

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St
Hastings MI 49058



Website: www.grace-hastings.org

Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI
Worship Committee e-mail: gracelutheranworshipcommittee@gmail.com

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

Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
January 6, 2019
Second Sunday of Christmas
Epiphany of Our Lord

Boundaries Rearranged

A collision is taking place in the story of the magi coming to offer their gifts to Jesus. It is a collision we know well. It is the collision between outsiders who have something to gain and tight-fisted insiders who feel as though they have something to lose.

Have you ever noticed the contrast between the magi and Herod? The magi travel from afar to open their treasure chests, and presumably their hearts, to this new Christ. Herod's heart lurches and clenches and he has a tight-fisted temper tantrum at the prospect of sharing his power with anyone new, let alone some infant sought by strange astrologers!

Epiphany is about worlds colliding and boundaries being rearranged so that people who otherwise have nothing in common become one body. Many a Lutheran church sign reads, "All are welcome." Conceivably, "all" includes magi from the east, shepherds, Herod, young parents, newborn babies—you name it.

"All are welcome" sounds great, unless you're Herod. Unless you have something to lose by making room; unless the arrival of new folks, new traditions, or newness in general might mean that you have to share your power, your privilege, and your status.

Epiphany reveals two truths. The first is that God really means business when God says that all are welcome. God is all about a manger scene that's full of unlikely characters, full of unsuspecting worlds colliding and becoming the community of God. The second truth is that while God brings outsiders in, Herod stands in like a placeholder for all of us, revealing our propensity to become tight-fisted, selfish, and hostile when our privilege or status is challenged.

Luckily for us, God goes ahead and makes room for the outsider despite our protest.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

BEFORE WORSHIP

Please fill out our Participation Card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees. Sometimes there are additional questions on the back of the card, so don't forget to check both sides of the card.

Epiphany of Our Lord

January 6, 2019

The season of Epiphany begins January 6th (the 12th day after Christmas) and marks the revelation of the baby Jesus as the Son of God. The Epiphany season, therefore, celebrates the spread of the Good News from its source in the Jewish community to all nations on earth. The color is green, for growth, as Scripture texts explore the mission of the church in the world.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre- Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Arise in body or spirit

Gathering Hymn

We Three Kings (stanzas 1-3)

WOV 646 (blue book)

Greeting

- ☐ The grace of God that extends to all nations in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW 726 (red book)

Prayer of the Day

- ☐ Sovereign God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star.
- ☑ **Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

Sit

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her, because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

- ☐ A reading from **Isaiah:**

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

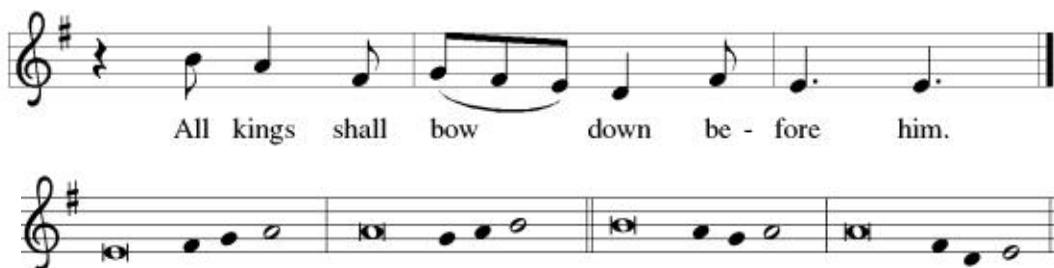
²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

☐ Lord God, your word is a lamp to our feet,

☑ **a light to our path.**



Psalm 72:1-7,10-14

¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

²that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;

³**that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.**

⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. ☑**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

⁶Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.

⁷**In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.**

¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts. ☑**

¹¹May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.

¹²For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.

**¹³He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.
¹⁴From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight** 

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

A A reading from **Ephesians:**

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

L Lord God, your word is a lamp to our feet,

G a light to our path.

Arise in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation

Be Thou My Vision (stanza 1)

ELW 793

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Message

Silence for reflection

Arise in body or spirit

Song of the Day

Arise, Your Light Has Come

WOV 652

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

A Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God’s justice, peace, and healing.

A brief silence.

A Drawn into the light of God, we pray for the proclamation of the grace of Jesus Christ. Give us courage and boldness to go forth into the world to tell the good news of what God has done. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrysanne, David and Roseanne; our synod companion churches, Immanuel Lutheran Church of Allegan, St Ambrose Catholic Church of Delton; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.*

A Radiant God,

G **let your light shine upon us.**

A Drawn into the glory of creation, we pray for the earth. Sustain every living thing with abundant resources, clean water, and sustainable harvests. Help us to steward all that you have provided.

