



JULY/AUGUST 2024 GRACEGRAM

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

We Are Living!

Death is swallowed
up in vict'ry;
sin has lost its
poison sting.

Life will blossom
from the
grain sown,

Christ the first
fruits of the spring.

For the sureness of
salvation

let us sing,
"Thanks be to
God!"

Christ is risen!
We are living!

Spread the word of
grace abroad.

~ Martin Seltz



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Spirit of God made me what I am, the breath of God Almighty gives me life! Job 33:4



As I reflect on Job 33:4, I realize that I felt like I was Job. Life was not good for me. I was trying to let the breath of God to give me life, but things kept getting in the way of allowing God to move and change me. I kept feeling dead. Much like the picture on the top of a plant which appeared at first to be dead. I was burned out. I was exhausted. I was feeling no joy. As you look from the top to the bottom of the column of pictures you notice a change in the plant. With the goodness of nutrients, water, time, light and healthy environment the plant grew and flourished and ended up being planted into a pot.



Many of you know this feeling, you can relate to feeling burned out, exhausted, drained, and disconnected. To be honest I felt like Job did when he had lost everything. I didn't even come close to losing everything, but I felt isolated, rejected, broken ... lost in a vacuum of condemnation.



Many have felt that same condemnation. Some have confessed to me that they have even felt condemnation by God. Everyone I know realizes they are sinners and many see no way out. Yet, the word of God found in Romans 8:1 helped me realize God's grace. *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*



The Spirit dwells in the body which in baptism kills sin and gives us life. That same Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead will make alive the mortal bodies of each and everyone of us believers.



I once again I feel alive, refreshed and renewed. THANK YOU for allowing me time to grow. I am blessed by your generosity, love, support and kindness.

Let the spirit of God breathe new life in each of us.

Peace and joy be with you!

Pastor Ken +



We are **PREPARED TO**

**Deadline for the
September GraceGram
is**

August 17, 2024.

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

Brothers of Grace

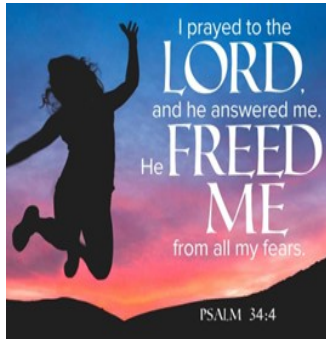
A reminder that Brothers of Grace are on a break for the summer months. They will resume in September. Please keep your eye on the upcoming editions of both the Grace-Gram and the bulletin for additional information.



Women of Faith

The Grace Women of Faith completed their Spring session on June 11th with a focus on the book of Ephesians and "wholeness for a broken world."

After a summer break, the Women will gather again on **Tuesday, September 10th, 11 a.m.** and complete the Ephesians study guide and vote on which topic they will study next. All women of Grace and friends that might wish to join the group are welcome.



Turkeyville Fall Fun Event!

A signup sheet will be on the bulletin board for a fun trip to Turkeyville on Saturday, October 12th. We will be seeing the show "Million Dollar Quartet".

About the show... "On December 4, 1956, a twist of fate brought Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley together at Sun Records for one of the greatest jam sessions ever. Hear the old songs!"

The Dinner and show together is \$65.00. Please sign up by August 11th. Please make checks payable to Bill Freedlund.



Look for more information in future bulletins.

This event brought to you by the Social Activities Committee.



Cereal City Band Concert at the Kellogg Manor Sunday, August 18

On Sunday, August 18 we will be going to the Kellogg Manor to see the Cereal City Band perform. We will leave the church parking lot at 2:00 PM with the concert starting at 3:00 PM. Those interested in attending should sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Please indicate if you would like to go to dinner at Seasonal Grill after the concert and if you need a ride. Keep an eye on future bulletins for more details. Don't forget to bring a lawn chair!

