

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Hastings MI 49058



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Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
February 1, 2026

# Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026

*The season of Epiphany begins January 6<sup>th</sup> which 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.*

## Welcome

*Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.*

## Gathering Music

*Arise in body or spirit.*

## Greeting

- ☐ The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and in dwelling of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**
  
- ☐ The light of God given, experienced and shared be with you all.
- ☑ **Let us share the light of God's love with others.**



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
 2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
 3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
 where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

### Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray, O God, you know that we cannot withstand the dangers which surround us.  
**C** Strengthen us in body and spirit so that, with your help, we may be able to overcome the weakness that our sin has brought upon us; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## First Reading

**Micah 6:1-8**

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearied” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.*

📖 A reading from **Micah**:

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> “O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

<sup>6</sup> “With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

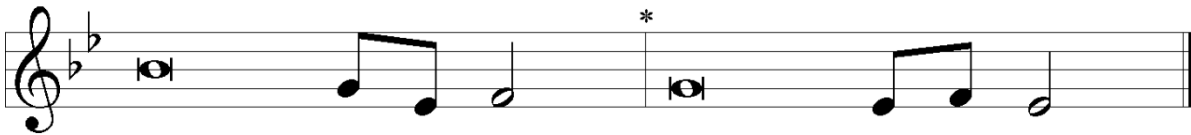
<sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

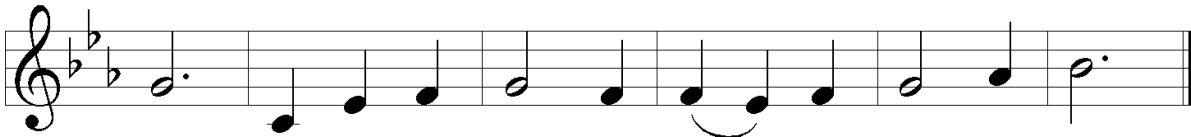
📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 15



### Refrain




LORD, who may a - bide up - on your ho - ly hill?

<sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?


<sup>2</sup> **Whoever leads a blameless life and does | what is right,  
who speaks the truth | from his heart,**

<sup>3</sup> there is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil | to his friend;  
he does not heap contempt up- | on his neighbor.

<sup>4</sup> **In his sight the wicked | is rejected,  
but he honors those who | fear the LORD.** 

<sup>5</sup> He has sworn to | do no wrong  
and does not take | back his word.

<sup>6</sup> **He does not give his money in | hope of gain,  
nor does he take a bribe a- | gainst the innocent.**

<sup>7</sup> Whoever | does these things  
shall never be | overthrown. 

## Second Reading

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

*According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.*

📖 A reading from **1 Corinthians:**

<sup>18</sup> The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

**Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.**

**Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 5:1-12**

*Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.*

**☞** The Holy Gospel, according to **Matthew**.

**☞** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

**☞** The Gospel of the Lord.

**☞** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children’s Time**

**Message**

*Silence for reflection*



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - ges a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
 Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.  
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

**Prayers of Intercession**

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Radiant God.** The assembly responds in prayer. Let you light shine upon us.*

☐ As God’s beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*A brief silence*

**A** God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Guide your servants, especially *Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Bethany Lutheran Church in Northport; Our Lady of Great Oak Catholic Church in Bellevue; Parmelee United Methodist Church in Middleville; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken*. Radiant God,

**G** **Let your light shine upon us.**

**A** God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Radiant God,

**G** **Let your light shine upon us.**

**A** God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Be with those who serve in the military, *including Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Seth Domke (Domke), Hudson Schick (Markwart) and Leopold Schick (Markwart)*. Radiant God,

**G** **Let your light shine upon us.**

**A** God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way, *especially Jennie Anderson, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Chris Bush, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Kim Domke, Greg Franks, Lisa Golnek, Larry Griswold, Walker Heise, Brenda and Jack Hopkins, Christine Jenkins, Joy Jenks, Martha Klenk, Dana Lepien, Michelle Luedke, Larry Maupin, Linda Melcher, Janet Moomey, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, Corey Normandin, Valeria Poholski, Payton Stancil, Kathy Surratt, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, A.J., and Tom and Kathy*. Radiant God,

