



# DECEMBER 2024 GRACEGRAM

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

We are waiting  
for Jesus!

Jesus brings  
peace.

We are waiting  
for Jesus!

Jesus brings  
peace.

Sun of justice,  
shine upon us.

We are trusting  
in your  
promise.

We are waiting  
for Jesus!

Jesus brings  
peace.

~ John Helgen



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

*For now, we see in a mirror dimly, but then we will see face to face.*

1 Corinthians 13:12

### STUDY STATEMENT

We believe we are all created in God's image and are all called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, and called to unite all people in God's love. We welcome and affirm all people. We invite those who are seeking God's presence in their lives to join us in our common journey, which includes the **LGBTQIA+** community. Our faith community seeks to unite persons of all ages, race, nationalities, ethnic background, sexual orientations, gender identities, mental and physical abilities, socioeconomic levels, and theological backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will continually strive to "Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)



**LGBTQIA+** = Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual,  
Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex,  
Asexual/Aromantic.

### PASTY SALE



**Pasty Cake, Pasty Cake  
Baker's man.**

**Make me a Pasty fast as  
you can.**

Amy Poholski and Joe Longcor have fun at the Pasty Sale. We thank all those who helped out in make pasties and having so much fun! The event brought in over \$1,200 for the Helping Hands fund here at Grace Church.

Serving with you,  
*Pastor Ken +*

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

Send your articles to:  
**Anna Scheck**  
parishadmin@grace-  
hastings.org

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

## Midweek Advent Services



This year we will be celebrating the Advent season by gathering on Wednesday evenings on December 4th, 11th, and 18th. Wednesday Advent meals will take place in the Fellowship Hall starting at 6 pm. The worship service will follow beginning at 7 pm in the Sanctuary, using Holden Evening Prayer. We hope you can join us. Proceeds from the meals will go toward Green Gables Haven, which is a safe haven for those who endure domestic violence.



## Adopt a Family

### Christmas Family Adoptions

This year the Outreach Committee is planning to adopt five families from the Hastings area to receive family food baskets and gifts for each child in the family. There is a **grocery list** posted on the bulletin board, and the **children's gift chart** will be set up in the gathering area soon. Thank you for the food that has already been given towards the food baskets.

The deadline for gift drop off is December 15.

## Lessons & Carols

The choirs of Grace Lutheran and Emmanuel Episcopal Church will present a service of Lessons & Carols on Sunday, December 1 at 4 PM.

All are warmly welcomed!  
Cookie Reception to Follow

Join us at Emmanuel Episcopal  
315 W. Center St. in Hastings  
Please utilize street parking

emmanuelhastings.org  
grace-hastings.org



A Note from the Heise Family:

Dave and I would like to express our deepest thanks to those who were able to be a part of Walker's baptism. Thank you to those who gave us cards and well wishes. A special thanks to the social activities committee for the beautiful cake and juice, and to Pastor Ken for baptizing our little guy! We are blessed to have been with Grace for almost 6 years, and can't wait to watch Walker grow in his faith here!

~ Dave, Jamie and Walker Heise



Scan this QR Code to access secure online giving.

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

# Saving Lives in Spooky Hallow: Photos from October's Blood Drive



Join us this month for another blood drive:



Thank you to everyone who gave blood, worked check in, and contributed snacks!



## Ugly Sweater & Cookie Exchange Blood Drive

**December 30 - 10 am—4 pm**

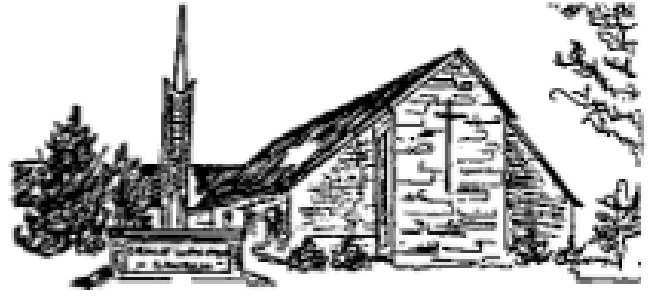
Registration is open, call 1-800-733-2767 or go to [www.redcrossblood.org/give](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give) to give. Come in your most gaudy winter sweaters! Those who give blood will receive a treat bag of cookies made by our very own Paul Kuhlman—that sounds like a fair exchange to me! Plus, the Red Cross is offering donors a long sleeve t-shirt.

To sign up to help, see the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.



**TRUNK OR TREAT WAS A HAUNTINGLY GOOD TIME**

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



New Worship Time:

9:30 am

Sunday Mornings, One Service

Adult Forum following Worship

Council voted to move to one service at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings, based on the responses to multiple surveys of the congregation. December will serve as our trial period of this new worship time.

