

2019

JANUARY GRACEGRAM

Did you know?

Tradition says that your door should be marked for Epiphany with the initials of the three wise men. It is believed that the Kings' initials also stand for "Christus mansionem benedicat" ("Christ bless this house"). Leave the markings there until Pentecost.

Anyone who enters or re-enters their home for the first time after the blessing should step with their right foot across the threshold so as to start things off "on the right foot."



Deadline for inclusion
in the February 2019
GraceGram is
January 17, 2018.

Send your articles to
Wendy Kimble at:
parishadmin@grace-hastings.org

TREASURED GIFT

Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:19

I love Christmas. You have heard me say that before, probably last Christmas! When I was a child, like when you were a child, I couldn't wait for Christmas. Of course, the focus was on the wonderful trip to Grandma and Grandpa's, food, packages, games, presents and laughter, all in great abundance.

All these treasures that are and were part of my life made the Christmas celebration rich. Over the years, my concept of Christmas 'treasures' has changed. Don't get me wrong, I continue to enjoy gifts, but my heart began to look at those gifts as things that I knew I would not necessarily last forever. My Grandparents are now in the Church Triumphant, and I, along with many of you, know that nothing on this Earth will last forever.

The one constant, every year, no matter what, was and is the gift that never gets old. The gift I never get tired of, the gift that keeps on giving forever! *Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:19* This verse tells us that something very important has taken place in Mary's heart. The shepherds traveled to Bethlehem, because the angels told them of this wonderful, beautiful, gift that changed everything.



After the angels, the shepherds, giving birth in a stable, and the Holy gift of Jesus....Mary 'treasured up' all these things and ponders them in her heart. Jesus' baby book must have been amazing!

Friends, I believe that Christmas is about re-defining what 'treasure' is to us, and then making room in our hearts to receive that true Treasure, that life changing GIFT anew in our heart, mind and soul.

My prayer for you, my prayer for us is that we too will treasure up Jesus and ponder the gift....Just like Mary....Just like the shepherds...not just now, but always.

A Most Blessed Christmas,
Pastor Ken +

The Handbell Choirs joined together in a delightful Ring & Sing-a-Long at the Hastings Public Library. Thanks to all who brought the love of CHRISTmas to our community.

Interested in ringing bells????

Come check it out any Thursday rehearsal or ask Kim for a private lesson.

Or come attend the **Winter Bell Workshop on Saturday, January 26.**



American Red Cross / CPR, AED, First

Class to be held at Grace Lutheran on the weekend of January 4, 5, and 6, 2019.

You can choose to be tested at the end of the class and **become certified through American Red Cross**, or you can just come and practice the lifesaving skills on the manikins.

You do not have to take the test.

Class will include videos, games, scenarios, and time on the manikins and AED machines. You'll also **receive a participant's manual** and ready reference cards that include full-color images and easy-to-read text that will walk you step by step through a variety of lifesaving skills. The cost of this program is supplemented by Thrivent Cares.

More Information and a Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space.

Or talk to Kim Domke 269-908-0024



MANY, MANY Thanks to our Grace family for your participation in CROPWalk 2018.

We had 14 walkers from Grace that joined the 114 total number of walkers this year.

On the beautiful day in October, thirteen churches participated and raised \$13,103. Grace raised \$885, plus had some matching funds for our Grand Total of \$1,135.

When people were hungry, Jesus didn't say, "Now is that political, or social?" He said, "I feed you." Because the good news to a hungry person is bread. ~ Desmond Tutu

Thank you Grace, for spreading the Good News!

January Birthdays

Gerald Knickerbocker	1/6
Jeanette ulrich	1/7
Clyde Watson	1/11
Carl Schoessel	1/13
Christina Pontius	1/14
Rick Duits	1/20
Logan Clements	1/22
Allison Neeb	1/25
Sheryl Gorden	1/26
Eve Wright	1/26
Jane Power	1/30

January Anniversaries

John & Mary Kleinbrink	1/5
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Let Us Pray: If you are aware of others that should be put on the lists, please notify the office.