A Radiant God,

G **let your light shine upon us.**

A Drawn into the brightness of God’s presence, we pray for the nations of the world. Reveal your compassion and peace for the sake of all who live in the shadow of oppression, violence, and fear. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military: *Zack Green (Mikolajczyks), Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Alexis and Dylan Kelmer, Austin and Aaron Endsley (Burdicks) and Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls).*

A Radiant God,

G **let your light shine upon us.**

A Drawn into the light of healing mercy, we pray for all who wait for healing and relief of suffering *especially Brady, Matt Dunnigan, Karl Golnek, Nikki Haddix, Delmer Hansen, Larry Hansen, Mary Jane Hayner, family of Tim Lowe, Doris Reil, Kailie Triick, and George Ulrich Jr.* Give us hope in the promise of new life where pain and suffering will be no more.

A Radiant God,

G **let your light shine upon us.**

A Drawn into the dawn of a new day, we pray for the ongoing reconciliation between people. Make us bold to name sin in our lives and unite us in the promise of forgiveness and mercy.

A Radiant God,

G **let your light shine upon us.**

A Along with all the saints, form us into a holy and loving community in which people can find abundant compassion and peace. Through us bring others into your unbreakable covenant.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Drawn into the promise of everlasting light, we pray for those who mourn and give thanks for all the saints who now rest in the brightness of God's presence (*especially*). Make us confident in our worship as we reflect the light of God with eternal praise.

A Radiant God,

C **let your light shine upon us.**

P Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill out a Participation card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday morning

Arise in body or spirit

Offering Song

God Extends an Invitation

ELW 486



Nues-tro Pa - dre nos in - vi - ta a la me - sa de la
God ex - tends an in - vi - ta - tion to the ta - ble of cre -



vi - da, don - de hay vi - no, luz y pan; y no -
a - tion, where there's wine and light and bread. Here we



so - tros nos reu - ni - mos, y lo nues - tro com - par - ti - mos, pues a -
gath - er in thanks - giv - ing and we of - fer all our liv - ing. Here the



sí es la co - mu - nión; pues a - sí es la co - mu - nión.
feast of life is spread; here the feast of life is spread.

Offering Prayer

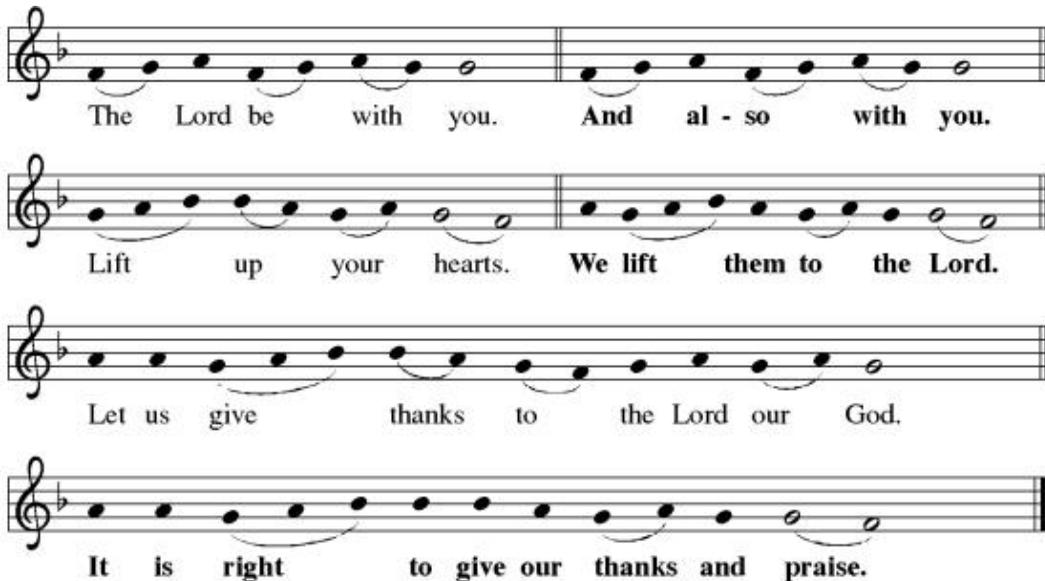
- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever.
- Ⓒ **You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen**

Arise in body or spirit

Sharing the Peace of God

- Ⓐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- Ⓒ **And also with you.**
(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

- Ⓐ It is indeed right, 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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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:



You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



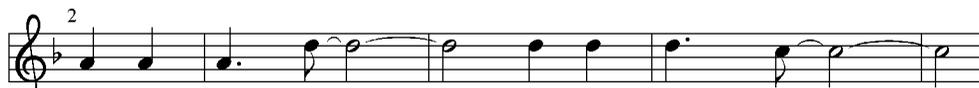
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

Eucharistic Prayer

☐ Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

☑ **Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.**

☐ Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh. 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

☑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

☐ With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

☑ **We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. Come, Lord Jesus.**

☐ Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. Let your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.

