Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter April 21, 2024

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

Welcome

Gathering Music

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Please arise in body or Spirit

Easter Good News

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- **G** Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- **A** The Lord is our strength and song.
- **G** The Lord has given us our salvation.

Gathering Song



Fourth Sunday of Easter Page 3

Easter Greeting

- ▶ Holy people of God, given new life through the resurrected Christ, and enlightened by the Spirit: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.
- **G** And also with you.



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Prayer of the Day

- Let us pray . . . O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold.
- Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated. First Reading

Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

L A reading from **Acts**:

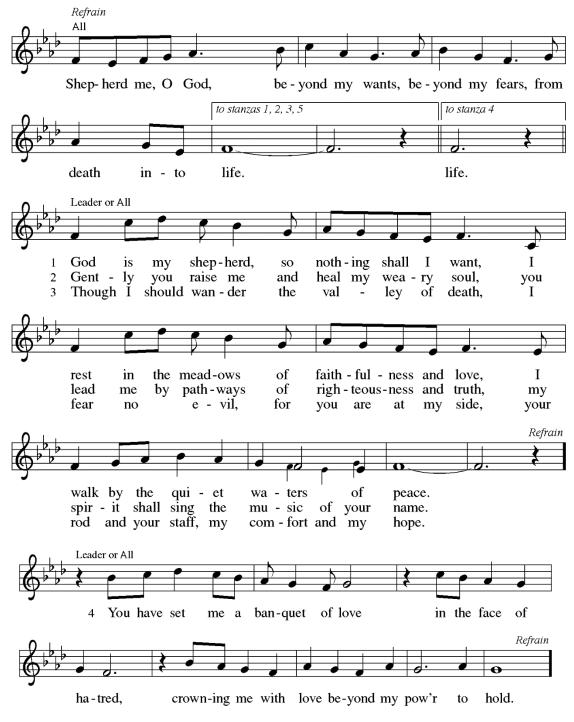
⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

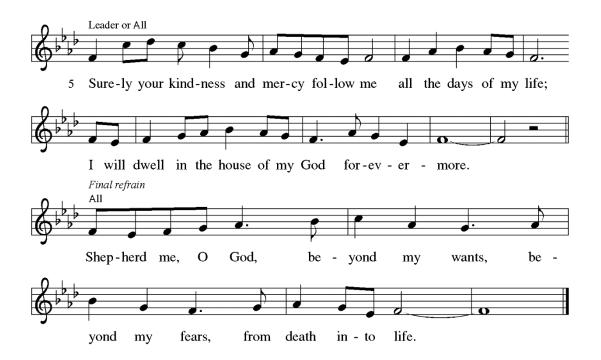
it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

- **L** The word of the Lord.
- **G** Thanks be to God.



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Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

L A reading from **1 John**:

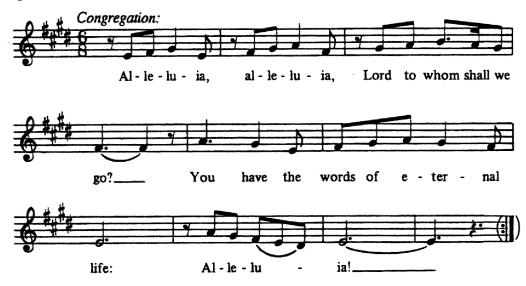
¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



Gospel Reading

John 10:11-18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

P The Resurrection Gospel according to **John**.

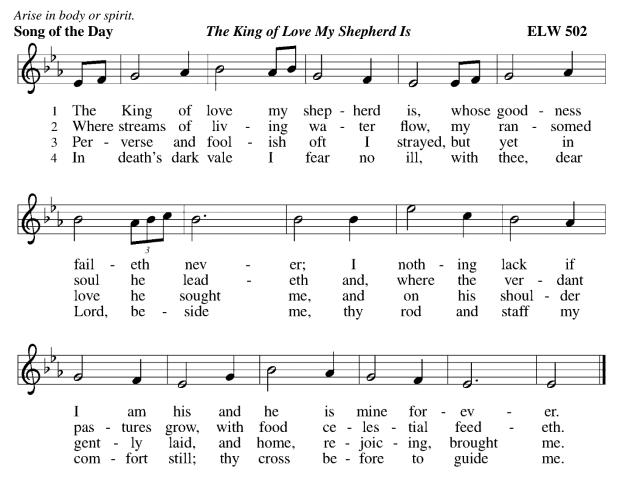
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

- **P** The Gospel of the Risen Christ.
- Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Message



- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Please be seated.

