



MAY 2021 GRACEGRAM

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

When someone is broken,
don't try to fix them.
(You can't)

When someone is hurting,
don't attempt to take away their pain.
(You can't)

Instead,
love them by walking beside them in the hurt.
(You can)

Because sometimes what people need is simply to know they aren't alone.



Deadline for the June GraceGram is May 17, 2021.

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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

GOD's your Guardian, right at your side to protect you— Shielding you from sunstroke, sheltering you from moonstroke. Psalm 121:5-6

The Community Outreach Committee of Grace Lutheran Church invites you to consider participating in Family Promise Barry County. Grace is considering expanding our role in sharing in this ministry by providing a helping hand to the homeless families Family Promise serves. We do a wonderful job at supporting Family Promise financially. Are you interested in serving a meal, spending an evening with families visiting, staying over night in a church to be a support to families that might have a need in the night? If you are interested, please let us know. You can contact members of the Community Outreach Committee, especially Mike Kemper, Kim Domke or Pastor Ken if God is calling you into sharing ministry with **Family Promise Barry County**.

Serving with you,
Pastor Ken +

FPBC Committees Need You!

Dive into some great opportunities to share your passion for Family Promise of Barry County! Each committee has 1-5 hours per month commitment (and that is flexible). We are offering Zoom and in person meetings.

Congregational Relations: This committee exists to support current host and support churches, recruit more into our network, and prepare volunteer trainings.

A Walk in Homeless Shoes Planning Committee: This committee is planning our fall awareness event for teens. A Walk was held every September from 2017-2019, and we need your help for the 2021 event! This is a powerful event that brings youth groups together to learn about homelessness in our community, build empathy, and raise awareness.

Why should you do this? Because you will make new friends, participate in our community, and be a good witness for God to those around you. You can participate in an open meeting and see what you think with no strings attached except to have fun and be involved in helping us "end homelessness, one family at a time". This is so rewarding and helpful, you don't want to miss out.

Contact Martha at 269-953-6189 or executive.director@familypromisebarrycounty.org

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

INVOLVED TO BE



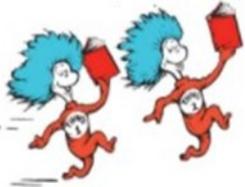
Happy Mother's Day

FRIENDS OF READING

Friends of Reading

This book was donated by Grace Lutheran Church in Hastings

The MORE that you read, the MORE things you will know. The MORE that you learn, the MORE places you'll go.



~ Dr. Seuss

Please enjoy this book to keep for your very own. If you would like, you may pass this on to another friend when you are done.

This letter is sending you a **BIG THANKS !!!!!**

The love of reading was shared with over 60 kids each in the months October - March so far this year. Shayna Gibbons and Kim Domke both work at Southeastern Elementary in Hastings and are privileged to work with Kindergarten through 4th graders. Students are wide-eyed and so thankful when the monthly books are handed out.

"Is this really for me?" "Do I get to keep it forever and ever!"
"I LOVE brand new books! They smell good!"
"I'm going to pick one out for my sister this month."
"Yay! This is my favorite author"

It is wonderful to see and hear how delighted and thankful the students are when they receive the books from Grace Lutheran Church. Your generous donations in the Fall make it possible for us to provide new paperback books from Scholastic to all the students we see.

*Many thanks for supporting and encouraging reading for our students,
 Kim and Shayna*



See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

1 John 3:1 (NIV)

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

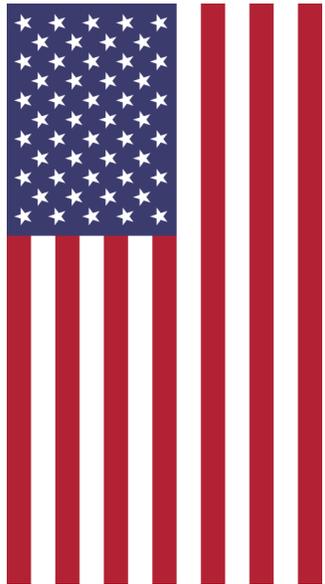
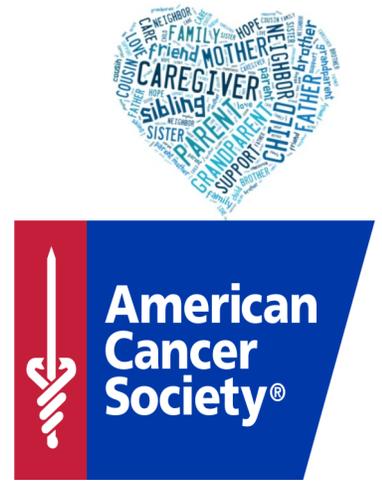
Caregivers and Family

