Grace Lutheran Church 239 E North St Hastings MI 49058



Website: www.grace-hastings.org Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00am-1:00 pm

> Phone: (269) 945-9414 (269) 945-2645

Pastor Ken Scheck II Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music February 2, 2025

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany February 2, 2025

The season of Epiphany has begun and marks the revelation of the baby Jesus as the Son of God. The Epiphany season, therefore, celebrates the spread of the Good News from its source in the Jewish community to all nations on earth. The color is green, for growth, as Scripture texts explore the mission of the church in the world. Today's green color reminds us, even in the middle of winter, we can continue to grow.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Welcome

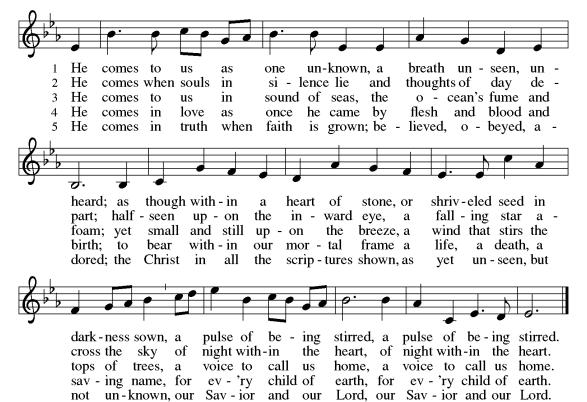
Gathering Music

Arise in body or spirit.

Greeting

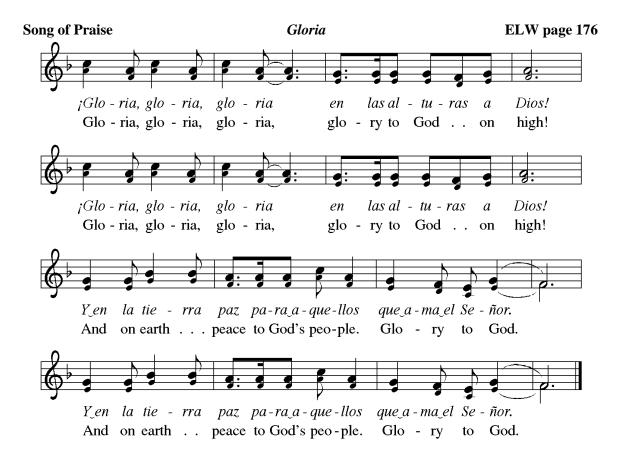
The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- P The light of God given, experienced and shared be with you all.
- **G** And also with you.
- A The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
- **G** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.



Dialogue

- P Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness on them light shined.
- We have seen Christ's light, the light from God is Jesus.
- A Jesus said, "I am the light of the world....
- **G** Those who follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."
- Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, and wind sweeping over the waters.
- **G** Amen.



Prayer of the Day

- A Let us pray... Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love.
- That we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10

God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and consecrates him in the womb. Jeremiah's task is to preach God's word amid the difficult political realities of his time, before the Babylonian exile. He is to make God known not only to Judah, but also to the nations.

L A reading from Jeremiah.

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,

and before you were born I consecrated you;

I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

⁶ Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." ⁷ But the LORD said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';

for you shall go to all to whom I send you,

and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,

for I am with you to deliver you,

says the LORD."

⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

"Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,

to pluck up and to pull down,

to destroy and to overthrow,

to build and to plant."

L Word of God. Word of life.

G Thanks be to God.



From my moth - er's womb you have been my strength.

 1 In you, O LORD, have I $^{|}$ taken refuge;

let me never be | put to shame.

² In your righteousness, deliver me and | set me free; incline your ear to | me and save me.

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;

you are my crag¹ and my stronghold.

⁴ Deliver me, my God, from the hand | of the wicked, from the clutches of the evildoer and | the oppressor.

⁵ For you are my hope, ¹ O Lord GOD, my confidence since ¹ I was young.

my confidence since 1 was young.

