



DECEMBER 2023 GRACEGRAM

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

The Good News

My soul proclaims
your greatness, Lord;
I will sing
my Savior's praise!

You looked upon
my lowliness,
and I am full of grace.

Now every land
and every age
this blessing
shall proclaim —

Great wonders
you have done
for me, and
HOLY is your name.

Mary mother of Jesus

**Deadline for the
January GraceGram is
December 17, 2023.**

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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations.

Matthew 24:14

Have you heard the Good News?

The mortgage is paid off!

Have you heard the Good News?

The HVAC is paid off!

Have you heard the Good News?

JESUS has died for us!

Have you heard the Good News?

We get to worship JESUS more!

On the first three Wednesdays in December we gather at 6:15 p.m. for a meal and a 7:15 p.m. worship opportunity. We hope you can join us for this time of praise and thanksgiving for the gift of Jesus who takes away our sins.

Pastor Ken +

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

2023 TRUNK-OR-TREAT RECAP

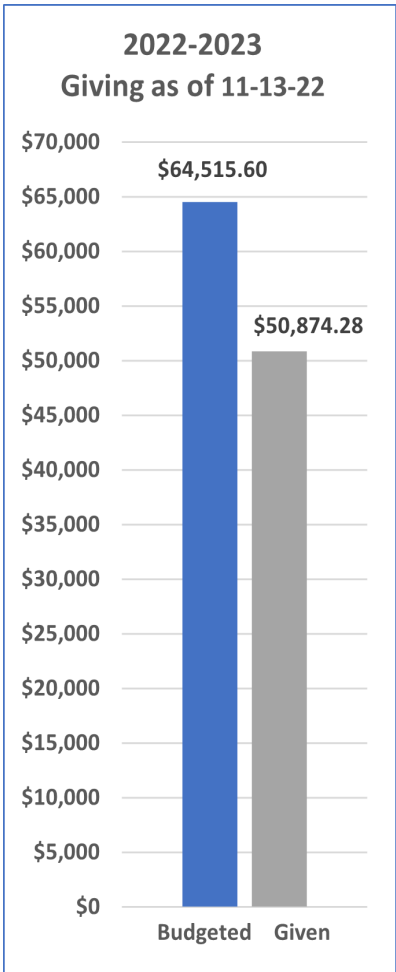
Thanks to everyone who came out and celebrated Trunk-or-Treat! We had 479 guests and a great time was had by all. Thanks to everyone who donated candy and came to help pass it all out.



Keep 'em Safe
For Goodness sakes!

A small change has taken place for security reasons. My office door is always open (however for security reasons only) it is now locked during office hours. This is being done, so that Brenda is secure in the office. If someone would come into the building, she can lock the door leading into the main office. This allows her a safe place where an intruder cannot get to her. Just a small step to have a safer work environment.

-Pastor Ken



Please use this QR Code
to access online giving.



***Mortgage for
Grace Lutheran
Church is Paid
OFF!***

**Adopt-a-Family
Christmas gifts
for children**

We will be adopting 5 families again this year. Watch for the donation board to be posted in the Gathering Area. Take a reminder tag for one of the gifts you would like to donate for one of the children in a family. Instruction sheets will be available on the board for wrapping, identifying, and returning your gift. Plan to return your donation by **Sunday, Dec. 17th**.

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



Advent Devotionals are available in the Gathering Area. This year our devotionals focus on the LIGHT of GRACE. Welcoming God's amazing gift of Christ.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Lorraine Freedlund and Virginia Henion for stepping up and volunteering to be money counters. We appreciate your partnership in keeping our finances in order as many hands does indeed make light work. Thank you also to Deborah Wilke who provided training. We appreciate all of you!



Thank you from Green Street UMC For Hand2Hand Donations

November 4, 2023

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

Many students are blessed by your generous food donations. Thank you for your giving heart, and for making a difference in the lives of many students.

Our hope is that the food bags offer a sense of relief throughout the school year, in addition, life spirits. We believe that each student we serve is precious and loved, and we hope the bags help them feel that way as well.