American Cancer Society Support Programs and Services

A cancer diagnosis affects close friends and family, too. Find out what to expect if you become a caregiver for a person with cancer, and get tips for making sure that you take care of yourself as well.

The American Cancer Society can help people with cancer and help their loved ones understand cancer, manage their lives through treatment and recovery, and find the emotional support they.

Best of all, the help is free.



**Save the Date for
Barry County Relay For Life
Date: Saturday, August 7, 2021
Location: Tyden Park in Hastings
Time: 11:00a.m. - 11:00p.m.
FREE for all to participate.**

Register to walk or support our Grace walkers partnering with a team from Thornapple Credit Union www.relayforlife.org/barrymi. Luminaria available at Grace in June.

Follow information on  Barry County Relay For Life 2021

Talk with *Kim Domke* if you would like more details on the walk.



It's Here! Spring Geranium Sale \$5.00 each

Call, mail in or stop by the church to order your red geraniums (269-945-9414).



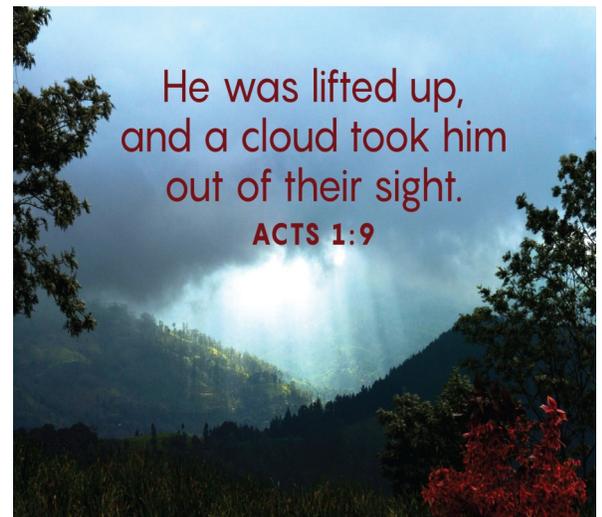
Thank you for supporting the youth going to the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Due May 17, 2021. Pick up your plants on Saturday, May 22nd at Grace Lutheran Church.

ASCENSION
OF THE LORD

Barry Eaton District Health Department
vaccine sign-up information
can be found at:
www.barryeatonhealth.org

He was lifted up,
and a cloud took him
out of their sight.

ACTS 1:9



Fatigue and Frustration A Reflection

Grace leadership is concerned that people's fatigue and frustration with this past year-plus of Covid has resulted in persons being harsh as they express their feelings about restrictions and the desire to return to worship.



Pastor Ken has been pressured by some in the congregation to reopen the church to onsite worship. Please understand that the Grace Council made the decision to remain closed to public worship. (This GraceGram issue includes an article on the strategy that Council will use to determine when onsite worship will resume.)

Leadership understands that many see Pastor Ken as the one to whom we can voice all concerns, but we encourage people with concerns about returning to worship to bring those to a Council or Executive Committee member. That will allow Pastor Ken to focus his energies on providing spiritual support to the congregation. Thank you for being a blessing to each other and to our pastor.

- *Chris Bush*

Mission Endowment Fund Committee Actions - 2021

This year your Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) Committee (members include: Pastor Ken Scheck, Mother Linnea Stiffler, Dave Heise, Clyde Watson, Margaret Wood as Chair, and GLC Treasurer-not present as position unfilled)) met via teleconference on February 9 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 \$3025.59 earnings in 2020, resulting in \$2723.03 (90%) being available for the MEF Committee to distribute and \$302.56 (10%) being available to reinvest in the MEF and become a permanent part of the principal.

