



OCTOBER 2023 GRACEGRAM

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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Be courageous. Be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13b-14

As a church, the ELCA is committed to listen to each other and to engage in difficult conversations with humility and respect. We are empowered to be community in this brave space of GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH because of our faith in the God who sustains us through these challenges, changes, and difficult conversations.

Every human being is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 9:6). Every human being is of infinite value to God (Psalm 8:3-5, Matthew 6:26-30). Therefore every human being is worthy of respect and will be treated with respect in this faith community.

Because every human being is made in the image of God, Lutherans believe that other people – especially those who are different from us – broaden our understanding of who God is.

As a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Grace Lutheran Church welcomes all people who are willing to be part of our faith community. One way we talk about this at Grace Church is to say that we are “rooted in our tradition and open to sharing God’s grace.”

As an expression of the belief that every human being is made in the image of God, I sense that we try to honor people’s differing views. Because God transcends human understanding and expression, I have been blessed to witness an expansive language for God. Expansive language includes language and imagery that is not limited to the human. The Scriptures are full of such imagery, e.g., God as rock, fortress, and shield (Psalm 18:2), God as bird (Isaiah 31:5), God as fountain of living water (Jeremiah 2:13, 17:13). Expanding the language we use for God honors the magnitude of who God is and challenges and broadens our understandings and experience of God.

Loving with you,
Pastor Ken +

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



Some names for

God:

Alpha & Omega

Emmanuel

*Wonderful
Counselor*

Lord of Light

Prince of Peace

Nurturing God

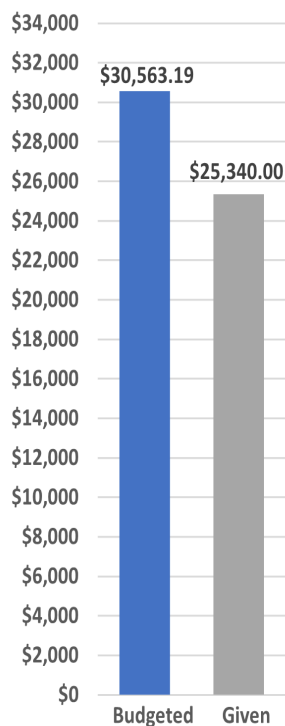
Savior

Compassionate One

**Deadline for the
November GraceGram
is October 17, 2023.**

Send your articles to:
Brenda Hess
parishadmin@grace-hastings.org

2023-2024 Giving as of 9-17-23



Mark your
calendars!

**Brothers of Grace Annual
Christmas Dinner Night Out**
will be on Thursday,
December 14 at 6:00 p.m.
This year we are celebrating
at Yankee Bills on M179.

All Saints Day

If you have someone you would like
to add to the list for All Saints Day,
please sign them up on the
list in the Gathering Area
by Sunday, October 16, or
email to Brenda at
parishadmin@grace-hastings.org.



Funeral Meal Coordinator Needed Your help is needed if you have
interest in being a volunteer funeral meal coordinator. A funeral meal
coordinator arranges and works with volunteers who wish to provide a
lunch or dessert for funerals based on family
requests. If you are interested and would like to
work with other volunteers to provide this service
to our congregation, please contact the church
office or a social activities committee member.



Hand to Hand

The Outreach Committee invites you to help the Hand2Hand Program.
We are collecting donations of Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk, pudding cups,
Slim Jims, granola bars, individual size instant oatmeal, ramen noodles,
and ready-to-eat mac and cheese. Check the
bulletin board in the Gathering Area for October's
additional needed items. Please place all
donations in the box at the front entrance.



Please use this QR Code
to access online giving.



Thank you to the Property Committee

The Property Committee has been busy with many projects lately. You probably already know
about the roof replacement and the new HVAC system in the Fellowship Hall. But did you know
about these other projects...

The threshold in the Sanctuary's emergency exit has been replaced with new concrete.
New lighting has been installed in several areas of the building.

