

News of Grace

Monthly Newsletter ♦ August 2016



Gerald Lancaster, Gar Nicholls, Roger Pankey, Fred Wegmeyer, Bunny Lyon, Gordon Hansen, Judy Kautz,

Debbie Anderson, Marilyn Whitscell, Erv Simi, Jeanette

Grove, Elfie Jahnke, Lorraine Leathead, Gloria Moore, Dave Chroninger, Harold & Jean Kissau, Jim Malaski, Karen & Walter Spigelmyre, Dorothy Gentry, Emma Nelson, Julie Troy, Conrad Addison, David Schaedig, Linda Norton, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Cody Gustin, Brett & Katie Schoner, Eric Carlson, Martin Suszek, Larry Beaudoin, Shirley Johnson, Mike Knoblett, Dennis Diamond, Stuart Grenkowicz, and Kay.

We also remember the families of...

Iris Snyder, who passed away July 3rd.

Mary Garant (Steve and Larry Garant's mother), who passed away July 6th.

Our prayer list is redone each month. If you, or a family member, would like to continue on the prayer list, please call the office (354-2640).



Reformation Conversation

Sunday August 7
2 p.m.

Grace will be hosting a Sunday afternoon conversation for the community on the Reformation with church members from Germany who are visiting Alpena. First Congregational UCC has 24 people visiting from their sister church in Germany for 2 weeks the beginning of August.

The 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation is chance to look at church today in various parts of the world and how we have lived out our faith since that momentous event.

Join us in greeting the German visitors and hearing their perspective on faith today.



**SPECIAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

Sunday, August 7 following worship

To consider and vote on the recommended Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles that have developed from the visioning process of the last year.

*From the
Pastor*



I had the occasion recently to tell the parable of the Prodigal Son to a group of non-church people I was with, to illustrate a point I was making. I invite you to **stop right now** and reread that parable in Luke 15 : 11 - 32 so it is fresh in your mind as you read on. And I ask you do read it and not just remember it. There's a question to answer!

After summarizing the parable, I told the story of a seminary professor who had taught the parable in 3 very different places during the course of 1 year. In each place after the story was read, he asked the question, "What was the sin in the story?" Well in Africa, the students replied the sin was not offering hospitality. The younger son was in a foreign land and the people were not offering hospitality to a stranger. In St. Petersburg, Russia, the response to the question was, "There was no sin. There was a famine in the land."

And your response to the question? If you are like most Americans, you said, "He squandered his money in dissolute living." And most probably you did not even "hear" the world famine in your reading of the scripture.

In each situation, people interpreted out of their local context. What actions or characteristics or values are held the highest in the local culture. In Africa, in a culture in many places still very similar to Jesus' time, hospitality to the stranger or traveler was a highly held communal value. In St. Petersburg, there had been a devastating famine during the German siege of World War II and every family had lost members. And in our culture, well to be wasteful with money, squandering it, is looked down on. So that is what is most often heard here.

I've used this illustration before in classes and maybe a sermon or two. It speaks to how all we are, our history, our family of origin, our society, our experiences make up how we interpret the world and create our world view.

As I told this illustration to this group, I realized that there were also several mind sets portrayed within the story that showed characters' world view also. The younger son never imagined the grace of his father. Perhaps in his guilt, he could not imagine being received with open arms. I can't imagine that this was the first time the father showed such grace to him. Yet the son was limited in what he could see. And the older son. He could not get beyond so much being done for his younger brother when he had been "good" all along. Perhaps he was not seeing all the grace and love he had received all along.

For both, their views and experiences did not allow them to see beyond themselves to the bigger picture. And that is hard. To imagine grace, when we don't think we deserve it. We get so limited by what we have experienced and know, that we can not imagine, or believe in more than that. It does take real work, real risk, to believe differently than all we "know." Yet that is what the Gospel calls us to do. To be open to the possibility of a good God beyond our beliefs. I invite you into that. To be open, to risk, to explore, to share in all of God's good grace for this world. To live in that love

Peace, shalom, salaam

Pastor Tom



“500 Years After The Reformation” Conversations with guests from Germany

(sponsored by LARCC, Alpena)

Sunday, Aug. 7, 2016

**2:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church
119 W. Dunbar, Alpena, Michigan 49707**

23 members of the “Apostle” Protestant Church in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, will be visiting Alpena for two weeks in August. Our LARCC churches (Lutheran, Anglican/Episcopal, Roman Catholic, and Congregational) invite you to meet them and have meaningful conversation about church relations in their City and in Alpena.