At the meeting two submitted requests for funding were brought forward: 1) \$650.00 by Linda Maupin via Kim Domke on behalf of the Barry County Family Support Center Kinship Support Services program with the goal to purchase two Chromebooks, two Hotspots, and related software that would be utilized/checked out by only Kinship Families and 2) an undesignated amount (left to the discretion of the MEF Committee) by the Grace Community Outreach Committee for the Barry County Family Promise organization.

The MEF Committee voted to grant the \$650.00 request to Barry County Family Support Center Kinship Support Services program. After discussion, which including asking the question of whether a portion of the remaining amount could be reinvested into the MEF and answering the question with noting that GLC's Constitution reads "90% of the proceeds shall be distributed", the MEF Committee voted to grant the entire remaining amount of \$2073.03 to Barry County Family Promise.

- *Margaret Wood*

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

Council Discusses Returning to Onsite Worship

At its April 2021 meeting, the Grace Council adopted a decision-making process regarding when and how we return to onsite worship. This article summarizes our current strategy. You can request a more detailed document from the church office or view it on our Facebook page. Please note that this decision was approved by Council and that Pastor Ken abstained from voting on the motion, to prevent any apparent conflict of interest.

Onsite worship can occur when:

Barry County's seven-day-average Covid positivity rate is 3% or lower (considered "Low Risk" by the state of Michigan), OR

Barry County's seven-day-average Covid positivity rate is greater than 3% up to 7% (this is the state's Risk Level "A," the first step above "Low Risk") AND there has been a continuous decline in positivity rates in our and neighboring counties and public health guidance has been relaxed.

The likelihood that we will hold only **online worship** will increase as more of the following are true:

The positivity rate for our county is greater than 7% (showing an increased Risk Level) or the trend fluctuates up and down;

The positivity rates in any neighboring counties exceed 7% or the trends fluctuate up and down;
Cases of new variants of the virus and increasing.

Expectations of people entering our building:

First and foremost, there is no requirement for anyone to attend worship onsite. If you are more comfortable waiting to return to a group setting, we respect your decision and look forward to when we do see you in person. Online worship will continue to be available.

We ask that you wear a mask over your mouth and nose while in the building, even if you are vaccinated, and that you maintain at least six feet between you and members outside of your household. There will be a sign with this request on our entrance door. Taking these steps is loving our neighbor.

The worship service will be modified, similar to when we had onsite worship last fall. Please follow directions provided in the bulletin and by the worship leaders.



Private Communion

There are nine stations available in the Fellowship Hall.

Please call the office or
Pastor Ken Scheck directly
to set up a time for communion.

Reserve a spot by calling
269-945-9414

PENTTECOST



Piano & Heating

THANK you for your generous support. With your help, Grace was able to meet and exceed the goal of \$ 3,293.00! The remaining amount will go toward upcoming heating repairs. This congregation continues to show their faith in many ways, including giving, to make amazing things happen here at Grace Lutheran!

New Treasurer

We welcome Ed Domke to the treasurer position here at Grace Church.

We are thankful for his willingness to share in this aspect of ministry.



Grace Lutheran Church:

Warm and special thanks to you for all the considerate things you do. Thank you for the many cards and beautiful plants. I miss my friends and Pastor Ken and the church every Sunday. God Bless us All!

- Doris Allerdig

Dear Members and Church Officers of Grace Lutheran Church:

I want to thank you all for the support you have given me. Thank you for the beautiful Christmas flowers you sent me and I want to thank you for the visits and for the goodies. I am one who still feels good to be in the older group.

I thank you also for your prayers. I shall continue to pray for Grace!

Yours in Christ,
Don Granzow



"I've been asked to announce that the Presbyterian Tribe has been challenged by the Lutheran Tribe to a softball feat of strength"

