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 16, 2025

The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany February 16, 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

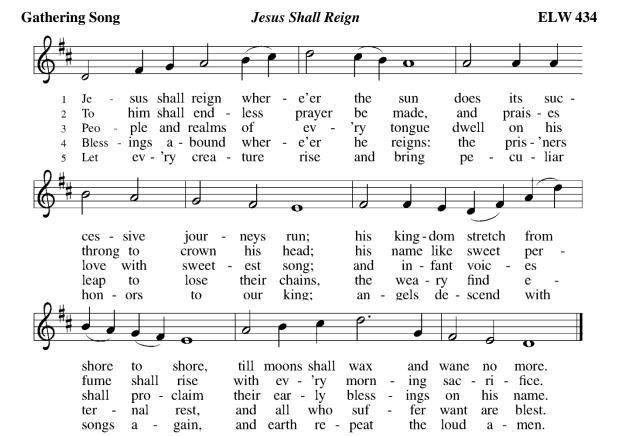
Gathering Music

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.
- And also with you.
- ⚠ The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
- **☑** 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.
- **Q** We have seen Christ's light, the light from God is Jesus.
- Jesus said, "I am the light of the world....
- **■** Those who follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."
- P 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... Living God, in Christ you make all things new.
- Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

 Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

L A reading from **Jeremiah**.

⁵ Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green;

in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?
I the LORD test the mind

I the LORD test the mind and search the heart,
 to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

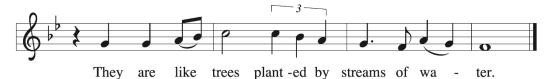
L Word of God. Word of life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1



Refrain



¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

² Their delight is in the law | of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night. ■

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither;

everything they | do shall prosper.

⁴ It is not so | with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

⁶ For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed. ■

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

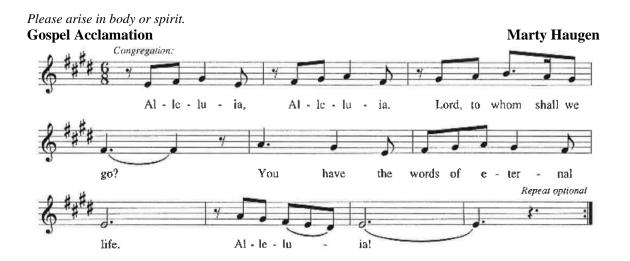
L A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

L Word of God. Word of life.

☑ Thanks be to God.



Gospel Reading Luke 6:17-26

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

P The Holy Gospel, according to Luke.

ఆ Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,

for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now,

for you will laugh.

²² "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich,

for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ "Woe to you who are full now,

for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now,

for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

- 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 Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. Bless our leaders and collaborators, especially Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and Kjersten, our synod companion St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cheboygan; Orangeville Baptist Church, Plainwell; Our Lady of Great Oak, Bellevue; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken. God of grace.

G Hear our prayer.

A Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace,

G Hear our prayer.

A Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. 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,

ఆ Hear our prayer.

A Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way, especially Jennie Anderson, Pastor Michael Anton, Mark Arens, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, the family of Scott Burzynski, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Kim Domke, Bonnie Ehredt, Greg Franks, Lori and John Giacalone, Ruby Gibbons (preparation for baptism), Lisa Golnek, Heather Gore, Joy Jenks, Michelle Kaufman (pregnancy), Betty Lou Leonhardt, Dana Lepien, Larry Maupin, Dawn McElgunn, Sandy Mikolajczyk, Martha Misak, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, Kali Ranguette (pregnancy), Tammy Rodriguez, Ron Smith, Kathy Surratt, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, and Brenda Watson. Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace,

• Hear our prayer.

A Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace,

G Hear our prayer.

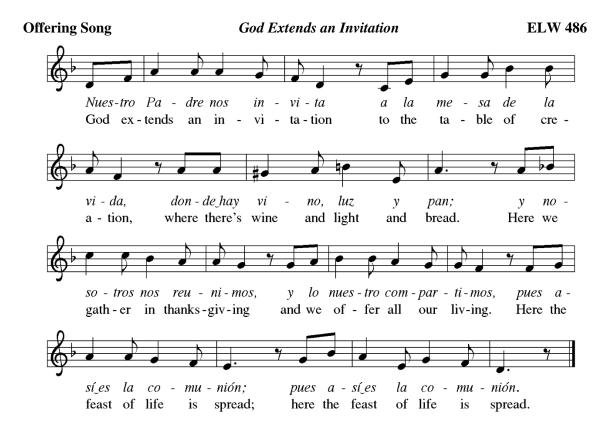
Here other intercessions may be offered.

- A Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace,
- **G** Hear our prayer.
- We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.
- Amen.