Blood Drive Success

Grace hosted another successful blood drive on June 10th. We had a theme this time "Back to the 1980s". Deb Watson did so much for our drive. She brought props and refreshments, helped set up and tear down and even stayed the whole time. If you'd like to help with the next drive, it's on Monday, August 19th and the theme will be "Back to School". Even if you can't donate blood, you can still support the drive by volunteering (even a half hour helps) or by donating snacks/drinks. We promise you'll have fun!



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

The 9th Annual Grace Lutheran Church CAR, Truck & Motorcycle SHOW

July 28, 2024

9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Do you own a classic or antique car, truck or motorcycle? Do you enjoy checking out older model vehicles? Then please join us at our 9th Annual Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show. There will be dash plaques for the first 40 entries and registration will begin at 9:00 AM. Please join us and bring a friend for the 10:00 AM church service which will be held under the tent. There will be great music and fellowship. Food and beverages will be provided by Thrivent beginning at 11:30 until we run out. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area if you would like to bring a dessert to share. Please contact Gary Golnek with questions or if you would like to help.



Annual Grace Picnic

A big THANK YOU to the Pohlskis for hosting the annual church picnic. The weather was beautiful as was the fellowship. Thanks again for having us. Those who were able to stay for the walk had a great time, while many picnic attendees enjoyed a concert presented by the Lakewood Area Choral Society.



Handbell Choir Wraps Up Year

The Handbell choir has had a busy year of ringing and praising the Lord. This year there were eighteen different ringers which included both adults and children. The choir performed in both December and June at Woodlawn Meadows Assisted Living. They are working on recording some of their music so they can share it online and also use it as a recruiting tool. As a reminder, the Bell Choir is always looking for new members and if you are interested, please contact Kim Domke at 269.908.0024.



Upcoming Events

Is there an event happening in August that didn't make it into this GraceGram? Don't worry! Please let Brenda know and she will be happy to include those on the August signs and table tents located throughout the building. Thank you.

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



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*
Office Hours
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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Website:
www.grace-hastings.org

Facebook:
Grace Lutheran Church- ELCA
Hastings, MI

Phone:
269-945-9414
269-945-2645



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



LEYLAKHAY

Small bag: 10 for \$15

Big bag: 20 For \$25

Flavors: blackberry, apple & spinach, pumpkin & blueberries, banana & PB

Goal: Pool, give kids presents



HAYDEN

Small: under 20 lb: \$20

med: 20-50 lb: \$25

Big: 50+ lb: \$30

PEAK TIME: 2-5 pm: \$10 extra/ hour

Goal: Driving & health



AURORA

Small: 5,000 sq ft: \$40/hr

Med: 5-10,000 sq ft: \$70/hr

Big: 10,000 sq ft: \$100/hr

PEAK TIME: 2-5 pm: \$10 extra/hour

Goal: Driving & business

Please text 269-953-5200 with the service(s) you're interested in



A Thank you from Anna Scheck

Thank you to Grace Lutheran Church for giving me such a nice graduation celebration. We had a gorgeous maize and blue cake, and the fellowship hall was decked out in matching maize and blue, too. I really appreciate so many people staying after the service for the celebration - it was awesome to share that time with you. The congregation also gifted me a beautiful bracelet with seven strands to represent the seven days of the week, which are each an opportunity to pray and live an inspired life. I love this community and am blessed to receive all your kindness in celebrating my graduation from the University of Michigan.



Save the Date for Barry County Relay For Life

Date: Saturday, September 14 & 15, 2024

Location: Tyden Park in Hastings

Time: noon on Sat. - noon Su

FREE for all to participate.

Register to walk or support our Grace walkers partnering with a team called GIVE4GOOD www.relayforlife.org/barrymi

Luminaria available at Grace starting in August.

Follow information on the **Relay For Life of Barry County** Facebook page.

Talk with Kim Domke if you would like more details on the walk.



TIME &
TALENTS
Survey



Time-and-Talent Survey Are Now Available

Each year, we provide a Time and Talent form for Grace members to fill out. This helps leadership and committees know in what capacity you would like to serve.

