



MARCH 2024 GRACEGRAM

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

Gracious God,
help me to
see this holy
season of
Lent as a time
of spiritual
renewal,
rather than a
time of
deprivation.
Motivate me
to reach a
new level of
experiencing
your *grace*.

Amen

**Deadline for the
April GraceGram is
March 17, 2024.**

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



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

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

These words from Jesus have long been a source of comfort and assurance. These are the words that I remember acting out in Sunday School with my teacher Mrs. Melvin. We all ended up laughing so hard that no one could really rest. It was a joy. These are also the words that were spoken, when a new red stole was placed on my own shoulders 30 years ago by Bishop Reginald Holle. I can still hear the echo of his strong, powerful voice, "Come to me all you that are weary..."

In these verses from St. Matthew, Jesus promises to give rest to those who are weary and burdened. And that word, weary, is a word that strikes me. Jesus doesn't use the word tired, but the word weary. And there is a difference between being tired and being weary. When you're tired a good night's sleep brings needed refreshment and relief. When you're weary, it takes more than a good night's rest, it takes the rest that only Jesus can give, which is a rest for the soul. "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" Matthew 11:29. So may you find rest in the one who calls you to come to receive the love and the rest that only Jesus can provide.



As you know, I am finding a time for rest that only Jesus can provide. I am on retreat. I am praying, studying, reading, listening, hiking and being still, which is in God's grace is renewing my soul. I have been striving to do things on my own, and I have realized I have not been taking care of myself. The Congregation Council of Grace Lutheran Church, Hastings, Michigan has given me the gift of time. While I am away from you, **I am thankful** for the loving community of Jesus Christ known as Grace Lutheran Church which has allowed me this time of renewal. You remain in my prayers, as I rest my soul. God has you in the care and ministry we share at Grace Lutheran Church. I look forward to being with you in the near future. In the meantime, I invite you to pray this prayer.

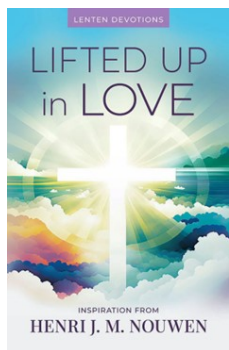
Let us pray, *Blessed Jesus, we are weary, and we are burdened, Carrying so many worries and cares. And then you bid us to come to you. To learn from you. To love like you. Lead us to be gentle with ourselves and others. Help us to be humble in heart. That in you, always and ever in you, we may truly find rest for our souls. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Crucified and Risen for the world. Amen*

Resting with you in Christ,

Pastor Ken +

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

The Outreach Committee invites you to pick up this year's Lenten Devotional *Lifted Up in Love* by Henri J.M. Nouwen Pick up your copy in the Gathering Area.



Easter Flower Sale

If you would like to purchase flowers from the Easter flower sale, please turn in your order form and money by Monday, March 25th. This year we have daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, and Easter lilies available. If you would like to donate a flower to someone, please indicate in the space provided on the order form.



HOLY WEEK

2024 Schedule

Sunday, March 24th

Palm Sunday

Services at 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Thursday, March 28th

Maundy Thursday

Service at 7:15 p.m.

Friday, March 29th

Good Friday Crosswalk

at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, March 29th

Good Friday

Service at 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, March 31st

Easter Sunrise

Service at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 31st

Easter Worship

Service at 10:45 a.m.

2024 Lenten Mid-Week Service and Meal Schedule

A reminder that we are celebrating the season of Lent by gathering on Wednesday evenings for a meal and service. Please join us on March 6th, 13th, and 20th. Meals will be served at 6:15 with the services beginning at 7:15. We hope you can join us during this season of experiencing God's grace.

Hastings Community Mid-Week Lenten Gatherings

Note: All community gatherings include lunch and begin at Noon

Wednesday, March 6 - at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church "My God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46 Presented by Pastor Paul Kuhlman

Wednesday, March 13 - at the Hastings Nazarene Church "I thirst" John 19:28 Presented by Pastor Nick Marlatt

Wednesday, March 20 - at Green Street United Methodist Church "It is finished" John 19:30 Presented by Father Jeff Hanley





Good Friday Cross Walk Friday, March 29 at 9:30 a.m.

