



SEPTEMBER 2022 GRACEGRAM

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

*Earth
and all
Stars!*

*Loud Rushing
Planets!*

*Sing to the
LORD
a new song!*

*GOD
has done
marvelous
things.*

*I too
Sing praises
with a new
Song!*

Herbert F. Brokering



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

"In the beginning..." John 1:1

"In the beginning" — before the world was created. "In the beginning" — of the church fiscal year. "In the beginning" — of the new school year. "In the beginning" — of God's new beginning as the Word made flesh. These three words are full of memory and of promise.

"In the beginning." It's a phrase full of the past, and yet gives witness to potential and possibility. These words reset our lives and our perspective. They remind us that God is creator and that in Jesus God was not yet done with creation. A new beginning cannot fully erase or change the past. God is always about new beginnings.

When John quotes Genesis, what is John up to here? A return to the garden? Reconciliation? New life? Solidarity with humanity? All of the above? I think so and more. We all need new beginnings. But they are never possible in a vacuum, as if the past can be set aside, forgotten, for the sake of the new. We have to go back to the beginning to realize just how new and just how amazing this all is for us here at Grace Lutheran Church.

"In the beginning" is the promise of the continuity and the consistency of God.

"In the beginning" sets off all kinds of hopes for what could be. It certainly did for those who would encounter Jesus in John's Gospel. And, we are no different. Yet God's "in the beginning" is not simply a reset or change so as to disregard the present or the past. "In the beginning" is the assurance that our hopes for recreation are not dependent solely on us. They are made possible because that's what believing in God means. Our recreation is not limited to our own merits because God went first.

"In the beginning" is the promise of recreation, a promise we know to be true because God recreated humanity in Jesus and came to us allowing us to experience God among us in human form. This is the very nature of God, and since we are God's witnesses, followers, teachers, we proclaim that God's recreation abounds, even in the face of people, situations, and the world's circumstances that would seek to prove otherwise.



Today is a new Genesis, friends. Let's live into that rebirth together.

Living with you in Christ,
Pastor Ken +

**Deadline for the
October GraceGram is
September 17, 2022.**
Send your articles to
Brenda Hess at:
parishadmin@grace-hastings.org

We are PREPARED TO BE . . .

Grace Lutheran Church's 7th Annual Car Show and Outdoor Service

Grace Lutheran Church's 7th annual car show was a success. Thirty-two vehicles were registered, with several more that did not register. Church service was under a large tent resulting in shade for all. Worship attendance was about 78 folks this year, with around 20 or more car owners and spectators joining our service. The Social Activities Committee and volunteers, in conjunction with Philip Maass of Thrivent Financial serving BBQ chicken and pulled pork once again, provided a luncheon following the tent service. About 120 folks joined us with "breaking bread" together.

We were blessed once more with beautiful weather. All was possible with many volunteers and church committees doing as Jesus has called us to "plant the seeds". Maybe some seeds fell on good soil and helped us, and our neighbors, to build a stronger relationship with our Lord. Perhaps our event will help someone find a new church home. Thank you to all who participated in any way!



Thanks to everyone for a wonderful Car Show!



**Save the Date:
CROP Walk
Sunday, October 9th**

Registration begins at 1:30, Walk starts at 2:00 PM.

Grace will be the host congregation this year. Watch for information on how donations are used both locally and internationally on the display table in the gathering area in September. Walker and donation envelopes will be available at the same time. Light refreshments will be served as walkers return to our church.

Relay For Life

Thank You Grace Lutheran for participating in Barry County Relay For Life!

We had seven walkers that day, with more of you praying for our safety in the 95+ degree heat! \$13,650 was raised this year with Grace contributing \$736 in donations and 56 luminaries.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Every Dollar Makes a Difference... At Relay For Life no donation is too small, each and every dollar counts. Your donations help fund groundbreaking cancer research, patient care programs, free family lodging near treatment, rides for patients to treatment and a **24/7/365 LIVE Cancer Helpline 800.227.2345**. Caregivers can also get support through a listening ear and from those who have already walked that journey by using the above phone number.

Relay For Life makes a difference in communities like ours, as we participate along with 5,000 events throughout the world. Currently, the American Cancer Society partners with 29 countries on six continents, to host Relay For Life events. With every donation and every step, we are helping the American Cancer Society save lives.

