



# SEPTEMBER 2023 GRACEGRAM

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

Christ lives

oh, the bliss of  
this glorious  
thought

my sin  
not in part  
but the whole

is nailed  
to his cross  
and I bear it  
no more.

Praise the Lord,  
praise the Lord,  
O my soul!

by  
Horatio G. Spafford

**Deadline for the  
October GraceGram is  
September 17, 2023.**  
Send your articles to  
Brenda Hess at:  
[parishadmin@grace-hastings.org](mailto:parishadmin@grace-hastings.org)



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

### Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

*Romans 8:39*

I have been blessed to be your pastor for almost 6 years. Grace Lutheran Church has been a place where the GRACE of God has been lived out. Of course God's grace has not always been lived out every single moment. As pastor, I have witnessed some harsh words and actions played out. But none compare to a time I was at Zion, Canton, Ohio.

A member stood up and made a motion at the annual meeting to remove gay members from the staff. At the time there were three such members of the staff. Ken (yes, that was his name) did not get anyone to second his motion. Damage was done.

Ken left the church. I had a chance to talk with him. I shared with Ken Romans chapter eight. Our discussion centered around how Jesus reconciled all of us even those whose sin seemed unforgivable. After about an hour of discussion, I asked him, "Do you believe that gay people are not reconciled to God through Jesus Christ?" He answered, "Of course God has accepted them and loves them. But it is too late. I can never go back to Zion." I told him he was welcome anytime. Ken did eventually come back. He continued to bake cookies and give them to the children. Ken was known as the cookie guy. It was a hard and difficult time for the congregation, but RECONCILIATION was far more important than pride or hurt feelings.

Some of you might be questioning, "Why are you telling such a story?" Because something like that has happened here at Grace. When I authorized an ad that welcomed the queer community, some members in the congregation reacted in a negative manner. I remind us all that we are all sinners, and yet by the grace of God, we are forgiven, loved and welcomed. No sin is able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Let us be welcoming and inviting as the Lutherans up at the Escanaba State Fair, who welcomed the Wales along with all sorts of people. Lutherans have welcomed slaves to live as equals, women to be pastors, youth to be leaders, the disabled to work in the church and the queer community to live as members who receive God's grace, forgiveness, mercy and complete acceptance. Let us live reconciled one unto another through the power of our awesome God.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Ken +*



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





# Barry County Relay For Life

**Date: Saturday, September 16, 2023**

**Location:** Tyden Park in Hastings

**Time: 10:00a.m. - 10:00p.m.**



Cancer has touched all of us in some way, and we want to stop this disease in its tracks. We'll spend time in August fundraising for the American Cancer Society. On the day of the event, September 16, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., we will celebrate survivors and support the caregivers who so selflessly help others, with a special lap and dinner. At 9:00 p.m., we remember loved ones lost to cancer, honor those in treatment, and celebrate survivors by dedicating LUMINARIA BAGS. Each Luminaria bag is personalized with a name and or message and illuminated after dark at every Relay For Life event. White bags are available at Grace Lutheran all of August and at the event. Luminaria will can be decorate as you wish, or have someone decorate for you. Each luminaria bag is \$10 and will be available at Grace through September 5th. Please put money in an envelope marked "RELAY FOR LIFE".

Together, Grace will be a part of making a difference in this important cause. You may decide to walk 1 hour... 2... 5.... or ALL 12 hours of the event...any amount of involvement will fill you with HOPE. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space.

During the event there are special laps you won't want to miss...

- 5:00 p.m.- Survivor Ceremony, Dinner, and Celebration Lap
- 9:00 p.m.- Luminaria ~ lighted, silent lap

There are Live and Silent Auctions. Teams are asked to bring (1) live auction item \$50 value or more and can provide as many silent auction items as they would like. Donations will go to their team totals! Please let Kim Domke/Amy Poholski know if you have items you would like to donate and we can make a basket for the auction.

Relay for Life is always FREE for all to participate. Registration is requested but not required.



The Outreach Committee is participating in the Hand2Hand Program which provides food over the weekend to students and their families. Currently 55 students at Northeastern Elementary and Hastings High School are served by this program. We are collecting donations and you can help by donating Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk, pudding cups, Slim Jims, granola bars, individual size instant oatmeal, ramen noodles, and ready- to-eat mac and cheese. Please place all donations in the box at the front entrance. Donations are due by August 25 and will be packed at Green Street Methodist on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

# Thank you!

Dear Grace,

Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU for the prayers, cards, and well wishes as I went to war with cancer again. It is so good to know many have my back in this fight. The leukemia was not 100% wiped out, but we hope we'll see that happen after this next round of treatment. Lots of appointments, but they should all be outpatient, meaning I won't have to be in the hospital for another six weeks! Thank you for your continued prayers.