Homebound:

Dave Bolton	Carvath Village, Room 138 690 W Main St / Middleville
Dorothy Mayo	Carvath Village, Room 149 B
Vivian Allerding	Thornapple Manor, Sugarbush Rm 408 2700 Nashville Rd / Hastings
Vern Allerding	2122 N M-43 Hwy / Hastings
Opal Gillons	1020 E State Rd / Hastings
Ilene Hilson	770 River Rd / Hastings
Jamie Coplin	109 E Grant St / Hastings
Mary Rider	611 Woodlawn Ave/Hastings Mallard Pond, Apt 109

Military:

Nieces / nephews of Burdicks
Alexis Kelmer (New Mexico)
Dylan Kelmer (Germany)
Austin Endsley (New Mexico)
Aaron Endsley (California)

Grandson of Freedlunds
Parker Stancil (US Army)

Daughter and Son-in-Law of Rob & Lisa Pohl
Kayla & Lance Champaco

Daughter & son-in-law of Cherie Clements
Myrina Crawford
Cody Crawford

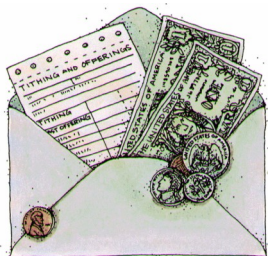
Son-in-Law of Sandy & Matt Mikolajczyk
Zach Green (US Army—Africa)

Mutual Ministry Committee Members

Brenda Teegardin, <i>chair</i> 269.945.2651	Pastor Ken Scheck, <i>clergy</i> 269.370.4632	Cindy Olson, <i>Minister of Music</i> 517.242.3725	
Julian Kratochvil 806.336.0661	Carl Schoessel 269.838.8407	Clyde Watson 269.953.4928	Kristi Winick 269.953.6638

If there are any concerns, please contact any member. If you have a complaint, we ask that you share it with us. If you are uncomfortable talking directly with a member of the committee, please know you can share your concern via text message. The Mutual Ministry Committee is having a listening post during the first quarter of 2019. Pastor Ken Scheck and Cindy Olson, our staff members, will not be present for this listening post. We want feedback and concerns given to the Mutual Ministry, so that our ministry can grow. If it is broken and we do not hear about it, we cannot address it. Thanks for your partnership in ministry.

2018 Charitable Contributions



Donors must deliver or mail (post-mark) checks on or before Monday, December 31, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2018. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2019 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2018 even if the check is written in 2018.

We would like to thank our Grace Community for the wonderful turnout we had for Jesus' Birthday Party. Your contributions of food and help are appreciated. It looks like we will do this again in 2019, so any suggestions you may have to improve the event would be welcomed.



On **January 12** (snow date January 19) we will be hosting a Pizza & Movie Night at church. We will be sitting in the pews (or bring your own comfortable chair), and will be viewing The Giver, with discussion to follow (snacks will be provided). The Giver is rated PG-13, so we will be offering a second movie for the younger people to watch at the same time in another area; 102 Dalmatians. Pizza will be served at 6:30pm, movies at 7pm, and discussion immediately following the movie. There will be a sign up sheet posted in The Gathering space; please sign up so we know how many people will be attending. Also, be sure to let us know if you will need a ride.

Save the date: a second Pizza & Movie night has been scheduled for February 9. Details to be published in the February GraceGram.

- Social Activities Committee



Little-known Epiphany Scene



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. This new program is intended to compliment, not replace, the ministry our Shepherd's Ministry already provides to our members. If interested in being a part of this prayer chain, please contact Jane Secor at secorje@gmail.com.



Pageant Success

Many, many thanks to all the youth and adults that made the Christmas pageant come to life. The art work, instrumental and vocal music, decorations, performers, backstage, props, and costumes. God's message of love was made known through us all. May we ponder what the 12 symbols mean as we decorate our homes from year to year.

Sincerely, Kim Domke



Verse of the Month:

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

Isaiah 60:1



THANK YOU ALL!

John Burdick—for hanging the stained glass pieces in the windows of the overflow room!

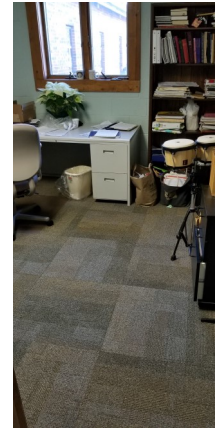
Property Committee members—for continued work on the church renovations.

Lisa Pohl—for carpeting the corner room (west) and Cindy's office.



From Pastor Ken:

Adopt-a-Family



Cindy's Office



Corner Room

Candle colors. Do they really matter?