Perhaps you would be willing to be Assisting Minister or Lector? Maybe you want to participate on the Congregational Care or another Committee? Are you willing to bake communion bread or make something for a funeral luncheon.? We have MANY opportunities for you to share your time and talents.

Council and Committees leaders may not realize you are already serving in various capacities. This is why it's important to fill out the survey on a yearly basis. The 2024 edition is located on the table by the water cooler in the Gathering Area.

The Stewardship Committee will take the information and provide it to Council and Committee leadership. Then we'll put people to work: God's work, our hands!

Please turn in your answers by July 1 to the folder in the Gathering Area. Thank you.

Barry County Ethnic Food Festival

An Invitation from our Friends
at the Church of the Nazarene

We are excited to announce that the Hastings Church of the Nazarene is hosting the Barry County Ethnic Food Fest on September 14th, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the diversity within our community through food and traditional cultural attire.

If there is anyone from Grace who would like to participate, please let Pastor Bikram Ranapheli know via email at bikram@hastingsnaz.org or by phone at 616-500-4317.

There will be a potluck featuring food from various ethnic backgrounds and attendees are encouraged to wear their traditional attire.

As noted in an email from Pastor Bikram to Grace: "We would love for you and your church family to join us, along with your neighbors".



Congratulations to Joe Longcor

Joe Longcor received the Rick Martinez Leadership Award at the International IPS (Individual Placement and Support) Conference held in Chicago, IL on May 29th. This award is for outstanding leadership in IPS programming and Joe oversees the programming in the State of Michigan. There are 22 recognized IPS programs in Michigan and hundreds throughout the world. Joe was nominated by his supervisor, Brenda Stoneburner and co-worker, Dominic D'Agguano. The award was presented by his friend and MRS (Michigan Rehabilitation Services) representative, Francisco Gamboa. Joe is pictured here with his "oh, so proud" wife, Vickey Argo.



From Our Friends at

Barry County Cares is currently in need of household cleaning and personal care products for their clients...especially laundry detergent and dish soap.



If would like to contribute you can bring items and place them in the box located in the entrance. Items are due Monday, July 29th. Or if you prefer, items can be dropped off at the Barry County Cares Office located in the Community Enrichment Center, Room 108—231 North Broadway. The hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please visit their website at www.barrycountycares.org. Thank you for your support.

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

Grace's 2024 Annual Meeting

A reminder the 2024 Grace Annual Meeting is being held

Sunday, July 14 at 9:30 a.m.

We hope you can attend as very important information will be covered. We will also be electing officers and committee chairs.

Your input is valuable and we hope you can make it.



God's work. Our hands.



September 8, 2024

The ELCA is sponsoring a "God's Work. Our Hands" day of service on Sunday, September 8. Plans are being made for activities for this event (which might not happen on the actual day). So far there will be a kindness rock painting party on Thursday, September 5 starting at 1:00. If you have other ideas for ways we can serve the greater Hastings area, please contact the office. Thanks!

Learning Opportunity from the North/West Lower Michigan Synod

The Synod is offering an Adult Education Program this fall entitled "Witnessing to Christ and Love for Neighbor in an Election Year" taught by Reverend Amy Reumann. This 6 week study starts September 3. "Witnessing to Christ and Love for Neighbor in an Election Year" is an opportunity to hear from the Rev. Amy E. Reumann on civic engagement intersections and opportunities in our faith journey. Core affirmation of our baptism is to "serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus" and "to strive for justice and peace in all the earth." Informed by our discipleship, "We have a responsibility not only to fulfill our private roles and functions in life, and to pray for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-2), but also to be civically engaged," relays the ELCA social message on government and civic engagement. The class will meet 6 consecutive Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:15 via Zoom. You can register at the Synod website [www. Mitten-synod.org](http://www.Mitten-synod.org).



A reminder this edition of the GraceGram is combined for the months of July AND August. If you'd like anything added to the September GraceGram, please submit it to the office by August 17.

