



MARCH 2025 GRACEGRAM

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

*We all are one
in mission;
We all are one
in call,*

*Our varied
gifts united by
Christ, the Lord
of all.*

*A single great
commission
compels us
from above*

*to plan and
work together
that all may
know Christ's
love.*

~ Rusty Edwards



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

"Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10:36-37

Loving Our Neighbors, the Lutheran Way

In the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), Jesus highlights the responsibility of caring for those in need of care. In doing so, he also broadens the understanding of what it means to be "neighbor," defining neighbor not in terms of affinity or proximity but in terms of need.

Martin Luther builds on this understanding in his commentary on Galatians. Luther's response to the question "Who is my neighbor?" is this:

"Now our neighbor is any human being, especially one who needs our help, as Christ interprets it in Luke 10:30–37. Even one who has done me some sort of injury or harm has not shed [their] humanity on that account or stopped being flesh and blood, a creature of God very much like me; in other words, [they do] not stop being my neighbor." [Luther's Works, Volume 27]

The command and the call to love the neighbor – any human being and every human being – is something we respond to not just as individuals but as a church. The Lutheran history of providing social services for people in need dates all the way back to the early years of the Reformation, when Luther and other reformers worked together with civic officials to ensure that those without sufficient resources were provided for in their lives.

Recent accusations of Lutheran social ministry organizations as "money-laundering" are both false and ignorant. Lutheran social ministry organizations do receive significant government funding, but this is because of their (our!) proven track record of providing effective services in ways that are cost-effective, too. Together, government contracts and charitable gifts allow us to have an impact on our society well beyond our membership. And this is true not only in the United States but around the world. A bishop from Tanzania once told me that approximately one third of the social services in his country are provided by Lutheran institutions.



Learn more about the Lutheran Services of America network by visiting their website at www.lutheranservices.org. While you're there, please consider clicking the Give button too.

Thank you for loving your neighbor,
Ken Scheck II +, Doctor of Ministry
Pastor

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

Grace Lutheran Church loves all people in the world.

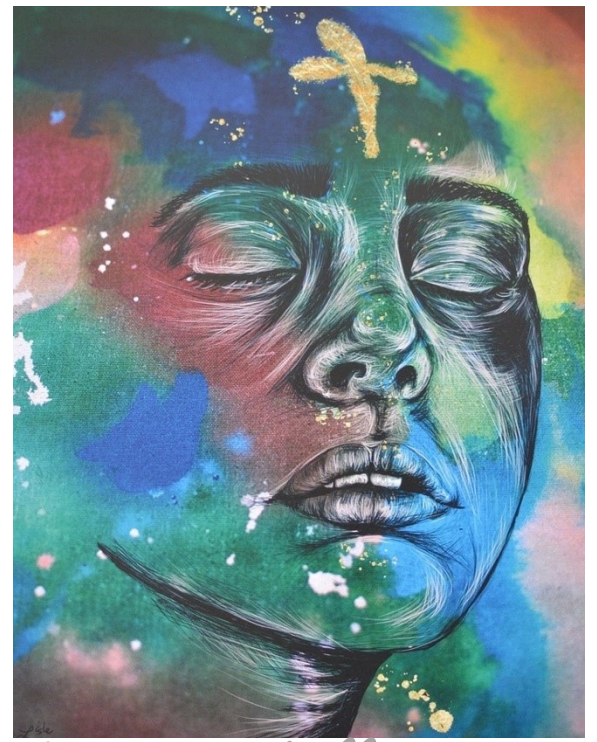
**Deadline for the
April GraceGram is
March 17, 2025.**

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

Ash Wednesday

We invite you to join us for a service at
12 Noon on March 5 here at Grace.

You are also welcome to join us for an
evening ecumenical Ash Wednesday
service at **Hastings Church of the
Nazarene at 6pm.**



Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

2025 Lenten Mid-Week Services and Meals



A reminder that we will gather on
Wednesday evenings for a meal and
service of evening prayer during Lent.
Please join us on **March 12, March 19,
March 26, April 2, and April 9.**

Meals will be served at 6:00 pm with
the services beginning at 7:00 pm.