Prayers

We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Hear us, O God.** The assembly prays, **You give us new life.**

A Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence

A Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. Guide and direct *Bishops Elizabeth* and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companion Trinity Lutheran Church, New Era; Revive Bible Church, Delton; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken. Hear us, O God.

G You give us new life.

- A Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. Hear us, O God.
- **G** You give us new life.
- Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil* (*Freedlund*), *Cody and Myrina Crawford* (*Clements*), *Cynthia Rudesill* (*Hansen*), *Joel Taggart* (*Varkula*), *Julia Ehredt* (*Schreiner, Halstead*), and *Seth Domke* (*Domke*). Hear us, O God.
- **G** You give us new life.
- ▲ Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems, *especially Pastor Michael Anton, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Diana Brown, Walter Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Allison Domke (pregnancy), Bob and Bonnie Ehredt, Lisa Golnek, Easton Greenfield, Caitlyn Habben (pregnancy), Lorraine Handsbarger, Diane Hawkins, Jamie Heise (pregnancy), Virginia Henion, Dennis Loewenstein, Larry Maupin, Bill Miller and family, Martha Misak, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Jan Northrup, Lisa Nurenberg, Corinna Palmer, Rick Palmer, Sharon Palmer, Shirley Peterson, Annette Poholski, Patty Renne, Jennifer Rohr, Mike Shoemaker, Ron Smith, Al Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, and Brenda Watson. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. Hear us, O God.*
- **G** You give us new life.

- A Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. Hear us, O God.
- **G** You give us new life.

Here other intersessions may be offered

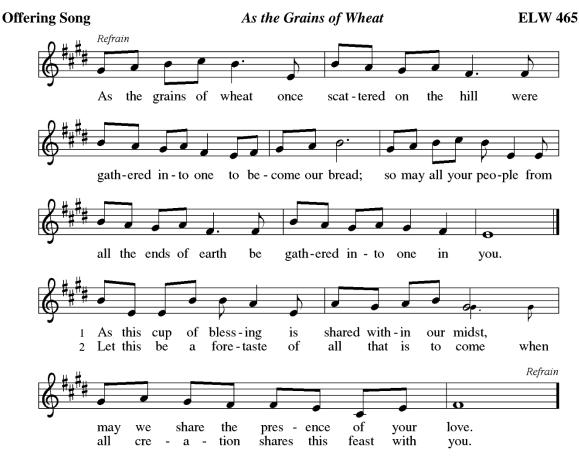
- Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day
- G Amen.

Please arise in body or spirit. Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of risen Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)



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Offering Prayer

- Let us pray . . . Be known to us, O Lord, as you were made known to the disciples.
- **C** Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **G** And also with you.
- Lift up your hearts.
- **G** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G It is right to give our thanks and praise.

▶ It is our duty and delight, that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow the way of humble service and love, and so, with the church on earth all creation and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



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- P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
- You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
- ▶ We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

- Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, receive the forgiveness of sin, be formed to live as your people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.
- **C** To you, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. Amen.

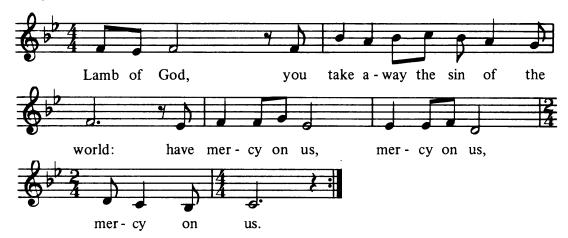
Lord's Prayer

- P Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:
- ☑ Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated. Invitation to Communion

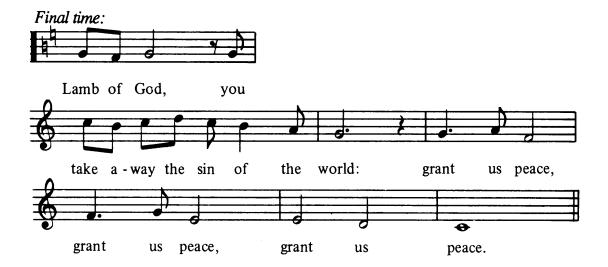
- **P** Taste and see that the Lord is good.
- C Thanks be to God!