Vivid images on our cell phones and blazing digital billboards have all but blinded us to the effect of color. We also forget how hard it was to *make* color. Today we click a button to add brilliance to our PowerPoint presentations, bulletins, newsletters and worship folders. Our ancestors crushed berries, seeped nut shells, and pulverized minerals to make dyes for their colors.

Only the affluent could afford color, starting with dyes for fabrics. The wealthy were able to commission colorful illustrations in their books. The cost of paint on an artist's palette could be prohibitive, too, unless someone rich sponsored the painting or fresco. Later, when the printing press became the technology of choice in the late 15th century, thanks to Martin Luther, the technological challenges of color printing were challenging. Color, in short, was a luxury for a very long time.

The traditional color for Advent was violet. It's okay to call it purple – I do too. Technically violet has its own spectrum on the color wheel, while purple is a composite color made of red and blue, but many an eye will confuse violet and purple.

One sees violet far more during Advent than blue. If you're thinking, "Isn't that the color for Lent?" you are absolutely right. Violet is the liturgical color for a season of prayer, fasting, and penance. And Advent historically has been a penitential season, in spite of the festive Christmas parties all around us.

Yet, Lutherans for over 100 years have celebrated Advent as a time of **hope** and **preparation** for the promised celebration of God's presence among us. Centuries ago, around the fifth century, Sweden used **blue** for Advent. The Advent color of blue is known as the Marian color because of its association with the Virgin Mary. Look at any painting of the Madonna from the Middle Ages on, and you're likely to find Mary wearing a blue garment of some sort.

The color blue stands for hope. Forty years ago, the Lutheran Church in the United States officially changed its color for Advent to blue to celebrate the hope that we have during the time of Advent. It really does matter what color we use, because it focuses us on what we are actually doing as a people of God. Here's to our Advent hope and our ability to never give up hope in the one who surrounds us and gives us an abundance of love. Let us celebrate the one who gives us hope in our times of hopelessness – Jesus Christ.



Executive Committee:

President: *Chris Bush*

Vice President: *Margaret Wood*

Secretary: *Kate Watson*

Treasurer: *Randy Teegardin*

**Church Council
Members/Liaisons**

Derrick Rosenberger (Small Groups)

Sheryl Gorden (Worship)

Gary Golnek (Outreach)

Jan Schreiner (Congregational Care)

Shayna Gibbons (Children/Youth)

John Burdick (Property)

Carrie Duits (Stewardship)

Bill Freedlund (Social Activities)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday @ 8:00 am
and 10:45 am



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

10:45 am
1st Sunday after Labor Day
through May @ 10:45 a.m.

Our Staff:

Ken Scheck II
Minister of Word and Sacrament
pastorken@grace-hastings.org

Cindy Olson,
Minister of Music

Wendy Kimble
Parish Administrator
Mon – Thurs 9 AM - 4PM
parishadmin@grace-hastings.org

Kim Domke,
Bell Choir Director
kdomke08@gmail.com

Nathan Freedlund,
Custodian

OUR MINISTERS:
THE PEOPLE OF GOD
- Martin Luther

**Grace Lutheran
Church**

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Hastings, MI 49058

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www.grace-hastings.org

Facebook:

Grace Lutheran Church–
ECLA Hastings, MI

Phone:

269-945-9414

269-945-2645

Worship Committee:
*gracelutheranworship-
committee@gmail.com*

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



January 2019

THE
GREATEST
ADVENTURE
IS WHAT
LIES AHEAD
J.R.R. TOLKIEN



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Office Open 9-4 6 Services: 8 am & 10:45 am Video training on AED 12:30–2 pm Council 4:30 pm Dinner 5:30 pm	1 NEW YEARS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon	3 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon	4 CPR / FA Noon–5 pm	5 CPR / FA 8 am–4 pm
7 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon Social Activities 6:00 Cong Care Comm 3 pm	8 Pastor in Grand Rapids Mtg. Executive 6 pm	9 Pastor's Office Hrs 10am–Noon	10 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon	11	12 Movie Night
14 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon Outreach 4:30 pm	15 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon	16 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon Council 6 pm	17 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon	18	19
21 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am – Noon Martin Luther King Jr Day	22 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am-Noon	23 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon	24 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon Handbell Outing to Sr. Crt.	25	26 Bell Choir Workshop all day–fellowship hall
28 8 am & 10:45 am	29	30	31 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon Clapper Kids 3:45 Grace Notes 5:45		