- (1) Today's “realities” in the German Church compared and contrasted with Alpena's churches
- (2) Current “relations” between Protestants and Catholics
 - (A) formal reconciliation between denominations
 - (B) local expressions here in Alpena and in Germany.
- (3) “Reconsiderations” and insights gained:
 - (A) Hardening or softening of doctrinal differences
 - (B) Intentional ecumenical actions in our communities
 - (C) Lessons and observations from our study of the life & times of Martin Luther and the book "From Conflict to Communion"

Open microphone conversation will be moderated by Rev. Paul Lance, Minister of the First Congregational UCC. For more information call Rev. Lance at (989) 356-1795.

Open to the public. Free of charge.

Relay for Life Luminaries

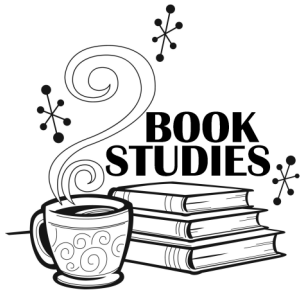
There are several youth from Grace who have joined The Relay For Life "Team Triple Threat" on August 20-21. The "Luminaria Ceremony" is a time during the relay that is set aside to honor our loved ones who are battling cancer and remember those who have lost their fight. If you would like to purchase a luminary in honor of - or in memory of a loved one - you can purchase one during the fellowship time before or after worship on Saturdays and Sundays. We can deliver, pick up, and or decorate the bag for you. You can call us too... Each bag is \$10. As we walk through the night on the 20th, the luminaria will light the path.. We thank you for your support of Team Triple Threat & all who are battling today!!!



Isabelle Denstaedt (989-916-9259)
Miriam Denstaedt (989-916-9257)
Caileigh Nitchman (989-916-8207)

Community Service Opportunities

Are you a member of an organization that serves the people and the community? Have a special project coming that needs help? Let Grace members know so we can share them each month in our Grace newsletter.



Interfaith Amigos

New opportunities to read the Amigos' book *Religion Gone Astray: What We Found at the Heart of Interfaith* and have a discussion with others. Grace Lutheran's group (119 W. Dunbar St, 354-2640) will meet on Thursday evenings at 7 PM on August 11, 18 and 25th. St Paul Lutheran (727 S. Second Ave. 356-1658) will have a group Wednesdays noon on August 17, 24 & 31. Call the churches for further information.

Interfaith Amigos visit The Power of Interfaith Dialogue

Mark September 22 on your calendars. The Interfaith Amigos will conduct 2 workshops that day and give an evening presentation.

Thursday 11 AM Workshop - *Creating Trust in an Interfaith Environment* at Alpena Community College - Granum Theatre or CTR 106

The Interfaith Amigos invite participants to engage in the kind of sharing they have found to be the essential but often missing step leading to more effective interfaith dialogue.

Thursday 2 PM Workshop - *The Value of a Core Teaching* at Alpena Community College - Granum Theatre or CTR 106

How a core teaching or a core value can serve to identify aspects of our own traditions or our own thinking that make interfaith dialogue more difficult.

For free registration at either or both workshops: call 989.657.9474 or email ifaalpena@gmail.com

Thursday Evening 7 PM – *CHALLENGES TO INTERFAITH COOPERATION* at Alpena High School - Beck Auditorium

What hinders the development of trust and lasting cooperation among different religions? Why is it we find it so difficult to transcend our tendency to demonize the other? The Interfaith Amigos explore what keeps us from greater cooperation and what heals the distance between us.

No registration is necessary for the evening presentation.

The Interfaith Amigos present a crucial message in their unique humorous style, helping participants appreciate the promise and the problems of the interfaith experience.

Known for their unique blend of spiritual wisdom and humor, [Imam Jamal Rahman](#), [Pastor Don Mackenzie](#) and [Rabbi Ted Falcon](#) openly address the usual taboos of interfaith dialogue — the “awkward” parts of each tradition — in order to create a more authentic conversation.

