



MAY 2023 GRACEGRAM

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

Earth, Earth,
Awake!

Winter is past;
the night is gone!

Christ's light,
triumphant,
brings the dawn!

Creation spread
its spring-time
bloom!

Life bursts like
flame
from death's
cold tomb!

~ Herman
Stuempfle



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

When the Passover Feast, celebrated each spring by the Jews, was about to take place, Jesus traveled up to Jerusalem. John 2:13

Happy Lent!!!!

What do you mean "Happy Lent?" **Lent**, the word for our liturgical season just before Easter, literally means "spring." It's a shortened form of *lencten*, an Old English word for "spring season." I'd imagined that *Lent* would have meant "sorrow" or at least "meditation," given that we clean our spiritual houses in preparation for Easter joy.

But no, Lent literally means "spring," smacking not of obligatory gloominess but rather of opportunity. As we think about this I hope that all of us can understand that Lent is an opportunity for us to be renewed during these days of spring.

I was surprised this spring to have four different cranes visit our lake already this season. The energy they showed in catching fish or almost catching fish has been amazing. Each crane has exhibited a clear mission and focus in their hunting for fish. They are fishing so that they can survive!

We have struggled a bit with our mission here at Grace Lutheran Church, since the pandemic. It feels like we are just surviving. One of the key focuses at Grace Lutheran Church when I first came was a willingness to share in ministry together. Grace is a place I saw the people of God working together. Grace has a rich tradition of working together to meet the demands that we and our community face in life. I am hoping during these **happy days of Lent (Spring)** that we can have a clear mission that attracts others to experience the joy and love of caring for one another that has been harmed during the pandemic. We have grown not to trust one another or depend on the Holy Spirit. I have seen an attitude of me, myself and mine. I am hopeful that we can grow back into caring for one another again.

When we are clear about who we are called to be and what our community of faith is called to do in this world, we become focused in such a way that we can't help but be part of that community of faith and to invite others into that mission.

It is time for spring cleaning! Let's get rid of the old cob webs and distrust in our lives. **Spring (Lent)** is an opportunity to renew our callings and our passions so that others might clearly see our mission in Christ and join in that work. Let us focus on loving one another and taking care of each other in the name of Christ.

Blessed Lent. Blessed spring.

Pastor Ken +

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

*The Deadline for the
June GraceGram is
May 17, 2023.
Send your articles to
Brenda Hess at:
parishadmin@grace-
hastings.org*



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who prayed for me and my eye condition. Prayers worked as I knew they would. My eye sight has been corrected. Prayer warriors are the best.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Maryellen Wammock



