October 12
Kay Grove

October 15
Matthew Anderson
Molly O'Connor

October 20
Shane Bullard



October 21
Thomas Bertrand
Drew Gentry

October 27
Piper Slominski

October 29
Mya Styma

October 30
Marcie Law
Connie Suszek



*1st Dawn & Brett Anderson
3rd Matt & Ruby Haske*

Birthdays

October 2
Jim Berles
Adam Kirchoff

October 3
Ellie Walker

October 5
Mike Morgan

October 6
Christopher Piontkowski

October 7
Ken Amlotte
Richard Carlson
Kimberly McCourt

October 10
Gary Grove

October 13
David Dekett
Sandra Welch

October 14
Tamar Furze

October 15
Kody Bertrand

October 18
Brian Schiller
Jim Timrick

October 20
Erika Nicholls

October 21
Jewel Lancaster

October 22
Jessica Slominski

October 23
Emma Nelson

October 25
Staci Chroninger

October 28
Cindy Domrase
Andrea Matzke

October 29
Caileigh Nitchman

October 31
Jessica Konarzewski

Wedding Anniversaries

17th Ron & Jo Ann Smith

All Saints Center of Charity Candlelight Benefit Concert

Music provided by
the Bifocal Brass Sextet

AT ST. BERNARD CHURCH

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5TH 2026

6:30-8:00 P.M.

\$35 PER PERSON/ \$60 FOR 2 PEOPLE

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT ST. ANNES CHURCH OFFICE
QUESTIONS? CALL 989.354.3019



HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

Sunday – 25th

9:30 am **Worship**
11:00 am Adult Ed—Lounge

Monday - 26th

8am-noon Church Office Open
8am-2pm Kitchen Reserved

Tuesday - 27th

8am-noon Church Office Open
9am-noon Quilting/Sewing

Wednesday - 28th

8am-noon Church Office Open
5:15 pm Choir
6:00 pm Bell Choir

Thursday - 29th

8am-noon Church Office Open
8am-2pm Kitchen Reserved

Friday - 30th

8am-noon Church Office Open
8am-2pm Kitchen Reserved

Saturday - 31st

5:00 pm **Worship**
5:30-7:30 pm Neighborhood
 Trick or Treat

SERVING OCTOBER 24/25

Ministers God's People
Pastor Rev. Tom Downs
Music Director Claire Witt
Organist Kat Tomaszewski
Comm. Asst. Wayne & Chris Christopherson
Lector Corinne Fraley
Ushers Wayne & Chris Christopherson,
 Mary Rowader, June Daly
Greeters Susan Howard, Mary Rowader
Altar Guild Cindy Suszek, Cheryl Werblow
 Chris Christopherson (10/24 set up)
Livestream Team ... Dawn Anderson, Jan Charter,
 Don LaBarre, Alex Struble
Counters Gary & Kay Grove
Coffee Hour Anne Gentry, Jo Ann Smith

SERVING OCTOBER 31/NOVEMBER 1

Ministers God's People
Pastor Rev. Tom Downs
Music Director Claire Witt
Organist Kat Tomaszewski
Comm. Asst. Wayne & Chris Christopherson
Lector Anne Gentry
Ushers Wayne & Chris Christopherson,
 Mary Rowader, June Daly
Greeters Dawn Gentry, Stephanie Suszek
Altar Guild Cindy Suszek, Cheryl Werblow
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Livestream Team ... Dawn Anderson, Jan Charter,
 Don LaBarre, Alex Struble
Counters Gary & Kay Grove
Coffee Hour Joel & Cindy Suszek

**Large print worship folders & hearing
assistance devices are available from ushers**

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707

Phone: Office 989-354-2640

Web Site: www.gracelutheran-alpena.org
Give online at www.gracelutheran-alpena.org

E-mail:

officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org



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View our services
on YouTube

