

2019

DECEMBER GRACEGRAM



Grace alone . . . Faith alone . . . Word alone . . .

December Memories

Backward, turn
Backward,
Oh Time, in your
Flight!

And make me a child
again - Just for tonight.

- an excerpt from
"Rock Me to Sleep"
by Elizabeth Allen

What are your favorite
memories of your
childhood holiday
seasons with family and
friends? Be sure to
share these over the
holidays!

"For unto us a child
is born, unto us a
son is given: and the
government shall be
upon his shoulder:
and his name shall
be called Wonderful,
Counselor, The
mighty God, The
everlasting Father,
The Prince of
Peace." Isaiah 9:6

**Deadline for the
January GraceGram is
December 17, 2019.**

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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

One day children were brought to Jesus in the hope that he would lay hands on them and pray over them. The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus intervened: "Let the children alone, don't prevent them from coming to me. God's kingdom is made up of people like these." After laying hands on them, he left.

Matthew 19:14-15

We welcome Heather Albright to the staff of Grace Lutheran Church. Heather is our new Nursery Attendant during our 8:00 am and 10:45 am worship times. She is a member of Thornapple Valley Church. We are thankful for the gifts she brings to this position.

Heather works for the Barry Intermediate School District, where she develops and implements individualized and group therapy for preschool and elementary children with language delays, articulation disorders and autism-spectrum disorders. A school that Heather works at is Southeastern Elementary School, where she received a recommendation from Shayna Gibbons and Kim Domke. **Heather will begin working for Grace Lutheran Church on December 1, 2019.**

Heather has been married to her husband Matt for 10 years. They are blessed with two children. Their seven year old son Chase is in first grade at Thornapple-Kellogg schools. Their youngest son is Kian, who is four years old. As a family, they enjoy spending time up north at her parents' cabin. While there they enjoy camping and geocaching.

Heather will be developing a curriculum for the children that will be in the nursery. Heather's gift in sharing her faith will allow our youngest members to experience faith at a young age. This curriculum is designed to have playtime and interaction with children, so that they can see connections of God's presence in the activities they are doing.

Please pray for Heather, as she begins this ministry here at Grace Lutheran Church. Please pray that God will bring children into our church, who will be blessed by Heather's ministry. Please pray that we can continue to be faithful in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ, as we enter into a new area of ministering to the youngest in our community. We are blessed to have Heather in this position. Please welcome Heather as a co-worker with us in the kingdom of God.

Peace and joy in Jesus Christ,

Pastor Ken +



HOLLY



TROLLEY

5:00 p.m.

to

8:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 12th

Courthouse Lawn - All are Welcome

We will be handing out hot chocolate and cookies at the courthouse lawn to downtown shoppers waiting to ride the Hastings Holly Trolley and singing Christmas songs on the trolley. A sign-up sheet is posted in the gathering area for donations of cookies (12 dozen total) and volunteers willing to help transport items from the church to downtown as well as serving the Holly Trolley patrons.



From your

Outreach Committee

We wish to extend a very sincere "thank you" to all of our members who once again helped make our annual Halloween Trunk or Treat event a successful and very enjoyable one. We had 24 youth and adult volunteers helping at the treat stations, the popcorn and cider stand, greeting visitors, playing some games with the kids and keeping everyone's treat bowls filled. Thank you to everyone who donated bags of treats for the event. A grand total of 760 children and adults came through our building. The double-sized crowd was no doubt due to the inclement weather on Halloween night this year and having an indoor trunk or treat was appreciated by everyone.



A Time for Fellowship & Music & Prayers

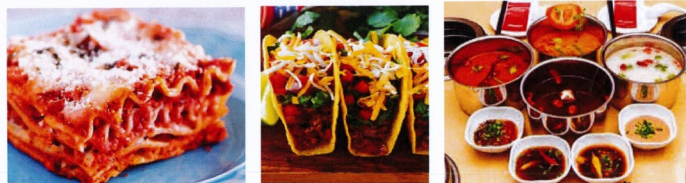


Advent Wednesday Nights Supper and Service ~ 2019

Serving meal from 6-6:45pm ~ **Free will offering**
 Special Music at 6:50pm
 Church Service begins at 7:00pm

Date	Main Dish	Family/Group Providing	Proceeds to Support....
Dec 4 special music - flute choir	Lasagna, salads and desserts	Barry county Flute Choir & Social Activities	Barry County Flute Choir
Dec 11 special music - bell choir	Taco dinner with fixings, beans and rice dessert	Amy Poholski	AED and CPR training materials
Dec 18 special music - string quartet	homemade soups, breads, cheese & crackers dessert	Outreach Committee	Family Promise

Thank you for serving the people of Grace and Hastings through a meal and fellowship.