You are invited to partake in the annual Cross Walk held on Good **Friday, March 29th** beginning at 9:30 am. We will join Christians from all walks of faith in our Gathering area and then prayerfully follow the cross through downtown Hastings and back to Grace. All ages are welcome to join in this powerful walk and strollers are welcome. Please no bicycles. A vehicle will follow the walkers to aid those not able to walk the whole way.

There will be a worship folder provided for the walk. The walk will mostly be silent for personal reflection. At the end of the walk everyone is invited to stay for refreshments at Grace. We hope you can attend and bring along a friend.

Sign-up sheets will be posted for those willing to participate in the walk, read parts of the passion story at the various reflection stops along the way, and for those willing to provide some light refreshments for walk participants following the end of the walk.

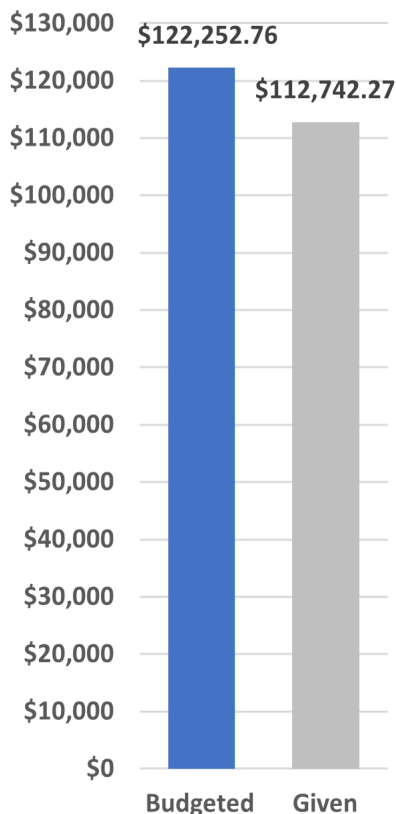
Social Activities Event

The 2024 Hastings High School Play is "Matilda". Grace plans to attend on **Saturday, March 9th at 2:00PM**. This year we ask that you purchase tickets on your own from the high school. We plan to go to dinner after the play. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you are interested in going to dinner so reservations can be made. Please indicate if you need a ride.



Don't forget to change your clocks for Sunday, March 10th.

2023-2024 Giving as of 2/11/24



The Hand2Hand Program

provides food over the weekend to students at Hastings schools. 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. Please check the bulletin for this month's needs and the deadline for dropping off your donations. Thanks for your continued support of this important program.



Looking for a convenient way to give?

You can use this QR code by scanning it with your smart phone's camera. It will allow you to access Grace's online giving portal. You can even sign up for repeating weekly or monthly donations if you wish.

Need assistance?

Please contact Brenda during regular office hours M-Th 9:00-1:00.

Thank you for your continued generosity.



Executive Committee:

President: *Tim Schoessel*
Vice President: *Vickey Argo*
Secretary: *Lisa Pobl*
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 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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Grace Youth are Invited to the commUNITY Youth Bash

on **March 22, 5-11pm**, at the Hastings CERC
6th-12th grades invited. Tons of activities:
Christian speaker, basketball, volleyball,
dodgeball, 9Square, Nerf Wars, swim-in
(swimming with a movie), pizza, and
more! Pastor Emma Miller of the Hastings
Free Methodist Church will be providing
more details in the near future which will
be posted in the Gathering Area.



Hastings High School Play REMINDER

Do you have your tickets
for the Hastings High
School play on Saturday,
March 9th at 2:00 PM.?
If you do and want to go
to a local restaurant after
the play please sign up on
the bulletin board and
reservations will be made.

Turkeyville Dinner Theater

The annual trip to the Cornwell Turkeyville
will be on **Saturday, May 18th or Friday,
May 17th as an alternate date.** Tickets
that include dinner are priced at \$65 each.
The dinner is served at 12:00 noon with the
show "**Oklahoma**" at 2:00 PM. Please
check the box on the sign up sheet if you
need a ride. **Due to timelines all ticket
money needs to be submitted by Sunday,
March 17.** Please make checks payable to
Bill Freedlund and give to Brenda at the
church office. A sign up sheet with
envelopes is located on the bulletin board in
the Gathering Area.



Game and Pizza Night

Plans are underway for a game and
pizza night on **Friday, April 12th.**
Look for a sign up sheet in March if
you wish to attend. Please mark your
calendars for April 12th. Any good
game suggestions? Please let a mem-
ber of the Social Activities Committee
know.



