

Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
January 8, 2023

Baptism of Our Lord

January 8, 2023

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre-Service Music

Welcome

Arise in body or spirit.

Opening Sentences

- ☐ The light of God given, experienced and shared be with you all.
☑ **And also with you.**
- ☐ The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
☑ **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- ☐ Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness – on them light shined.
☑ **We have seen Christ's light, the light from God is Jesus.**
- ☐ Jesus said, "I am the light of the world...."
☑ **Those who follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."**

Gathering Hymn

We Shall Gather at the River

ELW 423

Greeting

- ☐ The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and in dwelling of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
☑ **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- ☐ Let us pray, O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit.
☑ **Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

First Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

📖 A reading from **Isaiah**:

¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
²He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
³a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
⁵Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
⁹See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29




The voice of the LORD is up - on the wa - ters.

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo-ry and strength.

**²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. **

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;


**⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. **

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

**¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. 

Second Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

📖 A reading from **Acts**:

³⁴Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?

ELW Page 188



Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

☐ The Holy Gospel, according Matthew.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children's sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children's message. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

Silence for reflection. After reflection,

Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.

Hymn of the Day

When Jesus Came to Jordan

ELW 305

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

A Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A Calling God, you speak with power to your church. Open our hearts and minds to the new things you are declaring. Strengthen bishops, pastors, deacons, lay leaders, and teachers of the faith. Equip the baptized for your reconciling and redeeming work, especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companions Zion Luther Church, Woodland; Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Radiant God,

G **Let your light shine upon us.**

A Renewing God, you provide the waters of the earth and in Jesus' baptism you reveal the waters of life. Cleanse and protect oceans, rivers, and watersheds. Bring relief to parched lands and to communities without access to safe water. Radiant God,

G **Let your light shine upon us.**

A Righteous God, you never weary of establishing justice. Increase cooperation and constructive dialogue between nations. Guide local, national, and international authorities to govern with equity, vision, and integrity. We pray for those in military service, for peacemakers, and for our enemies. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke).* Radiant God,

G **Let your light shine upon us.**

A Abiding God, your mercy is steadfast. Give sanctuary to people who flee from oppression, war, poverty, and famine. Sustain health care workers, caregivers, first responders, counselors, and all who help and heal. Comfort those who are grieving or experiencing crisis, especially *Frances Ann, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Victor Crowder, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Greg Franks, Bill Frutiger, Mike Gibbons, Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Larry Hansen, Henry Heil, David Hills, Mike Kemper, Norma Ludlow, Alexis Markwart, Mattea Markwart, Terri Neeb, Ken Plourde, Annette Poholski, Randy Post, Roy Richards, The Family of Jeannette Rose, Cynthia Rudesill (pregnancy), Al Throop, Lindsay Varkula (pregnancy), and Maryellen Wammock.* Radiant God,

G **Let your light shine upon us.**

A Blessing God, in Christ you gather the beloved community. Kindle the gifts of your Spirit in your people. Accompany the newly baptized, those recently ordained, and any beginning a new ministry. Inspire synodical leaders and congregational councils to serve with imagination and wisdom. Radiant God,

G **Let your light shine upon us.**

- A** God of mercy, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Promising God, your faithfulness endures throughout all generations. We give thanks for those who have died in Christ, trusting that we will be united with them and all the saints in Christ's resurrection life. Radiant God,

- G** **Let your light shine upon us.**

- P** We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

- G** **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Offertory

Come to the Table

ELW 481



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

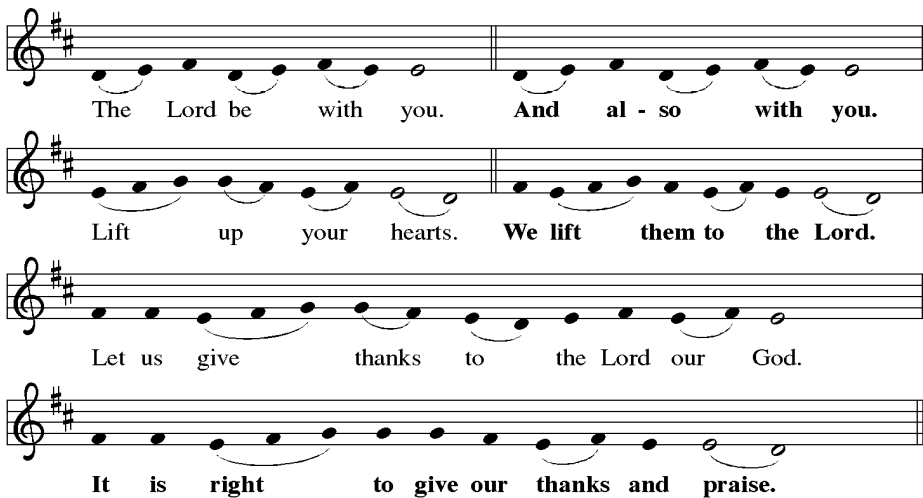
Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray.... Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace.
- Ⓒ **As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Sharing the Peace of God