~ BROTHERS OF GRACE ~ ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER NIGHT OUT



Calling all Men to join us on Tuesday, December 10th 6:00 p.m. ! **Where?** Yankee Bill's Saloon (formerly Blarney Stone) on M-179. Be sure to see the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area.



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 Allarding Thornapple Manor, Room #422
2700 Nashville Rd / Hastings

Opal Gillons 611 E Woodlawn / Hastings
Mallard Pond Apt 217

Ilene Hilson 770 River Rd / Hastings

Jamie Coplin 109 E Grant St / Hastings

Vern Allarding (Woodlawn Meadows)

Doris Allarding 2122 N M-43 Hwy / Hastings

Joyce Daugherty River Inn Adult Foster Care
241 W Grand Ledge Hwy
Sunfield MI 48890

Lois VonSeggern 6600 Constitution Blvd/ Portage 49024

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)

Grandson of Gwen Hansen

Brady Rudesill

Nephew of Joe & Sharon Varkula

LT Joel Taggart (USN, Virginia)

Granddaughter (and husband) of Bev McManaway

Brandon Miller (Marines)

Stevi Kay Miller (Navy)

Grandneice of Karen and Bill Halstead

Julia Ehredt

BIRTHDAYS



Myrina Crawford 12/01

Traci Wales 12/01

Ed Markwart 12/01

Sandra Mosteller 12/06

Jana Bishop 12/09

Jill Burkhead 12/09

Elnora Beckwith 12/11

David Neeb 12/11

Carolyn O'Connor 12/13

Cherie Clements 12/20

Jeanette Kogge 12/20

Bill Freedlund 12/20

Corrina Palmer 12/22

Nathan Burkhead 12/22

Ilene Hilson 12/26

Karen Halstead 12/28

Gary Golnek 12/28

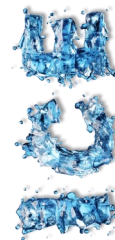
Margaret Wood 12/29

Deborah Wilke 12/31

**Prayers for a healthy pregnancy
For Danielle Gorman.
Grandparents are
Mary and John Kleinbrink.**

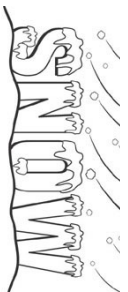
**Prayers for a healthy pregnancy
For Kazzie Converse.**

INCLEMENT WEATHER



Television:
WOOD TV 8
WWMT TV 3
WXSP TV
WOTV 4

Radio:
WBCH 100.1 FM
WBCK 95.3 FM
MIX 104.9 FM



ANNIVERSARIES

Derrick and Jenn Rosenberger 12/04

George and Phyllis Lietz 12/16

Robert and Sharon Bolton 12/20

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

- Chris Bush

Didja Know?

- ◆ **Food Box**—moved to the church entry way for donations.
- ◆ **Coat closet/ Lost and Found**—there are some lonely coats hanging in the closet by the entrance that need a home!
- ◆ **Servers**—you can find out when you are scheduled to serve in worship for the month either on the website, in the bulletin announcements or on the sheet in your mailbox.



This month's discussion on Grace's strategic plan looks at how we, currently and into the future, "develop relationships and acceptance in the community." To clear one thing up right away, Grace already is accepted in the community, so this is not focusing on how to get people to "like" us (though many have "liked" our Facebook page!). Rather, these efforts seek to increase acceptance of one another and bring the community together.

We do A LOT of things that show God's love for all the world. Just to name a few, we give to Family Promise, Barry County Cares, and our food box; we send our youth to Synod and ELCA Youth Gatherings where they conduct community projects while building their faith; we organize the Good Friday Cross Walk; we have led jail worship. We could probably fill up this GraceGram with ways we reach out to our neighbors, to the suffering, and to the marginalized. At the very least, you can see each Grace committee's activities in the council minutes and the annual report.