⁶ I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have | been my strength;

my praise shall be al- | ways of you. 🔊

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.

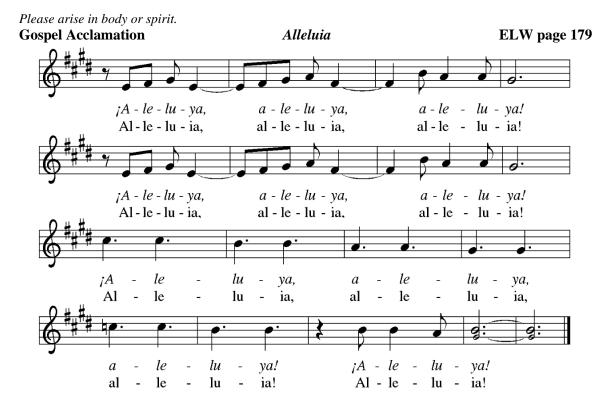
L A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹ If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Word of God. Word of life.**C** Thanks be to God.



Gospel Reading

People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

P The Holy Gospel, according to Luke.G Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³ He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" ²⁴ And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

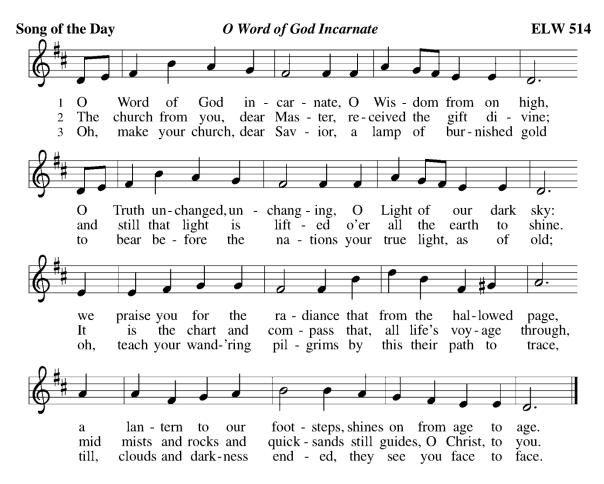
Please be seated.

Children's Time

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children's sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children's message. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

Please arise in body or spirit.



Please be seated.

Prayers

We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **God of grace.** The assembly prays, **Hear our prayer.**

A With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

- A God of eternal wisdom, we pray for your church, which is being transformed by your word. Bless the church with your wisdom and guidance, *especially Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistant Chrisy, our synod companion Zion Lutheran Church, Cadillac; Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Middleville; Nashville Assembly of God; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Let us notice and take part in the new thing you are doing. God of grace,
- **G** Hear our prayer.

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Page 9

- A Your creation sustains us and all living creatures. Grant us humility to acknowledge the ways we bring harm to the earth. Grant us courage to make effective change so that all lands and living things prosper. God of grace,
- **G** Hear our prayer.
- ▲ Embolden leaders of nations, corporations, and all in authority, that they lovingly tend those in their charge. Help them to respond to all who cry out in need. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Seth Domke (Domke), and Nathen Schick (Markwart).* God of grace,

G Hear our prayer.

Provide for those whose hunger runs deep due to isolation, loneliness, or illness, especially Jennie Anderson, Pastor Michael Anton, Mark Arens, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, Rachel Brown, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Kim Domke, Bonnie Ehredt, Greg Franks, Lori and John Giacalone, Ruby Gibbons (preparation for baptism), Lisa Golnek, Joy Jenks, Michelle Kaufman (pregnancy), Betty Lou Leonhardt, Dana Lepien, Alexis Markwart, Larry Maupin, Dawn McElgunn, Sandy Mikolajczyk, Martha Misak, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, Darlene Olson, Shirley Peterson, Kali Ranguette (pregnancy), Tammy Rodriguez, Cynthia Rudesill (pregnancy), the family of Mike Shoemaker, Ron Smith, Payton Stancil, Kathy Surratt, Beverly Teegardin, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Brenda Watson, and Deborah Wilke. Send your Spirit so that all are filled with your presence and experience welcome from their communities. God of grace,

G Hear our prayer.

