



JANUARY 2023 GRACEGRAM

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

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 "Christ bless this house". Leave the markings there until Pentecost.

20 + C + M + B + 23

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 the
February GraceGram is
January 17, 2023.**

Send your articles to
Brenda Hess at:
parishadmin@grace-hastings.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Don't just invite your friends and family and rich neighbors, the kind of people who will return the favor. Invite some people who never get invited out, the misfits from the wrong side of the tracks. Luke 14:12

Bring them to Christmas!

We are called to share our excitement of preparations for Christmas with our family, friends and neighbors. Make a phone call or send a card and invite someone to come along with you to Advent and Christmas worship services this year. Think of those who may not have family nearby during this season and invite them to share in holiday preparations with your family. Bake cookies, trim a tree, ask them to join us for caroling or invite them to come Christmas Eve.

Bring them to Christmas!

Christmas Eve Worship is a precious night to share worship together in the name of our newborn Savior. The carols, the candles, the enchantment and mystery of the word made flesh. Incarnation. Immanuel. God with us. Perhaps there is no easier opportunity than Christmas Eve to say to that neighbor or friend or family member,

"Come along, and hear the joyful songs and sounds of the Christmas Christ!"

Bring them to Christmas!

Sunday, January 1, 2023 is our annual Lessons and Carols Celebration. We will share the Sacrament of the Lord's supper in the midst of a Communion Setting that is filled with the sounds of Christmas carols. Bring friends to share the real presence of Christ as we celebrate Jesus' presence in our midst!

Bring them to Christmas!

May this season filled with opportunities for worship and praise give us another opportunity to celebrate and share our excitement with friends and neighbors!

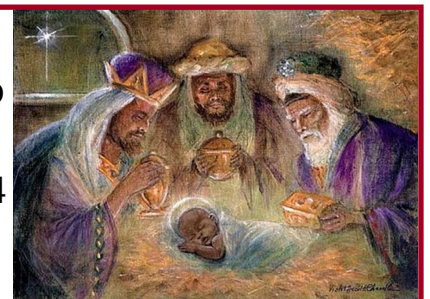
Remember Christmas does not end until January 8th or really ever!

Love in the newborn King,

Pastor Ken +



**Christmas
Eve Worship**
Saturday
December 24
5:30 pm



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:

Donna Buehl	Thornapple Manor 2700 Nashville Rd, Hastings 49058
Wes Gillons	Thornapple Manor
Opal Gillons	Thornapple Manor
Elsie Merrow	Woodlawn Meadows 1825 East Street, Hastings 49058
Beverly Brown	Woodlawn Meadows
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



BIRTHDAYS

Jeannette Ulrich	01/07
Clyde Watson Jr	01/11
Carl Schoessel	01/13
Dean Rounds	01/14
Christine Pontius	01/14
Mary Kuhlman	01/18
Rick Duits	01/20
Logan Clements	01/22
Sheryl Gordon	01/26
Eve Wright	01/26
Jane Power	01/30



ANNIVERSARIES

John and Mary Kleinbrink 01/05

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

Adopt-a-Family Gifts and Groceries: “Thank You So Much!”

The Christmas Adopt-A-Family gifts and food baskets project was completed in record fashion this year thanks to the generous and swift response of our members like you. Gift tags for the children were all taken in a week and grocery donations completed by the middle of December. The families we help each year are all so very grateful for what we do to help their Christmas celebrations be a bit brighter. This is such a wonderful example of how we can do so much more by way of reaching out to others as a group than we could ever accomplish individually. “Thank You” for supporting this outreach project once again this year.

Mike Kemper,
Chairperson, Community Outreach Committee



6355 Bivens Road
Nashville, MI 49073
November 15, 2022

Dear Team Captain:

The 2022 Berry County CROP Hunger Walk is over and the donations have been turned in to Church World Service. Thirty-six walkers from 11 giving units raised \$7,077.87 in donations. This means that four food programs in Barry County will receive \$442.35 each to aid them in purchase food to help families in Berry County.

This letter is coming late because I have been dealing with personal problems. In September Joan, my wife, fell twice and as a result Joan was hospitalized and then went to rehab at Thornapple Manor. Now, she is at Woodlawn Meadows in Hastings.

Thank you, for all your donations and your energy during this year's CROP Hunger Walk.

Sincerely yours in Christ's service,

Nolan Hudson

Stewardship at Grace—Chris Bush, Committee Chair

It may feel like July is a long way off, but the next six months will move quickly. Grace will hold its annual congregation meeting in July, during which we'll be voting on the 2023-24 budget. To get to that point, the proposed budget will be sent to our members, after the Council gives provisional approval to what the Stewardship Committee presents. The Stewardship Committee will have compiled funding requests from the various ministries within Grace. You will hear in Temple Talks how our offerings have empowered these ministries.

