

Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 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

Temple Talk

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!
- C** Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- A** Open to me the gates of righteousness;
- C** I will go through them and praise the Lord.



1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
 2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
 3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets
 4 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with
 but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the
 be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the
 we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -



sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur - round the throne.
 heav'n - ly King may tell their joys a - broad, may tell their joys a - broad.
 heav'n - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.
 man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

Refrain



We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:



we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

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.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding.
- ☪ **Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

- ℣ A reading from **Acts**:

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

- ℣ The word of the Lord.
- ☪ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 98




Refrain



¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done ¹ marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have ¹ won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made ¹ known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight ¹ of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the ¹ house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory ¹ of our God.


⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, ¹ all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- ¹ joice, and sing. **

⁵Sing to the LORD ¹ with the harp,
with the harp and the ¹ voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound ¹ of the horn
shout with joy before the ¹ king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and ¹ all that fills it,
the world and those who ¹ dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers ¹ clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to ¹ judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the ¹ world with righteousness
and the peo- ¹ ples with equity. 

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

☐ A reading from **1 John**:

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, - Lord to whom shall we
 go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
 life: Al - le - lu - ia!

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

☐ The Gospel of the Risen Christ.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Message

Message

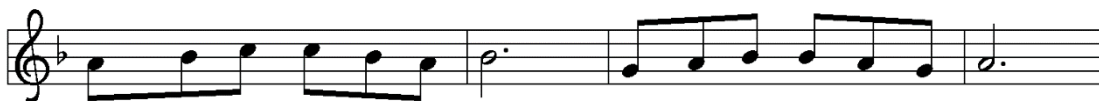
Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1	Kneels at the feet of his friends,	si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
2	Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor,	var - ied in col - or and race,
3	These are the ones we will serve,	these are the ones we will love;
4	Kneel at the feet of our friends,	si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

Refrain



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

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 Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God, in your mercy, guide and direct church leadership including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companion Faith Lutheran Church, Okemos; Hastings Seventh Day Adventist, Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

C **You give us new life.**

A You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

A Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Brady and Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas) and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads)*. Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

A Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. We pray especially for *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, Caitlyn Habben (pregnancy), Lorraine Handsbarger, Diane Hawkins, Jamie Heise (pregnancy), Virginia Henion, 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, Barry Swanson, Al Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, and Brenda Watson*. Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

A Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. Hear us, O God.

G **You give us new life.**

Here other intercessions may be offered

P Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

G **Amen.**


Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of risen Christ be with you.

G **And also with you.**

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

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
 gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
 all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
 2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Offering Prayer

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

Great Thanksgiving

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Table Prayer

☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation.

☑ **By dying on the cross, Jesus has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.**

Ⓟ 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.**

Ⓟ 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.**

Ⓟ With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the mystery of faith. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Congregation:



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come, come a-gain.

Ⓟ Pour your Holy Spirit upon us as we share this meal in the body and blood of our Lord.

Ⓞ **Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful people until we feast at your table in glory.**

Ⓟ Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Amen, Come Lord Jesus; Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

Congregation:



A - men, Come - Lord Je - sus; A -



men, Come - Lord Je - sus.

Ⓟ Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains are scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Amen, Come Holy Spirit. Amen, Come Holy Spirit.

Congregation:

A - men, Come Ho - ly Spir - it. A -
men, Come Ho - ly Spir - it. _____

☐ All glory and honor is yours, O God, now and forever.

Lord's Prayer

- ☐ 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.**

Invitation to Communion

- ☐ Holy things for holy people.
- ☑ **One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God.**
- ☐ Taste and see that the Lord is good.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God!**

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us,
mer-cy on us.

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:**

Final time:



Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.



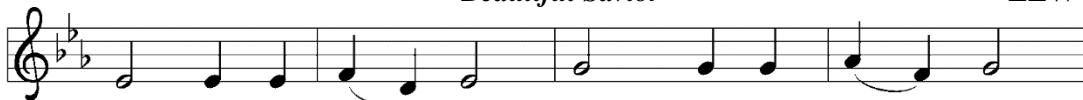
1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.



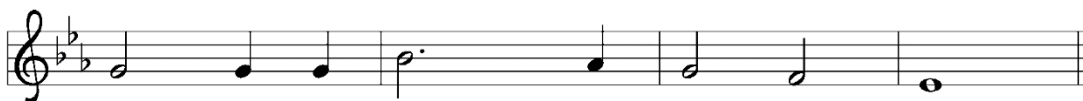
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

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.
- Ⓑ **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

Blessing

☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen.

☑ **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.

☑ **Amen.**

Sending Song

O God, Beyond All Praising

ELW 880



1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,
but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-
and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:
we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,
to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,



we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

Dismissal

☞ Alleluia! Christ is risen.

☞ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

☞ You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Tim Schoessel

Cantor – Cindy Olson

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Kate Van Valkenburg

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Kate Watson

Lector – Bill Freedlund

Cantor – Vickey Argo

Musician – Cindy Olson

Pastor – Kate Van Valkenburg

Fellowship – Diane Neeb

The Unconditional Love of Disciple-Friends

Friend requests are a common feature of Facebook and similar digital platforms. When it comes to social media, “friends” are just a click away. But there is no automatic guarantee of accountability, warmth, relationship, or true belonging in a virtual community. In stark contrast, Jesus invites the disciples to become part of a community where selfless, sacrificial, unconditional *agape* love is the core criterion. The kingdom, or “kin-dom,” of God is present wherever God’s people are affirmed as children of God and siblings in Christ. But Jesus gives his disciples an additional identity: that of “friends.”