A We pray for the young people in our congregations. May their voices be celebrated. Give youth a place of honor and value among us. God of grace,

G Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

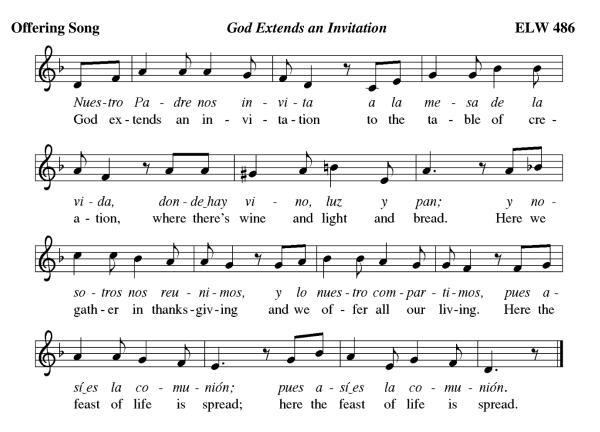
A We remember those who have gone before us. Let their faithful example continue to bear witness to us all. God of grace,

G Hear our prayer.

- P We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.
- G Amen.

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

- **P** The peace of Christ be with you.
- **G** And also with you. (We share the peace of Christ with one another.)



Offering Prayer

- A Let us pray . . . Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you.
- In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. 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.

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Page 11

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G It is right to give our thanks and praise.

▶ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



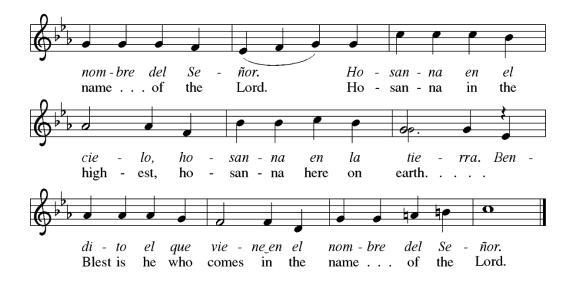


Table Prayer

- P Almighty Lord, we praise your shining light, your glowing grace.
- ☑ From before the earth's foundation, you loved us and promised us life forever. Within the earth's deep sadness, we laud your great and glorious might. Despite our tears and sinning, we sing of the gladness of your mercy.
- ▶ 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 for the 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 for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await Christ's coming again in righteousness and peace.

- **G** Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share.
- We call for your Spirit on us and this meal. Refresh our souls with this heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son. Nourish us as branches of your tree, and enlighten us with your undying flame. We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son, we exult in the Spirit.
- **G** Be for us our purest pleasure, our victorious crown, our never-ending love. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

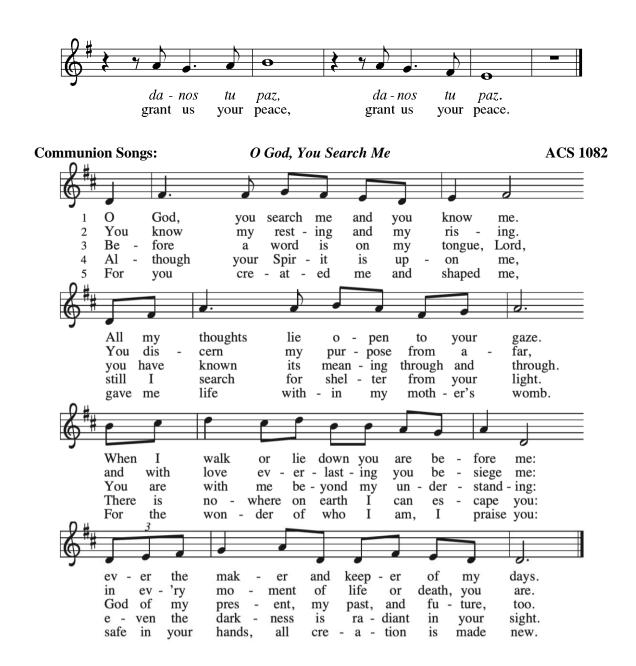
- Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:
- ☑ Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us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

Invitation to Communion

- P At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.
- **G** Thanks be to God.