BRAVE walkers Linda Melcher, Amy & Phil Poholski, Jack & Carol Vos, Kim Domke & Caitlyn Haben, Chris & Denis Bush relay through the heat for the 2022 Relay For Life Walk at Tyden Park.

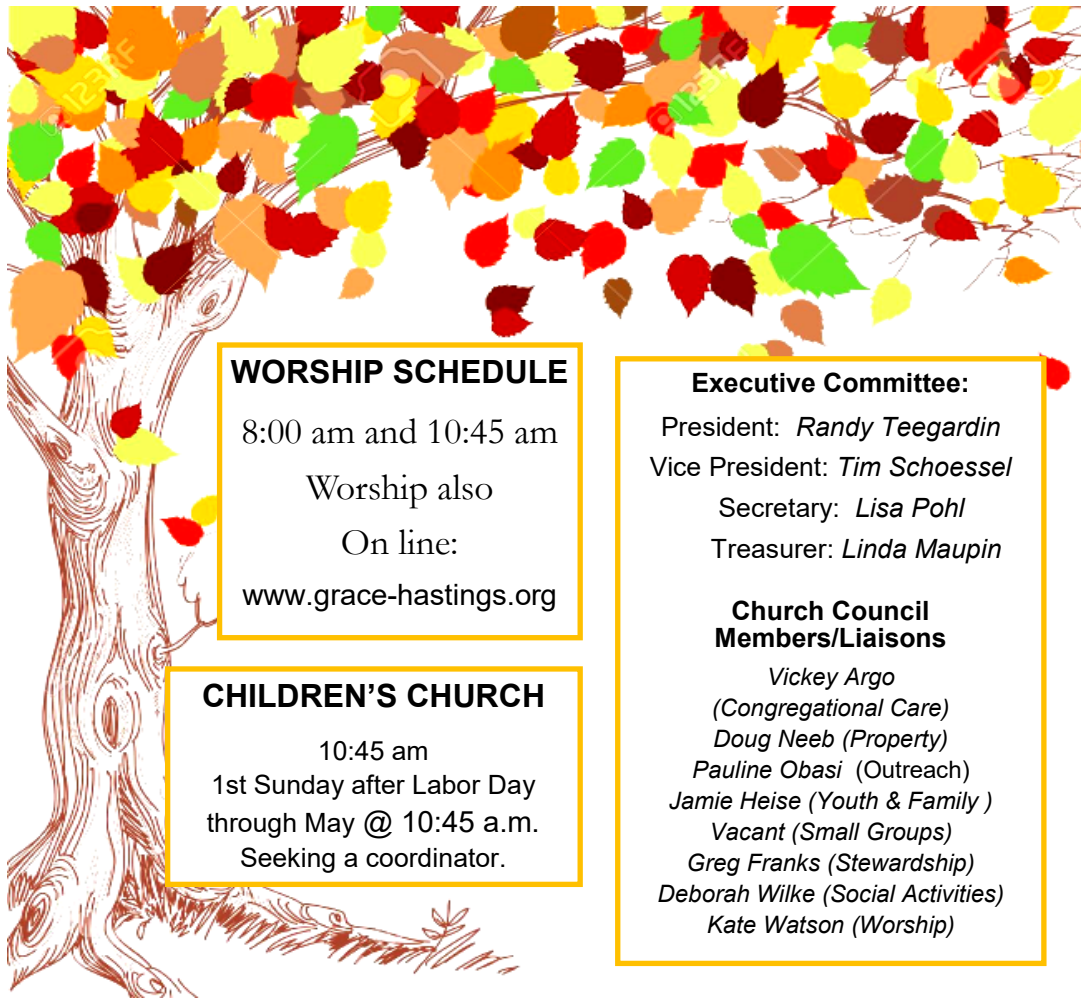


Save the Date:
Trunk-or-Treat
Monday, Oct. 31st



After a two-year hiatus due to Covid restrictions we are again planning to offer a Trunk-or-Treat event for our community children. Watch for volunteer sign-up sheets to be posted on the gathering area bulletin board at the beginning of October. This is always a very fun and rewarding experience for everyone – children and adults alike. Colonel Harlen Sanders may just make a return visit this year – Yahoo!!

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



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:00 am and 10:45 am

Worship also

On line:

www.grace-hastings.org

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

10:45 am

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

Seeking a coordinator.