Kids thrive on the consistency of a weekend bag! It takes away the mental toll of worrying and wondering when they will get their next meal.

Thank you for supporting healthy bodies and minds through Hand2Hand Weekend Food for Kids!

Blessings,
Andi Schmidt,
Hand2Hand Coordinator



**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.



Christmas Cards to Shut-Ins

If you would like to send a Christmas card or note to our shut-in friends, you can find their names and addresses are included in this GraceGram.



Caroling to Our Homebound Friends

Join us December 16
at 1:00 pm

Let us bring some
Christmas cheer!



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

Child Care Provided

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

Website:

www.grace-hastings.org

Facebook:

Grace Lutheran Church-
ELCA Hastings, MI

Phone:

269-945-9414

269-945-2645

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.





Secret Santa

The reveal of your Secret Santa will take place on Sunday, December 10 at the Jesus Birthday party following the 10:45 Service.

Hand 2 Hand

The Outreach Committee invites you to help the Hand2Hand Program which provides food over the weekend to students in need in Hastings schools. The number of students being served recently increased from 66 to 71. 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. In addition, November items are as follows, microwave popcorn, individual fruit cups, Knorr pasta sides, and canned chicken noodle soup. Please place all donations in the box at the front entrance. **This month's donations are due on November 27.**

If you would like additional information regarding this program, please visit <https://h2hkids.org>



Christmas Eve Worship

Combined 10:00 a.m. Service and 7:00 Evening Service

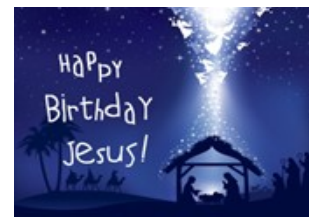


You are cordially invited to the Lakewood Area Choral Society Christmas Concert

On December 17th at 3:00 p.m. at The First Presbyterian Church located at 405 Highway M-37.



Happy Birthday Jesus Party
Jesus's Birthday Party will take place on **Sunday, December 10** following the 10:45 service. A meal will be provided.



Celebrating the Saints of God among us forever.

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)

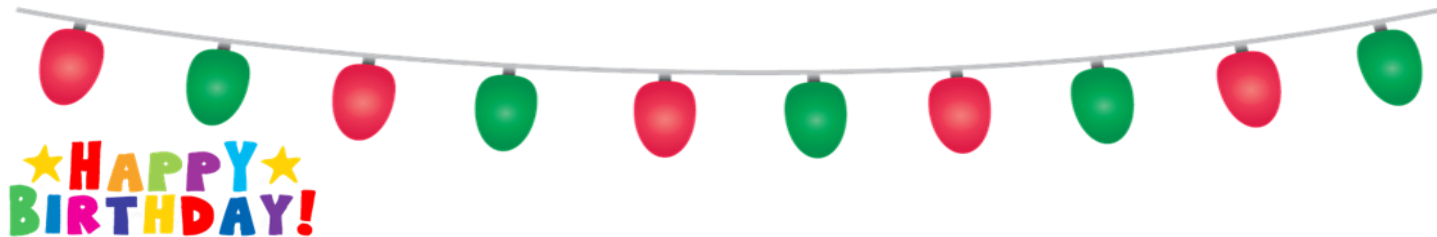
Daughter & son-in-law of Cherie Clements
Myrina & Cody Crawford

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 (Cherry Point, North Carolina)



BIRTHDAYS

Myrina Crawford	12/01
Ed Markwart	12/01
Traci Wales	12/01
Sandy Mosteller	12/06
Elnora Beckwith	12/11
Dave Neeb	12/11
Carolyn O'Connor	12/13
Cheri Clements	12/20
Jeanette Kogge	12/20
Bill Freedlund	12/20
Brenda Hess	12/20
Corrina Palmer	12/22
Jesus	12/25
Gary Golnek	12/28
Karen Halstead	12/28
Deborah Wilke	12/31