For more information/To Register:

ifaalpena@gmail.com • 989.657.9474



Interfaith Amigos-Alpena

Outreach and Mission

Local

Discipleship



Items Needed:

- * Tuna & Tuna Helper
- * Peanut Butter & Jelly
- * Pancake Mix & Syrup
(Just add water kind)
- * Elbow Macaroni

The collection basket is located outside the church office. All items collected will be donated to Trinity Episcopal's food pantry.

PLEASE REMEMBER

FOSTER CLOSETS OF MI ALPENA BRANCH

A new endeavor for Grace to support is the Alpena branch of Foster Closets of Michigan. This is housed in the basement of the Free Methodist Church. If you have baby items (clothes, furniture, toys, etc) or kids clothing of any size up to age 18, consider taking it to this closet. This closet helps out the foster families in Alpena. There is a big need for volunteer help sorting out donated items. Please contact Joelyn Rich at 340-0592 or Chris Christopherson at 356-0430 if you can volunteer time.

Cards for Loving Care Members

The Discipleship Committee has decided to send cards more frequently to our loving care members and others who have been hospitalized, etc. There will be a card to sign every week on the podium along with the letter we sign for our fellow congregations. Take time to write a message or just sign the card please.

Statewide

**Samaritas
(Formerly Lutheran Social
Services of Michigan)**

FOSTER CHILDREN PROGRAM

Let's not forget about collecting underwear and socks for children ages one through thirteen. A collection basket is located by the Narthex door.

Save the Date

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday ~ September 11, 2016

We will again be going to Luther Manor.

Dawn Anderson will chair

Further details to follow!!!!



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS will be our focus for the next 3 months and will be sent in the fall. See bulletin board for details and a list of supplies needed. Collection basket is by the front door. We will be rotating our collections as follows:

July, Aug, Sept	LWR Schoolkits
Oct, Nov, Dec	LWR Baby kits
Jan, Feb, March	LWR Personal kits
April, May, June	Samaritas (formerly LSSM) underwear and socks for foster children

WEEKEND BREAD SALE will be August 20/21. We raised \$142.00 in July. Proceeds go to the ELCA Hunger Relief Fund. Thanks to all who bake and buy!!!!

REMEMBER OUR NEW SPONSORED CHILD ISHIMWE IN PRAYER!! Noisy Offering is done the 4th Sunday of the month to support her through World Vision. You can read about her on the bulletin board in the dining room.



A very big thank you to all who helped with the luncheon and/or brought food for Mom's luncheon. Oh, how she

loved Grace! Thanks also for all the cards, thoughts, prayers, and hugs. What an awesome family we have here at Grace. I love and appreciate all of you. Thanks again!

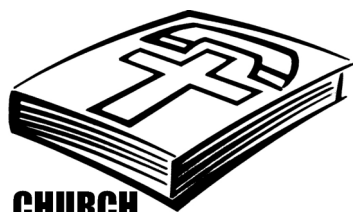
Joelyn Rich and Family

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A big thank you to my church family for all the prayers, cards and phone calls. Special thanks to Pastor Tom, Vicki Denstaedt and Janet Chroninger.

Love you all,

Roger Pankey



**CHURCH  
DIRECTORY  
INFORMATION**

Have you changed your phone number? Gone to just a cell phone? Have a new email? Please let the office know so we have the latest information. Thanks.

**GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Staff & Leadership Telephone Numbers**

**CHURCH OFFICE** ..... 354-2640  
 Rev. Tom Orth.....Home ..... 356-8729  
 .....Cell ..... 916-8759  
 Office Manager....Peggy Tomaszewski..... 255-8850  
 Music Director .....Berniece Lyon ..... 464-7064

**ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**

President.....Tom Lappan..... 356-3718  
 Vice-President .....  
 Exec. Secretary ....Sandy Malaski..... 356-6248  
 Treasurer .....Dennis Werblow ..... 354-5560

**WORK GROUP LEADERS/COUNCIL**

Education.....Taylor Denstaedt..... 916-9250  
 Worship .....Sharon Engstrom ..... 354-5133  
 Discipleship .....Joelyn Rich ..... 340-0592  
 Property .....Jeff & Sandy Welch ..... 595-2195  
 Fellowship.....Jeanne Pankey ..... 354-2416  
 .....Pat Schultz ..... 356-2781  
 Finance.....Rick Engstrom..... 916-5963