Executive Committee:

President: *Randy Teegardin*

Vice President: *Tim Schoessel*

Secretary: *Lisa Pohl*

Treasurer: *Linda Maupin*

Church Council Members/Liaisons

Vickey Argo

(Congregational Care)

Doug Neeb (Property)

Pauline Obasi (Outreach)

Jamie Heise (Youth & Family)

Vacant (Small Groups)

Greg Franks (Stewardship)

Deborah Wilke (Social Activities)

Kate Watson (Worship)

Our Staff:

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

Cindy Olson,
Minister of Music

Brenda Hess
Parish Administrator
Mon – Thurs 9AM - 1PM
parishadmin@grace-hastings.org

Kim Domke,
Bell Choir Director
kdomke08@gmail.com

Nathan Freedlund,
Custodian

OUR MINISTERS:
THE PEOPLE OF GOD
- Martin Luther



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E. North Street
Hastings, MI 49058

Website:

www.grace-hastings.org

Facebook:

Grace Lutheran Church—
ELCA Hastings, MI

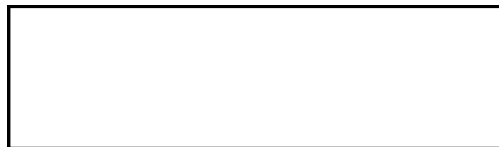
Phone:

269-945-9414

269-945-2645



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



**THANK
YOU**

Thank you to the congregation for the wonderful welcome baskets. We really enjoyed the thoughtful items that were donated.

We are grateful to now be a part of Grace's church family.

Thanks be to God.

Patti Comp and Pauline Obasi

Mortgage for Grace Lutheran Church is \$19,833.17.

Payments are set at \$1,234.00 per month

Congregational Care Meeting

A Congregational Care meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 19th 3:00 p.m. at the church. We hope to see you then.

Supplying Books for School Students

Our Outreach Committee continues to look at supporting young children in the name of Jesus. Once again we are going to collect funds to purchase Scholastic books for a classroom.

A donation of \$20.00 enables the teacher to purchase one book a month for the entire school year for each student. We felt this is still a worthy cause that we could easily support. We would like to continue helping our member, Shayna Gibbons, a teacher at SE Elementary School, with a fund to purchase books for the students in her classroom. There are approximately 25 students in Mrs. Gibbons room.

If you would like to help make a donation you may do so by writing a check to Grace Lutheran and writing in the check memo "**Books for Kids**" or placing cash in a pew envelope and writing "**Books for Kids**" on the outside of the envelope. Donations due Sunday, September 11.



Brothers of Grace September Outing

Brothers of Grace will be having an outing at Joe Varkula's house on Tuesday, September 13.

There will be sausage and some fixings. Please bring your beverage. You may also bring a dish to share if you wish but it is not necessary.

Joe is planning a pontoon ride on the mighty Morrison (weather permitting). His boat can hold up to 12 people which should accommodate all who attend.

Plan on meeting at Grace and leaving by 5 p.m. (which is earlier than our normal gathering time) so we can get to Joe's by 5:30 p.m. We'll decide on ride sharing once we gather at church. The plan is to wrap up around 8 p.m. and be back to Grace around 8:30 p.m.

There will be a sign-up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Please add your name to the list, e-mail, or call 616-430-1225.

This is an opportunity to share as fellows and grow closer to God.



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

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE BARRY COUNTY CROPWALK Hosted at Grace

Sunday, October 9, 2022 1:00-2:00 pm
Light refreshments will be served as walkers finish.

Since 1947, Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty have had the goal of ending hunger... locally and worldwide.

Where do the donations for CROPWalk go?

25% stays in Barry County to help in 5 locations:

- Barry County Cares (former Love, Inc.)
- First UMC of Hastings Food Pantry
- Good Food For Freeport
- Maple Valley Community Center of Hope (Nashville)
- Middleville UMC Food Bank
- 75% goes all around the world through an organization called Church World Services.
- CROP Hunger Walk helps families find food security, sources for clean water, provides tools and seeds for farming, and provides small business startup costs so they can become independent.

Watch for more information on how donations are used both locally and internationally, as well as donation envelopes, on the display table in the gathering area in September. Please join us to help fight hunger.

CROP Walk

Left Foot, Right Foot, Left Foot, Right
2000 Generous Feet – What a Sight!
On Top of the Sidewalk and Out in the Street
We're Walking in Rain and We're Walking in Heat.