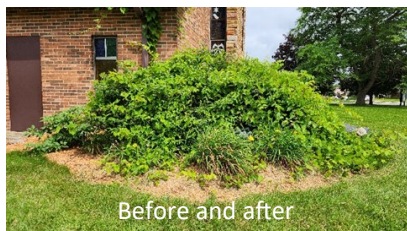
Trees have been trimmed, along with dead branches removed.

The parking lot has been lined and new directional arrows have been added.

The area behind the Pole Barn had dead trees or dying trees removed.

Flower beds have been weeded or had grapevines removed, along with trimmed bushes.

Thanks to Doug Neeb and the rest of the Property Committee. We appreciate the care you are
giving to the building.



Before and after



Grapevines were removed



Dying Pinetree



removed

Thanks Property Committee!

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

Trunk-or-Treat

Tuesday, October 31 5:00 - 8:00 PM

The Community Outreach Committee is once again planning to invite children and their parents from the Hastings area to stop by for some “treats” on Halloween evening this month. We expect a large turnout once again so many volunteers will be needed to host treat rooms, serve apple cider, donate bags of candy and greet all the little ghosts and goblins who stop by. Volunteer sign-up sheets are being posted on the gathering room bulletin board.

We will ask room hosts to gather at the church around 4:00 PM to decorate your room and we will open our doors from 5 – 8 PM for the Treat-or-Treaters. Thank you in advance to our members for the generous support you have always shown for this annual activity.



HVAC Update

As you know, we have fully funded a new HVAC system for the Fellowship Hall. The Congregation Council has voted to have a fundraiser to replenish the funds we raised. Much like the roof deductible, we are seeking to make sure we have funds for any future property needs. The cost of the HVAC was \$25,252. We appreciate any contributions toward this need of caring for our building.



Barry County CROP Hunger Walk Sunday, October 8—1:30 p.m. At the Middleville United Methodist Church

Since 1947, Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty have had the goal of ending hunger...locally and worldwide. Where do the donations for CROP Walk go? 25% stays in Barry County to help in 5 locations:

- Barry County Cares
- Green Street UMC Food Pantry
- Good Food For Freeport
- Maple Valley Community Center of Hope (Nashville)
- Middleville UMC Food Bank
- 75% goes all around the world through an organization called Church World Services.
- CROP Hunger Walk helps families find food security, sources for clean water, provides tools and seeds for farming, and provides small business startup costs so they can become independent.



For more information and materials, please see Mike Kemper.

Pocket Prayer Shawls

Thank you for providing a generous supply! I'll let you know how they work out as our team uses them with their caregiving in coming weeks.

Please pass along a thank you to the people who did such a nice job of creating the pocket prayer shawls, and providing the note of encouragement in each envelope. Very nicely done!

Jeff Meyer
Chaplain, Corwell Health

We are thankful to Deb Watson who made the Pocket Prayer Shawls, Chris Bush who brought the need forward, Brenda Hess for stuffing the envelopes and Pastor Ken for getting them delivered to Butterworth Hospital.

Praise the Lord!



Please join us for the 2nd Annual

Heritage Meal Sunday, October 29, 2023

immediately following the combined
10:00 a.m. church service.

A signup sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

Be sure to sign up for attendance purposes – you are not required to bring any food, but the more we have the happier we will all be! (You know how we all love food.)

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

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



OUR
MISSION

Saved by Grace.
Called to Worship.
Sent to Serve.

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*

OUR MINISTERS:
THE PEOPLE OF GOD

- Martin Luther

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E. North Street
Hastings, MI 49058

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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.

