



HOLY COMMUNION OFFERED EVERY SUNDAY

GRACEGRAM

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



OUR
MISSION

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

November 2015

INSIDE THIS EDITION

From the Pastor's Desk

Thanksgiving Dinner Prayers

by Pastor Paul E. Kuhlman

This is the month for one of this country's greatest holidays. Here are a few prayers you might consider using when you gather on Thanksgiving Day for your family celebration:

Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day we bow our hearts to You and pray. We give You thanks for all You've done especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son. For beauty in nature, Your glory we see for joy and health, friends and family, for daily provision, Your mercy and care these are the blessings You graciously share. So today we offer this response of praise with a promise to follow You all of our days. Amen.-Mary Fairchild

For each new morning with its light, for rest and shelter of the night, for health and food, for love and friends, for everything Thy goodness sends.-Ralph Waldo Emerson

We thank you for the turkey, the gravy and the dressing. Dear Lord, this table overflows with Thy abundant blessing. Let us always be aware that all gifts come from You, and may we serve Your heavenly will in everything we do. Amen.-Joanna Fuchs

Read more: <http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/10-great-thanksgiving-prayers/#ixzz3oYjpOpAS>

- GraceNotes & ClapperKids
- Living Liturgy
- Coffee Hour – A Trial Basis
- The Pulse – Grace's High School Youth
- Christmas Basket News
- Holly Trolley is coming!

Deadline for inclusion in the December Gracegram is November 17, 2015

Send your articles to Victoria Alt at: parishadmin@grace-hastings.org

News from the GraceNotes & ClapperKids

by Kim Domke

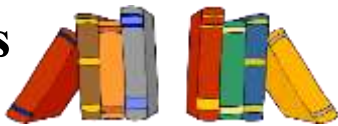


We began the season with a bell basics workshop in early October. With many prayers and phone calls, we are happy to report that both handbell choirs are fully established. We are delighted to welcome back 13 former ringers and 10 NEW ringers!! Sometimes God answers prayer with a “NO”. However, sometimes He answers prayer with “YES and here is a little more than you even asked for”, PRAISE BE TO GOD! We are currently learning music that will be shared on Dec. 13, beginning at 9:30am for the Christmas Program. The adult choir will also share music on Wed. Dec. 16, beginning at 6:45pm; come eat dinner with Grace at 6:00pm and stay for the Advent service. The Clapper kids are also making plans to go ring in the community, either at the Hastings Public Library or a nursing home. Stay tuned for details at a later date.

HELP NEEDED from the Grace family... I would like to have one or two helpers to be the FACE of GRACE on Thursdays from 3:15 to maybe 5:15. Since we have so many new young people in the choir (from outside Grace membership), it would be helpful to have someone here to greet them as they arrive, direct them to facilities in the building, and perhaps help set up the after-school snack. Then, as parents arrive close to 4:50, to be around to chat/visit and answer questions about the church, and to make sure all the students are leaving the building safely with the correct pick-up person. I need another set of eyes as I am also busy setting up for the adult choir, and would appreciate some extra Grace friends to help out. Please talk with me soon.

Education News

by Lorraine Freedlund



The Advent/Christmas program is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, December 13. There will be one service at 10am. The program revolves around the “The Colors of Christmas”. A community potluck and Jesus' birthday party will take place in the fellowship hall after the service. Before the service, starting at 9:30am, the bells will be ringing seasonal music for the congregation. We are planning on collecting monies for a charity in Hastings as a gift from the Grace community.

Intergenerational Sundays are scheduled for November 22nd, January 31st, March 27th and May 22nd. This is a time for the Grace community, both youth and adults, to share their faith journey through fun activities and fellowship. Grace members will be contacted to lead one of the Sundays.

The Education Committee is still looking for additional members to be a part of the Education committee. We need to continue to find various ways to reach out to the youth in our community. Times are changing and we need to look at making changes to our programming days and times. If you would like to share your ideas come and join us.