We hope you can join us during this
season of reflection, repentance, and
justice.

Hastings Community Mid-Week Lenten Gatherings

The Things that Unite Us: Promoting Christian Unity

Note: All community gatherings include
lunch and begin at Noon

Mar 12: Green St UMC, One Body, Pastor Ken

Mar 19: First Presbyterian, One God, Fr. Jeff

Mar 26: St. Rose, One Spirit, Pastor Danny

Apr 2: Hastings Nazarene, One Hope, Pr. Nick

Apr 9: Grace Lutheran, One Lord, Pastor Bryce



Scan this
QR Code to
access secure
online giving.

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

Soup-er Bowl Sunday: Post Game Coverage

The outreach committee hosted a time of food, fellowship, and fighting hunger on February 9.

Vickey Argo was voted the soup champion, winning with a delicious chili.



ELCA World Hunger

We raised \$233.00 for ELCA World Hunger

\$120 was given in support of the Kansas City Chiefs
\$113 was given in support of the Philadelphia Eagles



Many stayed to play games for Game Day hosted by the social activities committee. The aftermath of a great game of Qwirkle is pictured above. Our soup champion, Vickey, wears a crown.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

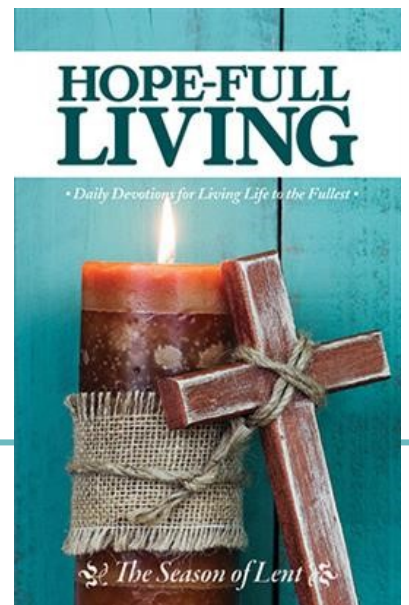


The Social Activities Committee invites you to participate in a potluck on March 30 after worship. A sign up sheet will be up in the Gathering Space soon. All are welcome.

Lenten Devotions

Are available to pick up in the Gathering Area.

This year's resource:



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

Hastings High School Presents



JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

on Saturday, March 15 at 2 pm

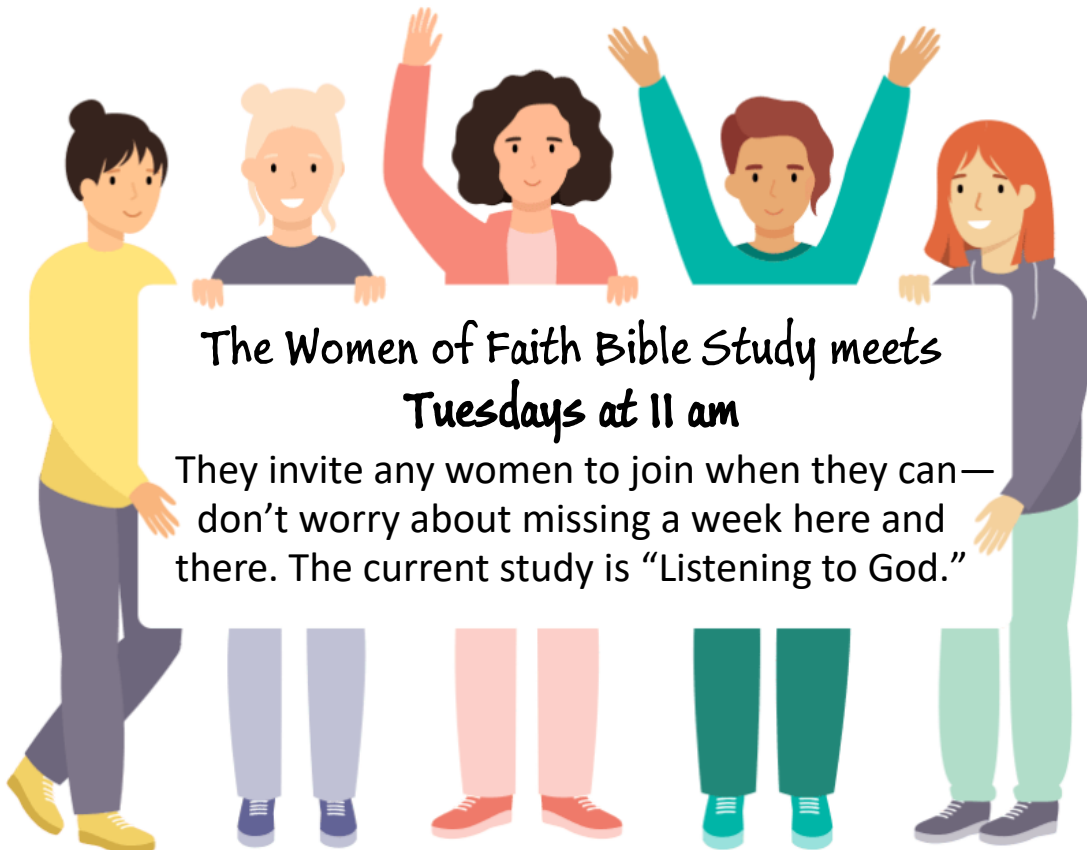
The Social Activities Committee invites you to go to dinner at Seasonal Grille after the musical. Please sign up on the bulletin board. Please purchase musical tickets on YOUR OWN through the HPAC ticket website: <https://hastings.ludus.com/index.php> Contact Bill Freedlund if you need help ordering tickets.

Hand2Hand

The Outreach Committee invites you to help the Hand2Hand Program.



March's need items are Slim Jim's, Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk, individual pudding cups, microwave popcorn, granola bars, chicken gravy packets, and instant mashed potatoes. Please place all donations in the box at the front entrance. The deadline for this month is March 30. If you have any questions, please contact Patti Comp. Thank you for helping 90 otherwise hungry children on the weekends at our local schools.



Daylight Savings
Time Begins
March 9



Make sure to
set your
clocks forward
an hour on
Saturday
night!

We are PREPARED TO BE . . .



Holy Week

2025 Schedule

Sunday, April 13th

Palm Sunday

Service at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 17th

Maundy Thursday

Service at 7:00 p.m.



Friday, April 18th

Good Friday Crosswalk

at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, April 18th

Good Friday

Service at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 20th

Easter Worship

Service at 9:30 a.m.



A VISIT FROM HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS



During the service on Easter, we will be hearing about the Christians of the Holy Land, and after the service there will be a display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem available for purchase in the Gathering Area. These carvings include olivewood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and many other religious crafts that could make a nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter, or Christmas gift. The carvings are handmade by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread.

More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depend upon tourism as their only source of income. For decades those Christians have been enduring many hardships as tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to the 12 yard wall built around Bethlehem, the pandemic, and catastrophic ongoing wars. Due to this, tourists are afraid and unable to visit the Holy Land. This made it very difficult for the Christian families to find their daily bread and forced them to immigrate and flee their homeland since they lost their source of income. The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, today it is less than 1%. If it continues like this, in few years we may find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could negatively affect our holy sites.

You are invited to support our Christian brothers and sisters in the town of Bethlehem where Christ was born by purchasing their carvings. A Christian family from Bethlehem will be telling us the story of the Christians of the Holy Land and they will be presenting these carvings after the services.

Let us tend to our roots, Christian children of God in the Holy Land. And let us pray together for peace in the land where our Savior once walked to tell the world the good news of salvation.