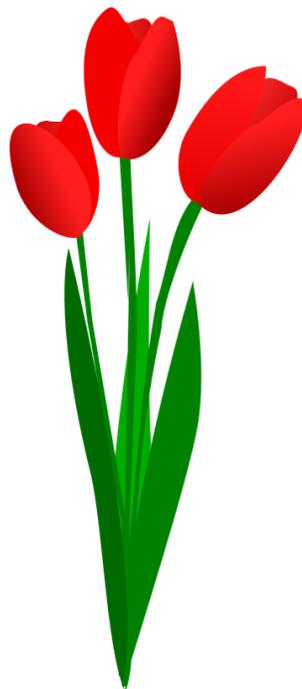
Telephone Issues

Call Upon The Lord. Psalm 18:3

If you have called the church over the last several months and did not get a return call, we apologize. It came to our attention that several members were calling in and leaving messages, never to get a return call. Pastor Ken and Wendy kept an eye on this problem, and found that for 15 straight days the telephone came offline. We are now with a new provider. Please call us. We promise to return your call. Serving with listening ears! Pastor Ken +

Just wanted to say thanks for the beautiful tulips I received at Easter.
~ Jeannette Ulrich

Thank you for the Easter Lily. I planted it here at the church.
~ Pastor Ken Scheck II +



EASTER PLANT SALE A SUCCESS!

Congregation members who purchased lilies, daffodils, hyacinths, and tulips during our plant sale provided beautiful donations to 36 different individuals. In addition to that, many were taken home with people after adorning the sanctuary during Holy Week! Profits from the Easter Plant Sale will be put toward the Youth and Family Committee.

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

Safety and Security Committee

- Stephen Wales

Churches and other places of worship are establishments meant to provide members with a sense of safety and peace. Some time ago a committee was formed to look at Safety and Security at Grace Lutheran Church. Part of that analysis was a look at any areas of concern and discuss some options. In addition, a survey was done with the congregation and the responses were summarized. This was done to get anonymous feedback from the congregation and to validate that the concerns of the Safety & Security Committee was in alignment with the Congregation. Video Cameras were one of those areas.

The Safety & Security Committee put together a proposal for Security Cameras about a year ago. Unfortunately, the current epidemic caused delays in moving forward with any initiatives. The Council took time to consider the information presented and to ask questions. After much deliberation and thoughtful prayer, the Church council recently voted to approve that proposal.

The main reason video cameras are often used in places of worship is for Liability Protection. In addition, if any injuries and other incidents occur, surveillance camera footage can help provide an account of what happened. Security cameras can even deter crime!

Balancing security with the privacy of the congregation and its members was the biggest concern voiced during these discussions. Aside from the benefits of surveillance cameras, our efforts MUST balance ministry security with individual privacy.

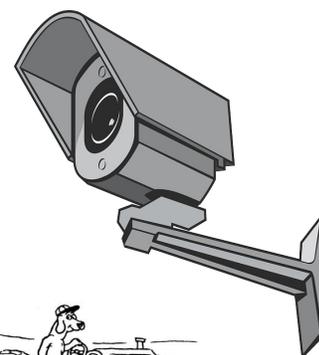
Therefore, cameras will only be placed in public (non-private) areas of the church covering both exterior and interior areas. Access to the video footage will be strictly controlled for the privacy of the congregation. Often times video surveillance can provide an account of what happened if there is a dispute about a situation. For example: "Did someone ignore caution tape and trip over a construction hazard?" When you can go back and review video footage, it enables ministries to have an additional layer of protection against false claims or allegations.

As we move forward with this and other changes, the Safety & Security Committee will do our best to communicate these with the congregation in an effort to remain as transparent as possible. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please voice your interest to anyone on the committee or any member of church leadership.

Matthew 5:9-10

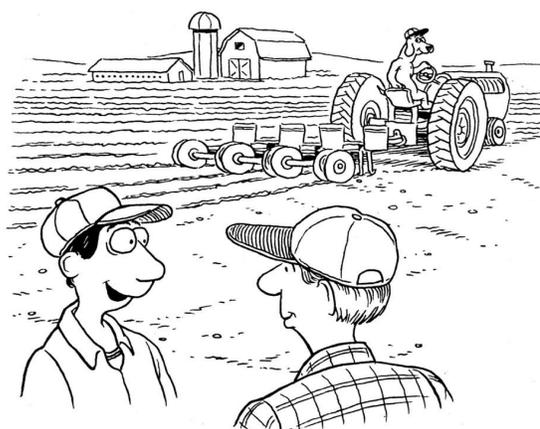
⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



THEY SAW WHAT SEEMED TO BE TONGUES OF FIRE THAT SEPARATED AND CAME TO REST ON EACH OF THEM.