Thanksgiving Memory

by Kim Domke

I wasn't sure what memory I would share when Steve Kaiser approached me in town yesterday and asked that I write a special article for this November Gracegram. I prayed on this request and was moved to tell this story of thanks. Thanks that I have been part of the Grace Lutheran family. I moved from Midland to Hastings in 1987 after I was hired by Hastings Areas Schools to teach 6th grade; I joined Grace the same year. It was at Grace that I met my husband Edward and here that I accepted the challenge of being a High School Youth Group leader with Dick and June Cole. I am thankful to them, and to my early mentors, Michael Anton, Donna Buehl, and CK (Charles Converse) for recognizing my talents and encouraging me to serve, even in areas that I never had served before. Grace Lutheran felt like home very quickly and I was eager and happy to serve in areas of music and youth activities. I still feel called to serve and am thankful to be asked, however, I sure enjoy it more when others walk beside me in this journey. I am thankful to SO MANY of you (and wouldn't want to leave out any names) who have helped with a Christmas program, or VBS, or the Cross Walk or CROPWALK....bell choirs and folk masses... youth groups, Sunday School, Youth Gatherings and CPR classes, United Way Homelessness Event, puppet praise and Easter Egg hunts...the list continues. I don't mean to lessen the contribution of all the helpers at Grace, nevertheless there is a lady who needs to be thanked wholeheartedly and that person is Linda Trongo. Linda is my “GIVING THANKS” memory, because she has been here from my start at Grace and willingly answered every need with a smile and a generous heart. I couldn't be more thankful for any parish worker; who also became a true friend, than for Linda. She has baked and walked, made calls and prayed, cried and hugged, laughed, typed and copied, cut and bundled, built and listened, and donated both her time and talents... you name it, she has probably done it for “me” and for “you” all in the name of evangelizing through service. She even, bless her soul, rang in the first year of handbells with the kids' groups as I needed more ringers. I believe that she has enthusiastically given of herself to Jesus and this church in so many ways that sometimes it goes unnoticed by the masses. So the next time you see this Sister-in-Christ (AKA sister of service) if she has helped you in any way, give her an extra hug and tell her THANKS!

Living Liturgy—Thanksgiving—Singing a New Song

by Pastor Paul

One Sunday, at an Adult Forum on the Book of Revelation, the members of the class experienced a real revelation in their reading of chapter 5. We discovered something very important about why we worship on Sunday—singing and giving praise. In this chapter an important seal is about to be opened and a scroll will be read. Unfortunately, there appears to be no one who is able or righteous enough to open the seal, and the author falls on his knees, “weeping bitterly.” In the midst of the sadness and from among those gathered around the throne, a Lamb steps forward, capable and worthy to open the seal. What happens next is incredible and alarming:

“When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb,...They sing a new song: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God....’”The Lamb, who is the Christ, steps forward and the 24 elders, representing all the faithful tribes of Israel and the followers of the Lamb (the church), break out in a joyful and thankful song, knowing that because of sacrifice and faithfulness, Jesus is able to open the scroll that contains the words from the throne, the words from God. Their joy cannot be contained, and they break out in a new song. But what happens next is even more incredible and alarming: “Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered ...!’”Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, ‘To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!’ ”What is incredible and alarming is that the heavens, filled with millions of voices, do not come alive in song until after the faithful, the church, begin their new song. The joyful voices of God’s faithful seem to provoke the voices of heaven to sing. The joy of the faithful is contagious, as it stirs heavenly voices to sing in like manner. We would do well to remember that the thankful living of God’s people, the song of thankfulness that comes from the voices of God’s saints on earth motivate and stir the voices of praise and joy to the God on the throne. Our singing can stimulate the heavens. Our worship, then, has a higher purpose; to arouse all the voices of heaven, to gather into song the saints before us, and the angels of heaven, to open up in joy and thanksgiving to honor the God on the throne, the creator and source of life of us all. WE are the new song that must be sung! And in our singing, all of creation, in heaven and on earth sing the new song to God! Don’t just stand there! Join the chorus! Let’s get all of heaven stirring to sing in joy to the Father.

Crop Walk 2015

by Kim Domke

Dear Grace Family,

Thank you for supporting CROP Walk and me as I walked for those who can’t walk themselves. I am happy to report that Grace Lutheran was able to contribute \$413 to this year’s Barry County CROP Walk. 25% of this stays in Barry County to help in 5 locations: Barry County Cares (former Love, Inc.), First United Methodist Food Bank, Good Food For Freeport, Center of Hope (Maple Valley), and Middleville Food Bank.