-Thank you.

Please use this QR Code to access secure online giving.



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.

Our Homebound Friends:

Opal Gillons Thornapple Manor
2700 Nashville Road
Hastings, MI 49058

Elsie Merrow Woodlawn Meadows
1825 East Street
Hastings, MI 49058

Doris Allerding Woodlawn Meadows #15

Beverly Brown Woodlawn Meadows

Shirley Beck Hope Landing
1252 North Cochran #116
Charlotte, MI 48813

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

Loved Ones Serving in the 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)



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Terry Bushee 7/03
Jan Schreiner 7/03
Robert Bolton 7/07
Linda Trongo 7/07
Molly Patton 7/08
Michael Kemper 7/09
Sharon Palmer 7/12
Joseph Pruitt 7/14
Phyllis Lietz 7/16
Lisa Golnek 7/17
Anna Scheck 7/17
Sandy Hayward 7/23
Frank Bolton 7/25
Kim Ogden 7/25
Luke Poholski 7/29
John Poholski 7/30
Lydia Markwart 7/30



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Doris Allerding 8/1
Erika Wood 8/4
Joyce Proksch 8/7
Randy Teegardin 8/8
George Lietz 8/12
Ethan Scheck 8/15
Joberta Converse 8/19
Gannon Markwart 8/24
Dick Melcher 8/24
Carol Vos 8/24
Diane Neeb 8/27
Virginia Henion 8/28

Happy Belated Anniversary

To Dennis and Deborah Wilke
on June 11th.



Our apologies for the omission.



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Doug and Diane Neeb 07/08
Ron and Sandy Hayward 07/22



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Clyde and Kate Watson 8/10
Randy and Brenda Teegardin 8/16
Rick and Sharon Palmer 8/18

July

2024 Events at Grace

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Grace Office Hours Monday-Thursday 9:00-1:00	1 Social Activites 4:30 	2  Council & Executive will not meet this month	3 Air Conditioning Appreciation Day 	4 Independence Day 	5	6 July is National Ice Cream Month! 
	7 Worship Services 8:00 & 10:45 <i>In-person and Online Worship</i> 	8 Outreach 3:00 	9	10 National Kitten Day 	11	12
14 Worship Services 8:00 & 10:45 Annual MEETING 9:30	15	16	17	18	19	20 National Hot Dog Day 
21 Worship Services 8:00 & 10:45 <i>In-person and Online Worship</i> 	22	23	24	25 National Merry Go Round Day 	26	27
28 9th Annual Car Show 9:00-3:00 10:00 Worship Under the Tent 	29 Donations due for Barry County Cares 	30	31			Pastor's Office Hours Monday-Thursday 10:00-Noon

Events at Grace

AUGUST

2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Grace Office Hours Monday-Thursday 9:00-1:00</p>	<p>Arrrrrg! August is Pirate Month</p> 	<p>DON'T FORGET</p> <p>FYI: SAC & Outreach are NOT Meeting This Month</p>	<p>Pastor's Office Hours Monday-Thursday 10:00-Noon</p>	1	2	3
<p>4 Worship Services 8:00 and 10:45 In-person and Online Worship</p>	5	<p>6 Executive 6:30</p> 	7	8	<p>9 Book Lovers Day</p> 	10
<p>DEADLINE Worship Services Sign Up for Turkeyville Show 8:00 and 10:45 In-person and Online Worship</p>	<p>12 National Bowling Day</p> 	13	14	15	16	<p>17 Grace Gram Articles Due for September</p> 
<p>18 Worship Services 8:00 and 10:45 In-person and Online Worship Concert at Kellogg Manor</p> 	<p>19 Blood Drive</p> 	<p>20 Council 6:30</p> 	21	22	23	24
<p>25 Worship Services 8:00 and 10:45 In-person and Online Worship</p>	<p>26 Friendship Day</p> 	27	28	29	<p>30 31</p> 	