With love,  
Chris Bush



**Welcome Our 2023-2024  
Committee Members-**

**Executive Committee:**

President: *Tim Schoessel*  
Vice President: *Vickey Argo*  
Secretary: *Lisa Pohl*  
Treasurer: *Linda Maupin*

**Church Council  
Members/Liaisons:**

*Vickey Argo (Congregational Care)*  
*Doug Neeb (Property)*  
*Patti Comp (Outreach)*  
*Jamie Heise (Youth & Family)*  
*Bill Freedlund (Social Activities)*  
*Greg Franks (Stewardship)*  
*Deborah Wilke (Small Groups)*  
*Kate Watson (Worship)*  
*Mark Anton ("Free Agent")*



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

8:00 am and 10:45 am

Worship also

On line:

[www.grace-hastings.org](http://www.grace-hastings.org)

**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**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](mailto:kscheckii@aol.com)

Cindy Olson, *Minister of Music*

Brenda Hess, *Parish Administrator*  
**Mon-Thurs 9AM - 1PM**  
[parishadmin@grace-hastings.org](mailto:parishadmin@grace-hastings.org)

Kim Domke, *Bell Choir Director*  
[kdomke08@gmail.com](mailto:kdomke08@gmail.com)

Aurora Collins, *Nursery*

Nathan Freedlund, *Custodian*

**Grace Lutheran Church**

239 E. North Street  
Hastings, MI 49058



**Website:**

[www.grace-hastings.org](http://www.grace-hastings.org)

**Facebook:**

Grace Lutheran Church— ELCA  
Hastings, MI

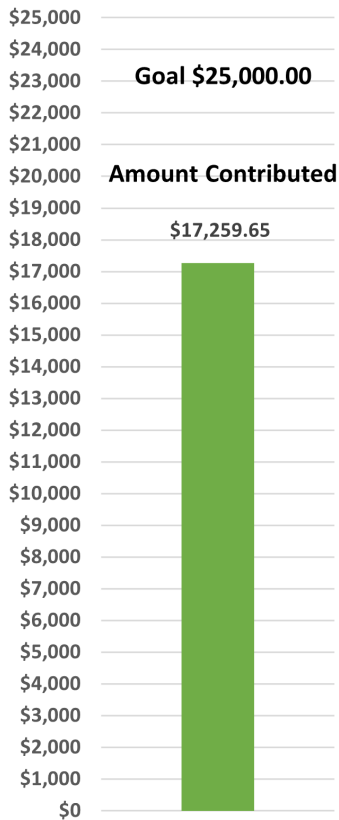
**Phone:**

269-945-9414  
269-945-2645

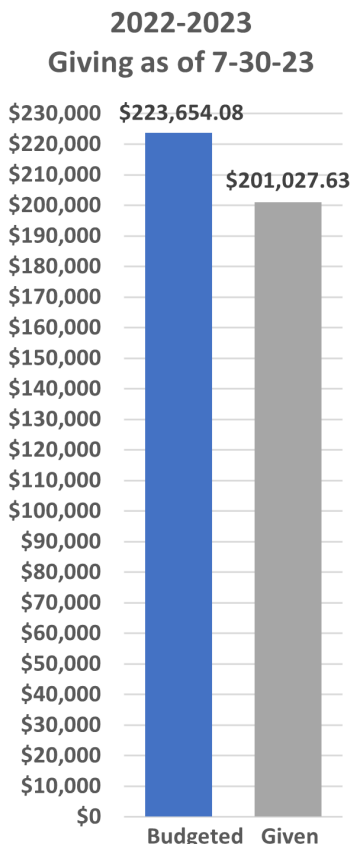
PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



## Lifting Up Campaign As of 8-13-2023



## Final Giving for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year



Please use this QR  
Code to access  
secure online giving.



*Mortgage for Grace Lutheran Church is*

*\$5,675.47*

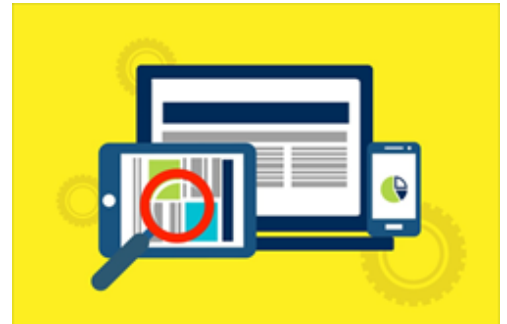
*Payments are set at \$1,234.00 per month*

## Grace Website — An Update

Work continues on the Grace website. Broken links are being repaired and replaced while outdated photos and information are being replaced with new. If you have photos we can use on the website, please send them to Brenda at parishadmin@grace-hastings.org.

As part of our website service from Pixelvine, we receive an update regarding traffic to our website. Here are our statistics from 2022...

- We had 2002 visits, just over 166 visits per month, 6 visits per day
- 9373 pages viewed
- 2 minutes 21 seconds was the average time spent on our website by visitors
- 693 visits came from mobile devices, and 1,272 visits were from a desktop, and 40 visits were from tablets



## Save the Date: Trunk-or-Treat Tuesday, October 31!



We are PREPARED TO BE...





## Congregational Care Meeting

The Congregational Care Committee will meet

Monday, September 11  
at 3:00 p.m. If you have

questions, please contact Sharon Varkula.