It was a beautiful, sunny day and I walked the property of Country Chapel UMC Dowling for an hour with close to 100 other walkers from at least 15 other churches. This interdenominational event is a great way to combine with other Christians in our community for the benefit of all. I hope to lead a group of Grace Walkers next year. Thanks again for HELPING TO STOP HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME !

Coffee Hour – A Trial Basis

by Chris Bush

During the months of December through February, we will be serving beverages and snacks in the narthex rather than in the Fellowship Hall after each Sunday worship service. The Fellowship Hall will NOT be closed, but food and drinks will be provided only in the narthex. Why? We are hopeful that during this time, members and visitors will pause before “departing to serve” to visit with each other, build relationships, and practice hospitality. Chris Bush and Cheryl Drumm are working through the logistics of this effort and making sure there are areas, near the narthex, in the library, as well as in the Fellowship Hall, where people can sit down to visit. We ask for your patience, willingness to give it a try, and feedback!





Calling Singers of All Ages

by Cindy Olson

Sunday, November 29th is a fifth Sunday, so there will be one worship service at 10:00 am. The choir is scheduled to sing,

and I would like to include children and youth with the adults! Their part will be simple to learn, I promise!

I will hold rehearsals on Sundays, November 15 and 22 from 9:15 to 9:30 am (before the Faith Formation hour), and after 10:45 worship (12 noon to 12:15, so there's time to get a snack!). Rehearsal on November 29th will begin at 9:30 am.

If you have questions, please see me on Sunday, call or text (517-242-3725) or email me (cindy_2004@yahoo.com).

Hope to see lots of you!

Word Watchers – a different look at the Book of Revelation

by Pastor Paul

The writer of Revelation uses an apocalyptic method for writing his book that utilizes symbolic language in order to convey his philosophy of history. The writer's fundamental principle is his profound faith in God and his righteous government and in "the ultimate triumph of the cause of Christ." I hope this description does not chase you away. Let me put it more simply:

The Christians were in an alien and hostile environment, and many felt that the church and all it stood for was on the verge of being crushed and destroyed. John, however, looks beyond the borders of the visible. He lifts the veil that obscures the farther or deeper vision. As the church sounds the voices of fear, John sounds the clear note of confidence and of sure victory. The Golden Age is not in the past, but is yet to come, and John points to that age. John is unable to unveil the whole plan, but he is able to reveal enough that it can give hope to the hopeless. He wants his readers to not look at where they have been, but where they are going—Look ahead. Optimism, optimism, optimism!!! The Church might be in the wilderness and it may be evening, but we look for the morning, the morning of the eternal day.

If the Book of Revelation intrigues you, then join the Wednesday Word Watchers for a study that will change your whole understanding and appreciation for this mysterious and sometimes confusion book of the New Testament. The Word Watchers meet every Wednesday morning at 10:00 am in the Library of the church.

All Saints Sunday–November 1

by Pastor Paul

All Saints' Sunday is a rich tradition in most ELCA congregations, and that is true at Grace as well. On this day, churches throughout Christendom remember the saints who have passed. In most cases, we remember those who have passed away the previous year. In some cases, the church remembers the many saints who have died in her rich 2000 year history of ministry. At Grace this year, we want to remember the saints who have passed on to the kingdom the past year, and we want to give each member the opportunity to remember those saints in their lives who have died, yet their memory is cherished still today.

On All Saints' Day, November 1, at each of the services, we will remember the saints of the church. A piece of paper will appear in the bulletin, on which each member can list up to five people who have died that they would like to remember and cherish in prayer. At a given moment in the service, the members will be invited to come forward to the baptismal font where the names of the saints will be read, a chime played, a candle lighted and placed in the midst of the font to remember those who have served us in our past. Ushers will help with the lighting and placing of the candle, and Pastor Paul will read the names, after which Minister of Music Cindy will touch the chime on the organ.

All Saints' Day is NOT a sad or melancholy time. It is a clear opportunity to celebrate the promise of God in Jesus Christ of the resurrection of the saints, to give thanks once again for the blessing these faithful people have brought to us throughout their lives, and to joyfully remember those who have served God and us in life. We come this day filled with hope, for God loves his people!





