



# MAY 2020 GRACEGRAM

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

## LOVE CIRCLES

Jesus had a ministry that was all about reaching those who were alone, unloved, unforgiven.

What is our mission ?

Are we trying as individuals and as a community to pull people in to the incredible circle of Love that is *God*?

*He drew a circle that shut me out.*

*Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.*

*But Love and I had the wit to win.*

*We drew a circle that took him in.*

- Edwin Markham



**Deadline for the June GraceGram is May 17, 2020.**

Send your articles to Wendy Kimble at: [parishadmin@grace-hastings.org](mailto:parishadmin@grace-hastings.org)



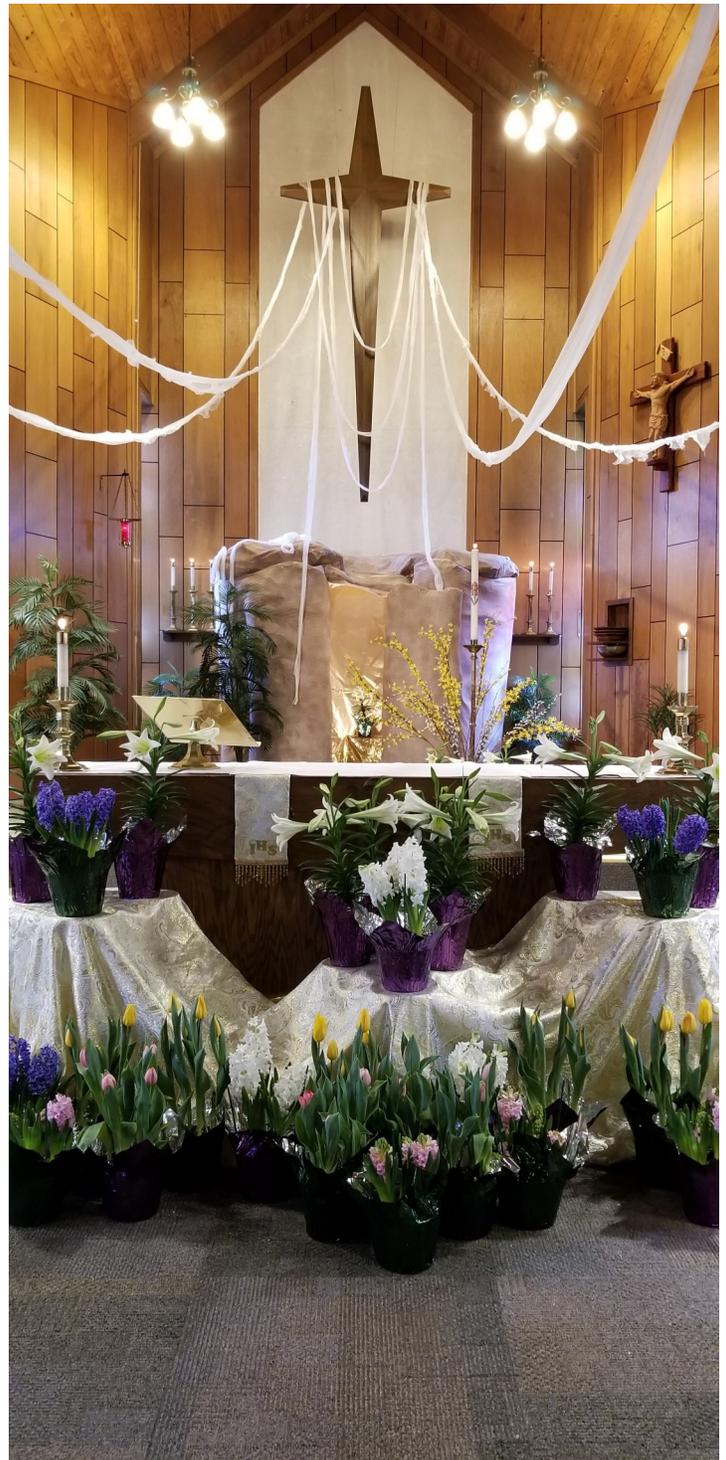
## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

*Grace  
Lutheran  
Church  
On  
Easter  
Sunday*

**Alleluia!  
Christ is Risen!  
Christ is risen,  
indeed!  
Alleluia!**

Worship with us:  
Conference Line  
(605).313.5981  
Access Code **772653#**  
LIVESTREAM  
[www.grace-hastings.org](http://www.grace-hastings.org)



# Christ is Risen! (Even When We Don't Feel It)

*Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin...Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow...Create in me a clean heart, O God. Psalm 51:2, 7 & 10*

Instead of gathering at Grace Lutheran Church for worship, many of us are gathering in our living rooms. With our ears opened, we are able to hear each other on the telephone as we share a conversation or worship “together” or study the bible. Some of us are able to see and hear one another online with our livestream worship. That is until the pastor unplugs the audio from the livestream worship. Oops!