The community knows Grace's name through the works we do: we have a two-mile stretch of M-43 that we clean up several times a year for the Adopt-A-Highway program, we continue to have biannual (sometimes tri-annual!) pasty sales, our annual geranium sale has morphed into offering additional flowering plants, and we've had several car shows that include an outdoor worship service (weather permitting) and a barbeque lunch. Some of these activities are long-standing traditions whereas others are newer, yet quickly becoming, traditions.

Not only does Grace become known to the community in the more obvious ways just listed, but some interfaith relationship-building occurs more quietly. Pastor Ken meets with the Hastings Area Ministerial Association (HAMA) monthly, and those ecumenical meetings have resulted in Lenten lunch-and-learn services and the community Thanksgiving service. Some of our members spend their Saturday mornings helping to serve breakfast at Emmanuel Episcopal, developing relationships not only with the other churches participating in this outreach but getting to know the guests who come in to get a good meal and good conversation.

Many times, these activities started with someone bringing forth their idea: they saw a need and said, "Why don't we do X?" Is an idea for a new Grace event percolating inside your head? Don't be shy, bring it to church leadership so that we can help it bear fruit!

THE GIVING TREE



We are providing an opportunity for our members to donate socks, shoes, underwear, hats and gloves that will be distributed to area elementary school children. The tree is set up near the coatroom in the gathering area. Gift tags listing clothing sizes, etc. are hanging from the tree branches. Donations may be left, unwrapped, under the tree.

Let's fill this tree with love!





Celebrate the Season with Grace

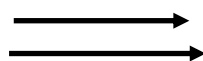
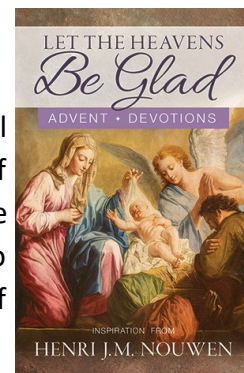
The Promise: The advent wreath, a circle, came to represent the eternal victory over death through Jesus Christ. The evergreens were a sign of the faithfulness of God to God's people, even in death, and the lighted candles were a reminder of the light of Christ brought into the world. The candles for the Sundays of Advent are blue and represent Hope, Peace and Joy and Love. The center white candle is for the birth of the Christ Child.



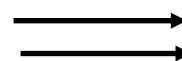
- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| December 1 | First Sunday of Advent ~ Services at 8:00 am and 10:45 am |
| December 4 | Wednesday evening program: Dinner at 6 pm, Special Music at 6:50 , and prayer service at 7 pm |
| December 8 | Second Sunday of Advent ~ Services at 8:00 am and 10:45 am |
| December 11 | Wednesday evening program: Dinner at 6 pm, Special Music at 6:50 , and prayer service at 7 pm |
| December 12 | Holly Trolley: Courthouse, from 6 to 9 pm with hot cocoa and caroling through Hastings |
| December 15 | Third Sunday of Advent ~ Service at 8 am and Intergeneration Pageant celebrating Jesus' birthday at 10:45 am with a luncheon to follow |
| December 18 | Wednesday evening program: Dinner at 6 pm, Special Music at 6:50 , and prayer service at 7 pm |
| December 22 | Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Services at 8:00 am and 10:45 am |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Service of Light at 7 pm |
| December 25 | <i>The Birth of the Christ Child, Jesus!</i> |

Advent Daily Devotionals and Calendars

The Community Outreach Committee has once again purchased Advent Daily Devotional books for our members to use during for their personal devotions throughout the season of Advent. The title for this year's devotionals is *Let the Heavens Be Glad*. They will be available on the table in the gathering area next week. Advent calendars for the children have also been purchased and Pastor Ken will distribute these to the children on the first Sunday of Advent, Dec. 1st.



PASTY SALE UPDATE



Many THANKS to all that helped, bought, or prayed over Pasty Sales. You are all “Saints of the Pasties” to Vickey and me. We sold 400 pasties this fall and should clear around \$1900.00 to help replenish the Grace Contingency Fund.