Strong Feet, Lamé Feet, Crooked and Bare Feet
You Never can tell just Who You Will Meet.
If You've Got Heart and Soles that Care
You Can Walk to Help Those Whose Feet are Bare.

Big Feet, Small Feet, Young Feet, Old Feet
And Would You Believe it? We even have Teen Feet!
My Feet, Your Feet, Together We Come
Fighting World Hunger Together as One.

Feet Come with Peanut Butter, Rice and Beans
And Bringing Family and Friends by all Means.
The CROP Walk sure is Doing it Right
Fighting Hunger with All of Our Might!

2000 Feet Standing Poised at the Start
Hundreds Who Know, Caring Comes from the Heart
Hand in Hand, They Lend Us their Feet
Their Hearts and their Soles to **Help People Eat**

Ten Feet, Twenty Feet, 100 Feet More
At the End of 5 Miles, Your Legs Might be Sore
But with the Strength of Your Heart and the Soles of Your Feet
You Will Make a Difference AND People Will Eat!

-Dr. Seuss inspired CROP Walk Rhyme on Ending Hunger from *Red Bank, NJ*



August 3, 2022

Dear Friends,

Please accept this donation as a small token of our gratitude for allowing us to use the sanctuary for our recitals. The acoustic is superb!

With Gratitude,

Bob Oster



Updates

If you have any updates to your address, email, and/or phone number(s), please let Brenda know. Her email is parishadmin@grace-hastings.org, or you can call 269.945.9414. Thank you.

Save the Date -Heritage Sunday-October 30

On Sunday, October 30th we will be gathering together for a combined 10:00 service celebrating Heritage Sunday.

There will be a meal of fellowship directly following the service where you are encouraged to bring a dish to share you feel represents your heritage.

If you 'd rather not bring your grandma's famous, but not delicious, tuna casserole, please feel free to bring a dish of your own choosing.



We look forward to sampling the wonderful variety of dishes shared by our wonderful church family.

*Called to
the church
triumphant
Our sister,
Beulah
Benedict
Wednesday,
June 29, 2022*

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 Allerding	Thornapple Manor 2700 Nashville Road, Hastings 49058
Donna Buehl	Thornapple Manor
Wes Gillons	Thornapple Manor
Opal Gillons	Thornapple Manor
Elsie Merrow	Woodlawn Meadows 1825 East Street, Hastings 49058
Shirley Beck	Hope Landing 1252 North Cochran #116 Charlotte, MI 48813
Carolyn O'Connor	Hope Landing #118
Karl Golnek	Medilodge of Holland 1221 East 16th Street Holland, MI 48423

Military:

Grandson of Freedlunds
Parker Stancil (US Army)

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

Granddaughter of Gwen Hansen
Cynthia Rudesill

Nephew of Joe & Sharon Varkula
LT Joel Taggart (USN, Rhode Island)

Grandniece of Karen and Bill Halstead & Jan Schreiner
Julia Ehredt (Bahrain)

Nephew and Godson of Ed and Kim Domke
Seth Domke

Have we missed your birthday or anniversary in the GraceGram? Please let Brenda know. She's in the process of updating our records. Thank you!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mary Thompson	09/01
Deb Watson	9/03
Shirley Beck	09/07
Stephen Wales	09/11
Steve Kogge	09/14
Donna Buehl	09/15
Gavin Patton	09/16
Grayson Patton	09/16
Rob Pohl	09/22
Gabriel Barnaart	09/23
Mark Anton	09/24
Linda Melcher	09/25
Lexie Watson	09/26



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

SEPTEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Bells 3:30pm-5:00pm		
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10
Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:45 In-person, also <i>Online worship</i>	Office Closed for Holiday 	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Executive 6 pm Flute Choir 6:00-8:30pm	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Bells 3:30pm-5:00pm		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:45 In-person, also <i>Online worship</i>	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Outreach 4:30 Social Activities 5:45	Pastor Ken at Grand Rapids Conference meeting Brothers of Grace 5 pm- Meeting at Church for Off Site Meeting	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Bells 3:30pm-5:00pm		Game Night and Pizza 6:00-9:00pm
18	19	20	21	22 Autumn begins	23	24
Worship Service: 8:00 & 10:45 In-person, also <i>Online worship</i>	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Congregational Care 3 pm	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Council 6 pm Flute Choir 6:00-8:30pm	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Worship Service: 8:00 & 10:45 In-person, also <i>Online worship</i> Worship Committee Mtg. 12:15	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12		