I know that none of us were able to share a touch of peace as we once did before in our sanctuary. Yes, we might have passed peace among the small group we were together with for worship, but it was not the same as sharing that peace at our church home. **Our hearts are likely grieving so much that is lost during this pandemic.** Even with signs of spring budding and bursting around us, our hearts may not resemble such blossoming.

Yet, we have hope that God cleanses our sin, washes us and makes us new even in the midst of the loss of not coming together as the body of Christ. We have hope that this time will pass, as we know that Christ is risen, indeed. We have hope, even in the midst of death as we are alive in Christ Jesus.

We know that the Easter story is one of Jesus coming and breathing peace among the fearful and locked-in. In these days, we continue to find new ways to reach out and connect with each other as the body of Christ. We are finding new ways to be God’s Easter people. Yet these new ways have been part of who God has always called us to be: signs of the new creation, signs of peace amid fear and loss, signs of a love that is stronger than death.

Rest assured that Easter has come. Love arises in ways that we see and in ways that cannot be recognize right now. Hear my prayers for you, my beloved. Listen for how our worship echoes the promise of God’s love that brings new life.

Whether or not we feel it on any given day, Christ is risen!  
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

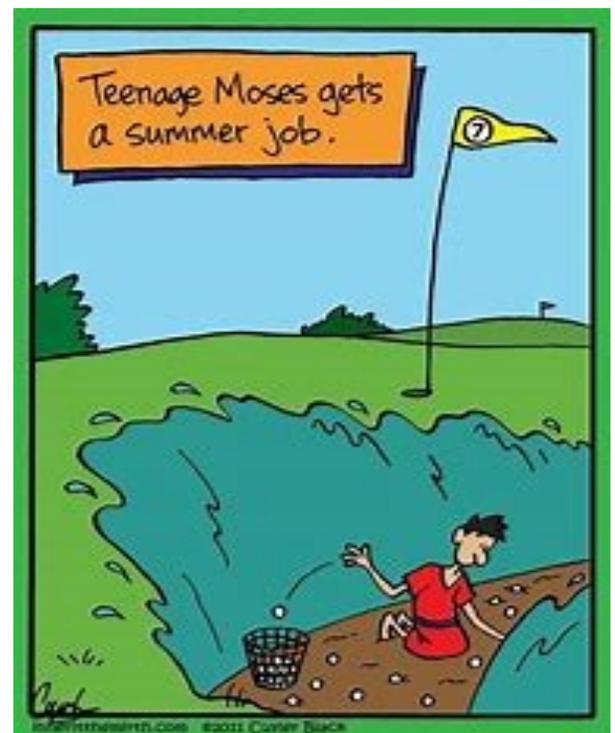
In Christ’s love and joy,

Pastor Ken +



The things we truly love stay with us always, locked in our hearts as long as life remains.

Josephine Baker



We are **PREPARED TO BE . . .**  
LIVELY TO BE

## Food Pantry

Barry County Cares serves four different food pantries in Barry County. All food pantries are using safe non-contact practices to feed households.

**Current community needs are basic (and growing):** abilities to pay rent/mortgage, utility/debt bills, food, hygiene items, transportation costs, emergencies. Operational costs, at Barry County Cares, are reasonable yet we have our budget to meet in order to stay open and offer the current services. We operate only with donations. Your continued financial help assures those abilities. Donations for non-food items can be through PayPal (on our web site) or by mail to P.O. Box 155, Hastings, MI 49058.

Donations can also be made online by going to [donate.smfoodbank.org](https://donate.smfoodbank.org) or by sending a check to South Michigan Food Bank, 5451 Wayne Road, Battle Creek, MI 49037. If you want the money to come to Barry County, please designate that at the time of your donation. On behalf of our guests, thank you.

Blessings,  
Tina Horrigan, executive director

## Easter Flower Sale

**Thank you to those who ordered Easter Plants.** We are so blessed with a generous congregation. We also thank Thrivent Financial for their grant of \$250.00, which helped Grace Lutheran Church to grow our benefit from the sale from \$300.00 to \$550.00. The \$550.00 will go toward the flower beds around Grace. We thank Ed and Kim Domke for picking up the flowers.