☑ **Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. Come, Holy Spirit.**

☐ All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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

☑ **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

☐ We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Communion at Grace

All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.

✠ **Bread** is served by the Pastor. **Wine** is served from a *common cup* by the Assisting Minister.

✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.

✠ If you prefer wine from the *pouring chalice* in an **individual cup**, take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Worship Assistant. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.

✠ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.

✠ A **Verbal Blessing** may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.

✠ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the usher.

Lamb of God



1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way,
2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing,
3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken.
4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney,



un - known com - pan - ion walks with his own.
blind - ed by sad - ness, slow - ness of heart,
This is Christ's prom - ise, this is Christ's sign:
bread of com - pas - sion, o - pen our eyes.



When they in - vite him, as fades the first day,
yet Christ walks with us, ev - er a - wait - ing
when the church gath - ers, when bread is bro - ken,
Grant us your vi - sion, set all hearts burn - ing



and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.
our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.
that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

I Am the Bread of Life
Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling
O Light, Whose Splendor Thrills

WOV 702 (blue book)
WOV 734
WOV 728

Sending of Communion

- A** Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- G** **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

- A** O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food.
- G** **You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.**

Congregational Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

- P** The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.
- G** **Amen.**

All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Sending Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing.

Sending Song

We Three Kings (stanzas 4-5)

WOV 646

Dismissal

- A** Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
- G** **Thanks be to God.**

Week at a Glance

Sunday, January 6

Worship Services at 8 am and 10:45 am
 AED Awareness Training 12:30 – 2 pm
 Council Party 4:30 pm / Dinner 5:30 pm

Monday, January 7

Congregational Care Mtg 3:00 pm
 Social Activities Mtg 6:00 pm

Saturday, January 12

Pizza and Movie Night 6:30 pm

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Chris Bush	Traci Wales
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	Chris Bush	Emma Peck
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Volunteer	Hope Peck
Usher	Tom & Cheryl Drumm	Joe Longcor/Gwen Hansen
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Tom & Cheryl Drumm	Eve Wright/Jeanette Markwart
Children's Church	~	Laura Scheck
Table Guild	Vickey Argo	
Bread Maker	Laura Scheck	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, January 13, 2019

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Randy Teegardin	Vickey Argo
Cantor	Mark Anton	Vickey Argo
Lector	Carol Vos	Joe Longcor
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Lance Ogden
Usher	John Burdick / Kay Marsh	Doug & Diane Neeb
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack & Carol Vos	<i>Volunteer</i>
Children's Church	~	Shayna Gibbons
Table Guild	Vickey Argo	
Bread Maker	Laura Scheck	

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: **55** Weekly Giving: **\$9,994.00** Budget Amount: \$4,576.53

Adult Forum will meet today at 9:30 and will study Faith and Prayer of the Times. Next week we will study Humility in the Kingdom.

Council Party at 4:30 pm today with dinner following at 5:30 pm. Regular Council Mtg on January 16th at 6 pm.

FREE AED Awareness Training from 12:30 pm today with Kim Domke. Learn this valuable skill and help save a life!

Social Activities Mtg at 6:00 pm tomorrow, January 7th.

Congregational Care Mtg. at 3:00 pm tomorrow, January 7th.

Pizza and Movie Night! On Saturday, January 12th, we will be serving pizza at 6:30 pm, movies at 7:00 pm and discussion following The Giver. Since it is rated PG-13, we are offering another movie, 102 Dalmatians for younger people to watch. Please sign up on the sheet posted in the Gathering Area so that we may plan for food.

Outreach Committee Mtg at 4:30 pm Monday, January 14th.

Noisy Offering will be collected next Sunday to benefit Barry County Cares.

Go into the New Year Ringing! A bell choir workshop will be held all day on Saturday, January 26th in the fellowship hall.

Mutual Ministry is here for you. If there is a ministry concern, please contact Pastor Ken. Pastor Ken is our member of the Mutual Ministry Committee that is highlighted this week and can be reached by a phone call or a text message 269.370.4632. Each week there will be a featured different member to contact.

Email Prayer Chain: The Congregational Care Committee is starting an email prayer chain beginning in January. Participants would be notified by email and would commit to praying for those in need as requests are received. If interested in being a part of this prayer chain, please contact Jane Secor at secorje@gmail.com.

HVAC is being replaced at a cost of \$8,600.00. If you can find it in your heart to make a contribution toward this cost, it would be greatly appreciated.