Lamb of God



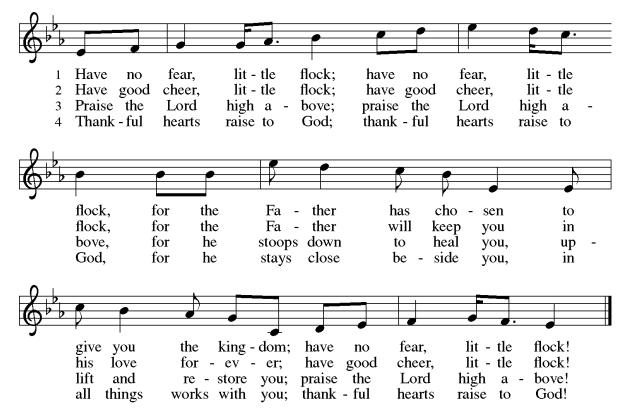
Additional Verses:

You break the chains of hatred and fear: You are the way of justice and peace: You are the way of mercy and love: You are the bread of life for us all: You pour your Holy Spirit on us:



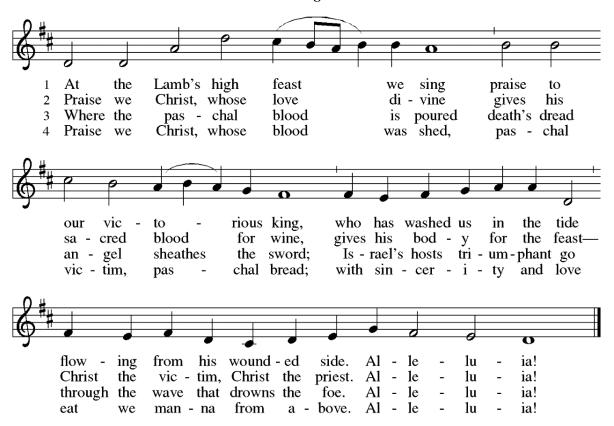
Have No Fear, Little Flock

ELW 764



At the Lamb's High Feast

ELW 362



- 5 Mighty victim from the sky, hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie; you have conquered in the fight, you have brought us life and light. Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall; you have opened paradise, and your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy; from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!
- 8 Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live, Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!

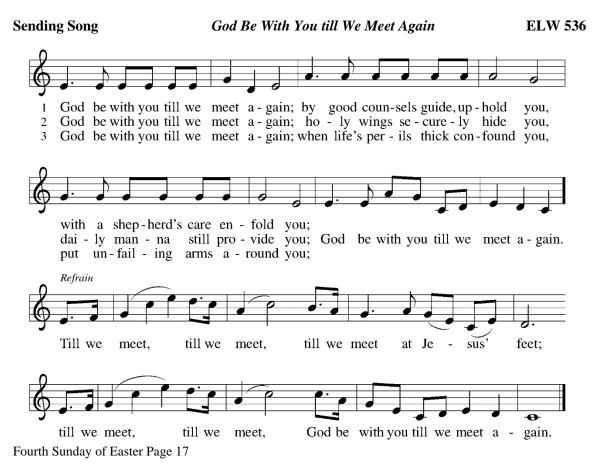
Prayer after Communion

- Let us pray . . . Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us.
- **C** Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name of our risen Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mission Minutes

Please arise in body or spirit. **Blessing**

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- **G** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- The blessing of the Lord God Almighty, the blessing of + Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of truth be among you and remain with you always.
- G Amen.



Dismissal

- **P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- **G** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- A You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.
- Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Always Room for One More

When Jesus says "I am" in the Gospel of John, he unlocks a new perspective on his love. In today's reading, when Jesus declares, "I am the good shepherd," we can imagine our Lord caring for us and guiding us. We picture ourselves as his sheep. It's reassuring to hear that we aren't alone to navigate the dangers and challenges of this world. We have a loving shepherd who is looking out for us.

Jesus loves us so much that he goes above and beyond the shepherd's role as a caretaker. He gives up his own life so our sins can be forgiven and we can receive eternal life. That's what being a good shepherd means—having such a close relationship with the sheep that the shepherd will stop at nothing to protect them. The shepherd will lay down his own life so his sheep can have life.

When we hear Jesus' promise to be our good shepherd, we must not miss his commitment to gather up the sheep that aren't yet part of his flock. They, too, will listen to Jesus' voice. Responding to his loving call, they will become part of the one flock that follows Jesus as their good shepherd, their Savior, and their Lord. No matter how many sheep are already jostling for space, there is always room for one more. Just like there is always room at our holy communion table for one more person to eat the bread, drink the wine, and receive the gifts of God's mercy and grace. We can always squeeze closer to the sheep around us to let one or more sheep enter Jesus' flock, thankful that the flock is growing and that we get to listen to the loving voice of our good shepherd, together.

