



# JANUARY 2025 GRACEGRAM

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

Where  
shepherds  
lately knelt  
and kept the  
angel's word,

I come in  
half-belief,  
a pilgrim  
strangely  
stirred.

But there is  
room and  
welcome there  
for me.

There is  
room  
for me.

~ Jaroslav J. Vajda



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

*Jesus said to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.*

**Luke 14:12**

*Invite them for  
Christmas!*

We are called to invite people to experience the joy and love of Jesus. I hope we can invite others to join us, not only on Christmas but every Sunday. We have come a long way through the pandemic. We are just beginning to walk again. May we be empowered to invite our friends, neighbors, coworkers, schoolmates, **people we like** to join us here at Grace Lutheran Church. We have so much fun!

Inviting others with you,  
*Pastor Ken +*

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

**Deadline for the  
February GraceGram is  
January 17, 2025.**

Send your articles to:  
**Anna Scheck**  
[parishadmin@grace-hastings.org](mailto:parishadmin@grace-hastings.org)

# the GIVING TREE



The deadline for bringing in individually wrapped snacks is **January 5th.**

The snacks are going to local classrooms, as these items are often purchased out-of-pocket by teachers for their students.

Thank you for all that has already been given!



Scan this QR Code to access secure online giving.



# THANK YOU!



Gwen Hansen is taking on a new role as Chair of the Outreach Committee. Thank you, Gwen!!

## Hand2Hand

The Outreach Committee invites you to help the Hand2Hand Program.

January's need items are individual oatmeal packets, granola bars, Yoo-Hoo chocolate milk, ramen noodles, snack pack pudding cups, and Slim Jim's. Please place all donations in the box at the front entrance. January donations are due on January 27. If you have any questions, please contact Patti Comp. Thank you for helping otherwise hungry children on the weekends at our local schools.

## Hand2Hand

### Items Needed for January



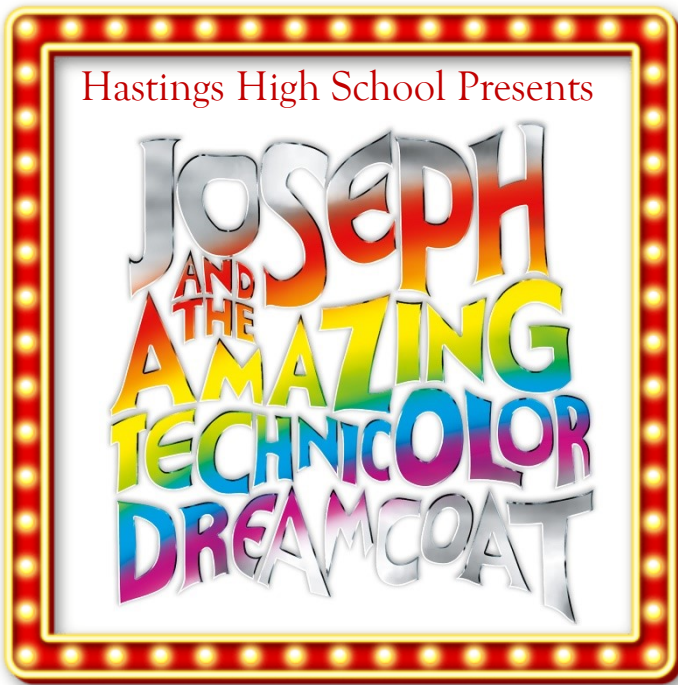
- \*Individual Oatmeal Packets
- \*Granola Bars
- \*Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk
- \*Ramen Noodles
- \*\*Snack Pack Pudding Cups
- \*Slim Jim's



hand2hand  
because a hungry child hurts

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





Hastings' spring musical is *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and a group from Grace will be attending the matinee on

**Saturday, March 15 at 2 pm**

The Social Activities Committee will schedule a reservation for dinner at a local restaurant after the musical. Those interested in dinner should watch for the sign up sheet on the bulletin board at a later date.

Please purchase your tickets on YOUR OWN when they become available in January.



**Congratulations to Deborah Wilke for passing her food safety exam!**

**She is now officially our Kitchen Manager. Great work, Deborah!**



**Thank you for supporting Adopt-A-Family this Christmas Season!**

Because of your generosity, we were able to give presents to six families. Our Christmas food baskets fed five families, and your willingness to contribute was outstanding. Your enthusiasm in spreading the light of Christ blesses our community.