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

# December Meetings

## Women of Faith

The Women of Faith Bible Study meets **Tuesdays at 11 am** (no meeting December 24 and 31) They invite any women to join when they can—don't worry about missing a week here and there. The current study topic is the women of the New Testament.

## Outreach Committee

Meets Monday, December 9 at 3:00 pm.

## Executive Committee

Meets Tuesday, December 10 at 5:30 pm.

## Brothers of Grace

### Christmas Dinner Night Out

will be on Thursday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m.

This year we are celebrating at the Riverdog Tavern, Middleville. All men are welcome.

Sign up in the Gathering Area.



## Annual Congregation Council Christmas Party

Will be on Tuesday, December 17 at 6:00 pm at Seasonal Grille.

## Grace is looking to have people share in ministry

Grace is currently looking for servants of God to share the ministry of Jesus Christ by finding a Stewardship Chair, an Outreach Chair, and a "fulltime" Treasurer. If you are interested in sharing ministry in any capacity, please let Tim Schoessel know.

## Ecumenical Advent Lunches

During advent, we will be sharing in midday meals with worship or Bible study. Please consider joining in this time of fellowship and community.

Lunches will be at **noon on Wednesdays**, with the following schedule:

December 4th at Green St UMC

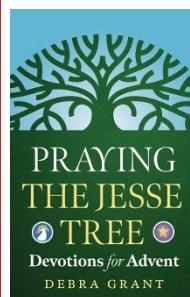
December 11th at Nashville UMC

December 18th here at Grace Lutheran



## Advent Devotionals

Are available for the 2024 Advent season. Pick up a copy in the Gathering Area.



Daily Bible reading, reflection, and prayer lead us to the manger.

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

Social Activities is sponsoring a Christmas fellowship

## Jesus' Birthday Party

December 8 after worship

There will be a variety of snacks and things to eat.



During the party, we will be doing a

### White Elephant Exchange

for those wishing to participate. The idea of the game is regifting something that you have to find it a better home. If you don't have anything you want to regift, please limit the price of your gift to \$5 or \$10. Gifts can be silly or earnest! Please bring one wrapped gift to participate.

Examples: a candle that you hate the smell of, home decor that's not your style, a pair of fluffy socks, a bag of coffee that's not your brew!



There will also be supplies available to prepare Christmas gift bags for the homebound, for those who wish to help.

Be sure to mark December 8th on your calendar for a joy-filled fellowship time.



## Deck the Halls

On December 15, you're invited to help bring out the Christmas decorations from storage after worship.



**Hastings Women's Club** is once again collecting plastic bags for a community project: making tote bags and selling them for \$15 each. All funds collected will be donated to the **Pierce Cedar Creek Institute's Science Strong** program. They bring **Environmental Programs** into the schools beginning at the 3rd grade level. If children

are exposed to this issue at a young age, they are more likely to carry the benefits and practices into adulthood. The shopping bags should all be of the same plastic weight: think

Walmart, Family Fare, Farm & Home, Tractor Supply, and Goodwill bags. All colors accepted. Just leave your bag of bags in the cardboard bin/box in the coat room; if it is full, please leave your bags next to it. Deborah Wilke will collect them and take them to the women's club. Thank you for your support of this outreach program.



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



## Hand2Hand

The Outreach Committee invites you to help the Hand2Hand Program. December's need items are microwave popcorn, granola bars, Slim Jim's, Yoo-Hoo chocolate milk, Snack Pack pudding cups, and individual hot chocolate mix. December donations are due **December 15**. Please place all donations in the box at the front entrance. If you have any questions, please contact Patti Comp. Thank you for helping otherwise hungry children on the weekends at our local schools.

Thank you for overwhelming good response to the Thanksgiving bag request. They will be greatly appreciated.

## Christmas Eve Worship



Pre-service music starts at 6:30 pm, with the service at 7:00 pm on December 24



The *Giving Tree* is set up in the gathering area. Tags will be added soon.

**What is needed most** are individually packaged snack products for students. These are items often purchased out-of-pocket by the teachers themselves.

Tags will be placed on the tree listing donation suggestions.



Lakewood Area Choral Society Proudly Presents  
**Rejoice and Be Merry!**  
Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 pm

Lansing Central United Methodist Church  
215 N Capitol Ave, Lansing MI 48933





## Christmas Food Baskets

Check the list in the gathering area for what is still needed. We will be feeding five families this Christmas! Thank you for those who have already contributed.