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8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton Lector – Randy Teegardin Musician – Cindy Olson Pastor – Paul Kuhlman <u>10:45 am</u> Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo Lector – Jack Vos Musician – Cindy Olson Pastor – Paul Kuhlman Fellowship – The Freedlunds Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you are here among us to worship the risen Christ who breathes new life into us.

Stowardship Information

Please use this QR	Stewardship Information	
Code to access online giving.	Attendance: 46	Views: 290
	Weekly Giving: \$4,795.00	Budget Amount: \$4,366.17
	Noisy Offering: \$69.57	
	Grace Projects Goal \$25,252.00	
Grāce	Received To Date - <u>\$ 1,605.00</u>	
	Total Needed \$23,6	547.00
	Given this week toward Grace Projects \$30.00	

We welcome Pastor Paul Kuhlman as preacher and presider today. We are blessed with many pastors that are filling in as Pastor Scheck is taking time away seeking God's peace, healing, and transformation. We are thankful for God's Holy Spirit who sustains Grace Lutheran Church during this time of refreshment, renewal, and trust in God's guidance during this time.

Temple Talks allow us to reflect on how our offerings help Grace ministries. Our first Temple Talk is today, with additional talks on <u>April 28th</u> and <u>May 5th</u>. <u>Sunday, May 19th</u> will be Commitment Sunday, where we'll fill out pledge forms for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. This information will help Grace leadership balance anticipated income with the budget. In early June, the Committee will have a draft budget available for review.

The nursery is available weekly during the 10:45 worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.

Adult Forum please join us at 9:30 with Joe Longcor leading the study.

Brat Sale the Brothers of Grace are having a pork brat sale benefiting the Alpha Women's Center. The cost is \$6.00 for a package of 4. Orders are due by <u>Sunday, May 12th</u> with pick up on <u>Thursday, May 23rd between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.</u> here at Grace. Brats will be made on <u>Wednesday, May 22nd from 5:00 p.m. until approximately 7:30 p.m.</u> Sign-ups for ordering and helping are on the board in the Gathering Area. If you have questions or need an alternate time to pick up your order, please contact Joe Longcor.

Please Note the office will be closed on Thursday, April 25th.

Women of Faith meet <u>Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.</u> A reminder that <u>we will NOT meet on Monday</u>, <u>May 28th</u>. All ladies are welcome. A reminder that if Hastings Schools are closed due to inclement weather we will not meet. Thank you.

Adopt-A-Highway Thank you to everyone who joined us for Adopt-A-Highway on Saturday, April 13. Five people participated and collected a total of 14 bags.

Spring Flower Sale \$6.00 each. <u>Orders due Wednesday, May 6th</u>, with pick-up on <u>Saturday, May 11th from 9:00 a.m. until NOON</u>. Order forms are available in the bulletin and May GraceGram. We thank Erin Franks and Shayna Gibbons for facilitating this sale.

First Aid and CPR Training <u>Saturday</u>, <u>April 27 from 12:30 until 7:00</u> there will be a full course of adult, child and infant CPR, AED, and First Aid training for \$90. On <u>Monday</u>, <u>April 29 from</u> 2:30 until 5:30 there will be a CPR renewal/challenge class for \$60. On <u>Sunday</u>, <u>April 28 from</u> 3:15 until 5:00 there will be a FREE basic CPR and AED awareness class. For more information on any of these opportunities, please see the flyer in the Gathering Area, or contact Kim Domke at 269.908.0024 or kdomke08@gmail.com.

Turkeyville Dinner Theater *Oklahoma* is now scheduled for <u>Friday, May 17th</u> for those who have purchased tickets. We will be meeting in the church parking lot for a <u>10:30 departure</u>. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Bill Freedlund.

The 20th Annual Thornapple Jazz Festival is happening here at Grace on <u>Friday, April 26 from</u> <u>9:00-3:00</u>. The schedule for the day's events at Grace is posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. There are additional events scheduled in other locations around Hastings. Please



see www.tacjazzfestival.org for more information.

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. They are in additional need of microwave popcorn, individual apple sauce cups, and Knorr Alfredo Pasta. This month's donations are <u>due Sunday, April 28th</u>. Thank you for your continued support.