A note of thanks from the Tyler/Hess Family:

Dear Grace Friends,  
Thank you so much for your generous gift for the kid's Christmas. It means so much to all of us. We have been abundantly blessed. ♡  
Merry Christmas!  
Chip, Brenda + the kids

Jonathan Heather ♡  
Thank you for your generous gift. We love our new bedrooms + clothes. ♡  
Lilly  
MATTHIAS

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

Worship is at

9:30 am

Sunday Mornings, One Service

Adult Forum following Worship



Worship will remain one-service at 9:30 am for now; council will revisit it at their meeting in January. Please share your feedback with Anna or Pastor Ken.

## January Happenings:



**Congregational  
Care Committee**

Meets Monday, January 6 at 3:00 pm

**Executive  
Committee**

Meets

Tuesday,  
January 7 at  
5:30 pm

**Women of Faith**

The Women of Faith Bible Study meets **Tuesdays at 11 am**

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.

**Brothers  
of Grace**

Meet

Thursday,  
January 9 at  
6:00 p.m.  
All men are  
welcome.

**Congregation  
Council**

Meets Tuesday, January 14  
at 6:00 p.m.

### Thank you from Hand2Hand:

Dear Grace Lutheran Congregation,

You were challenged to take a Hand2Hand Thanksgiving bag, purchase the five items on the list, pack and pray over the bag and to return it by November 24th.

You completed the challenge!

Green Street Church also took the challenge and a total of 165 bags were collected from the two churches.

95 Hastings High School and Northeastern Elementary students were blessed on November 26th!

Because of your giving hearts there were additional bags, which will be included in their Christmas bags on December 18th!

Thank for being a difference maker to so many Hastings students.

Well done, good and faithful servants!

Under His Wings,

Andi Schmidt



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



## 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. If you are interested in sharing ministry in any capacity, please let Tim Schoessel know.

## SAVE THE DATE: Superbowl Sunday Soup Luncheon



**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, but **colorful bags are especially appreciated**. 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.

## 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.

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

# January 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Grace Office Hours Mon - Thurs 9 am - 1 pm</p>			<p>1 <b>New Year's Day</b> Office Closed</p> 	2	3	4
<p>5 Worship 9:30 am</p> 	<p>6 Congregational Care Committee 3pm <b>Epiphany of Our Lord</b></p>	<p>7 Women of Faith 11am  Executive Committee 5:30pm</p>	8	<p>9  Brothers of Grace 6pm</p> 	10	11
<p>12 Worship 9:30 am</p> 	13	<p>14 Women of Faith 11am</p>  <p>Congregation Council 6pm</p>	15	16	17	18
<p>19 Worship 9:30 am <i>In person and Online</i></p>	<p>20 <b>MLK Jr Day</b></p> 	<p>21 Women of Faith 11am</p>	22	23	24	25
<p>26 Worship 9:30 am <i>In person and Online</i></p>	27	<p>28 Women of Faith 11am</p> 	29	30	31	

Pastor Ken's Office Hours  
Mon - Thurs  
10 am - Noon

**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

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)

*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)



**January**



**BIRTHDAYS**

Jeannette Ulrich      01/07

Clyde Watson Jr      01/11

Carl Schoessel      01/13

Dean Rounds      01/14

Christine Pontius      01/14

Mary Kuhlman      01/18

Rick Duits      01/20

Logan Clements      01/22

Sheryl Gordon      01/26

Eve Wright      01/26

Jane Power      01/30



**January ANNIVERSARIES**

John and Mary Kleinbrink      01/05







Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

**God's work.**

Our hands.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

9:30 am

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



**OUR  
MISSION**

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

**Our Staff:**

Ken Scheck II

*Minister of Word and Sacrament*

*kscheckii@aol.com*

Cindy Olson, *Minister of Music*

Kim Domke, *Bell Choir Director*

*kdomke08@gmail.com*

Anna Scheck, *Parish Administrator*

*and Financial Coordinator*

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

*parishadmin@grace-hastings.org*

Aurora Collins, *Nursery*

Nathan Freedlund, *Custodian*

**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)

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