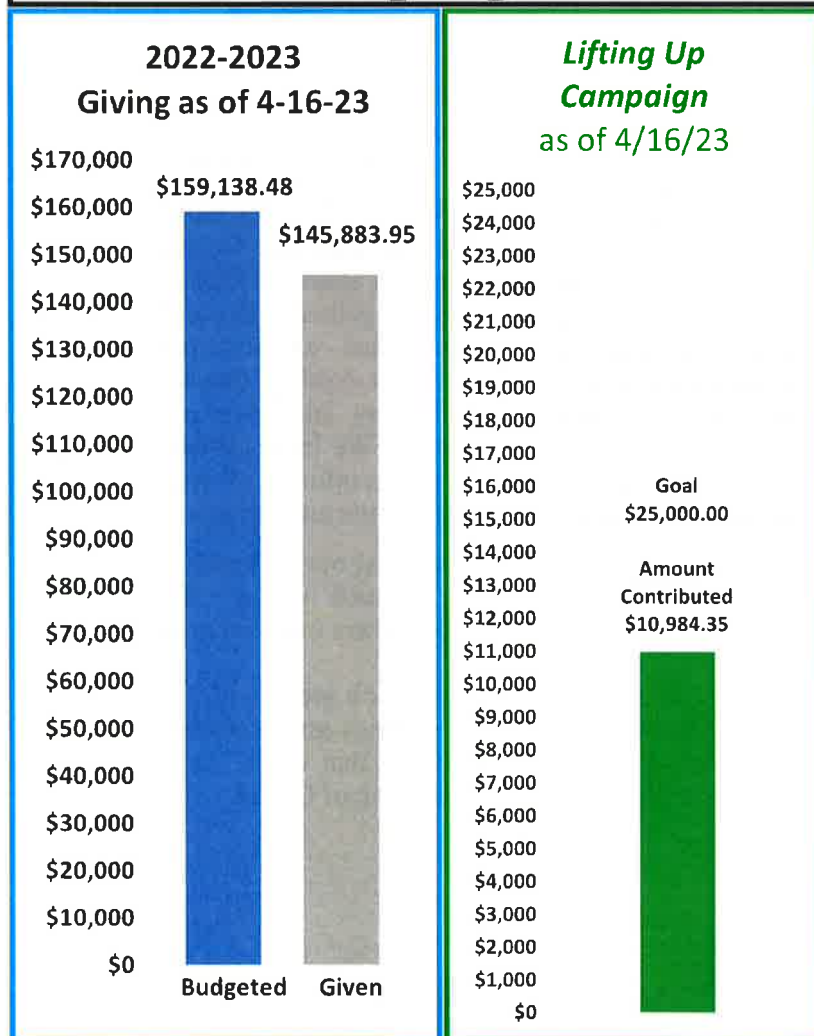
Lorie Gladyness

will receive her degree posthumously from Southern Seminary on May 10. Her mother, Marilyn Curtis, will be receiving it on her behalf. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Mortgage for Grace Lutheran Church is \$9,175.63 as of 4/10/23

Payments are set at \$1,234.00 per month

Please use this QR Code to access secure online giving.



Thornapple Players presents



Tickets: \$10.00 — Adults

\$8.00 — Senior Citizens and Students

May 7 at 2:00 pm

Dennison Performing Arts Center
231 South Broadway Street
Hastings, Michigan

Sign-up at the Gathering Area. Please use cash for this event, as Thornapple Players do not accept credit card payment.

Flower Sale

If you would like to purchase flowers, please fill out and return the slip below with your payment of \$6.00 per plant. Order forms are available in the bulletin.

Flowers will be available for pickup on Saturday, May 13. Don't forget to buy mom a flower!

Orders are due on Wednesday, May 10 to the office.



Sun Patients
(full sun to part shade)

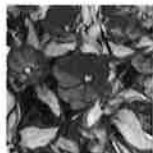
Spring Flower Sale

Geraniums
(full sun to light shade)

TROPICAL ROSE ELECTRIC ORANGE

\$6.00 each

RED GERANIUM WHITE GERANIUM



Number of
TROPICAL ROSE

Number of
ELECTRIC ORANGE

Number of
RED GERANIUM

Number of
WHITE GERANIUM

ROSE

LILAC

PINK BIG EYE GERANIUM



Number of
ROSE

Number of
LILAC

Number of
PINK GERANIUM

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Please write the number of plants you want of each type of flower. Color match is not guaranteed. Each plant is \$6.00. Mail order form back to church. 239 East North Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058 Thank you for supporting the youth at Grace Lutheran Church. Due May 10, 2023. Pick-up Saturday, May 13th.

Shirley Beck and Carolyn O'Conner send their thanks for the Easter plants sent by the congregation. They were greatly appreciated.



"I am pleased to share the good news that Pastor Christina Bright accepted Synod Council's call to serve as Assistant to the Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. We will install Pastor Bright in this office at Closing Eucharist at Synod Assembly. Pastor Bright will complete her ministry as pastor of New Life Lutheran Church of Alcona County in June. After vacation, transition, and orientation, Pastor Bright will be available to the Synod on July 17".



I hope you had an opportunity to hear the Temple Talk from, visit with, Tina Horrigan of Barry County Cares on 4/23. Our Outreach Committee Chair, Mike Kemper, will be giving a Temple Talk on 4/30, and we'll hear from David Gilman from maritas (LSSM) on 5/7. These Temple Talks allow us to refl help these ministries do their work. The financial support of th to keep the lights on, pay the staff, and show God's love here yond.



and

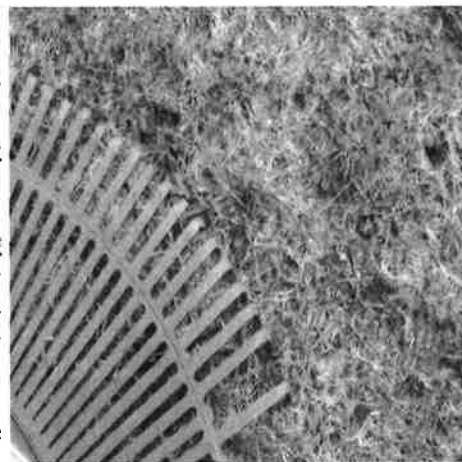
Sa-

I also hope that, as you reflect on what your offering accomplishes, you consider how you want to grow in your faith journey at Grace. Perhaps you feel you can increase your pledge by a certain percentage or monetary amount. On 5/21, we will have Commitment Sunday, where we'll take a moment to fill out our pledge forms for the 2023-24 year. This information will help the Stewardship Committee to balance anticipated income with the budget requests our administration and ministries have submitted. In early June, the Committee will have a draft budget available for review and will host some question-and-answer sessions between services.