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



A Prayer for Pastor Ken

Today we join together to pray for the upcoming three months. We pray for Pastor Ken, we pray for Grace Lutheran Church, and we pray for ourselves, that all will be humble under God's mighty hand, so that He may lift us up in His due time. We cast all our anxieties on God because he cares for us.

We know that the Lord our God is living among us, a mighty Savior. He takes delight in us with gladness. With His love, He will calm our fears and rejoice over us with joyful songs.

As people of God who called and received Pastor Ken as a messenger of Jesus Christ sent to serve all with the gospel of hope and salvation, we regard him as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God. We pray for him, have promised to help and honor him for his work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ.

We pray that during his absence, Pastor Ken will seek and feel God's peace, healing, and transformation. We pray that he will feel our support and prayers that will follow him during this time, and that he will return to us, refreshed, renewed, and spiritually fortified. We pray that God will sustain our congregation with strength, confidence, and humility, that we may continue our mission to teach the way of Jesus and spread community, justice, and love. We believe in God's promise to guide us along unfamiliar paths, to turn darkness to light before us, and to make rough places smooth, and we pray He will manifest these things for both Pastor Ken and our congregation during this leave of absence.

We finish our prayer with a reading from Hebrews Chapter 12:

So, since we stand surrounded by all those who have gone before, an enormous cloud of witnesses, let us drop every extra weight, every sin that clings to us and slackens our pace, and let us run with endurance the long race set before us.

We may feel alone, but we aren't. We are surrounded by an army of witnesses. They have run the race of faith and finished well. It is now our turn.

Now stay focused on Jesus, who designed and perfected our faith.

I want to donate the plant(s) _____

I want to keep the plant(s) _____

Easter Bulb Flower Sale

\$10.00 each

DAFFODIL



HYACINTH



TULIP



EASTER LILY



**Number of
DAFFODILS**

**Number of
HYACINTHS**

**Number of
TULIPS**

**Number of
EASTER LILIES**

Please write the number of plants you want of each type of flower. Color match is not guaranteed. Each plant is \$10.00. Return order form to church. 239 East North Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058 Thank you for supporting the youth ministry at Grace. **Due March 25, 2024.** If donating, I would like the plant to go to _____

Name _____ **Phone Number** _____

I want to donate the plant(s) _____

I want to keep the plant(s) _____

Easter Bulb Flower Sale

\$10.00 each

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Name _____ **Phone Number** _____

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 2786 - 56th Street, SW Wyoming, MI 49418

Military:

Grandson of Freedlunds
Parker Stencil (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)



March Birthdays

Luke Domke	03/02
JoLynn Leary	03/03
Tara Schoessel	03/03
Lance Ogden	03/08
Jamie Heise	03/10
Danielle Drumm	03/13
Brianna Neeb	03/19
Shayna Gibbons	03/22
Rick Palmer	03/23
Kim Domke	03/24
Lisa Pohl	03/26
Derrick Rosenberger	03/27
Paul Pruitt	03/31

March Anniversaries

Ed and Jeanette Markwart	03/09
Robert and Lisa Pohl	03/23



March 2024



Events at Grace

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Office Hours 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Monday-Thursday 269.945.9414		Women of Faith Meet Every Tuesday @ 11:00	 40 DAYS		1	2
3 Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:45 <i>In-Person & Online</i>	4	5 Executive 6:30	6 Mid-Week Lenten Gathering Service 7:15 Meal 6:15 	7 Bells 2:00-6:00	8	9  2:00 S.A.C. Outing to See Matilda
10  Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:45 <i>In-Person & Online</i>	11 Outreach 3:00 Social Activities 4:30	12	13 Mid-Week Lenten Gathering Service 7:15 Meal 6:15 	14 Brothers of Grace 6:00	15 Deadline for April GraceGram 	16
17 Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:45 <i>In-Person & Online</i>	18	19 Council 6:30	20 Mid-Week Lenten Gathering Service 7:15 Meal 6:15 	21 Bells 2:00-6:00	22 comm- UNITY Youth Bash at the CERC 5:00-11:00 p.m.	23 Note: Orders for Easter Flowers are due March 25
24  Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:45	25  HOLY WEEK	26	27	28  Service 7:15 Bells 2:00-6:00	29  Cross Walk 9:30 Service 7:15	30 Online Easter Vigil 
31 Easter Sunday Sunrise 8:00 Easter Service 10:45						