In the new status Jesus confers on his disciples, the single most important criterion is love, including the readiness to lay down one’s life for another. Jesus has just taught this lesson by example when he washed the feet of his disciples, including Judas Iscariot. The new commandment to love one another as Jesus loved us summarizes the whole of the gospel mandate. It is not an easy commandment by any human standards, but it is possible because Jesus himself showed us the way and forgives us when we fall short. The status of “disciple-friends” is not a request for the church, but a faith mandate.

How can we live as disciple-friends of Jesus in this world? When we believe, trust, obey, and follow the word, and the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples, a real new community is born. When we learn to embrace the other—those who are marginalized and “othered”—we partner with God in enabling the image of God to blossom to its fullest.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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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.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.

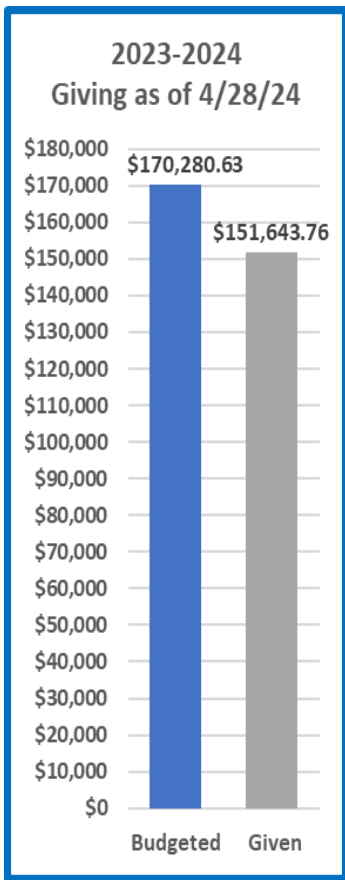


Attendance: Not Available
 Weekly Giving: \$1,920.00
 April Online Giving: \$2,568.67

Views: 536
 Budget Amount: \$4,366.17

Grace Projects Goal \$25,252.00
 Received To Date ~~-\$ 2,250.00~~
Total Needed \$23,002.00

Given this week toward Grace Projects\$0



We welcome **Pastor Kate Van Valkenburg** as preacher and presider today. Pastor Van Valkenburg is the pastor for United Campus Christian Fellowship in Grand Rapids, and the Co-Dean for the Grand Rapids Conference of the ELCA. 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 Final Temple Talk is today. Don’t forget next week, **Sunday May 19th**, is Commitment Sunday. We will be filling 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.

No Nursery Today Aurora has this Sunday off as well as **Sunday, June 2nd**.

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

Vehicle Needed Aurora, our nursery attendant, needs to borrow a car so she can take her driving test. If you can help, please call her at 269.953.5200.

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 **Sunday, May 12th** with pick up on **Thursday, May 23rd between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.** here at Grace. Brats will be made on **Wednesday, May 22nd from 5:00 p.m. until approximately 7:30 p.m.** 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.

Annual Grace Church Picnic You are cordially invited to the annual Grace picnic at the home of Phil and Amy Poholski on **Sunday, June 9th**. Hotdogs, condiments, chips, lemonade, and iced tea are provided. Please bring a lawn chair if you are able, and walking shoes if you would like to walk through the woods. If you are planning on bringing a dish to pass (which is optional) please use the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. The picnic is held regardless of rain or shine. We hope to see you there.

Blood Drive Grace will be hosting a blood drive on **Thursday, May 23rd**. The sign-up for helping and for donating cookies/juice is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. The Red Cross is very grateful to Grace for hosting donor drives. If you would like to donate blood you can use the Red Cross Donor App from the Apple or Google Play Stores or you can call 1-800-733-2767 to make an appointment. Thank you for supporting this event.

Women of Faith meet **Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.** A reminder that **we will NOT meet on Monday, May 28th** which is the day following Memorial Day. All ladies are welcome. A reminder that if Hastings Schools are closed due to inclement weather we will not meet. Thank you.

Spring Flower Sale \$6.00 each. **Orders due this week on Wednesday, May 8th,** with pick-up on **Saturday, May 11th from 9:00 a.m. until NOON.** Order forms are available in the bulletin and May GraceGram. We thank Erin Franks and Shayna Gibbons for facilitating this sale.

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



Hand2Hand Program provides food over the weekend to students at Hastings schools. **This is the last month to collect donations until school resumes in the fall.** We are collecting donations of Slim Jims, Snack Pack pudding cups, granola bars, Yoo Hoo Chocolate Milk, applesauce cups, and ramen. This month's donations are due **Sunday, May 19th**. A big thank you to Patti Comp for leading this ministry of love here at Grace, and to Green Street UMC for coordinating the collection and distribution of the donations. Thank you for your support over the course of the 2023-2024 school year to this valuable program. **It is greatly appreciated.**