**OTHER V.I.P.s**

Stewardship... Wayne Christopherson .... 356-0430  
 Youth Director ..... Vicki Denstaedt ..... 916-9258  
 WELCA ..... Darleen Freel ..... 354-8866  
 ..... Dorothy Hansen ..... 354-3563  
 Samaritas ..... Kay Grove ..... 727-2054  
 Quilters ..... Caroline Weise ..... 354-8060  
 ..... Dorothy Hansen ..... 354-3563  
 LARCC ..... Eleanor Coddington ..... 354-8766  
 ..... Kay Grove ..... 727-2054

**JULY 2016**

**Finances**

GENERAL FUND.....\$ 13,129.00  
 BUILDING FUND..... 1,120.33  
 CHRISTIAN GROWTH ..... 12.00  
 OTHER ..... 7,165.72  
 TOTAL.....\$ 21,427.05  
 (Does not include 7/30 & 31)

**Attendance**

SATURDAY WORSHIP (4) ..... 129  
 SUNDAY WORSHIP (4) ..... 289  
 TOTAL..... 418  
 (Does not include 7/30 & 31)

# Interfaith Amigos

Thursday,  
Sept. 22, 2016

The Power of Interfaith Dialogue  
Keynote Event for the 30 Days of Peace

## Workshop 1: Creating Trust in an Interfaith Environment

11 a.m. - 12 p.m. • Alpena Community College, Granum Theater

The Interfaith Amigos invite participants to engage in the kind of sharing they have found to be the essential but often missing step leading to more effective interfaith dialogue.

## Workshop 2: The Value of a Core Teaching

2 p.m. - 3 p.m. • Alpena Community College, Granum Theater

How a core teaching or a core value can serve to identify aspects of our own traditions or our own thinking that make interfaith dialogue more difficult.

While all three events are free and open to the public, we ask that you please pre-register for the workshops.

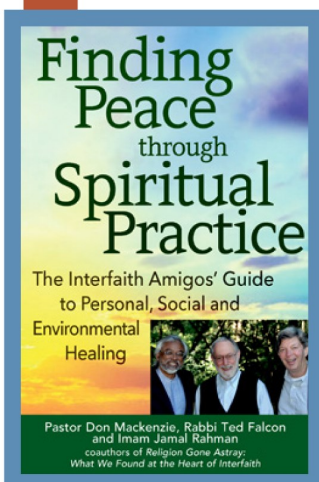
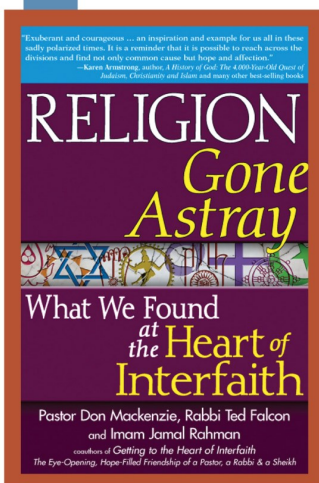
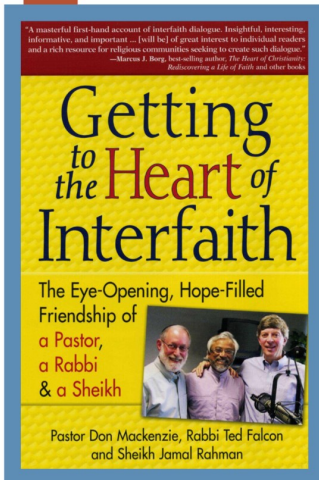
## Challenges to Interfaith Cooperation

7 p.m. • Alpena High School, Stanley Beck Auditorium

What hinders the development of trust and lasting cooperation among different religions? Why is it we find it so difficult to transcend our tendency to demonize the other? The Interfaith Amigos explore what keeps us from greater cooperation and what heals the distance between us.

## ABOUT THE AMIGOS

Known for their unique blend of spiritual wisdom and humor, Imam Jamal Rahman, Pastor Don Mackenzie and Rabbi Ted Falcon share why interfaith dialogue is so critically important in our world. They will openly address the usual taboos of interfaith dialogue as they help participants explore how each of their Abrahamic traditions both support as well as inhibit that deeper dialogue in order to create a more authentic conversation.



