



# APRIL 2025 GRACEGRAM

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

*Early hasten to  
the tomb  
where they  
laid his  
breathless clay.*

*All is  
solitude and  
gloom.*

*Who has taken  
him away?*

*Christ is risen!  
He meets  
our eyes.*

*Savior, teach us  
so to rise.*

*~ James Montgomery*



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

After mocking Jesus, they stripped him of a robe and put his own clothes on. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they crucified him.

*Matthew 27:31-33; 35*



Pastor Ken, Pastor Kim and Laura and others on a Cross Walk



## Cross Walk

April 18, 2025 @ 9:30

Leave Grace & Return at about 11:30.  
Bottled water and light refreshments  
will be provided.

## Easter

April 20, 2025 @ 9:30

We celebrate that the death cloths that bound Jesus are no longer binding Jesus in the tomb. Come and join us for this festive celebration of Christ's release from death to resurrected life.

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

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

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

We're hosting the  
Thornapple Arts Council Jazz Festival  
Friday, April 25, 2025

Vocal ensembles will be performing in the sanctuary all day, including clinician workshops with each group. The first group starts at 8:30 am, there is a break for lunch from 12-12:45 pm, and the last group begins at 1:45 pm. Feel free to enjoy the music!



Scan this  
QR Code to  
access secure  
online giving.

Peace Lily in memory of the  
Bolton & Stager Families



From Frank & Ann Bolton

**WOMEN OF FAITH**  
and  
**BROTHERS OF GRACE**  
luncheon on Saturday, April 26 at noon



All Smiles at  
Seasonal Grille!

We enjoyed the musical at Hastings High School: Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat, and then had a nice dinner.

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

# Club Grace Blood Drive was a success

16 units of blood were donated

Welcome to Club Grace featuring the Superheroes was such a success that we were asked to do this theme again in the future.



A big thank you goes out to our church family for your prayers and support.

Extra special thanks goes to:

**Anna Scheck**

**Deborah Wilke**

**Pastor Ken**

**Jeanette Kogge**

**Pastor Paul Kuhlman**

**Amy Poholski**

**Bill Freedlund**

**Erin Franks**

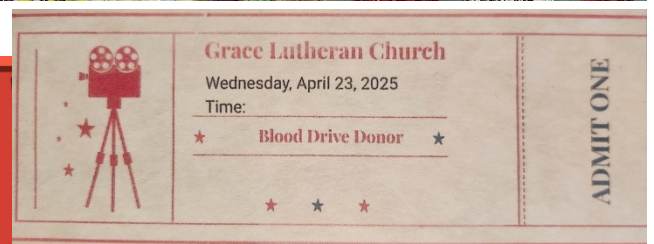
who make all the themes happen.



**THIS MONTH'S BLOOD DRIVE:**

**AT THE MOVIES:  
MYSTERY AT THE  
BLOOD DRIVE**

**COMING APRIL 23, 2025  
SHOWTIME 10AM-4PM**



Registration is open,  
call 1-800-733-2767 or go to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html>

Help running the drive or providing snacks is also appreciated. See the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

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

## 2025 Lenten Mid-Week

### Services and Meals

A reminder of the last two Wednesday evenings during Lent of a meal and service of evening prayer. Please join us on **April 2 and April 9.**

On April 2, we will have Soup and Bread for dinner. On April 9, we will eat Frito Pie (a variation on walking tacos).

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

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

**Apr 9: Grace Lutheran, One Lord, Pastor Bryce**

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

Ephesians 4:4-6

# Holy Week 2025

Sunday, April 13th

**Palm Sunday**

Service at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, April 18th

**Good Friday Crosswalk**

at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 20th

**Easter Worship**

Service at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 17th

**Maundy Thursday**

Service at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 18th

**Good Friday**

Service at 7:00 p.m.



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

# Hand2Hand

The Outreach Committee invites you to help the Hand2Hand Program.



April's needed food items are Ramen Noodles, Slim Jims, Yoo-Hoo chocolate milk, applesauce cups, Snack Pack pudding cups, and individual microwave popcorn.

Personal items needed this month are toothpaste and travel sized tissue packs.

Please place all donations in the box at the front entrance. The deadline for this month is April 27. If you have any questions, please contact Patti Comp. Thank you for helping 101 local students who may be hungry over the weekends!

## A VISIT FROM HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS ON EASTER

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 service.



**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.**

**thrivent**



**Thanks for supporting us through Thrivent!**

We're proud to be a Thrivent Choice-enrolled organization. Eligible Thrivent clients have Choice Dollars available to direct to organizations like Grace Lutheran Church. In 2024, we received \$953 in Thrivent Choice dollars from people like you. We appreciate how you have supported our organization with your Thrivent benefits and hope you consider us in the future.

To learn more about Thrivent's Choice Dollars, visit [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800-847-4836.