**G** **Let your light shine upon us.**

**A** God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Radiant God,

**G** **Let your light shine upon us.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. Radiant God,

**G** **Let your light shine upon us.**

**P** Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

**G** **Amen.**

*Please arise in body or spirit.*

## Sharing the Peace

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

*(We share the peace of Jesus with one another.)*

## Offering Song

WOV accomp. ed. pgs. 19-20

**C** Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our  
cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the  
prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,  
and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## Offering Prayer

**A** Let us pray . . . Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth.

**C** **Nourish us with your Word, that with all who welcome you may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**


## Great Thanksgiving



**P** The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts. **G** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**G** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Eucharistic Prayer

**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.

**G** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**P** Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray how Jesus first taught:

**G** **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** Holy food for Holy people.

**G** Thanks be to God.

Communion Songs:

*Lamb of God*

*(WOV accomp. ed. pgs. 24-25)*



♩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;




have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



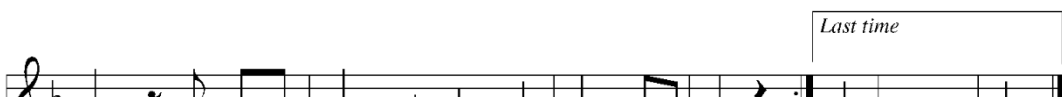
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And



now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



- |   |            |             |            |            |
|---|------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| 1 | Gen - tile | or Jew,     | ser - vant | or free,   |
| 2 | Man - y    | the gifts,  | man - y    | the works, |
| 3 | Grain for  | the fields, | scat-tered | and grown, |



wom-an	or man,	no	more.
one in	the Lord	of	all.
gath-ered	to one	for	all.

*Refrain*

**Prayer after Communion**

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
- Ⓑ Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Mission Minutes**

*Please arise in body or spirit.*

### **Blessing**

☐ Live your lives in the Light of Christ, sharing God's rich love and grace. The blessing of the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.

☑ **Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn**

### *Rise Up, O Saints of God*

**ELW 669**



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

### **Dismissal**

☐ Go in peace. Be light for the world.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

### **9:30 am**

**Assisting Minister – Anna Scheck**

**Lector – Mark Anton**

**Musician – Cindy Olson**

**Cantor – Vickey Argo**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck**

**Fellowship – Diane Neeb**

**Usher – Deb Watson**

## Something Bigger Than Us

The beatitudes could easily be read as a list of rewards and consequences, and the kind of behaviors that will merit one or the other. We are well accustomed to understanding the world in such terms. Children receive rewards for good behavior. Students earn awards or scholarships. Athletes win medals or trophies. Success is a ladder we climb and, if we've done our part, our job is rewarded in the end.

Jesus talks about a great reward, but it's not one we can earn. On a closer look, the nature of many of the so-called "blessings" in the beatitudes is as much about what is done to us as about anything we do for ourselves. Jesus begins his sermon by going up the mountain, but his words push us not to new heights but to greater depths. Poverty of spirit, mourning, meekness, hunger, thirst, and persecution—these are not behaviors to strive toward for a reward. Instead, they are circumstances in which we can find ourselves when the ladder we've been climbing falls to the ground. Alternatively, to be merciful or pure in heart or a peacemaker is to choose to get off the ladder altogether for the sake of something bigger than our small selves.

The beatitudes as a whole suggest that Jesus wants more for us than simply collecting a heavenly prize in the end. His blessings assure us that all along the way, no matter our circumstances, we have an inherent, God-given dignity that no one and nothing can strip from us. At the table of Christ, all who hunger and thirst for righteousness are filled. This meal isn't awarded to us for a job well done. Rather, it feeds us for the work still to be done, that of sharing God's mercy and peace with others.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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**Sharing God's Grace with All People, especially the outcast.** We, Grace Lutheran Church, Hastings, Michigan, 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

**Brats are available for \$6.00 for a package of 4.**

**Blood Drive:** Join us as we set sail with **Graceful Cruises**. We will be departing from Grace Lutheran Church **February 23, 2026, at 10:00 am** aboard the ship "**A Bit of Grace**". Book now by calling 1-800-Red-Cross or go online to schedule your time slot.