- Ⓟ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- Ⓒ **And also with you.**
(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Great Thanksgiving



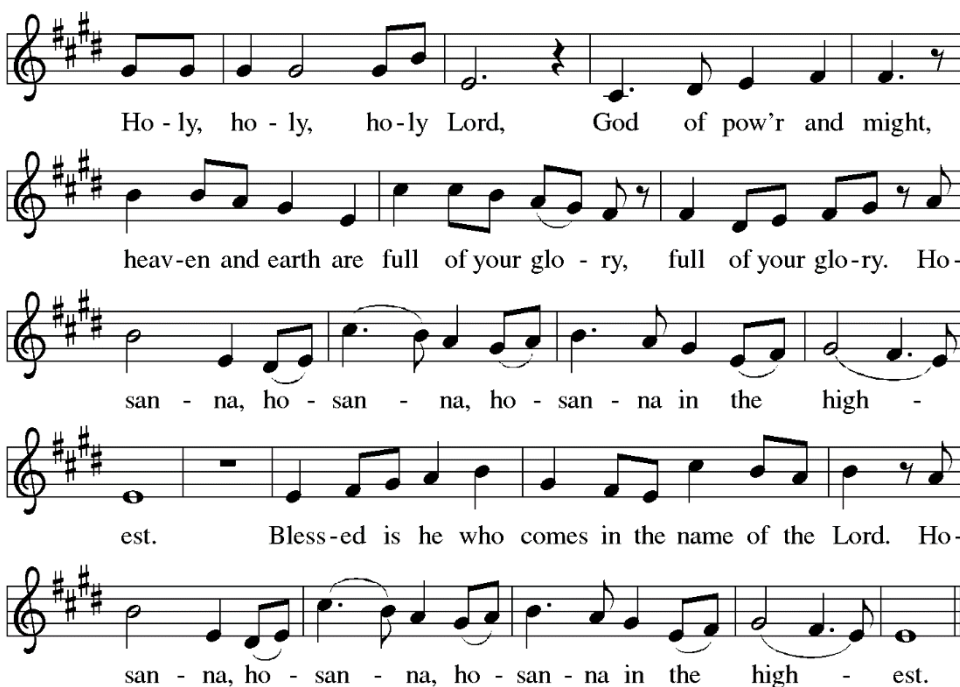
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

- Ⓟ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Table Prayer

- Ⓟ Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
- Ⓞ **Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.**
- Ⓟ Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

- Ⓞ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- ☐ With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
- ☑ **We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- ☐ Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. Let your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.
- ☑ **Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. Come, Holy Spirit.**
- ☐ All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
- ☑ **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- ☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- ☑ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

- ☐ We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Communion at Grace

All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.

- ✠ **Bread** is served by the Pastor. **Wine** is served from a *pouring chalice*. Take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Assisting Minister. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.
- ✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.
- ✠ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.
- ✠ A **Verbal Blessing** may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.
- ✠ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the Pastor.

Communion

Spirit of Gentleness
Eat this Bread

ELW 396

ELW 472

Prayer after Communion

- A** On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us.
G As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

- P** Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
G Amen

Sending Song

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

ELW 445

Dismissal

- A** Go in peace. Be light for the world.
G Thanks be to God.

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Dave Neeb
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Kate Watson
Lector – Bill Freedlund
Cantor – Ken Scheck II
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Fellowship – Watson Family

Baptized and Beloved

It was a relatively common scene: a first-century Palestinian man waiting on the banks of the Jordan River for his turn to be baptized. And yet there was something different about this time, this place, this man. This time God would enter into the waters of God's own creation.

This story gives us a glimpse of how God enters fully into this life with us. God enters into our earthbound, created existence of riverbanks and dusty earth, rushing water and cloud-spotted skies. Jesus enters into our time-bound realities of life and death too, not shying away from the hard parts of being human. In these mysterious waters of baptism, Jesus immerses himself in pain and sin, sickness and death. And then Jesus emerges from the depths into new life—a life rooted in his identity as the Beloved One, the one sent by God to bring all of creation into renewed relationship with God and one another.

Jesus' baptism is just the beginning of his earthly ministry. From here, he will enter the wilderness, call his disciples, preach and teach and heal. He will disrupt the status quo, scandalize the authorities, and challenge his most loyal followers in his mission to offer the world a glimpse of the kingdom of God.