ACTS 2:3, NKJV



"Now THAT is a great farm dog!"

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:

Vivian Allerdig	Thornapple Manor, Room #422 2700 Nashville Rd / Hastings
Donna Buehl	Thornapple Cottages Rm 703
Ilene Hilson	Thornapple Manor, Rm #105
Wes Gillons	Thornapple Cottages Rm 700
Opal Gillons	Thornapple Manor Sugarbush
Dave Bolton	Carvath Village, Room 138 690 W Main St / Middleville
Doris Allerdig	2122 N M-43 Hwy / Hastings
Jamie Coplin	109 E Grant St / Hastings
Joyce Daugherty	River Inn Adult Foster Care 241 W Grand Ledge Hwy Sunfield MI 48890
Don Granzow	Woodlawn Meadows 1825 East St. / Hastings
Lois VonSeggern	3313 Parchmount Ave Kalamazoo MI 49004

Military:

Nieces / nephews of Burdicks (Air Force)

Carlos Garcia (Guam)
Alexis Garcia
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

Grandson of Gwen Hansen

Cindy and Brady Rudesill

Nephew of Joe & Sharon Varkula

LT Joel Taggart (USN, Virginia)

Grandneice of Karen and Bill Halstead

Julia Ehredt (Bahrain)

BIRTHDAYS

Sharon Varcula	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



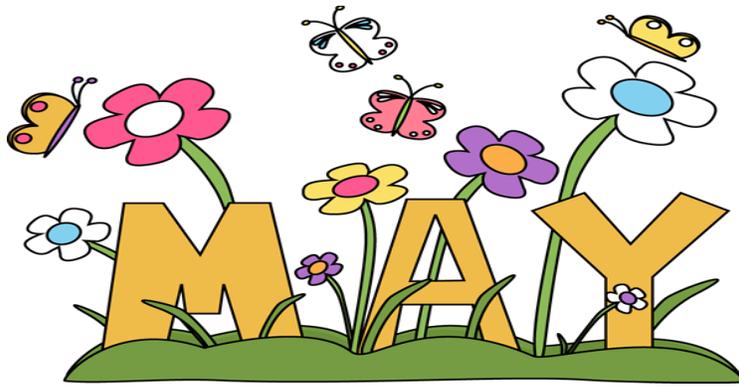
ANNIVERSARIES

Cindy Olson and Scott	05/19
Bill and Lorraine Freedlund	0522
John and Teresa Burdick	05/24
Todd and Tina Pontius	05/30

**Clean-up Day
on the Back 40**



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



						1
SUMMER IS COMING!						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Services: <i>Stream worship only</i>	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Social Activities 6:30	Pastor—HAMA in am Music Lesson 1-2 Executive 6 pm Flute Choir 6-8	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12  Bells 4-6	Bells 3-5	National Day of Prayer
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Services: <i>Stream worship only</i> <i>Noisy Offering</i>	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Outreach 4:30	Pastor's Conference 9:30 am Music Lesson 1-2 BOG 7 pm	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Bells 4-6  But now I am going to him who sent me...	Bells 3-5	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Services: <i>Stream worship only</i>	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Music Lesson 1-2 Flute Choir 6-8 Council 6 pm	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Bells 4-6	Bells 3-5	Pick up RED Geraniums 9-12 noon
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Services: <i>Stream worship only</i> 	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Music Lesson 1-2	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12		
30	31					
Services: <i>Stream worship only</i> 	OFFICE CLOSED					

Executive Committee:

President: *Chris Bush*

Vice President: *Margaret Wood*

Secretary: *Shayna Gibbons*

Treasurer: *Ed Domke*

Church Council

Members/Liaisons

Vickey Argo (Congregational Care)

Doug Neeb (Property)

Gary Golnek (Outreach)

Angela Pruitt (Youth & Family)

Bill Freedlund (Small Groups)

Clyde Watson (Stewardship)

Deborah Wilke (Social Activities)

Jamie Heise (Worship)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

On line:

www.grace-hastings.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

**IN PERSON
WORSHIP
SUSPENDED
UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE**

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 10AM - 2PM
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

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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



IN PERSON WORSHIP SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

On line worship www.grace-hastings.org