I believe there were several quiet miracles leading up to and during this year's pasty sale. Like when I started to question and doubt if we'd even sell 300...but alas the sales sheet filled up nicely. Then when I was cautious in purchasing supplies and we needed 8 more pounds of lard the day before flour prep...but none to be found at Family Fare. Sure enough...the Good Lord placed exactly 8 pounds left on the shelf at Walmart. Then I realized late that I had not picked up the diced onions. We needed 20 pounds. I stopped at Gordon Food Service like always and looked and looked and looked. Finally I asked a worker who directed me to where they would be ... if they had them cause he couldn't see any from where we were standing.

Was I to find exactly 20 pounds on the shelf??? Yes! Wow...coincidence or God taking care of the ol' man??? You decide. Then we began cutting the meat and found we had only 1 pound extra. On Saturday, we had a couple new faces show up...what a blessing and blessed miracle as they stepped in to do “whatever” was needed and it got us and kept us rolling nicely.

Long story short...believe in God and he'll provide. Oh...and by the way. We made exactly enough for 400 pasties...yet we show 407 sold with nobody complaining about missing out. Go figure that one? Kinda like blessing the bread and fish ... right?

I think that I still mostly appreciate the fellowship that is shared during this heavy lift of volunteering. That and the spirit, tenacity, patience, and fortitude of many of our members that have done this work for many years ... dare I say



decades ... you know whom you are and you are GREATLY appreciated. You and everyone that helped, prayed, shared with others or even just smiled and gave pats on the back are all SAINTS to this whipper snapper. You are all a blessing and each of you are God's miracle shared with us at Grace.

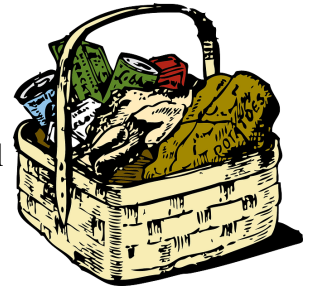
Peace and blessings ... Joe and Vickey

Christmas Family Adoption



We plan to provide grocery baskets and children's gifts for six Hastings area families.

The grocery/household items listing for donation is posted in the gathering area. Boards listing the children we will be purchasing gifts for are set up near the women's bathroom in the gathering area. We will be using a Thrivent Dollars gift card to purchase gas cards for the adults in each family.



Instructions for donating gifts are available at the sign-up boards as well.

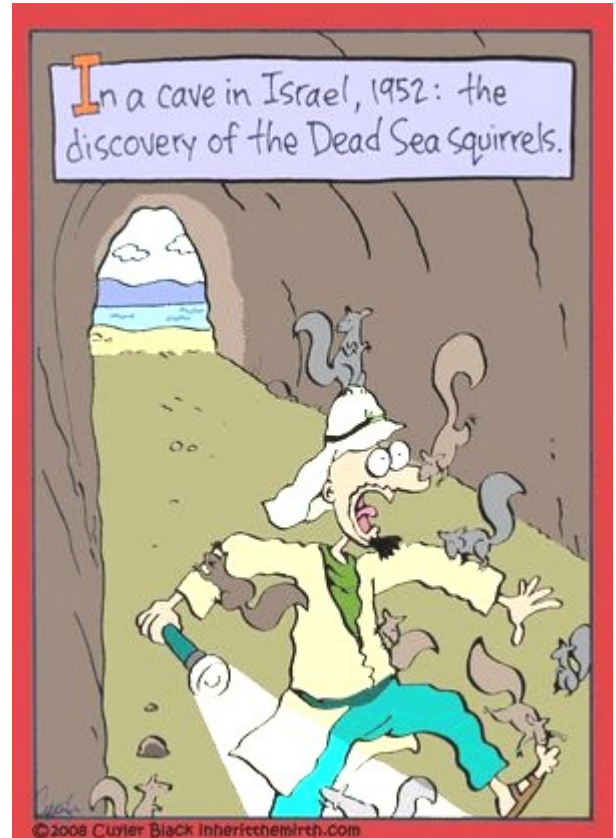
We are asking that grocery items and gifts be brought to the church by Sunday, December 15.



