

Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 12, 2023

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering 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

Sing Out, Earth and Skies

W&P 126

Leader All



1 Come, O God of all the earth: come to us, O
2 Come, O God of wind and flame: fill the earth with
3 Come, O God of flash - ing light: twin - kling star and
4 Come, O God of snow and rain: show - er down up -
5 Come, O Jus - tice, come, O Peace: come and shape our

Leader



Righ - teous One; come, and bring our love to birth:
righ - teous - ness; teach us all to sing your name:
burn - ing sun; God of day and God of night:
on the earth; come, O God of joy and pain:
hearts a - new; come and make op - pres - sion cease:



in the glo - ry of your Son.
may our lives your love con - fess.
in your light we all are one.
God of sor - row, God of mirth.
bring us all to life in you.



Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who



loves you! Raise your joy - ful cries!



Dance to the life a - round you!

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

- ☐ O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you.
- ☑ **Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

The Lord sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the Lord. Life in God's presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.

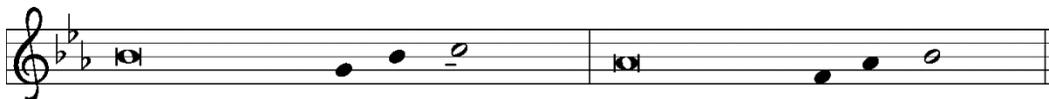
- ☐ A reading from **Deuteronomy:**

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

☒ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:1-8



☑ Refrain



Hap - py are they who fol - low the teach - ing of the LORD.

¹Happy are they whose way is blameless,
who follow the teaching of the LORD!

**²Happy are they who observe your decrees
and seek you with all their hearts,**

³who never do any wrong,
but always walk in your ways.

**⁴You laid down your commandments,
that we should fully keep them. ☒**

⁵Oh, that my ways were made so direct
that I might keep your statutes!

**⁶Then I should not be put to shame,
when I regard all your commandments.**

⁷I will thank you with a true heart,
when I have learned your righteous judgments.

**⁸I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me. ☒**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are coworkers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.

📖 A reading from **1 Corinthians**:

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

ELW 512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:21-37

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.

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

☩ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

▣ 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

God, When Human Bonds are Broken

ELW 603

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

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

A brief silence.

Ⓐ Inspire your church that it may be a sign of life throughout the world. From the exploration of faith with children and new believers to missionaries and bishops, shape lives of faithfulness, so that all find abundant life in your ways especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companions Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Alpena; Woodgrove Brethren Christian Parish, Woodland; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Radiant God,

☑ **Let your light shine upon us.**

Ⓐ Nourish your creation. Accompany all who plant and water. Bless the work of farmers; provide for subsistence farmers facing drought and climate change. Guide the work of agricultural scientists toward sustainable ways to feed the world. Radiant God,

☑ **Let your light shine upon us.**

Ⓐ Give growth where there seems to be no hope for life. In nations and regions where reconciliation seems impossible, empower peacemakers with your Spirit. Where death holds sway through violence, disease, and hunger, equip relief workers to bring hope. 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,

☑ **Let your light shine upon us.**

Ⓐ Nurture all in need. Bring healing to all who experience trauma caused by systems of injustice and destructive relationships. Give courage to those struggling to repent and those seeking reconciliation. Sustain all who work for restoration. Watch over and care for all of those in

need especially *Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Cherie Clements, Victor Crowder, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Henry Heil, Cheryl Hills, David Hills, Katie Holzgen (pregnancy), Mike Kemper, Norma Ludlow, Alexis Markwart, Kinsley McManaway, Walter McManaway, Ken Plourde, Annette Poholski, Cynthia Rudesill (pregnancy), Jane Secor, Bob Sills, Theresa Strefling, Al Throop, Maryellen Wammock, The Family of Jan Wander, Erika Wood, and Kathy.* Radiant God,

☞ Let your light shine upon us.

A Encourage this congregation. Call us to a common purpose and keep us from quarrelling. Turn our hearts toward you and guide our leaders, so that our choices may be lifegiving for all. Radiant God,

☞ 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.

Thanks be to you for the lives of all who have died in Christ. Teach us to follow them in your ways and gather us with them into the promise of eternal life with you. Radiant God,

☞ 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.

☞ Amen.

Arise in body or spirit.

Offertory

We Are an Offering

ELW 692

We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voice-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

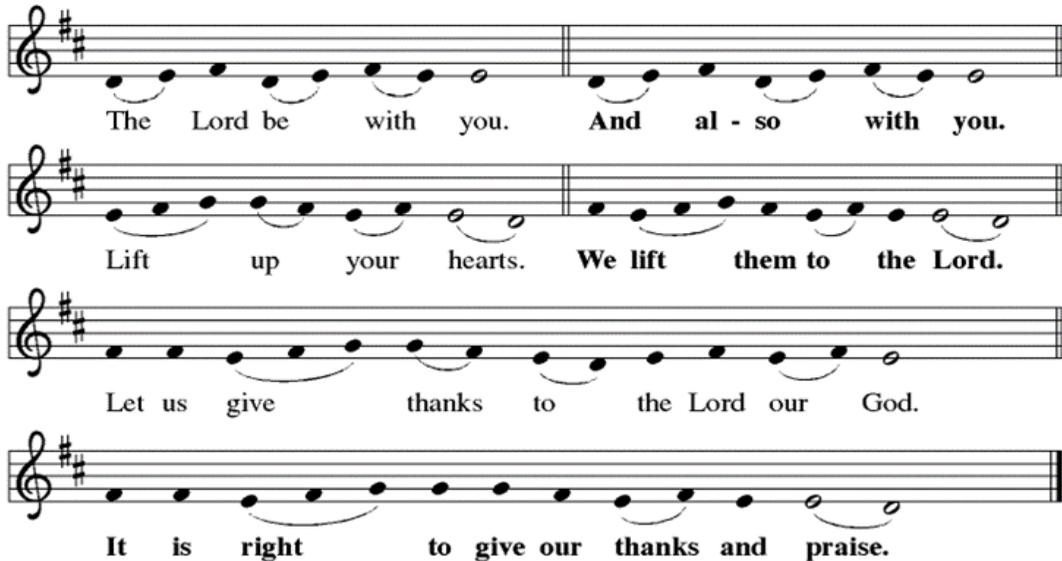
Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ 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 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:

