

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 22, 2023

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 22, 2023

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

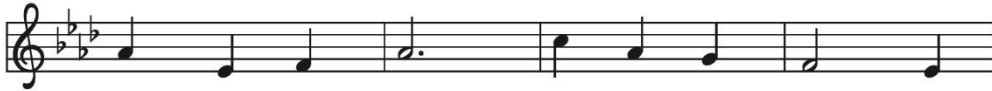
Gathering Music

Welcome

Arise in body or spirit.

Opening Sentences

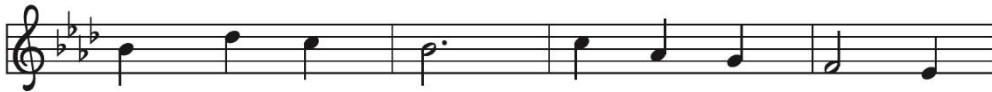
- P** The light of God given, experienced and shared be with you all.
C **And also with you.**
- A** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- P** Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness – on them light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



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Greeting

- ☐ The grace of God that extends to all nations in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- ☐ Let us pray, Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us.
- ☑ **Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

- ☐ A reading from **Isaiah:**

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

- ☐ The Word of the Lord.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 27:1, 4-9



Refrain



The LORD is my light and my sal - va - tion.

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴**One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the
beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up on a rock.

⁶**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and
make music to the LORD.**

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸**My heart speaks your message—“Seek my face.”
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

☒ A reading from **1 Corinthians**:

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

☒ 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 4:12-23

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

☞ The Holy Gospel, according to **Matthew**.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

☞ 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

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798

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 Make your church one in purpose, proclaiming the message of the cross. Help us to work together across differences. Energize ecumenical partnerships, including the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation. Bless the witness of missionaries especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companions Sudanese Christ Lutheran Church, Wyoming; Vermontville Bible Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. Radiant God,

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

A We rejoice at the bounty of your creation. Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere. Equip farmers to till and keep the earth sustainably. Radiant God,

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

A In Christ your reign comes near and calls all to repentance. Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation. Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution. Grant us leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need. 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 Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid. Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, are facing maltreatment, or are isolated and lonely. Especially we pray for *Frances Ann, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Victor Crowder, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Greg Franks, Bill Frutiger, Mike Gibbons, Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Henry Heil, Cheryl Hills, David Hills, Mike Kemper, Norma Ludlow, Kinsley McManaway, Ken Plourde, Annette Poholski, Randy Post, Roy Richards, Cynthia Rudesill (pregnancy), Al Throop, Lindsay Varkula (pregnancy), Maryellen Wammock, and Erika Wood*. Radiant God,

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

A Sustain the ministries of this congregation and all churches in this community. Nurture each congregation's unique witness to your presence; foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors. Radiant God,

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

- Ⓐ 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.

We praise you for the faithful who have gone ahead of us, both famous and unknown. Help us to leave our nets and follow and bring us with them to the fullness of your promise of eternal life. Radiant God,

- ☑ **Let your light shine upon us.**

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

- ☑ **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 . . . God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever.
- ☑ **You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen**