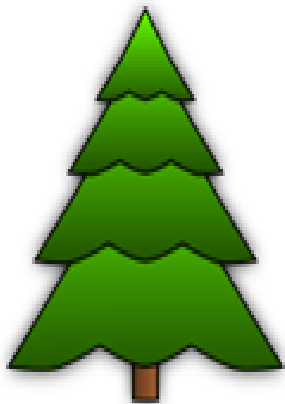
ANNIVERSARIES

12/16 George and Phyllis Lietz
12/20 Robert and Sharon Bolton

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

2023 Giving Tree

We will be setting up the Giving Tree in the Gathering Area once again. This year we will again be gathering items for donation to the **Alpha Women's Center and Family Promise of Barry County**. Tags with suggested donations will be hanging on the tree for you take with you as a reminder. Please do not wrap these donations so the organizations can easily identify each donation. **Donations can be received through the end of December.**



We thank you in advance for the generous spirit you have always shown for these Christmas projects. We hope to make this Christmas time a bit brighter for many others in our Hastings community once again. Blessings to you all from the Grace Community Outreach Committee.

Adopt-A-Family Christmas Food Baskets

We will be gathering Christmas dinner food baskets for each of the 5 families we are adopting. A sign-up sheet for grocery donations will be posted on the Gathering Area bulletin board. If you are able, **please bring boxes for our use in delivering the food baskets. We will need 15-20 boxes.** Boxes can be left in the Sunday School room set aside for receiving the gift and food basket donations. **Donations received by Sunday, Dec. 17th.**



Blood Drive

Thank you to everyone who supported our blood drive, especially our volunteers.

THANK YOU!



**American
Red Cross**

Wednesdays in Advent

This year we will be celebrating the Advent season by gathering on Wednesday evenings on December 6th, 13th, and 20th. Wednesday Advent meals will take place in the Fellowship Hall starting at 6:15. The worship service will follow beginning at 7:15 in the Sanctuary. We hope you can join us.

Pasty Sale



Thank you to everyone for supporting our Pasty Sale on November 4. Thanks especially to all of those who helped prepare the pasties and helped on the day of the sale. We appreciate you.

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



December 2023

Sunday **Monday** **Tuesday** **Wednesday** **Thursday** **Friday** **Saturday**

Grace Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
269.945.9414

1

2

3
Worship Services:
8:00 & 10:45
In-person and Online Worship

4 Pastor's Office Hours 10 - 12

5 Pastor's Office Hours 10 - 12
Women of Faith 11:00
Executive Committee 6:30
Flutes 6:00-8:30

6 Pastor's Office Hours 10 - 12

6:15 Meal
7:15 Advent Mid-Week Service

7 Pastor's Office Hours 10 - 12

8

9
Social Activities Committee
10:00

10
Jesus's Birthday Party & Secret Santa Reveal
Worship Services:
8:00 & 10:45
In-person and Online Worship

11 Pastor's Office Hours 10 - 12
Outreach 5:30

12 Pastor's Office Hours 10 - 12
Women of Faith 11:00
Council 6:00

13 Pastor's Office Hours 10 - 12

6:15 Meal
7:15 Advent Mid-Week Service

14 Pastor's Office Hours 10 - 12
Brothers of Grace 6:00 @ Yankee Bill's

15

16
Caroling to Shut Ins
1:00

17
Worship Services:
8:00 & 10:45
In-person and Online Worship

Deadline for January GraceGram

18 Pastor's Office Hours 10 - 12

19 Pastor's Office Hours 10 - 12
Women of Faith 11:00

20 Pastor's Office Hours 10 - 12

6:15 Meal
7:15 Advent Mid-Week Service

21 Pastor's Office Hours 10 - 12

22

23

24
Worship Service:
10:00
In-person and Online Worship
Christmas Eve Service 7:00

25
Christmas Day

26

27 Pastor's Office Hours 10 - 12

28 Pastor's Office Hours 10 - 12

29

30

31
Worship Service:
10:00
In-person and Online Worship
New Year's Eve



Notes:

Advent Mid-Week Meal & Service
Wednesday the 6th, 13th, and 20th - Meal at 6:15 and Service at 7:15
Combined 10:00 a.m. Services on Sunday the 24th and 31st.
Christmas Eve - Service at 7:00 pm