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)



BIRTHDAYS

Melissa Patton	10/02
Victoria Steadman	10/08
Ron Neil	10/09
Brenda Teegardin	10/09
Matt Mikolajczyk	10/09
Carla Neil	10/10
Ed Domke	10/10
Joe Varkula	10/16
Kristi Winick	10/16
Pastor Ken	10/19
MacKenzie Maupin	10/19
Connor Wales	10/27
Larry Maupin	10/31



ANNIVERSARIES

Tom and Cheryl Drumm	10/06
Joe Longcor and Vickey Argo	10/23
Gary and Lisa Golnek	10/28

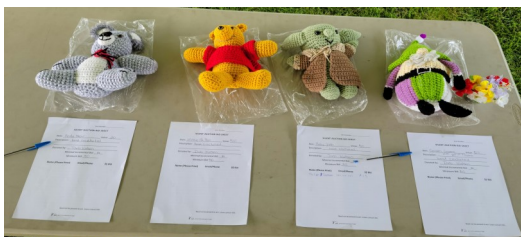
Relay for Life Update

Thank you to everyone who walked or donated to Relay For Life. Grace raised \$600 with luminaries, donations, pop can returns, and items in the silent auction. It was good to have new walkers this year from Grace and to gather with survivors during the special lap and survivor's dinner.

This is a great event to gather with our community to honor and remember loved ones and take action for lifesaving change in the fight against cancer. Your donations help the ACS continue to...

1. Fund vital cancer research. Did you know that as the largest private nonprofit funder of cancer research, ACS has invested more than \$5 billion since 1946? ACS works to be there for scientists to support them as they keep great research going to take their ideas from dream to reality.
2. Provide support and trusted information through their 24-hour helpline at 1.800.227.2345 or via video chat at cancer.org. Nearly 1.4 millions calls were answered last year.
3. Increase equal access to care. ACS wants to make sure EVERYONE has the ability to benefit from advances in research, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. All people deserve a fair and just opportunity to prevent, find, treat, and survive cancer.

Today, over 18 million cancer survivors are alive because of the generous gifts of people like you. These dollars invested through the ACS have contributed to a 31% drop in the cancer death rate in the US since 1991, translating into 3.2 million fewer cancer deaths. Thank you, again, for your donation and for supporting the lifesaving work of the American Cancer Society.



2024 Calendars

God's Creation Calendars are available for \$5.00. They can be an outreach you share with relatives, neighbors, coworkers, friends, teachers, the homebound and caregivers...anyone you think who would have their day brightened by this lovely calendar with its inspiring Bible verses. They are provided at a low cost to purchase and share, and are not a fundraiser. Pick up your calendars in the Gathering Area and pay in the envelopes provided. Envelopes can be placed in the offering plate, or on the parish administrator's desk. Thanks for supporting this ministry.



Congregational Care

The Congregational Care Committee is looking for Shepherds. If you are interested, please contact Sharon Varkula, or your Shepherd for more details on how to join this important group.



Save the Date
PASTY SALE!
Saturday November 4,
Details and Sign-Up soon.

*Mortgage for Grace Lutheran Church is
\$3,143.38
Payments are set at \$1,234.00 per month*

"Books for Kids"

We had a very successful Books for Kids Campaign again this year! We raised \$590 for Shayna Gibbon's classroom at Southeast Elementary School. We thank the Outreach Committee for leading this event and thanks to everyone for your generous donations to our young readers.



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OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:45 <i>In-person, and Online worship</i> LACS 3:00	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Executive 6:30 Flutes 6:00-8:30	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Bells 3:00-6:00		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:45 CROP Walk 1:30 <i>In-person, and Online worship</i>	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Social Activities 4:30 Outreach 5:30	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Bells 3:00-6:00 Brothers of Grace 6:00		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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 Deadline for November GraceGram Articles	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Pastor Ken's Birthday  Bells 3:00-6:00		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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 Flutes 6:00-8:30	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 Bells 3:00-6:00		
29	30	31	Grace Office Hours Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.			
Combined Worship Service and Heritage Meal 10:00 a.m. 	Pastor's office hours 10am-12	Pastor's office hours 10am-12 TRUNK OR TREAT 5:00-8:00 				