## President's Ponderings – Chris Bush

Last month at this time I was writing up the insert for the April Grace Gram, describing Grace's response to the coronavirus pandemic. That feels like a thousand years ago! So much has happened – in the world, in Michigan, and in our Grace community. During this time, when we have so much to be angry or afraid about, I am feeling so much gratitude: that we can still “meet” for worship, Bible study, and meetings over the phone and online; that our Shepherds are keeping in touch with members; that people are sending in their offerings so we can keep paying the bills and supporting essential staff; that several people have assisted with keeping up our grounds and decorating (while practicing “physical distancing”) the sanctuary for Holy Week and the Easter season.

Grace leadership has been meeting, via conference calls, beyond our usual dates to make decisions about staff hours, when we might be returning to regular use of the building (we plan to resume on-site worship **May 17** unless circumstances change that plan), setting up the ACH option for giving offerings, and authorizing the Executive Committee to oversee all budget and non-budget expenditure requests to the end of our fiscal year (July 31). The economic impact of the pandemic will affect those we serve and us as the servers, so we are carefully watching current and future spending.

In my role as Grace's President, one of my self-appointed duties is being your cheerleader. In my retirement speech at the end of 2018, I quoted the following from 1 Thessalonians 5 (The Message version), and it seems appropriate here:

*So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind.... Get along among yourselves, each of you doing your part. Gently encourage the stragglers, and reach out for the exhausted, pulling them to their feet. Be patient with each person, attentive to individual needs. And be careful that when you get on each other's nerves, you don't snap at each other. Look for the best in each other, and always do your best to bring it out.*

Stay safe, my beloved Grace family!

# Vacation Bible School

August 3, 4 & 5 / 9 am – noon

If you would like to  
volunteer for this  
event, please contact  
Pastor Ken or  
Angie Pruitt



The Youth Lock-in  
Scheduled April 25th

is postponed

until after

the pandemic is over.

Pastor Ken & Angie look  
forward being with you  
when it is safe.

Rummage Sale

Postponed

It will be held

Spring 2021



Annual Picnic &

Graduation Party

Will be held sometime.

Look for details at

a future date.



## Mission Endowment Fund

Committee Actions - 2020

Your Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) Committee met via teleconference to review requests for monies. The MEF Committee used the following guideline for planning the distribution of the MEF: Ninety percent (90%) of the earnings of the MEF shall be distributed to mission and ministry apart from the church's established programs that are already funded through the annual operating budget. The remaining 10% of the proceeds shall be reinvested and become a permanent part of the principal. There was \$2,825.08 earnings in 2019, resulting in \$2542.57 (90%) being available for the MEF Committee to distribute and \$282.51 (10%) being available to reinvest in the MEF and become a permanent part of the principal.

In light of the current pandemic the MEF Committee voted to grant the \$1000.00 request and additionally grant \$542.57 to Barry County Family Promise as it is expected the current pandemic will result in increased needs. The MEF Committee voted to grant the \$1000.00 request on behalf of the Youth and Family Committee as submitted: to fully fund 2 registrations to the ELCA National Youth Gathering entitled BOUNDLESS: GOD BEYOND MEASURE to be held in the summer 2021.

On March 19, 2020, a second MEF Committee meeting was held as it was brought forward that a third request for funding was overlooked during the first meeting. All three requests were discussed. The MEF Committee voted to continue with its original distribution.

Additionally, due to the stock-market downturn, it was decided (and acted upon) to not withdraw any MEF earnings at this time, but rather to withdraw the \$1542.67 from GLC contingency fund and to wait on withdrawing the \$1000.00 request for the Youth Gathering until a later date when hopefully the stock-market will be in a better situation.

Submitted by Margaret Wood

We are **PREPARED TO BE . . .**

**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 Allerdig	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
Doris Allerdig	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/ Apt 712 Portage 49024

**Military:**

*Nieces / nephews of Burdicks (Air Force)*  
 Alexis Kelmer (California)  
 Dylan Kelmer (Germany)  
 Austin Endsley (New Mexico)  
 Aaron Endsley (California)  
 Carlos Garcia (Guam)

*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

*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 (Bahrain)

**BIRTHDAYS**

Sharon Varkula	05/03
Sandra Mikolajczyk	05/05
Cheryl Drumm	05/09
Kay Howell	05/13
Todd Pontius	05/15
Russ Trongo	05/17
Molly Rosenberger	05/23
Myles Rosenberger	05/23
Angela Pruitt	05/24
Ann Bolton	05/24
Tim Schoessel	05/28

**BIRTHDAYS**



**OUR GOD IS ...**

**A W E S O M E**

**M**

**A**

**Z**

**I**

**N**

**G**

**ANNIVERSARIES**

John and Teresa Burdick	05/19
Bill and Lorraine Freedlund	05/22
Scott Larson and Cindy Olson	05/24
Todd and Christina Pontius	05/30