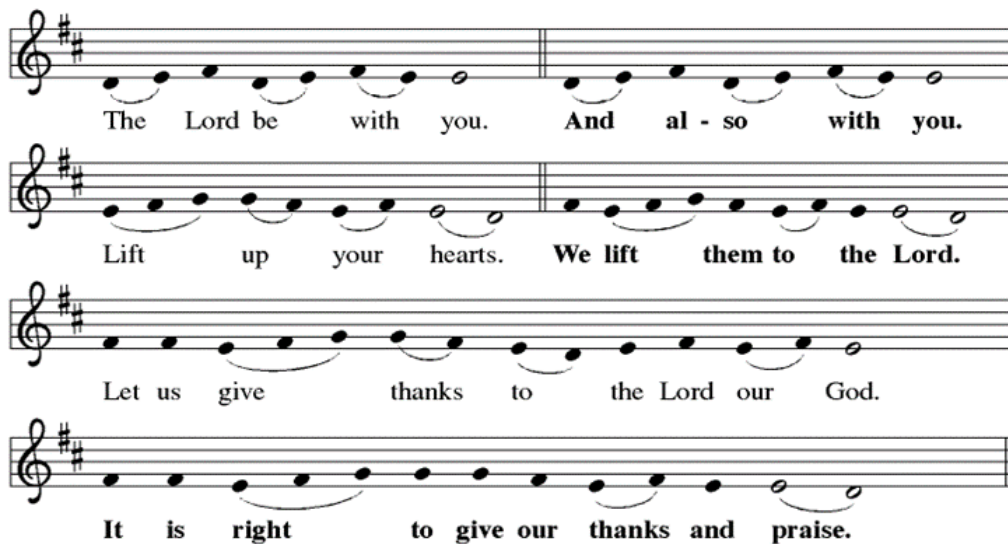
Sharing the Peace of God

☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☑ **And also with you.**

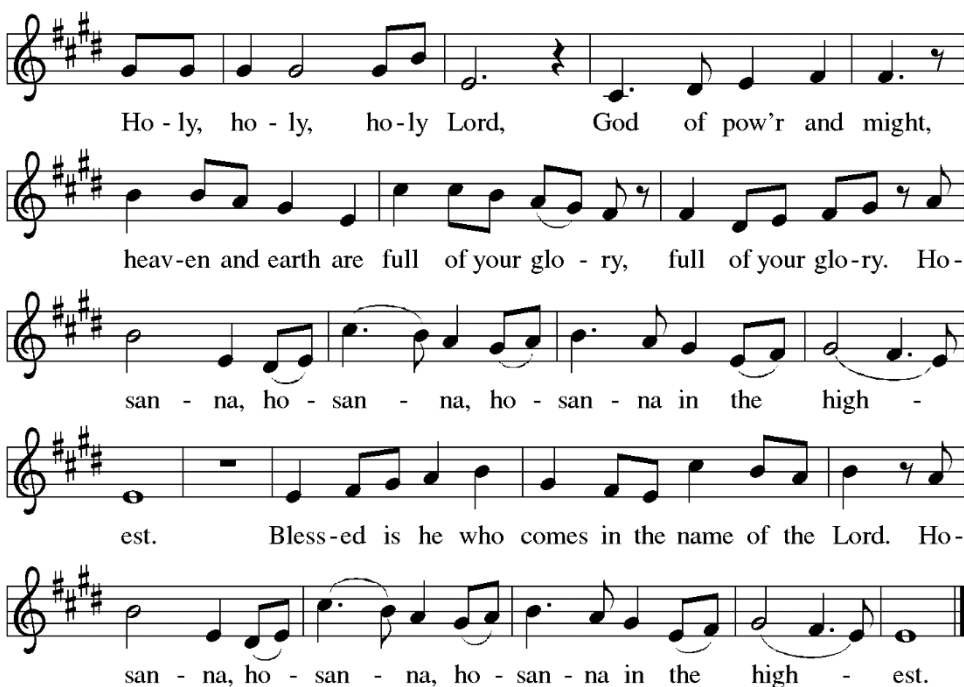
(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And also 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

*I Come with Joy
Here I am, Lord*

ELW 482

ELW 574

Prayer after Communion

- A** O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food.
- G** **You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day — that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

- P** The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.
- G** **Amen**

Sending Song

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715

Dismissal

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

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Chris Bush
Lector – Jamie Heise
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Sandy Mosteller
Cantor – Vickey Argo
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Fellowship – Paul Kuhlman

Worth the Risk

Perhaps Peter, Andrew, James, and John had heard rumors of this wandering preacher Jesus. Maybe they had been growing restless for some time in their lives as fishermen. It's possible they sensed that something was shifting in the world around them. They could have been fed up with the brutality of the Roman Empire and were looking for a leader to bring about change. Maybe they longed for something more, for a better way of living and loving and being. Maybe they were just so taken aback by this invitation to drop everything and follow that they couldn't help but say yes. We don't know their reasons for joining the Jesus movement that day, but there was clearly something so compelling about this kingdom of heaven (Matthew 4:17) that they were willing to drop their nets, risk everything, and not look back.

Perhaps we too hear in the gospel today a renewed invitation to get swept up in this kingdom, a call to drop old ways of being and embrace a life of following Jesus. Maybe this vision of the kingdom catches us when we witness ancient scripture finding new life in our hurting world. Perhaps we glimpse the possibilities of the heavenly kingdom when communities of unlikely people gather to share bread and wine at the same table, and when we see the hungry being fed, the suffering being cared for, the lonely finding welcome, the oppressed finding freedom. Suddenly, we know that this is God at work.

As Jesus reminds us, the kingdom of heaven is not a far-off kingdom. It draws near to us, breaking in around us perhaps in the moments when we least expect it. And when we catch sight of it, we just might never be the same. A world where the sick are healed, the hungry are fed, the outcasts find belonging, and ordinary days are filled with holy purpose? That's a kingdom worth risking everything for.

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Stewardship Information

Attendance: 56	Views: 244
Weekly Giving: \$ 970.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Miscellaneous: \$1,015.00	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Needed: \$15,815.65	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Received: <u>-\$ 100.00</u>	
TOTAL Outstanding: \$15,715.65	

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.

Our first phase of the ***Lifting Up*** campaign of raising \$25,000.00 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***.

2022 Giving Statements will be included in your copy of the February GraceGram. For the month of February, everyone will receive a hard copy of the GraceGram, even if you signed up for it to be delivered via email. If you have any questions about your giving statement for 2022, please contact Brenda. Thank you.

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.

Join us for our Community Potluck next Sunday after the 10:45 worship service. We encourage you to bring Soups, Stews, Homemade Bread, and dessert. Signup sheet is 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.

The youth are going tubing at Cannonsburg Ski on February 25th. Please sign up by Sunday, February 20th. We hope that you are able to come out and enjoy this winter season with friends who are always welcoming and friendly.

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 get to hear God's call for you. May you be open to what God is calling you to do.

Celebrate Recovery Ministry is a Christ-centered ministry that gives people the resources and relationships to help find a new way of living. This ministry is for anyone struggling with past or current hurts, habits, or hang-ups, whether they are affecting their own life, or the lives of those around them. Grace is excited to host a Celebrate Recovery group every Friday evening from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. But before this group can start their important work, they need volunteers.

Celebrate Recovery needs 24 volunteers for one hour per month.

- Door Greeter who also helps people get to where they need to be
- Someone to run sound and computer program
- Set up literature table for participants and hand out pamphlets
- Help set up and take down the dining area including coffee service and clean up

Eventually Celebrate Recovery will need childcare volunteers too.


Anyone with a 12-Step background may help lead any part of the group.


If you are interested in knowing more, or are able to help by volunteering, please contact the Celebrate ministry leaders to leave a message at 269.391.3080, or you can join them any Friday night at 6:00 p.m. Training will be given by the Celebrate Recovery ministry for those who are interested. You can also visit the website at www.celebraterecovery.com.

Grace Lutheran Church looks forward in helping Celebrate Recovery ministry get off the ground and looks forward to having them reach out and help those in need from our community.

Look for notices on the following news outlets

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER
Closing will be published by the following media outlets:

Television WOOD TV 8 WWMT TV 3 WXSP TV WOTV 4		Radio WBCH 100.1 FM WBCK 95.3 FM MIX 104.9 FM
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