Sponsored by:



First Congregational UCC of Alpena Comstock Fund • Michigan Conference United Church of Christ Prophetic Integrity Mission Area Team Peace with Justice Grant • St. Paul Lutheran Church of Alpena Trust and Endowment • The Presbytery of Mackinac (PCUSA) Peacekeeping Fund Mission Grant • LARCC (Lutheran Anglican Roman Catholic Congregational UCC Churches) Alpena • North/West Lower Michigan Synod of ELCA Trapp Endowment Grant • Comm. Foundation of NE Michigan • Mich. Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs • Region 3 Regranting agency, Northeast Michigan Center for Fine Arts, Inc. (Art in the Loft) • Michigan Global Awareness Consortium Grant from ACC Foundation

## For more information/To Register:

ifaalpena@gmail.com • 989.657.9474



Interfaith Amigos-Alpena

# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE LORD

## AUGUST 2016

### ACOLYTES

07  
14  
21  
28

### HOSPITAL

JANET CHRONINGER

### LECTORS

07 BOB GREENE  
14 CHERYL WERBLOW  
21 JOE GENTRY  
28 VICKI DENSTAEDT

### USHERS

ROGER & JEANNE PANKEY  
DON FURZE  
MATT, EVERETT & OLIVIA HASKE

### GREETERS

07 CORKY GATES, PATTI MACNEILL  
14 JOE & DAWN GENTRY  
21 GARY & KAY GROVE  
28 WAYNE & ANNA LEWIS

### COUNTERS

CHRIS CHRISTOPHERSON  
MARGE WEBER  
BETHANY POPOUR

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

ROGER & JEANNE PANKEY

### ALTAR GUILD

KAREN SUSZEK  
JO ANN SMITH

### FLOWERS

07 MALASKI  
14  
21 ENGSTROM  
28

### COFFEE HOUR

07 JOE & DAWN GENTRY, ANNE GENTRY  
14 RICH & SHERIE MCTAGGART  
21 DON & VERA FURZE, TAMMY FURZE  
28 DALE & PAT SCHULTZ

*PLEASE, please, please try to find a replacement or someone to switch with if you are unable to fulfill your Sunday scheduled duty AND share the change with Peggy. Thank you!*



# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE LORD

## SEPTEMBER 2016

### ACOLYTES

04  
11  
18  
25

### HOSPITAL

JANET CHRONINGER

### LECTORS

04 DAWN ANDERSON  
11 ANNE GENTRY  
18 DONNA CZARNECKI  
25 GARY NICHOLLS

### USHERS

MICK & KAY ZINSLI  
WAYNE & ANNA LEWIS  
CLARENCE & BONNIE CROSS

### GREETERS

04 RICH & SHERIE MCTAGGART  
11 JO ANN SMITH, EVERETT HASKE  
18 ELSA PHILLIPS  
25 SHELLY OLSEN FAMILY

### COUNTERS

CHERYL LANG  
CINDY SUSZEK

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

CLARENCE & BONNIE CROSS

### ALTAR GUILD

SHERIE MCTAGGART  
SANDY MALASKI  
BONNIE CROSS

### FLOWERS

04 CROSS  
11 CROSS  
18 SUSZEK  
25

### COFFEE HOUR

04 VICKI, TREVOR, TAYLOR &  
ISABELLE DENSTAEDT  
11 CORKY GATES, PATTI MACNEILL,  
PHRAN LUDINGTON  
18 RICK & SHARON ENGSTROM  
25 BETHANY POPOUR, JO ANN SMITH

*PLEASE, please, please try to find a replacement or someone to switch with if you are unable to fulfill your Sunday scheduled duty AND share the change with Peggy. Thank you!*