ANNOUNCEMENTS for the weekly worship folder need to be in by Wednesday at noon for printing to be completed on time!

*But as for me,
I will
watch
expectantly for the LORD.
I will
wait
for the GOD of my salvation.
My GOD will hear me.*

[Micah 7:7](#)



Off The Shelf ~ ~



Game Changer: Faith, Football, and Finding Your Way

by Kirk Cousins (Holland, Michigan native)

This book is a reflection of who Kirk Cousins is---not just a football player, but someone who is committed to making those around him better in every walk of life. What's it really like for a person of strong character to live in the spotlight of pressure and fame? In Game Changer, Cousins gives readers an inside look at his life---as experienced under the bright lights of college and professional football---and how he put his faith and values into action, both on and off the field.

Executive Committee:

President: *Chris Bush*

Vice President: *Margaret Wood*

Secretary: *Shayna Gibbons*

Treasurer: *Randy Teegardin*

**Church Council
Members/Liaisons**

Tom Peck (Small Groups)

George Lietz (Worship)

Gary Golnek (Outreach)

Erin Everly (Congregational Care)

Angela Pruitt (Children/Youth)

John Burdick (Property)

Vickey Argo (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 8AM - 3PM
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**

239 E. North Street
Hastings, MI 49058

Website:

www.grace-hastings.org

Facebook:

Grace Lutheran Church—
ELCA Hastings, MI

Phone:

269-945-9414

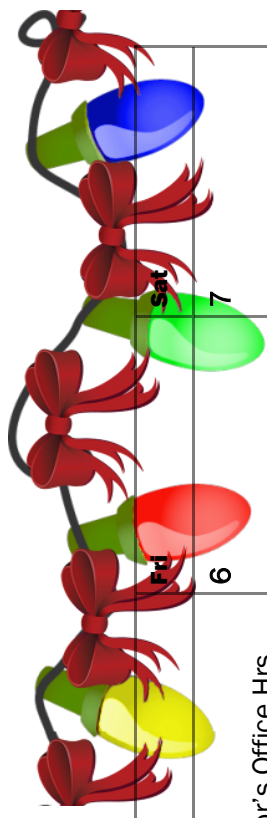
269-945-2645

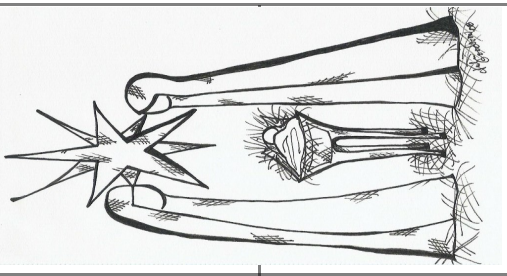

Worship Committee:
[gracelutheranworship-
committee@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranworship-committee@gmail.com)

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



December 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Services: 8 am & 10:45 am	2 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon Social Activities 5 pm	3 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon Executive 6 pm	4 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon Advent meal 6 pm Advent Service 7 pm	5 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon Clapper Kids 3:45 Grace Notes 5:45	6	7
8 Services: 8 am & 10:45 am Noisy Offering Bell Choirs	9 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon Outreach 4:30 pm	10 Pastor to GR Conference. BOG Christmas Night Out 6 pm Flute Choir 7 pm	11 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon Advent meal 6 pm Advent Service 7 pm	12 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon Youth Bell Celebration 3:45–5 pm Holly Trolley 5-8 pm	13	14
15 Services: 8:00 am 10:45 am Intergenerational Pageant Celebrating Jesus' birthday; Luncheon to follow	16 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon	17 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon Council Dinner 6 pm	18 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon Advent meal 6 pm Advent Service 7 pm	19 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon	20	
22 Services: 8 am & 10:45 am	23 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am –Noon	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve Service of Lights 7:00 pm	25 Office Closed for the Holiday	26 Office Closed for the Holiday	27	
29 One Service: 10 am Christmas Lessons and Carols	30 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon	31 Pastor's Office hrs 10 am – Noon	Office Closed for the Holiday		INCLEMENT WEATHER WOOD TV 8 WBCH 100.1 FM WWMT TV 3 WBCK 95.3 FM WXSP TV MIX 104.9 FM WOTV 4	