You Are Holy

ELW Page 525



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
 You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
 than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
 Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
 to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
 You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
 you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
 Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
 Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

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

*One Bread, One Body
Healer of Our Every Ill*

**ELW 496
ELW 612**

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food.
- ☑ **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

- Ⓟ 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.
- ☑ **Amen**

Sending Song

Drawn to the Light

ELW 593

Dismissal

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

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin
Lector – Mark Anton
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Kate Watson
Lector – Jack Vos
Cantor – Vickey Argo
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Fellowship – Watson Family

A New Community

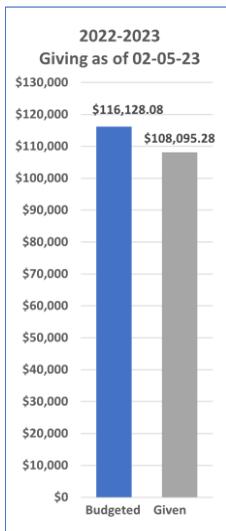
Anyone who has ever lived or worked with other humans likely knows that community is messy. We hurt each other, sometimes intentionally but often by accident. We say things we regret. We stay silent when we should speak up, or we impose our own beliefs on others when we should start by listening instead. We act rashly out of fear or ignorance or exhaustion. We trample over one another in an attempt to achieve, to win, to earn, or to protect what we assume is rightfully ours.

Jesus knows this side of humanity, and today he invites us to imagine another way. Today's gospel sounds harsh to our ears, but it might actually be an invitation into a community that looks more like the kingdom of God: a community of radical inclusivity, compassion, and care for one another. In this type of community, no one can be simply thrown aside or left behind. Honesty and integrity are the foundation of communication. People are seen in their full, beloved humanity, not as objects to be consumed or cast aside for the sake of others.

In our world today, we might wonder if such a community is possible, but in worship, we get to practice living in a community of faith together every week. Through the reading of scripture, we are reminded of the larger story of God in which we find our meaning: a living story of love, grace, and mercy. We confess our sins before one another and receive forgiveness and a fresh start. We are given our identity as God's beloved through baptism, and we are fed with Christ's own body and united with one another in holy communion. It is Christ at work in us who makes true healing and reconciliation possible, both in our congregations and throughout the world.

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Stewardship Information



Attendance: 52

Views: 228

Weekly Giving: \$4,805.00

Budget Amount: \$4,301.04

Helping Hands: \$360.00

Lifting Up Campaign Needed: \$15,265.65

Lifting Up Campaign Received: -\$150.00

TOTAL Outstanding: \$15,115.65

Ash Wednesday is a week from this Wednesday. Join us for a meal beginning at 6:30 and WORSHIP at 7:15. Sign up sheet will be posted next week for this meal. If you cannot sign up, please call the office at 269.945.9414, or email parishadmin@grace-hastings.org.

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. Noisy Offering is taken every second Sunday.

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. If you are interested in knowing more, please call 269.391.3080.

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.

Pizza and Game Night on Saturday, February 25th. We begin with eating some pizza at 5:00 pm. If you do not want pizza, arrive at 5:30 for some games. There is a sign up sheet so that we can have enough pizza for everyone.

The youth are going tubing at Cannonsburg Ski on February 25th. Please sign up by Sunday, February 19th. We hope that you are able to come out and enjoy this winter season with friends who are always welcoming and friendly. Arrive at church by 12:45 or meet up at Cannonsburg at 1:30. Tubing starts at 2:00 followed by Pizza at church at 5:00 p.m.

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.

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 how we are to be reconciled with one another. Let us live in love.

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*.

Save the Date – March 18th You are invited to see *The Wizard of Oz* at Hastings Performing Arts Center at Hastings High School. Tickets are \$12.50 each. More details to follow.

Lenten devotionals entitled *The JOY of SALVATION* are available in the Gathering Area thanks to the Community Outreach Committee.

Pasty Sale will be on April 1st. No foolin'! Unbaked are \$7.00 and Baked are \$8.00 each. Proceeds go to the **Helping Hands** fund.

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 12th, 2023. Don't forget to spring your clocks forward.

Mission Endowment Fund Unfortunately, with the downward trend, our Mission Endowment Fund lost money this year so there will be no disbursements made.

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	NEWSCHANNEL 3 www.wwmt.com	WBCK 95.3 WBCK 95.3 FM MIX 104.9 FM	Radio WBCH 100.1 FM WBCK 95.3 FM MIX 104.9 FM
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wood 8 **wotv4** **mix 104.9** **WBCK**

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