DECEMBER 2026 GRACEGRAM

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

I will Light Candles this Christmas

Candles of joy, despite all sadness.

Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.

Candles of courage where fear is ever present.

Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days.

Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.

Candles of love to inspire all my living.

Candles that will burn all the year long.

~ Howard Thurman

Deadline for the January GraceGram is December 17, 2026.

Send your articles to:
Cindy Olson

parishadmin@grace-hastings.org

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.





Thanks!

FOR THE NEW COMPUTER!

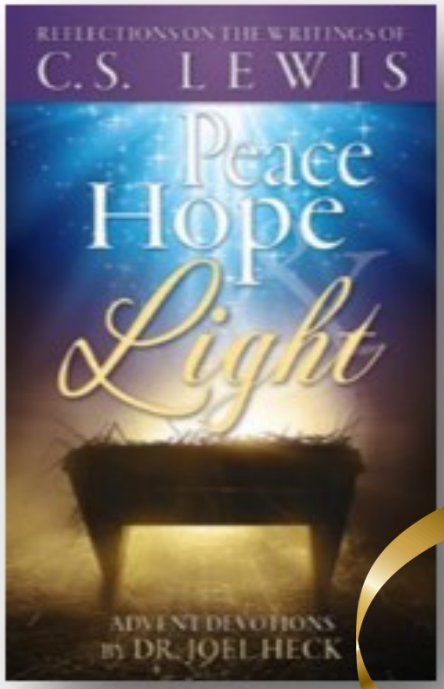
We thank the Shirley Beck family for providing the majority of this computer to the church office. We also thank Greg and Erin Franks for their initial donation, which started the process of finding this new computer. We are so grateful that these families have given so generously to the work of God's mission.

GIFT TAGS

Will be up after Thanksgiving Weekend

Christmas Food Baskets

5 Hams, 9 boxes of Adult Breakfast Cereal, 9 boxes of Kid friendly Breakfast cereal, 10 boxes Macaroni and Cheese, 10 cans of canned corn , 10 cans of canned green beans, 5 large jars of peanut butter, 5 jars of jelly, 5 sets of cake mix and frosting, 5 sets of brownie mix / or holiday cookies, 5 jars of family sized Applesauce, 10 boxes of hamburger helper / Rice A Roni, 6 packages of toilet paper 6 rolls, 5 jugs laundry soap, 5 bottles liquid dish soap, 5 sets of shampoo & conditioner, 5 gallons of milk, 5 cartons of eggs, 5 loaves of bread, 5 boxes of butter, 5 packages of string cheese, 5 5lbs. bags of potatoes, 5 packages of dinner rolls, 5 packages of fresh fruit, 5 children sets of shampoo and conditioner



Available in the Gathering Area

Christmas Eve Worship

Pre-service music starts at 6:30 pm, with the service at 7:00 pm on

December 24

Scan this QR Code to access secure online giving.

The Giving Tree

will be set up in the gathering area after the Thanksgiving holiday. What is needed most is individually packaged snacks for students. These items are often purchased out-of-pocket by the teachers themselves.

2027 Offering Envelopes available in early December

Social Activities Committee is sponsoring

Jesus' Birthday

December 20th after worship.

Be sure to mark your calendars for December 20th & join us for a joy-filled time of fun & fellowship!

THANKS FOR THE NEW CANDLES

God's work.
Our hands.

Our Staff:

Ken Scheck II *Minister of Word and Sacrament kscheckii@aol.com*

Cindy Olson, *Minister of Music & Parish Administrator*
Mon–Weds 10AM- 2:30PM
parishadmin@grace-hastings.org

Kim Domke, *Bell Choir Director*
kdomke08@gmail.com
Aurora Hawkins, *Nursery*
Nathan Freedlund, *Custodian*

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 am

Childcare is available

Worship also On-line:
www.grace-hastings.org



Church Council Members/Liaisons:

Erin Franks
(Congregational Care)
Vacant (Property)
Amy Poholski (Outreach)
Mark Anton (Youth & Family)
Bill Freedlund
(Social Activities)
Greg Franks (Stewardship)
Deb Watson (Small Groups)
Carla Neil (Worship)

Leadership for 2026-2027 Executive Committee:

President: ***Tim Schoessel***
Vice President: ***Erin Franks***
Secretary: ***Anna Scheck***
Treasurer: ***Randy Teegardin***

Grace Lutheran Church
239 E. North Street
Hastings, MI 49058

OUR MISSION
Saved by Grace.
Called to Worship.
Sent to Serve.

Website:
www.grace-hastings.org

Facebook:
Grace Lutheran Church–
ELCA Hastings, MI

Phone:
269-945-9414
269-945-2645

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE

Address Service Requested



Adopt a Family

There is a grocery list posted on the bulletin board and this newsletter, and the children's gift chart will be set up in the gathering area soon. The deadline for drop off is December 13

Brothers of Grace

Christmas Lunch
will be Monday,
December 7 at 12 noon
Join us at the
Walldorff.
All men are welcome.
Sign up in the
Gathering Area.





Midweek Advent Services

This year we will be celebrating the Advent season by gathering on Wednesday evenings on December 2nd, 9th, and 16th.
Wednesday worship service begins at 6 pm in the Sanctuary, using Holden Evening Prayer.
Meals will take place in the Fellowship Hall starting after the worship service.
We hope you can join us.
Proceeds from the meals will go toward The Green Gables Haven

Pr. Ken's Office Hours
Monday & Wednesday
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

The Lakewood Area Choral Society and the Caledonia Community Choir Present

The Music of Christmas

Celebrate the magic of winter with an unforgettable night of music, joy, and holiday merrymaking!