**April Meetings**

- 4/1 Women of Faith at 11 am**
- 4/7 Social Activities Committee at 4:30 pm**
- 4/8 Women of Faith at 11 am**
- 4/8 Executive Committee at 5:30 pm**
- 4/10 Brothers of Grace at 6 pm**

- 4/14 Outreach Committee 3 pm**
- 4/15 Women of Faith at 11 am**
- 4/15 Congregation Council at 5:30 pm**
- 4/22 Women of Faith at 11 am**
- 4/29 Women of Faith at 11 am**

We are **PREPARED TO BE . . .**  
LIVED BY LOVE

Mark your calendar for Grace's  
**Annual Church Picnic  
at the Poholski's  
Sunday, June 22nd**

**Hot dogs, condiments, chips and drinks are provided by Amy and Phil. A sign up sheet will be posted in June for extra dishes or desserts.**



In case you haven't heard,  
we have new office hours:

**OFFICE HOURS  
2 PM - 6 PM  
MONDAY - THURSDAY**



**PASTOR KEN'S OFFICE HOURS  
3 PM - 5 PM  
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY  
& THURSDAY**

Parish Administrator Anna Scheck started a new job as Executive Assistant at the Barry Community Foundation, and is working there in the mornings.

**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 resource is called "Listening to God."

A community invitation:

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Michigan Fiddler's Association

## **Jamboree**

1:00–4:00 pm Fiddlers

4:00–5:00 pm Open Jam

In Grace's Fellowship Hall

Musicians & Dancers Welcome

No admission fee - donations accepted



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

# April 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
30	31	1 Women of Faith 11 am 	2 Lunch at Hastings Nazarene Noon Lent Evening Meal 6 pm, Worship 7 pm	3	4	5	
<p><i>Grace Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 2 pm - 6 pm</i></p>		6 Worship 9:30 am In person and Online	7 Social Activities Committee 4:30 pm 	8 Women of Faith 11 am Executive Committee 5:30 pm	9 Lunch here at Grace Noon Lent Evening Meal 6 pm, Worship 7 pm	10  Brothers of Grace 6 pm	11 12 MI Fiddler's Jamboree 1-5 pm 
13 Palm Sunday Worship 9:30 am LGBTQIA+ Statement Discussion after worship	14  Outreach Committee 3 pm	15 Women of Faith 11 am Congregation Council 5:30 pm	16	17  Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm	18 Cross Walk 9:30 am  Good Friday Service at 7 pm	19 Holy Saturday 	
20 Easter Sunday Worship 9:30 am  	21	22 Women of Faith 11 am 	23 At the Movies: Mystery at the Blood Drive 10 am - 4 pm 	24 	25 TAC Jazz Festival 8:30am - 2:30pm 	26 Women of Faith and Brothers of Grace Luncheon 12 pm 	
27 Worship 9:30 am Stewardship Temple Talk during worship 	28	29 Women of Faith 11 am 	30	<p><i>Pastor Ken's Office Hours: Mon, Wed, &amp; Thurs 3 pm - 5 pm</i></p>		3	



**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

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)



Our sister in Christ,

**Elsie Merrow**

entered the

Church Triumphant on

Friday, February 14, 2025

Our sister in Christ,

**Doris Allerding**

entered the

Church Triumphant on

Wednesday, March 5, 2025



**April Birthdays**

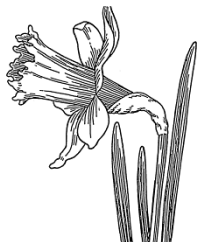
Jeanette Markwart	04/03	Clyde Watson	04/17
Mary Kleinbrink	04/04	Phil Poholski	04/17
Therese Maupin—Moore	04/07	Cindy Olson	04/20
Kim Markwart	04/09	Carrie Duits	04/21
Robert Pohl Jr	04/10	Linda Maupin	04/22
John Kleinbrink	04/11	Barry Wood	04/28
Kay Marsh	04/14	Tanner Ogden	04/30
Carolyn Moffit	04/16		

# Easter Bulb Flower Sale

I want to donate the plant(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I want to keep the plant(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**DAFFODIL**



**Number of  
DAFFODIL**

**HYACINTH**



**Number of  
HYACINTH**

**\$10.00 each  
TULIP**



**Number of  
TULIP**

**EASTER LILY**



**Number of  
EASTER LILY**

*Please write the number of plants you want of each type of flower. Color match is not guaranteed. Each plant is \$10.00. Mail order form back to church. 239 East North Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058. Thank you for supporting Living Water Ministries (Our Camp). Due April 14, 2025.*

*If donating, I would like the plant to go to \_\_\_\_\_*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Sun Patients**

(full sun to part shade)

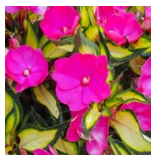
## Spring Flower Sale

**\$6.00 each**

**Geraniums**

(full sun to light shade)

**TROPICAL ROSE**



**Number of  
TROPICAL ROSE**

**ELECTRIC ORANGE**



**Number of  
ELECTRIC ORANGE**

**RED GERANIUM**



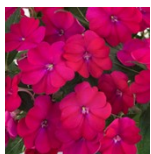
**Number of  
RED GERANIUM**

**WHITE GERANIUM**



**Number of  
WHITE GERANIUM**

**ROSE**



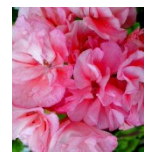
**Number of  
ROSE**

**LILAC**



**Number of  
LILAC**

**PINK BIG EYE GERANIUM**



**Number of  
PINK GERANIUM**

*Please write the number of plants you want of each type of flower. Color match is not guaranteed. Each plant is \$6.00. Mail order form back to church. 239 East North Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058. Thank you for supporting Samaritas—formerly Lutheran Social Services in Michigan. Due May 8, 2025. Pick-up Saturday, May 10th. If donating, I would like the plant to go to \_\_\_\_\_*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_



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](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 2PM - 6PM**

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