



# JANUARY 2024 GRACEGRAM

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

## Love Has Come

Love has come  
and never will  
leave us!

Love is life  
everlasting  
and free.

Love is Jesus  
within and  
among us.

Love is the  
peace our hearts  
are seeking.

LOVE!  
LOVE!

Love is the gift  
of Christmas.

LOVE!  
LOVE!

Praise to you,  
God on high!

~ Ken Bible



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent a Son, born of a woman, born under the law . . .*

**Galatians 4:4**

We know that Jesus was born to a young Jewish woman living in Palestine under Roman rule. We celebrate the past birth of Jesus. We also recognize that Christ comes to us today in the Word and sacrament of God, as we too anticipate the future coming of Christ in glory. Jesus first came to us, so that God could show us love. Via Jesus, we now receive God's presence through the body and blood of Christ. And through Jesus' Holy Spirit we are lead into newness of life.



We Christians believe that God's love revealed in Jesus will never leave us. For Jesus came so that we might have life. We do not need to work for that love. God's love is free. Love is a gift at Christmas, but it is more than a Christmas present. God's love, given through Jesus, gives us salvation, because Jesus was willing to die on the cross for us. As we celebrate Jesus' birth each year, let us also celebrate what happened on Good Friday.

It doesn't seem possible but less than two months from now is Valentine's Day. We know Valentine's is a time that we celebrate love. This Valentine's Day is also Ash Wednesday. How weird is that? We have God's gift born at Christmas celebrated also on a secular holiday. Let us know this love fully and come into God's presence with joy.

With a loving heart,

*Pastor Ken +*



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

*Deadline for the  
February GraceGram is  
January 17, 2024.*

*Send your articles to  
Brenda Hess at:  
[parishadmin@grace-hastings.org](mailto:parishadmin@grace-hastings.org)*

**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  
2786 - 56th Street, SW  
Wyoming, MI 49418

**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**

Jeannette Ulrich	01/07
Clyde Watson Jr	01/11
Carl Schoessel	01/13
Dean Rounds	01/14
Christine Pontius	01/14
Mary Kuhlman	01/18
Rick Duits	01/20
Logan Clements	01/22
Sheryl Gordon	01/26
Eve Wright	01/26
Jane Power	01/30

**HAPPY**  
*Anniversary*

**ANNIVERSARIES**

John and Mary Kleinbrink      01/05

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

# THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous support of our 2023 Adopt-A-Family program. With your good work we supplied 6 families with gifts, food, a Wal-Mart gift card and a gas gift card. We are blessed by your partnership.



hand<sup>2</sup>hand<sup>®</sup>  
because a hungry child hurts

Please consider sharing food items to this worthy program. The program can always use 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.** Thank you for sharing God's love.

## Women of Faith

**Meets Tuesdays at  
11:00 a.m.  
Beginning  
on January 9th.**

**All ladies are  
welcome.**

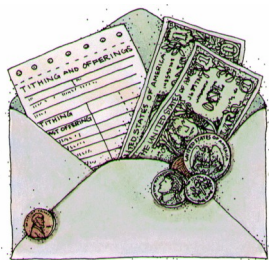
## The Outreach Committee

Will be meeting on Monday, January 15th at 3:00 p.m.  
If you have questions, please contact Sharon Varkula.

## New Address

Our friend, Karl Golnek, has a new address. You can write or send cards to...

Karl Golnek  
c/o Medilodge  
2786—56th Street, SW  
Wyoming, MI 49418



### 2023 Charitable Contributions

Donors must deliver or mail (post-marked) checks on or before Sunday, December 31, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2023. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2024 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2023 even if the check is written in 2023.

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



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](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



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



# January 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Grace Office Hours:</b>  <b>Monday-Thursday</b> <b>9:00 am-1:00 pm</b>  <b>269.945.9414</b>	<b>1</b>  	<b>2</b> <b>Women of Faith</b> <b>11:00</b>  <b>Executive Committee Meeting 6:30</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>   <b>Epiphany</b>
<b>7</b>  <b>Worship Services:</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:45</b> <i>In-person and Online Worship</i>	<b>8</b>  <b>Outreach Committee 3:00</b>	<b>9</b>  <b>Women of Faith</b> <b>11:00</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>Brothers of Grace</b> <b>7:00</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  
<b>14</b>  <b>Worship Services:</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:45</b> <i>In-person and Online Worship</i>	<b>15</b> <b>MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY</b>  <b>Congregational Care Meeting 3:00</b>	<b>16</b>  <b>Women of Faith</b> <b>11:00</b>  <b>Council Meeting 6:30</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>February Grace Gram Deadline</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>Worship Services:</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:45</b> <i>In-person and Online Worship</i>  <b>Worship Committee Meeting after 10:45 service</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  <b>Women of Faith</b> <b>11:00</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>   <b>Red Cross Blood Drive</b> <b>10 am - 4 pm</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>  <b>Worship Services:</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:45</b> <i>In-person and Online Worship</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>Women of Faith</b> <b>11:00</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Notes:</b>  		



# Trunk-Or-Treat

Another successful celebration on Halloween, thanks to 23 volunteers and 476 adults and children traveling through. Even with the snow falling that night, Brenda and family got some great pictures at their outdoor photo station. Families enjoyed cider or lemonade, along with 8 treat stations...some were peanut-free treats and toys. Kids were excited to receive a small book or bookmark with a pumpkin prayer. Of course one of the highlights again this year was the dog & cat treat station, thanks to Deb Watson. We thank Thrivent Financial for providing Grace with a \$250 grant for this Community Outreach event.



# Lift Every Voice

The *Roundtable Companions for Racial Equity* is a local group of people dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion in our community. Their fundamental belief is EVERY individual, regardless of their background, deserves to be valued, respected and included.

In the month of February Roundtable Companions are hosting a series of events at the Hastings Library called **Lift Every Voice**. These events will offer education and dialogue focused on diversity issues and will involve panel discussions, film, music and art.

More information will be available as we get closer to February, but in the meantime you can contact Desiree Holey at [holeydesiree@yahoo.com](mailto:holeydesiree@yahoo.com). Roundtable companions are look for help and you can contact Desiree for more information about volunteering.



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