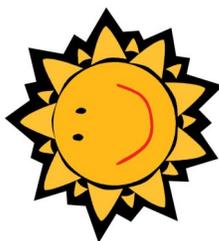
Living Water Ministry announced that there will be no camp this summer at **Stony Lake**



**Lake Lutheran Camp.**  
 See you next year!

We are **PREPARED TO BE . . .**

# MAY 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	27	28	29	30	1	3
<b>3 Services:</b> 10:45 am: Live Stream	4 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon Cong. Care 3 pm Social Activities 5:30	5 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon Executive Mtg 6 pm	6 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon	7 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon	8	9
<b>10 Services:</b> 10:45 am: Live Stream	11 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon	12 Pastor to Grand Rapids Conference BOG 7 pm	13 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon	14 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am–Noon	15	16
<b>17 Services:</b> 8 am & 10:45 am Nursery / Church School	18 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am – Noon	19 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am – Noon Women of Faith 1:30 Council 6 pm	20 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am – Noon	21 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am – Noon	22	23
<b>24 Services:</b> 8 am & 10:45 am Nursery / Church School	25 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	26 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am – Noon	27 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am – Noon	28 Pastor's Office Hrs 10 am – Noon	29	30
<b>31</b> 8 am & 10:45 am Nursery / Church School						

# Offerings

God loves a Cheerful Giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

We are blessed by the generous spirit that has been shared with Grace Lutheran Church. We have seen people bring offerings to the church, mail them or even send them electronically. *See article below.*

We are grateful for your partnership. If you want no contact with anyone, there is an offering plate sitting in front of the office, you may mail your gift or send it electronically. **Don't forget about our worship either on LIVESTREAM or conference line. Our Bible study is only on our conference call line.**

(605).313.5981. After you dial the phone number you will be asked to enter your access code, which is **772653#**



Some guests on EASTER SUNDAY

*Grace Goes*

*Online for*

*Giving*

Giving online is easy with our online submission form:

**Thank you for Giving!**

Giving online through the convenience of your computer, smart phone or tablet allows you to continue to support our mission. You can either create an account and manage ongoing tithes, or you can click "Give Now" for a one time gift. Whichever option you choose, you are able to automatically debit your bank account or use a debit/credit card.

[GIVE NOW](#)

Returning Users:

[Forgot username or password?](#)

[LOGIN](#)

[Create Account](#)

You can give a one-time gift by clicking "Give Now" or create an account to set up a recurring gift.

# The Joy of Color

*Bursting into blossom, a symphony of song and color. Mountain glories of Lebanon - a gift. Awesome Carmel, stunning Sharon - gifts. God's resplendent glory, fully on display. **Isaiah 35:2***

It is almost time for our SPRING planting season.

The youth are selling red Geraniums for \$5.00 a plant. We are thankful that Cotants have promised 400 plants to us. We are thankful for their partnership. In addition to the geraniums, we once again have Sun Patience (New Guinea) plants. This year the colors are Electric Orange, Hot Coral, Royal Magenta and Tropical Rose.

If you are not a flower person that is fine, please consider donating funds to help the youth go to the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis:

**BOUNDLESS: GOD BEYOND MEASURE.**

Enclosed in the GraceGram is an order form. Please submit this form by May 13th, pickup will be May 16th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (noon). If social distancing is still in place, we will have plants sitting apart at the proper distance. If you have any questions please feel free to call the church at 269-945-9414.

We are **PREPARED TO BE . . .**



**Executive Committee:**

President: *Chris Bush*

Vice President: *Margaret Wood*

Secretary: *Shayna Gibbons*

Treasurer: *Randy Teegardin*

**Church Council  
Members/Liaisons**

VACANT (*Small Groups*)

*George Lietz (Worship)*

*Gary Golnek (Outreach)*

*Erin Everly (Congregational Care)*

*Angela Pruitt (Children/Youth)*

*John Burdick (Property)*

**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 9AM - 3PM**  
*parishadmin@grace-hastings.org*

Kim Domke,  
*Bell Choir Director*  
*kdomke08@gmail.com*

Heather Albright  
*Nursery Attendant*

Nathan Freedlund,  
*Custodian*

**OUR MINISTERS:  
THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

**Grace Lutheran  
Church**

239 E. North Street  
Hastings, MI 49058

**Website:**

[www.grace-hastings.org](http://www.grace-hastings.org)

**Facebook:**

Grace Lutheran Church—  
ELCA Hastings, MI

**Phone:**

269-945-9414

269-945-2645

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

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