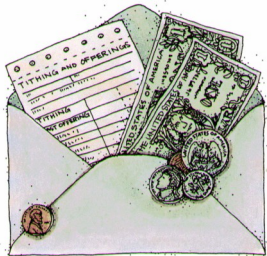
In addition to the financial side of Stewardship work, we also encourage people to use their time and talents towards God's work. This spring, we will be distributing the annual survey to learn how people want to be involved at Grace in 2023-24. I encourage all to challenge themselves and try one ministry or role at Grace that is new to them – stretch that spiritual muscle!

The Gospel: learn it, love it, live it!



Noisy Offering Returns!

Beginning Sunday, January 8 you can bring in your change for Noisy Offering. Noisy offering will be collected every 2nd Sunday. Let's make some noise!



2022 Charitable Contributions

Donors must deliver or mail (post-mark) checks on or before Saturday, December 31, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2022. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2023 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2022 even if the check is written in 2022.

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

Executive Committee:

President: *Randy Teegardin*
Vice President: *Tim Schoessel*
Secretary: *Lisa Pobl*
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)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:00 am and 10:45 am

Worship also

On line:

www.grace-hastings.org



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

10:45 am

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

Our Staff:

Ken Scheck II
*Minister of Word
and Sacrament*
kscheckii@aol.com

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

Aurora Collins,
Nursery

Nathan Freedlund,
Custodian

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E. North Street
Hastings, MI 49058

Website:

www.grace-hastings.org

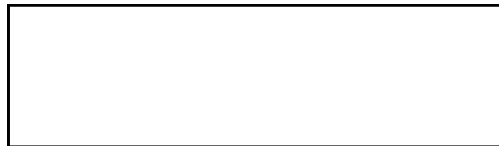
Facebook:

Grace Lutheran Church- ELCA
Hastings, MI

Phone:

269-945-9414
269-945-2645

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Worship Service: 10:00 <i>In-person and Online worship</i> NEW YEAR'S DAY	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Executive 6pm Flute Choir 6:00-8:30pm	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 	EPIPHANY 	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:45 <i>In-person and Online worship</i>	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Congregational Care Committee Meeting 3:00 Outreach 5:30	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Brothers of Grace 7:00 Flute Choir 6:00-8:30pm	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Bells 3:30pm-5:00pm		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:45 <i>In-person and Online worship</i>	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 	Pastor at Grand Rapids Conference Meeting Council 6 pm	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Bells 3:30pm-5:00pm		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:45 <i>In-person and Online worship</i>	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Flute Choir 6:00-8:30pm	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Bells 3:30pm-5:00pm		
29	30	31				
Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:45 <i>In-person and Online worship</i>	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12				Grace Office Hours Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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.

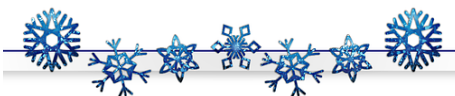
Yet, Lutherans for over 100 years have celebrated Advent as a time of **hope** and **preparation** for the promised celebration of God's presence among us. Centuries ago, around the fifth century, Sweden used **blue** for Advent. The Advent color of blue is known as the Marian color because of its association 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-five 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. *Pastor Ken +*

Dear Grace Family,

Thanks so much for the bag of Christmas "goodies" for each of us. We are enjoying! Appreciate your remembering us in your prayers throughout the year. We miss Grace and seeing friends. May the good Lord watch over Grace and all of us in the new year!

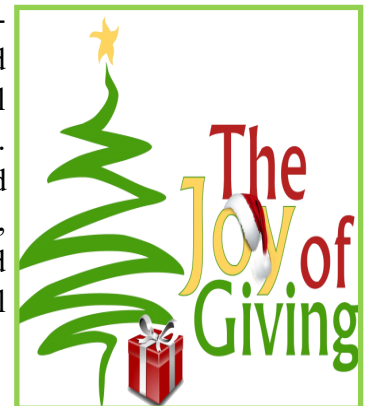
Shirley Beck and Carolyn O'Conner
Hope Landing in Charlotte



Giving Tree

The Giving Tree has once again been set up in the Gathering Area. We are collecting snack items for teachers to give out to their students during the year. There are also opportunities to donate some underwear and shoe items. Check the tags hanging on the tree for items you would like to donate and take the tag with you as a reminder. No need to wrap any of the Giving Tree items. Place your donation under the tree. Donations received will be taken to SE Elementary School after classes resume in January, 2023.

What students need most: Large-sized containers of snacks, disinfecting wipes, and paper towels, and shoes in designated sizes (black, white or other gender-neutral designs so any child can wear them).



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