Thursday, December 17

7:30 pm

Caledonia High School Fine Arts Center
9050 Kraft Ave SE
Caledonia, MI 49316



Cindy's Office Hours

Mon - Wed

10 am - 2:30 pm



DECEMBER MEETINGS

Women of Faith – 11:00 am Tuesdays 12/1, 12/8 & 12/15

Brown Bag Bible Study – 12 noon Thursdays 12/3, 12/10, 12/17

Brothers of Grace – 12 noon Monday 12/7

Congregation Council – 6:00 pm Tuesday 12/16

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

LGBTQIA+ = **L**esbian, **G**ay, **B**i-sexual, **T**ransgender, **Q**ueer, **Q**uestioning, **I**ntersex, **A**sexual/**A**romantic.

Blue Christmas Worship

December 20
4 PM at
First Presbyterian
405 North M 37
Hastings, Michigan

hand2hand
because a hungry child hurts

Consider helping students who are at risk of going hungry over the weekends by donating any of the items listed here. Place donations in the box marked Hand2Hand in the church entryway by the last Sunday of the month.

Thank you -
Outreach Committee

Raisins Fruit Cups Trail Mix
Fruit Snacks Slim Jims
Ramen Noodles Protein Bars
Granola Bars Cereal Bars
Microwave Popcorn Cheez - Its
Mac & Cheese Cups or Boxes
Snack Pack Pudding Cups Individual Cereal Boxes
Individual Applesauce Cups Individual Oatmeal Packets

Thank you to all who made November 7th Pasty Sale a huge success!

Dear Grace Lutheran Congregation,
Thank you so much for the lovely items that you purchased for the kids of Barry County! The table will be so fun for the kids to use and a way for them to have fun! Thank you again,
the Staff of Safe Harbor

Dear Ken: Please accept the enclosed check from the choral society as a thank you for allowing us to use your sanctuary for our sectional rehearsals and the fellowship hall for our board meetings. We understand this is not expected, and we certainly are grateful for that. However, we would like to tangibly express our gratitude for Grace being a blessing to us.
The check is "no-strings-attached." Please use as needed.
Sincerly, Robert C. Oster, Artistic Director and Conductor

Blood Drive Report









The **"Halloween Special: Let's Get Batty"** on October 26th Blood Drive was the best one, yet!
Thanks to all of your support - prayers and donations - we had 32 donors
(One donor equals three lives saved.)

Our next Blood Drive is December 28, 2026,
10 am – 4 pm (the last appointment is at 3:45).
We are going to try our theme of **"Toyland"** again this year (it was canceled last year due to inclement weather).
Thank you again for supporting the blood drives at Grace!



Let Us Pray: If you are aware of others that should be put on the lists, please notify the office.

Our Homebound Friends:

Karl Golnek	c/o Medilodge 2786 - 56th Street, SW Wyoming, MI 49418
Kay Howell	2950 McKeown Rd, Apt 820 Hastings, MI 49058
Diana Brown	703 W Woodlawn Ave Hastings, MI 49058
Jeanette Ulrich	3887 S M-37 Hwy Hastings. MI 49058

Remembering Our Homebound Friends

As the holidays approach it's a great time to remember our friends who are not able to attend services with us with a card or a visit. You can find addresses above.

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)

Nephews of Ed and Jeanette Markwart
Hudson Schick (Air Force, New Mexico)
Leopold Schick (Air Force, Germany)

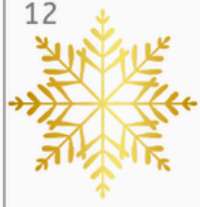
December Anniversaries

12/16 George and Phyllis Lietz
12/20 Robert and Sharon Bolton

December Birthdays

Myrina Crawford	12/01
Ed Markwart	12/01
Traci Wales	12/01
Dave Neeb	12/11
Cheri Clements	12/20
Jeanette Kogge	12/20
Bill Freedlund	12/20
Corrina Palmer	12/22
Jesus	12/25
Gary Golnek	12/28
Karen Halstead	12/28
Deborah Wilke	12/31

December 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Women of faith 11 am	2 Advent Lunch Hastings Nazarene at noon *Holden Evening Prayer at 6 pm* *Dinner following*	3 Brown Bag Bible Study Noon - 1 pm 	4	5 **WOF & BOG 12 noon Lunch at GRACE** 
6 Worship 9:30 am	7 **Brothers of Grace 12 noon Waldorff** 	8 Women of faith 11 am	9 Advent Lunch Grace Lutheran at noon *Holden Evening Prayer at 6 pm* *Dinner following*	10 Brown Bag Bible Study Noon - 1 pm 	11 	12 
13 Worship 9:30 am 	14	15 Women of faith 11 am *Council - 6:00 pm*	16 Advent Lunch St. Rose Catholic at noon *Holden Evening Prayer at 6 pm* *Dinner following*	17 Brown Bag Bible Study Noon - 1 pm	18	19
20 Worship 9:30 am **Christmas Fellowship**	21  	22	23	24 *Christmas Eve worship at 7 pm* *Pre-Service Concert at 6:30*	25 *Merry Christmas* 	26
27 Worship 9:30 am	28  **Toyland Blood Drive 10 am - 4 pm**	29	30 	31 *New Year's Eve*		

GRACE OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY - WEDNESDAY
10 AM - 2:30 PM

PASTOR KEN'S OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY
10 AM - 12 PM