Please arise in body or spirit.

Sharing the Peace of God

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

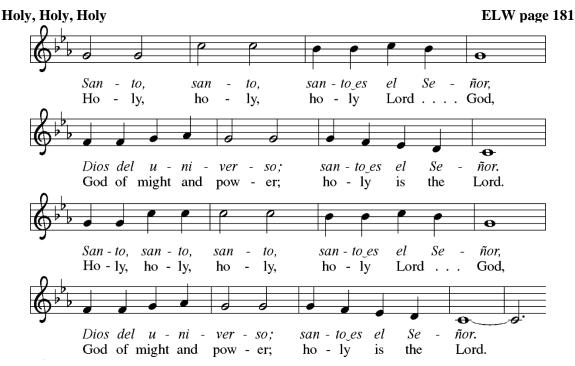


Offering Prayer

- ⚠ 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.
- And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **2** We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **■** It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P 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:



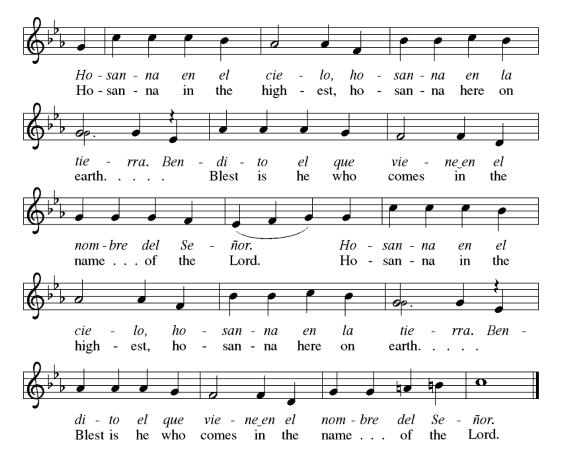


Table Prayer

- 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.
- P 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.
- **©** 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.
- Be for us our purest pleasure, our victorious crown, our never-ending love. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

- P 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.
- **©** Thanks be to God.

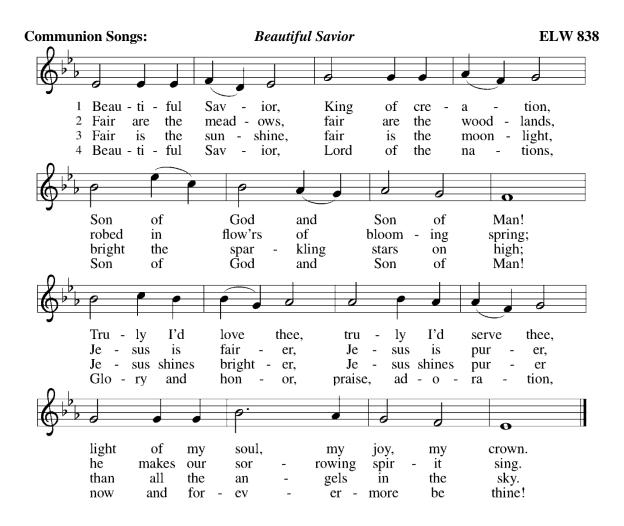
Please be seated.

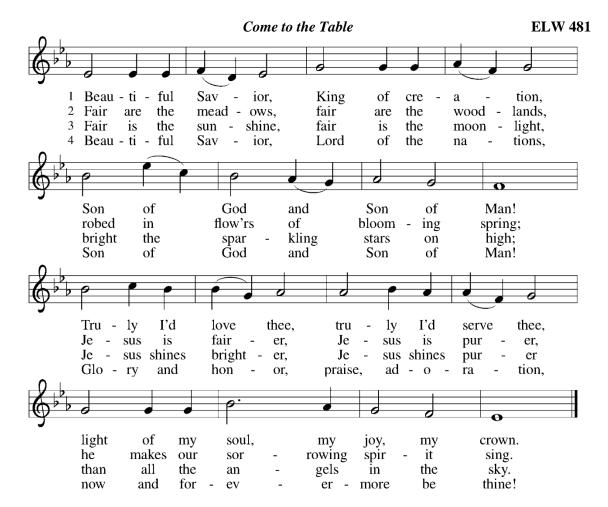


have .. mer-cy up - on us.

have . . mer-cy up - on us,







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.