Another way to grow in your faith journey is to complete a Time and Talents survey, either on paper or online, during the month of May. Perhaps you've been thinking about taking on a different ministry or expanding your role in something you already do here at Grace. You might even have an idea for a completely new ministry, something we haven't tried yet. Prayerfully review the survey form and complete it for your family so that we can get volunteer lists put together for our ministry leaders. We are so thankful for the love and service the Grace family has in its heart!

The Property Committee invites you to assist with cleaning up the brush pile next to the pole barn, cleaning up around the parking lot, and mulching the brush pile on **Friday, May 12 beginning at 1:00 p.m.**

On Saturday, May 13th following the flower sale pick up, there will be a mulching around the building party. We need your help placing mulch in the church flower beds.



Your help is greatly appreciated with these tasks. Thank you so much!



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

Pasty Sale

The spring 2023 pasty sale earner a total of \$1,216.26 for the Helping Hands program.

Thank you to all for purchasing delicious pasties.



ELCA World Hunger

Thank you to everyone for your support of the ELCA Hunger campaign! We raised \$500 during our Lenten Wednesday meals. Thank you for your donations to this important ministry.



Thank you!

EASTER PLANT SALE A SUCCESS!

A big thank you to congregation members who purchased lilies, daffodils, hyacinths, and tulips during our plant sale. Thank you for providing beautiful donations to our homebound members. In addition, many were taken home with people after adorning the sanctuary during Holy Week!

Thank you to...

- ♦ Jeanette Markwart
- ♦ Kay Marsh
- ♦ Karen Halstad
- ♦ Linda Maupin
- ♦ Jeanette Rogge
- ♦ Mary and Paul Ruhlman
- ♦ Jack and Carol Vos
- ♦ Jeanette Ulrich
- ♦ Jamie and David Heisz
- ♦ Vicki and Scott Tzbo



Annual Church Picnic

You are cordially invited to the Annual Church Cookout on June 4th after second service at The Poholski home.

Please bring lawn chair and dish to pass.

Address: 6810 Highlandview Dr., Middleville.

Pray for a beautiful sunny afternoon.



Pinwheels for the Prevention of Child Abuse— March 30

You might have noticed the pinwheels in front of the Grace sign. On March 30 Pastor Ken, Linda Maupin and special friends came and “planted” pinwheels to call attention to child abuse in our community.



We are PREPARED TO BE . . .

Bell Choir Nomination

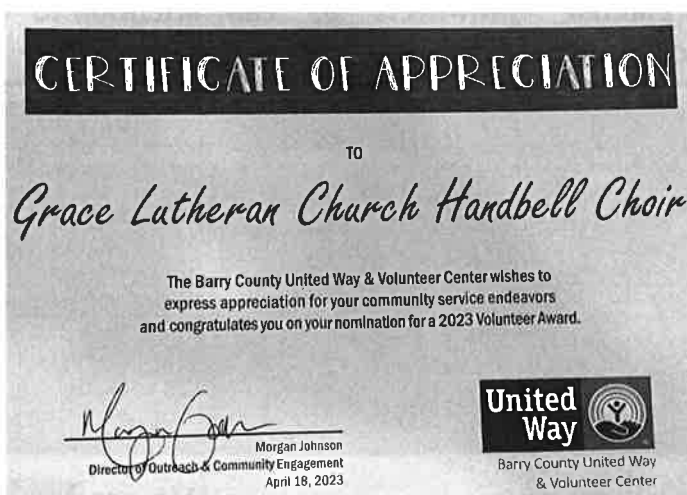
The Grace Lutheran Church Handbell Choirs were nominated for the 2023 Barry County Volunteer of the Year Group Award. Below is the language from the nomination write-up:

"I (Chris Bush) nominate the Grace Lutheran Church Handbell Choirs for the 2023 Barry County Volunteer of the Year Group Award. These bands, or 'choirs,' are known as Clapper Kids and Grace Notes. Each choir is multi-generational, with Clapper Kids consisting of about eight youth, usually starting around 2nd or 3rd grade, but also including a few adults in their 70s and 80s, and Grace Notes consisting of up to 14 adults of varying ages, including some youth ringers who have graduated from the Clapper Kids group. This shows you are never too old for music and never too young to start. Choir members are from all over the area: Delton, Dowling, Hastings, Lake Odessa, Middleville, Nashville, and Plainwell. Not everyone in these handbell choirs has a musical background, however some play another instrument, many are singers, and some even play in other handbell choirs. As the director's 'sales pitch' goes, 'If you can count to 4, you can ring bells!' (Ringers also use color-coding and symbols to learn the music.)