The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Page 14





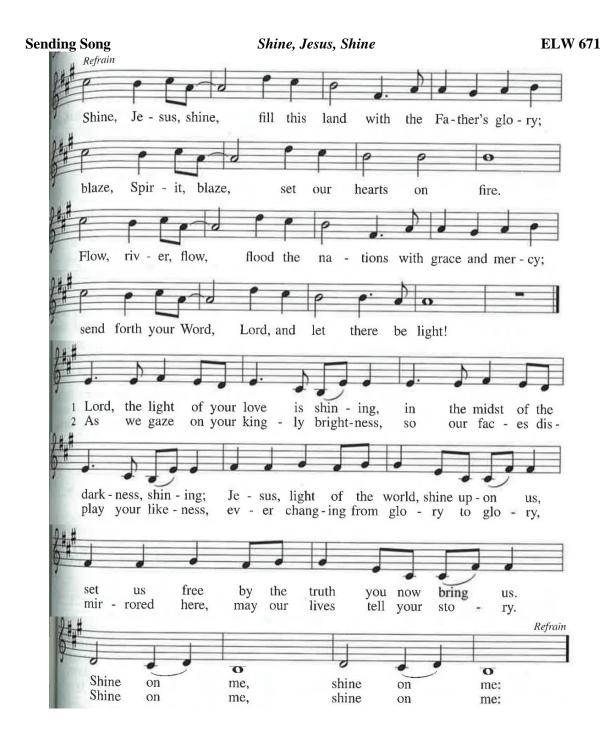
Prayer after Communion

- A Let us pray... Giver of every gift,
- Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. Amen.

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit Blessing

- God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you
 H bless you and remain with you always.
- **G** Amen.



Sending

A Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

G Thanks be to God.

Postlude

<u>9:30 am</u> Assisting Minister – Anna Scheck Lector – Bill Freedlund Musician – Cindy Olson Cantor – Mark Anton Pastor – Ken Scheck Fellowship – Diane Neeb

A Falling and a Rising

Simeon was "righteous and devout" (Luke 2:25). Anna "never left the temple" (v. 37). Perhaps you can imagine her singing today's psalm: "How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!" (Psalm 84:1). Even so, Luke hints at a sadness in these elder saints, a widow and a man "looking forward to the consolation of Israel" (v. 25). The joy both prophets show upon seeing Jesus reveals the deep longing they have been carrying in their hearts.

Perhaps we understand them. We rejoice as we gather in the Lord's house. But even so, we long for Christ's beauty to shine more brightly. We might bear grief over a dream long hoped-for but unfulfilled. We might yearn to see the world's injustice, greed, and rage give way to compassion, generosity, and restoration. We might wonder why so many people reject the faith that has deeply nourished us, and long for the consolation of Christ's salvation for ourselves, our neighbors, our communities, and the world.

Amid hope, longing, and promise, Simeon offers a warning: This child will not just lift up but will also cause to fall. He will be opposed. His mother will grieve with a sword-pierced soul. Simeon sees that Christ's divine illumination will reveal sin. In that light, we must consider how we in our own lives have been signs opposing Christ. Have we let nostalgia cloud our perceptions of the past and present? Do we resent those who do not share our faith instead of extending a graceful witness for Jesus? Have we let our political leanings dictate how we understand the Savior's reign of grace and truth? If we are honest, we all have parts of us that need to "fall."