## Supplying Books for School Students

A reminder that the Community Outreach Committee is planning to once again receive donations that will be given to Shayna Gibbons to purchase *Scholastic Books* for students in her class at SE Elementary School. While some parents may be able and willing to purchase a book for their child once a month, others are not able. Our donations will relieve some of the students from the embarrassment of being “too poor” to get a book. The cost/book is \$2.50 and Shayna will have 25 students. Thus, our goal for this outreach project will be \$550 this year. Donations may be made using a pew envelope and indicating “Books for Students” on the outside. Checks may be made payable to Grace Lutheran Church. Thank you for your generosity.



## Email Scams from Bishop Satterlee

We received this message from the Bishop's office. Always remember, if you get emails from anywhere asking you for money, or for your personal information, make sure you verify that it is a legitimate request. **If you ever receive a questionable email from Grace, please call the office right away.**

“We've received reports of people fraudulent emails from Bishop Satterlee asking them to contact him “discreetly.” Ultimately, these emails ask people to send money or gift cards. **These emails are not from Bishop Satterlee.** Bishop Satterlee and the Synod Staff will not contact you in this way. Please **do not** respond to these emails or send any money or gift cards.

This type of email scam is prevalent in church communities. In this scam, people pretending to be someone you know send an email asking for help and for you to send them gift cards or wire them money. If you receive one of these emails, **do not** respond to the email or send any personal information, money, or gift cards.

We have additional resources on email spoofing, email scams, and internet security on our website. We invite you to learn more about email scams and how to best protect yourself and your information online.”



## Brother of Grace September Gathering on a New Day and Time

A reminder that the Brothers of Grace have moved their meetings to the 2nd Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be **Thursday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m.** We hope you can join us.



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

## Grace Lutheran Church's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show and Outdoor Service

Each year we have offered the Auto Show at Grace, we have increased the number of participants showing their classic cars. This year on Sunday, July 30 we had 40 participants, an increase of 5 from last year. One new participant drove in all the way in from Grand Ledge. Besides the classic automobiles that were shown we also enjoyed a wonderful outdoor worship service, organized by the Worship Committee, with lively worship music provided by the Watson family, Kristi Winick, Carla Neal, and a string quartet. A marvelous BBQ meal, organized and prepared by the Social Activities Committee, was also enjoyed by all. Special "thanks" is given to Philip Maass, area Thrivent representative, for helping the Brothers of Grace prepare homemade brats for the BBQ this year. The Auto Show events have always been a joint effort of the Outreach, Worship and Social Activities committees with dozens of volunteers helping pull it off each year – "thanks" to all. Attached are some photos taken of this year's event.



### 10:00 Worship Service on October 29

Bells are ringing, worship style similar to outdoor service, and meal to follow. Look for more detail to come for this Fifth Sunday celebration.



### Save the Date Heritage Meal October 29



On that day bring your ethnic background to share and celebrate. You can do this by bringing a food of your choice to our community meal.

There will be no regular fellowship time directly following the service (with cookies and coffee) as the meal will replace our regular time with this special meal.

If you 'd rather not bring your grandma's famous, but not delicious, tuna casserole, please feel free to bring a dish of your own choosing.

We look forward to sampling the wonderful variety of dishes shared by our wonderful church family.

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 Road Hastings, MI 49058
Wes Gillons Opal Gillons	Thornapple Manor 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)



★ **HAPPY** ★  
**BIRTHDAY!**

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mary Thompson	09/01
Deb Watson	9/03
Shirley Beck	09/07
Stephen Wales	09/11
Steve Kogge	09/14
Donna Buehl	09/15
Gavin Patton	09/16
Grayson Patton	09/16
Rob Pohl	09/22
Gabriel Barnaart	09/23
Mark Anton	09/24
Linda Melcher	09/25
Lexie Watson	09/26
Matt Markwart	09/30






### **It's Back to School Time!**

We pray for all students, teachers, support personnel, administrators, and families as the 2023-2024 school year begins. May your schools be safe places filled with love.



# SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>Grace Office Hours</b> <b>Monday-Thursday</b> <b>9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.</b>						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>Worship Services:</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:45</b>  <i>In-person and Online worship</i>	Office Closed <b>LABOR DAY</b>  	Pastor's office hours 10am-12  <b>Executive</b> <b>6:30 pm</b>  Flute Choir 6:00-8:30	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Worship Services:</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:45</b>  <i>In-person and Online worship</i>	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 <b>Patriot Day</b>   <b>Congregational Care</b> <b>3:00 pm</b> <b>Social Activities</b> <b>4:30 pm</b> <b>Outreach 5:30 pm</b>	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12  <b><u>NOTE NEW DAY AND TIME</u></b> <b>Brothers of Grace</b> <b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Relay For Life at Tyden Park</b> <b>10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.</b>  	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>Worship Services:</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:45</b>  <i>In-person and Online worship</i>	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12  <b>Council</b> <b>6:30 pm</b>  Flute Choir 6:00-8:30	Pastor's office hours 10am-12  Bells 3:00-6:00	Pastor's office hours 10am-12		<b>Autumn Begins</b>  
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>Worship Services:</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:45</b>  <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  Bells 3:00-6:00	Pastor's office hours 10am-12		