## Anniversaries of Baptism

### August 1

Vicki Denstaedt  
Kiowa Kirchoff

### August 4

Jeremy Jacobs  
Margaret O'Connor

### August 5

Grace Hoeft  
Ryan Reynolds  
Anthony Thompson

### August 6

Margaret Clemens  
Myra Cross  
Anna Lewis

### August 7

Sandra Weise-DeAngelis

### August 10

Shelly Olsen

### August 13

Trey Garant  
James Malaski

### August 14

Brett Werblow

### August 19

Alan Brilinski  
Nathan Engstrom  
Corinne Fraley

### August 20

Dorothy Hansen  
Isaac Matzke

### August 21

William Matzke

### August 22

Pam Gohlke

### August 23

Riley Gohlke  
Raymond Reynolds

### August 26

Fred Kindt

### August 28

Debra Nitchman

### August 29

Anne Gentry

### August 31

Joelyn Rich

## August Birthdays



### August 11

Joann Smith

### August 12

Kristina Wilson

### August 13

Jamie Gentry  
Grace Hoeft

### August 15

Colt Gray

### August 18

Charles Attwell  
Ed Czarnecki

### August 19

Charity Corwin

### August 20

Drew Gentry  
Wayne Lewis

### August 21

Brody Nowak

### August 22

Rachel Engstrom  
Jeffrey Welch

### August 23

Ruby Haske  
Travis Konarzewski

### August 24

Justin Gluesing

### August 28

Debra Nitchman

### August 29

Jade Gray

### August 31

Beverly Suszek  
Jerry Timm

### August 4

Alan Brilinski  
Angela Crittenden  
Dawn Gentry  
Caitlin Kieliszewski

### August 5

Norman Schillerstrom

### August 6

Amelia Berles  
Corinne Fraley  
Aaron Nowak

### August 7

Don Furze  
Fred Kindt

### August 8

Mark Freel

### August 9

Joel Gillard  
Philip Jordan  
Michael Urlaub

### August 10

Sandra Malaski  
Anne Wilson

## Wedding Anniversaries

3rd James & Sandra Malaski

5th Allen & Judith Douglas  
Gary & Kay Grove

7th Jorden & Heather Seck

14th Larry & Connie Suszek  
Daniel & Lois Westergard

15th Randall & Gloria Moore

16th Tyler & Stephanie Suszek

19th Phil & Pamela Agius

Lee & Barbara Szczesniak

21st Richard & Sharon Engstrom

24th Whitney & Pamela Barrow  
Randy & Kenda Yochum

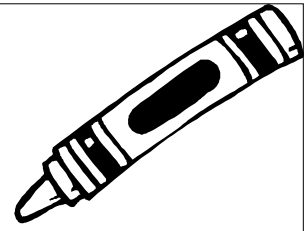
25th James & Darlene Dekett

26th Ed & Donna Czarnecki

27th Jason & Jessica Slominski

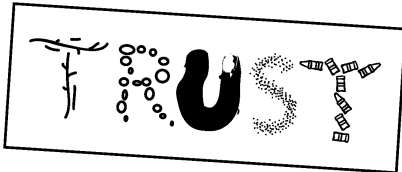
30th James & Margaret Clemens

# Kid's Page



## TRUST POSTER

No matter what you face, God is with you. Make this poster as a reminder to always trust God.



### What you need:

- Cardstock
- Glue
- Twigs (a 3" piece and a 2" piece)
- Pebbles
- Black paint
- Paintbrush
- Sand or glitter
- Broken crayons (2 or 3)

### What you do:

1. On the left side of the cardstock, trace a 3" -high letter T with glue. Place twigs on the glue lines.
2. Trace an R of the same size. Place pebbles on that glue.
3. Use black paint to make a U.
4. Trace an S in glue. Pour sand (or glitter) on top.
5. Make another T with glue. Place the crayons on top.
6. After the poster dries, shake off the excess sand (or glitter) into a trash can.



## NEVER FEAR!

The Psalms are full of inspiring prayers to God, who always looks after you.

*Directions: Use the clues to fill in each missing letter. Then use those letters to complete Psalm 13:5, NIV.*

What plants grow in ..... DIR   <sub>1</sub>

The opposite of play ..... WO    K<sub>2</sub>

One-of-a-kind .....    NIQUE<sub>3</sub>

A hug and a ..... KI    S<sub>4</sub>

Sour ..... TA R   <sub>5</sub>

To speak very loudly ..... YE    L<sub>6</sub>

Immediately ..... N    W<sub>7</sub>

Bees live in a ..... HI    E<sub>8</sub>

A dandelion is this ..... W    ED<sub>9</sub>

I   <sub>1</sub>   <sub>2</sub>   <sub>3</sub>   <sub>4</sub>   <sub>5</sub> in your unfailing   <sub>6</sub>   <sub>7</sub>   <sub>8</sub>   <sub>9</sub> ;  
my heart rejoices in your salvation. Psalm 13:5, NIV

Answers: dirt, work, unique, kiss, tart, yell, now, hive, weed.  
I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. Psalm 13:5, NIV