

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
February 8, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

The season of Epiphany begins January 6th 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.**

Gathering Hymn

Gather Us In

ELW 532

Prayer of the Day

- ☐ Let us pray, Almighty God, you sent your only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear.
- ☑ **Help us to believe with joy what the Scriptures proclaim, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

📖 A reading from **Isaiah**:

¹ Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up quickly;
 your vindicator shall go before you;
 the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
 you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Psalm 112:1-10



☑ Refrain



Light shines in the dark - ness for the up - right.

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the Lord
 and have great delight in | his commandments!

² Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;
 the generation of the upright | will be blessed.

³ **Wealth and riches will be | in their house,
 and their righteousness will | last forever.**

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;
 the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.** ☑

⁵ It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending
 and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.

⁶ For they will nev- | er be shaken;
 the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.

⁷ **They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;
 their heart is right; they put their trust | in the LORD.**

⁸ **Their heart is established and | will not shrink,
 until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely | to the poor,
and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their | head with honor.
¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and | pine away;
the desires of the wick- | ed will perish. ☒

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

☒ A reading from **1 Corinthians:**

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

☒ The Word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Prayers of Intercession

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Radiant God.** The assembly responds in prayer. Let your 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

- Ⓐ Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Guide your servants, especially *Yehiel and Julie, Assistants Scott and Kate; our synod companion churches, Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos; Peace Church in Middleville; Peace United Methodist Church in Nashville; Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.* Radiant God,

☑ **Let your light shine upon us.**

- Ⓐ Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Radiant God,

☑ **Let your light shine upon us.**

- Ⓐ Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones. We pray for our enemies. 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,

☑ **Let your light shine upon us.**

- Ⓐ Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving, *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, Carrie Johnson, Martha Klenk, Dana Lepien, Michelle Luedke, Larry Maupin, Linda Melcher, Janet Moomey, Kate Muraski, Jody Neagle, Corey Normandin, Valeria Poholski, the family of A.J. Schutt, Payton Stancil, Kathy Surratt, Al Throop, Claudia Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, and Tom and Kathy.* Radiant God,

☑ **Let your light shine upon us.**

A Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our pastor, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. Radiant God,

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

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love. 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.

G **And also with you.**

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

Offering Song

WOV accomp. ed. pgs. 19-20



G 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. **C** And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C 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.

☒ Amen.

Lord's Prayer

☒ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray how Jesus first 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

☒ Holy food for Holy people.

☒ 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.

Here is Bread

ELW 483

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

ELW 717

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

This Little Light of Mine

ELW 677

Dismissal

- Ⓐ Go in peace. Be light for the world.
- ☩ **Thanks be to God.**

9:30 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton

Lector – Vickey Argo

Musician – Cindy Olson

Cantor – Kate Watson

Pastor – Ken Scheck

Fellowship – Soup-er Bowl Lunch

Usher – Dave Neeb

Noisy Offering, collected today, will benefit Barry County Cares.

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 Thursday, February 12, at 6:00 pm. All men are welcome!

Women of Faith will meet Tuesday, February 10, at 11:00 am. All women are welcome.

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

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 share the light of Jesus Christ. May we invite those who sit in darkness to see the light of Jesus.

Stewardship Information

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.

Attendance: 41
Weekly Giving: \$12,863.38

Views: 218
Budget Amount: \$4,363.02

Grace Projects Goal \$ 25,252.00 Repay HVAC in Fellowship Hall
 Received To Date -\$ 24,902.00
Total Needed \$ 350.00

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$100.00

Ash Wednesday Worship is February 18th 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.

SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY LUNCH IS TODAY after worship. Please JOIN US and help vote for the favorite Soup of the Day! 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.

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			

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.

The Lamp Is Already Lit

“This little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine” (ELW 677). There’s nothing quite like the joyous call and response of a whole congregation singing together the words of this beloved African American spiritual. The text and tune make it very hard to keep any lamps under a bushel basket!

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls us to “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). Many congregations use these words during the rite of Holy Baptism. But “Let *your* light shine” doesn’t imply that the light belongs only to us or to the church. The first chapter of Genesis clarifies this. At the beginning of creation, God speaks light into existence, making light God’s first gift to the whole world. In that light, God creates everything, including humankind, which is made in the divine image, according to God’s likeness.

Living in harmony with God’s word, letting our light shine with “good works” that glorify God, is not about striving for perfection. Because God’s light has existed from the beginning, it is not something we earn or achieve for ourselves. We don’t provide the spark that lights the lamp—it is already lit by God. Our job is to let the light shine. To be light for the world, then, is to be none other than who we have been from the beginning. Therein lies not only the fulfillment of God’s word, but also our own fulfillment as God’s children and light-bearers in the world.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Brown Bag Bible Study will meet Thursday, February 12, 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.

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

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.

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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 22nd. **Thank you so much for all donations!**