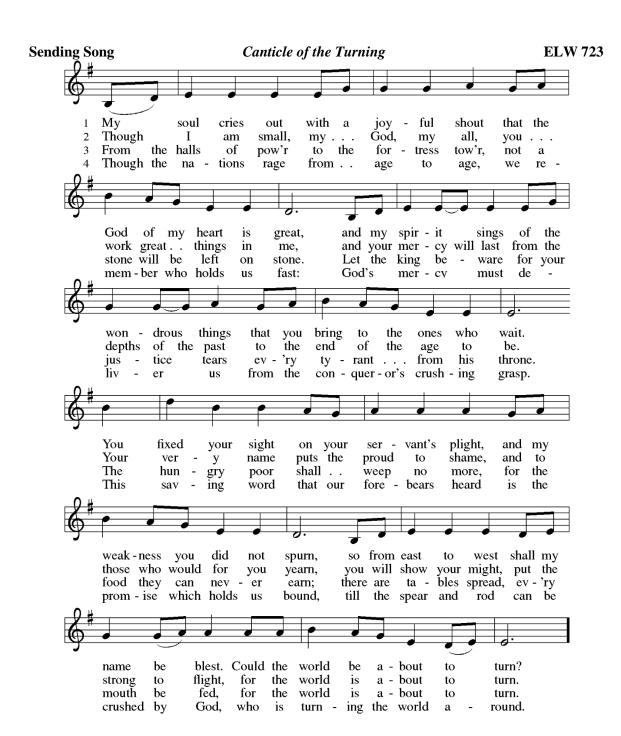
Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

- P God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you

 → bless you and remain with you always.
- Amen.





My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus-tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

Sending

- **A** Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
- **⚠** Thanks be to God.

Postlude

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton Lector – Gwen Hansen Musician – Cindy Olson Cantor – Cindy Olson Pastor – Ken Scheck Fellowship – Paul Kuhlman

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.

Let us Share Love to the Poor You are invited to be the hands and feet of Jesus, as we meet with Representative Moolenaar. On February 25 from 12:30pm-1:30pm at Hastings Church of the Nazarene, a meeting will be held as an opportunity for citizens to express the help they need in respect to specific government agencies. If you have questions related to federal government agencies, this is an opportunity to voice your concerns in a respectful setting.

Abundance of Blessing

Poverty is not a virtue. It is a curse of our fallen world that will finally be undone when God's reign comes in its fullness. When hunger or homelessness is relieved in this life, it is a foretaste of that great day. Similarly, being hated, especially for the sake of Jesus, is not a goal for which we should strive. Why, then, does Jesus call those who are poor and reviled "blessed"?

The ancient prophet Jeremiah helps us understand Jesus' words. "Cursed are those who . . . make mere flesh their strength. . . . Blessed are those who trust in the Lord" (Jeremiah 17:5, 7). "Flesh" refers here not to our bodies but, rather, to human strength and capability, apart from God. In themselves, wealth, sufficient food, pleasures that bring laughter, and a positive reputation can be good. The problem comes when we base our security, hope, or sense of purpose on them. These good things then become idols. They become "flesh," displacing God from our hearts. Flesh cannot bear that burden, though, and will inevitably fail us. Jesus' words of blessing and woe are not a moral program or an ethical checklist, but shocking pronouncements meant to startle us out of our fixation on human capacities.

Jesus' beatitudes open us to the reality that Jeremiah declared: true blessing comes when we "trust in the Lord." We can risk human rejection, knowing that in baptism, we have been claimed eternally by God. If we are poor, God's word promises that we are treasured by the One who gave up everything for us. When we feel content with earthly food, at the Lord's table we discover that true delight comes from never-ending love present in simple bread and wine. When the song and prayer of the church give voice to lamentation, we find consolation and hope even in our tears.

Woe to us indeed if we allow ourselves to settle for mere human strength, when God's mercy and goodness are so much greater! In the word of the cross and the sacraments of grace, power comes forth from Jesus with blessing, strength, and joy forevermore.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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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.

Congregation Council meets this Tuesday, February 18 at 5:30 pm.

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 comforts us in all our sorrows, wants, and needs.

Stewardship Information

Please use this OR Code to access online giving.

Attendance: 47 Weekly Giving: \$6,418.65 Views: 182

Budget Amount: \$4,366.17

ELCA World Hunger: \$233.00

Grace Projects Goal \$ 25,252.00 Received To Date -\$ 3,190.00 Total Needed \$ 22,062.00

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$10

Hand2Hand February's

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 next Sunday, February 23. Thank you for your support of this ministry.

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

*Individual Hot Chocolate

Winter Devotionals for January through March are available in the Gathering Area.

Women of Faith meets on Tuesdays at 11:00 am here at Grace. Join us on February 18, and 25. We are finishing up our study on the women of the New Testament, and we'll start "Listening to God" on February 25. All women 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.

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 – Tribal Government and US & MI Government with Native American Affairs Representative & Bill Griffey, Gun Lake Tribe Education Director tomorrow, February 17 at 6:00 pm in the community room at the Hastings Public Library.