And yet, we may take heart. Yes, Jesus reveals the whole truth about us—but to bring salvation, not condemnation. He reveals our inner thoughts so they can be healed. He brings us low in humility to be raised up again by mercy. By Christ's grace, the Holy Spirit rests on us and, in the life-giving word and soul-sustaining supper, withholds "no good thing" (Psalm 84:11) from us.

From sundays andseasons.com. Copyright O 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Worship is at 9:30 am, with Adult Forum following

Council has voted to keep the one service for the foreseeable future.

Parish Administrator is Anna Scheck; office hours 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Monday-Thursday.

Soup-er Bowl Sunday soup lunch will be next Sunday, February 9 after the worship service. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Please sign up to let us know you're coming, whether or not you plan to bring a dish. We will be determining our champion by voting for our favorite soup, and it won't be the Eagles or the Chiefs! The money raised will go to ELCA World Hunger.

Game Day presented by the Social Activities Committee will follow the soup lunch on February 9th. Before we go home and watch the big game, please join us in playing some board and card games. All ages are welcome, children are especially encouraged to bring their favorite games to play. If you have a game you'd like to share with us, feel free to bring it, or just bring yourself!

Social Activities Committee will meet tomorrow, February 3 at 4:30 p.m.

Outreach Committee will meet on Monday, February 10 at 3:00 p.m.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is Hastings High School's musical this spring. SAC invites you to attend the 2 pm showing on Saturday, March 15, and we'll go to a local restaurant to share a meal afterwards. Sign up on the bulletin board. We ask that you buy your own tickets at https://hastings.ludus.com/index.php. Contact Bill Freedlund if you need help ordering your tickets.

Welcome to Club Grace featuring the Superheroes Blood Drive is on February 25 from 10am-4pm. Registration is open, call 1-800-733-2767 or go to https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html. Please consider giving blood and spread the word to those who may be interested! Sign up to work or provide snacks on the bulletin board.

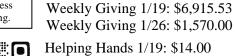
Thanks Abound The council recognizes that we were blessed this past year with a ton of gifts, including items to Hand2Hand, the purchasing of lightbulbs, a vacuum sealer, a new potato dicer, coffee, sweeteners, creamer, plastic wine cups, grape juice, money given to Helping Hands Fund, money given to Grace Projects, and your support to the general fund. Grace is enriched by your generosity.

Lift Every Voice invites you to Lifestories - Another Side of Healthcare with Teresa Hedgewood, NP on February 3 at 6:00 pm in the community room at the Hastings Public Library. Welcome to worship today! We are thrilled that you are here. 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 Jesus, who faces trials and tribulations, and continues to trust God.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.

Grāce



Attendance: 36

 Grace Projects Goal
 \$ 25,252.00

 Received To Date
 -\$ 3,190.00

 Total Needed
 \$ 22,062.00

Given 1/19 toward Grace Projects: \$5 Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$5 **Noisy Offering** will be collected next week to benefit Barry County Cares.

Budget Amount: \$4,366.17



*Microwave Popcorn *Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk *Knorr Alfredo Pasta *Slim Jim's *Granola Bars *Individual Hot Chocolate

Hand2Hand Thank you for your generous support of Hand2Hand this month. February's need items are microwave popcorn, Yoo-Hoo chocolate milk, Knorr alfredo pasta, Slim Jim's, granola bars, and individual hot chocolate. February donations are due February 23. Thank you for your support of this ministry.

Views: 194

Women of Faith meets on Tuesdays at 11:00 am here at Grace. Join us on February 4, 11, 18, and 25. We are studying the women of the New Testament. All women are welcome.

Brothers of Grace will meet this Thursday, February 6 at 6:00 p.m. All men are welcome.

The nursery is available weekly during the 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 after worship today with Pastor Ken, with a study on Hosea.

GraceGrams are available in your mailboxes - 2024 giving statements are enclosed.