**Zion Lutheran Church in Woodland and Grace Lutheran Church officially began a shared ministry on January 1, 2026. Pastor Ken Scheck II is now officially serving both congregations. The agreement, found in the January GraceGram, spells out a shared ministry of 50%. This will be a very different model for Grace, but it has been done in many settings throughout the ELCA. Pastor Ken will leave worship after the distribution of Communion in order to lead 11:00 am worship at Zion.**

**Stewardship Information for January 18, 2026**

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.

Attendance: 32  
Weekly Giving: \$2,921.00

Views: 218  
Budget Amount: \$4,363.02

**Zion:** \$5,706.56



**Grace Projects Goal \$ 25,252.00 Repay HVAC in Fellowship Hall**  
Received To Date -\$ 24,802.00  
**Total Needed \$ 450.00**

Given this week toward Grace Projects; Pastor Anton Memorial: \$1,000.00  
Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$210.00  
Given this week for Miscellaneous Fund: \$250.00

**Stewardship Information for January 25, 2026**

Attendance: 28  
Weekly Giving: \$540.00

Views: 226  
Budget Amount: \$4,363.02

**Grace Projects Goal \$ 25,252.00 Repay HVAC in Fellowship Hall**  
Received To Date -\$ 24,827.00  
**Total Needed \$ 425.00**

Given this week toward Grace Projects; Brats: \$15.00  
Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$10.00  
Given this week for Miscellaneous Fund: \$500.00

**Ash Wednesday Worship** is February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. There will be no food that week. The Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday will begin with worship at 6 pm with a meal following the worship. Pastor Ken will lead worship and leave shortly after to lead worship at Zion Lutheran, Woodland.

**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. We welcome and affirm all people, which includes the LGBTQIA+ community. 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 God. We are invited to hear the words of Jesus, which remind us of our blessed status as Children of God.**

**SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY LUNCH, NEXT SUNDAY after worship.** We are looking for soup makers to bring delicious soups and we'll vote for the winner! There is a signup sheet in the Gathering Area. You're also welcome to bring bread, other sides, or a dessert. Like the halftime show, these are often better than the main event. Money raised will go to ELCA World Hunger. We thank the Outreach Committee for putting this together for us.

**Giving Statements were sent out in the February GraceGram.** Thank you for your generosity that is shared with Grace Lutheran Church through your contributions to the Ministry of Jesus Christ. If we have mistakenly left you out and have not provided you a statement, or if there is an issue with your contribution statement, please contact Cindy at the church office 269-945-9414 or parishadmin@grace-hastings.org so she can help you.

The **Hand2Hand Program**, which helps feed local needy students over the weekends, requests any amount of the following:

Chicken Noodle Soup	Peanut Butter	Individual Oatmeal	Slim Jims
Snack Pack Pudding Cups	Granola Bars	Individual Applesauce Cups	
Ramen Noodles	Microwave Popcorn	Individual Mac and Cheese	

Donations are due February 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Thank you so much for all donations!**

**Lenten Wednesdays**

February 25	12 noon	Ecumenical Luncheon here at Grace	Topic MERCY
February 25	6 pm	Holden Evening Prayer	Meal to follow

**Join us on Wednesdays in Lent for Seeking God's Way**

**Parish Administrator** is Cindy Olson. **Her office hours are 10:00 am to 2:30 pm Mon-Wed.**

**Pastor Ken's office hours are now 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Mon & Wed.**

**Brothers of Grace** will meet next Thursday, February 12, at 6:00 pm. All men are welcome!

**Social Activities Committee** will meet on Monday, February 2, at 1:30 pm.

**Women of Faith** will meet Tuesday, February 3, at 11:00 am. All women are welcome.

**Brown Bag Bible Study** will meet Thursday, February 5, at 12:00 noon – all are welcome to come to communion at the beginning of the study and leave if you cannot stay for the bible study. The time for communion is designed to give those who cannot come on Sunday mornings another opportunity and to deepen the experience for those who can stay for the bible study with Christ's body and blood.