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

**STUDY STATEMENT:
SHARING GOD'S GRACE WITH ALL
PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE OUTCAST**

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)

**Please join us Palm
Sunday during
fellowship time for
our one hour
discussion**



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

**News from the North/West
Lower Michigan Synod**

Pastor Kjersten Sullivan has accepted Synod Council's call, in partnership with the ELCA Churchwide Organization, to serve as Assistant to the Bishop and Interim Director for Evangelical Mission. Pastor Sullivan has served at Trinity Lutheran Church in Battle Creek since 2014. She will complete her ministry at Trinity on March 9, and begin her ministry with the Synod on March 10.



**We welcome and pray for
Assistant Kjersten**

We are PREPARED TO BE . . .

March Meetings

3/3 Social Activities Committee at 4:30 pm

3/4 Women of Faith at 11 am

3/10 Outreach Committee 3 pm

3/11 Women of Faith at 11 am

3/11 Executive Committee at 5:30 pm

3/13 Brothers of Grace at 6 pm

3/18 Women of Faith at 11 am

3/18 Congregation Council at 5:30 pm

3/25 Women of Faith at 11 am

Save
The
Date

April 26, 2025 at 12 pm

Women of Faith and
Brothers of Grace Luncheon

Big
Thanks

The Things that Unite Us:
Promoting Christian Unity

⁴ **There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,** ⁵ **one Lord, one faith, one baptism,** ⁶ **one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.**

Ephesians 4:4-6



Join the Hastings community mid-week Lenten gatherings to explore this theme of unity with our ecumenical partners.

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.




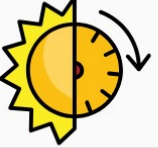






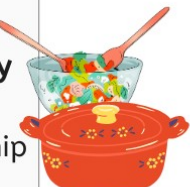
Worship is at

9:30 am

Sunday Mornings, One Service
Adult Forum following Worship

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

March 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Grace Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 am - 1 pm</p>						1
2 Worship 9:30 am <i>In person and Online</i>	3  Social Activities Committee 4:30 pm	4 Women of Faith 11 am 	5 Ash Wednesday Worship 12 pm at Grace Worship 6 pm at Hastings Nazarene	6 	7	8 Spring Forward 1 hour tonight 
9 Daylight Savings Begins Worship 9:30 am <i>In person and Online</i>	10  Outreach Committee 3 pm	11 Women of Faith 11 am Executive Committee 5:30 pm	12 Lunch at Green St UMC Noon Lent Evening Meal 6 pm, Worship 7 pm	13  Brothers of Grace 6 pm	14 	15 Joseph Musical at HPAC 2 pm Dinner out after
16 Worship 9:30 am <i>In person and Online</i>	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Women of Faith 11 am Congregation Council 5:30 pm	19 Lunch at First Presbyterian Noon Lent Evening Meal 6 pm, Worship 7 pm	20 First Day of Spring 	21	22
23 Worship 9:30 am <i>In person and Online</i>	24	25 Women of Faith 11 am 	26 Lunch at St. Rose Noon Lent Evening Meal 6 pm, Worship 7 pm	27	28	29
30 Worship 9:30 am 5th Sunday Potluck After Worship 	31	<p>Pastor Ken's Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 10 am - 12 pm</p>				

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)



March Anniversaries

Ed and Jeanette Markwart 03/09
Robert and Lisa Pohl 03/23



March Birthdays

Tim Kemper	03/03	Danielle Drumm	03/13
JoLynn Leary	03/03	Shayna Gibbons	03/22
Tara Schoessel	03/03	Rick Palmer	03/23
Lance Ogden	03/08	Kim Domke	03/24
Jamie Heise	03/10	Lisa Pohl	03/26
		Paul Pruitt	03/31





Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

God's work.

Our hands.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 am

Worship also On-line:
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

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Website:

www.grace-hastings.org

Facebook:

Grace Lutheran Church– ELCA

Hastings, MI

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