At its core, this is an Epiphany story. It reveals to us who Jesus is: Beloved. Sent by God. The one in whom God is pleased from the very beginning. The one in whom God is made known to the world. And this story reveals to us something else as well. It has the power to remind us who we are, as we too are swept up in these life-giving waters. We too emerge as a new creation made whole in Christ. May we hear God's words to us too: "This is my child the beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Stewardship Information

December 24 & 25
December 31 & January 1

Attendance: 0
Attendance: 58

Views: 256
Views: 280

Weekly Giving: \$8,810.00 Budget Amount: \$4,301.04

December Online Giving: \$10,503.00

Bell Choir: \$300.00

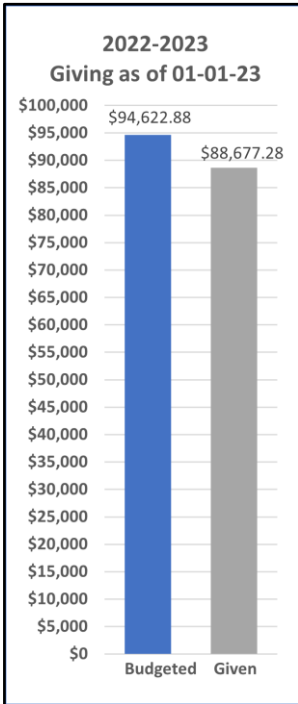
Renew Campaign: \$100.00 (for a total surplus of \$2,277.00)

Lifting Up Campaign Needed: \$25,000.00

Lifting Up Campaign Received: \$ 8,134.35 (December 27th Deposit)

Lifting Up Campaign Received: \$ 1,000.00 (January 3rd Deposit)

TOTAL Outstanding: \$15,865.65



Noisy Offering will be collected today to benefit Barry County Cares. You may place coins and other money into the silver bowl located in the front during the singing of the offertory song ***Come to the Table***. Noisy Offering is taken every second Sunday.

Our first phase of the ***Lifting Up*** campaign will center on replenishing borrowed funds from the shortfall of our budget, as we keep in mind planning for the replacement of the HVAC that services the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your prayerful consideration in joining the Congregation Council in implementing ***Lifting Up***.

Mission Endowment Fund: As you may be aware, Grace Lutheran Church has a Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) and a MEF Committee. The purpose of the MEF is to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of our church. The Committee is tasked with discerning where to distribute up to 90% of the earnings of the MEF. Your suggestions are welcomed for directing where these funds may be best used. Please place your suggestion along with your name in Tim Schoessel's mailbox and it will be reviewed by the MEF Committee when it meets. You may wonder how does the MEF grow. One way the MEF grows is that 10% of the annual earnings are reinvested and become part of the principal. The other way the MEF grows is through receiving bequests, trusts and gifts of cash or assets designated to it. If you have not done so already, please consider when preparing your will or estate plan to give to the MEF.

The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 16-20, 2024, in New Orleans. Please pray that the youth that are part of Grace and our larger community, might consider going to this fantastic experience. The speakers, worship, fellowship, and service opportunities express the Christian body at its' best.

Lifting Up...a Capital Campaign to replenish our borrowed funds and plan for the future

As faithful followers of Christ, we have seen the good and the bad in life. God has equipped us with an abundance. Grace Lutheran Church has been blessed with more financial savings than expenditures. The Holy Spirit has guided us.

Our first phase of the *Lifting Up* campaign will center on replenishing borrowed funds from the shortfall of our budget, as we keep in mind planning for the replacement of the HVAC that services the Fellowship Hall.



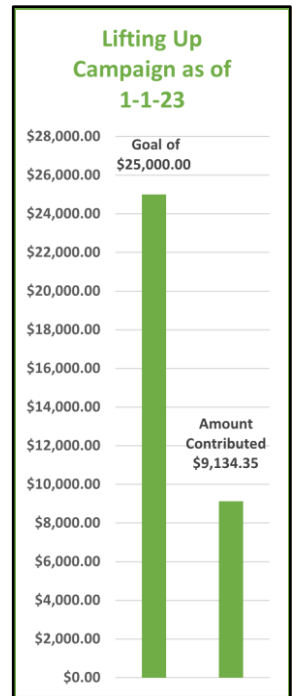
Please prayerfully consider joining us in getting ourselves on a good financial standing. With God’s grace, we will accomplish more than fundraising. We will continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in a strengthened manner. By replenishing our borrowed funds, Grace can do even more in the name of Jesus, because we are not focused on the lack of funds.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration in joining the Congregation Council in implementing *Lifting Up*.

Carol Wagenschutz, Joyce Daugherty’s sister, has designated \$8,134.35 toward our first phase of the Capital Campaign. Our first phase goal is \$25,000.00. We thank Carol for her insight in furthering the mission of Jesus Christ.

Remaining amount needed to raise toward the first phase is \$15,965.65. We are abundantly blessed! Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Pastor Ken Scheck II +



Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you also get a peek at God's GRACE for ALL people.

Adult Forum studies the Psalms in the Gathering Area today at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there!

The nursery is available during the 10:45 worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.

Thank you for all who donated toward the Giving Tree. You can see the abundance of your support for Southeastern Elementary School.

Join us for our Community Potluck on January 29th after the 10:45 worship service. We encourage you to bring Soups, Stews, Homemade Bread, and dessert. Signup sheet is in the Gathering Area.

Devotionals from the Community Outreach Committee **are available in the Gathering Area.**

SAVE THE DATE Saturday, February 25th the Social Activities Committee will host "Pizza and Game Night". Signup and more details to follow in February.