"The Grace Notes handbell choir has been ringing for about 25 years, while the Clapper Kids started about 20 years ago. Each person has their own motivation for wanting to ring: they've played bells before and missed it; ringing handbells is different than playing an instrument by yourself and creates more sound; there is a joy in the handbell community, in these local choirs but also at handbell festivals; they cannot sing, so playing an instrument allows them to be musical; many find a fun challenge in learning and playing the music; and one ringer, a self-professed heavy-metal fan, wanted to try something new. Friendships are formed and fellowship shared among choir members; it is soul-engaging and mind-engaging – a physical, mental, and spiritual workout.

"These handbell choirs serve more than those who worship at Grace Lutheran Church. They are also an outreach ministry, bringing their music to nursing homes, the COA, libraries, the Hastings Jingle Mingle, and Music by the Fountain. They will bring along rhythm instruments and have audience members play and/or sing with them. During rehearsals, they are using the church building when it's normally unused, showing that the building can be used for a purpose other than church services. Ringers might put an average of two hours a week for rehearsals, though some come in on their own, or bring music home, to mark music and practice further. They also spend time and energy fundraising to grow the music library, maintain instruments, and expand inventory (hand chimes, bell trees, gloves, lighting, stands, etc.). Their gift of making music with these special instruments truly benefits all who hear them."

While the Grace handbell choirs ultimately were not chosen to win the award, they did receive a Certificate of Appreciation. There are a number of people and groups in Barry County who work to make a difference in people's lives. Thank you to all of these volunteers and especially to the Grace Notes and Clapper Kids for making a difference!

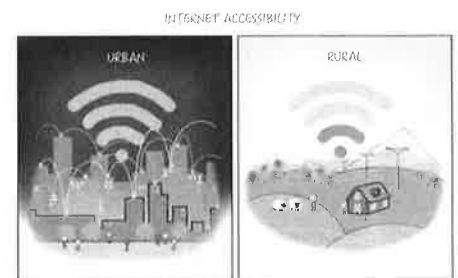


MI Connected Future Your Input Needed!

During Covid, did you or your child have to work or learn remotely? Did you have to confer with your healthcare provider via telemed appointments? Even outside of Covid, do you use the internet to shop online, for gaming, or to stream movies and shows? How's that internet connection working for you?

The Michigan High-speed Internet (MIHI) Office recently held a community meeting in Hastings (one stop out of 30 statewide) to gather public opinion and input to work toward expanding quality broadband access to areas in the state that need it. Grace member Chris Bush attended that meeting and learned that, the better the state understands the internet needs of our communities, the stronger their case will be to obtain a good portion of federal monies allocated to improve internet access in areas that currently have spotty, poor, or no service. The MIHI Office is providing materials so people can host their own meetings with their communities and groups and return more specific information about their area's needs.

Chris Bush is willing to moderate a meeting at Grace for people – our members and our neighbors - to discuss what they feel are priorities for their internet needs. **Please consider attending SATURDAY, MAY 20 from 10:00 until Noon.** Light snacks and beverages will be provided. We can learn a lot from each other, and work toward social justice and equity, as we help the state generate its Digital Equity Plan.



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

MAY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Grace Office Hours Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 May Day 	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Executive 6:30 pm Flute Choir 6:00-8:30pm	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 National Day Of Prayer  Bells 2:00-5:00 pm		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:45 <i>In-person and Online worship</i> SAC to see <i>Into the Woods</i> 2:00 pm	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Congregational Care 3:00 Social Activities 4:30 Outreach 5:30	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Brothers of Grace 7 pm	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Bells 2:00-5:00 pm		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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 Council 6:30 pm Flute Choir 6:00-8:30pm	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Ascension of Our Lord  Bells 2:00-5:00 pm		Armed Forces Day 
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Bells 2:00-5:00 pm		
28	29	30	31			
Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:45 Pentecost 	Office Closed Memorial Day 	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Flute Choir 6:00-8:30pm				

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 Road Hastings, MI 49058
Wes Gillons	Thornapple Manor
Opal Gillons	Thornapple Manor
Elsie Merrow	Woodlawn Meadows 1825 East Street Hastings, MI 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, Virginia)

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

Nephew and Godson of Ed and Kim Domke
Seth Domke (Pensacola, Florida)



BIRTHDAYS

Sharon Varcula	05/03
Sandra Mikolajczyk	05/05
Cheryl Drumm	05/09
Kay Howell	05/13
Todd Pontius	05/15
Russ Trongo	05/17
Molly Rosenberger	05/23
Myles Rosenberger	05/23
Angela Pruitt	05/24
Ann Bolton	05/24
Tim Schoessel	05/28



ANNIVERSARIES

Bill and Lorraine Freedlund	05/22
John and Teresa Burdick	05/24
Todd and Tina Pontius	05/30



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

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)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:00 am and 10:45 am

Worship also online:

www.grace-hastings.org

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



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Discover
Grace