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



# December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 9:30 am Advent Lessons and Carols 4pm Emmanuel Episcopal Church	2	3 Women of Faith 11am 	4 Lunch at Green St. UMC Noon Advent Evening Meal 6pm, Worship 7pm 	5	6	7
8 Worship 9:30 am Jesus Birthday Party & White Elephant After worship 	9  Outreach Committee 3pm	10 Women of Faith 11am Executive Committee 5:30pm	11 Lunch at Nashville UMC Noon Advent Evening Meal 6pm, Worship 7pm	12 BoG Christmas Night Out 6pm Riverdog Tavern 	13	14
15 Worship 9:30 am Christmas Decorating After worship 	16	17 Women of Faith 11am Congregation Council 6:00pm	18 Lunch here at Grace Noon Advent Evening Meal 6pm, Worship 7pm 	19	20	21
22 Worship 9:30 am In person and Online	23	24  Christmas Eve Pre-Service Music 6:30pm Worship 7pm 	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26	27	28
29 Worship 9:30 am In person and Online	30  Ugly Sweater / Cookie Exchange Blood Drive 10am - 4pm 	31  New Year's Eve	Grace Office Hours Mon - Thurs 9am - 1pm		Pastor Ken's Office Hours Mon - Thurs 10am - 12pm	



**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)

*Nephew of Ed and Jeanette Markwart*  
Nathen Schick (US Marines, Cyprus)



**Remembering Our Homebound Friends**

As the holidays approach it's a great time to remember our friends who are not able to attend services with us with a card or a visit.

You can find addresses above.

**December ANNIVERSARIES**

12/16 George and Phyllis Lietz  
12/20 Robert and Sharon Bolton



**December BIRTHDAYS**

Myrina Crawford      12/01

Ed Markwart      12/01

Traci Wales      12/01

Sandy Mosteller      12/06

Elnora Beckwith      12/11

Dave Neeb      12/11

Cheri Clements      12/20

Jeanette Kogge      12/20

Bill Freedlund      12/20

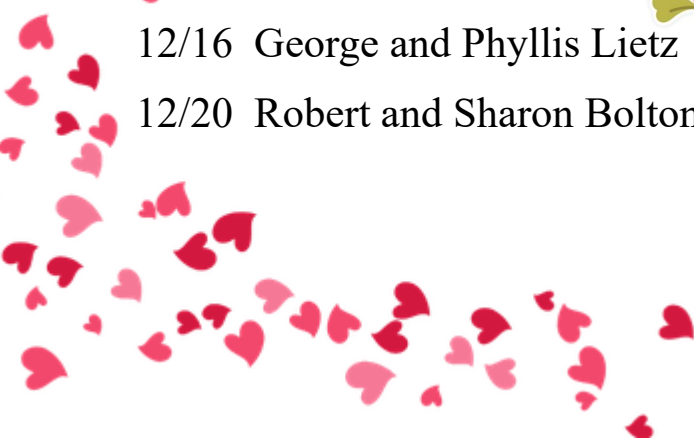
Corrina Palmer      12/22

Jesus      12/25

Gary Golnek      12/28

Karen Halstead      12/28

Deborah Wilke      12/31



**CHRISTMAS EVE** Pre-service music at 6:30 pm, service starts at 7 pm on December 24

**NEW WORSHIP TIME**

**9:30 am**

Worship also On-line:  
[www.grace-hastings.org](http://www.grace-hastings.org)

**Our Staff:**

Ken Scheck II  
*Minister of Word and Sacrament*  
[kscheckii@aol.com](mailto:kscheckii@aol.com)

Cindy Olson, *Minister of Music*

Kim Domke, *Bell Choir Director*  
[kdomke08@gmail.com](mailto:kdomke08@gmail.com)

Anna Scheck, *Parish Administrator and Financial Coordinator*

**Mon-Thurs 9AM - 1PM**

[parishadmin@grace-hastings.org](mailto:parishadmin@grace-hastings.org)

Aurora Collins, *Nursery*

Nathan Freedlund, *Custodian*



**OUR MISSION**

Saved by Grace.  
Called to Worship.  
Sent to Serve.

**Leadership for 2024-2025**

**Executive Committee:**

President: *Tim Schoessel*

Vice President: *Jamie Heise*

Secretary: *Lisa Pohl*

Treasurer: *Randy Teegardin*

**Church Council Members/Liaisons:**

Erin Franks  
(Congregational Care)

Doug Neeb (Property)

Patti Comp (Outreach)

Mark Anton (Youth & Family)

Bill Freedlund  
(Social Activities)

Greg Franks (Stewardship)

Deb Watson (Small Groups)

Gary Golnek (Worship)



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**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