Grace's High School Youth

by Joe Longcor

When the High School youth meet in September there was a lot of catching up with each another. We have at least 4 youth who are showing interest in attending the Lansing Gathering December 27-30. More information will be coming out about The Gathering later.

Last month we were able to take 10 youth to Art Prize in Grand Rapids. Wales and Schossels allowed us to use their vans...a blessing. We shared with each other during the afternoon, seeing art at Devos, Amway Grand, and the Gerald R. Ford Museum. It occurs to me...even though the art is interesting and a different thing to do...it was more about youth fellowship in their own way. Lots of texting, face shots, talking about many things and sharing strong opinions about a few. We're fortunate to have this cross-section of youth involved. It's worth noting that we had three youth not able to make it for this event...we would have had 13 young people. Blessings ... count 'em all.

The youth group has a tentative schedule:

- November 1st...Meeting at Grace
- November 7th ... Hopeful help with the Pasty event
- Mid-November...possible LOCK-IN!
- Early December...youth group meeting at Grace, possible Advent meal, and The Gathering

There are still about 50 wooden Nativity scenes available for \$15.00 each or 4 for \$50.00. Made in the USA and assembled by Grace's High School youth.

Words from Bishop Satterlee – We Have Jesus!

by The Rev. Craig Alan Satterlee, Ph.D., Bishop

I heard fine preaching at the recent meeting of the Conference of Bishops. Bishop Dick Graham preached on Jesus' healing at the pool by the sheep gate, noting that, "when Jesus saw [the man] lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, Jesus said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?'" (John 5:6), the sick man didn't say, "Yes! The sick man offered up excuses as to why he hadn't healed himself: "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." (John 5:7) The sick man was bound by his understanding of how things should work. How often we are that man, both

individually and as the church. Thankfully, Jesus went ahead and healed the man.

Bishop Ralph Jones preached on Job and dared us to embrace Job's experience not as punishment or a game but as God enabling Job to experience life from so much of the world's perspective. After all, for so many in the world, the narrative of Job is the reality of daily life. To be church is to comprehend, enter into and experience the world's suffering as Jesus did. Bishop Kurt Kusserow preached on Esther and compared Christ to King Mordecai's golden scepter, which the King extended to Queen Esther so that the queen could approach and intercede for her people (Esther 5:2). What if the church embraced Christ not as salvation for us but as permission to intercede with God for the sake of the world?

These are such noble ponderings. And we spend so much of our life as the church making excuses, being confined by our expectations, worrying about ourselves, and clinging to Jesus to save the life we want for us. And daily I am aware that I, that the church does not have the pastors, the resources, the abilities, or even the luxury of time to give the people of the church everything they desire in the way they want it. In her sermon, Presiding Bishop Eaton reminded us that, while we do not have everything that the people of our church want, we have what both the church and the world need. We have Jesus—and Jesus is more than enough. But beware! Giving the church Jesus will make the church different. More than pondering noble things, we'll be living them. Just for fun! Check out Road to the Reformation and follow Martin Luther.

www.facebook.com/RoadtotheReformation

Also, this is what I had to say about evangelism at our recent rostered leaders event—a 90-minute lecture in 35.

www.craigasatterlee.com/podcast/evangelism/



Christmas

Basket News

by Bill Freedlund

It's time again to help community residents enjoy the Christmas

season. This year we are again planning to provide baskets with food, supplies, and gifts during the Christmas week for several special families in our county. The family names will come to us from **Barry County Cares**.

We will be having two special collections to help fund this project. Please note the collection dates: November 15 and 22nd (pending council approval). Just place your check or cash in a separate envelope, mark it for "Christmas Baskets," and place it in the regular Sunday offering plate. We are also anticipating contributions from Sarah Circle and Thrivent.



Donations of non-perishable food are also welcome and will be collected throughout **November** in the box by the front door. Food donations should be in by December 7th.

Food donation list:

Large boxes of cereal
Cake mix
Frosting
Hamburger Helper
Stove Top Dressing
Peanut Butter
Prego Sauce
Bottles of syrup

Macaroni and Cheese
Jelly
Canned vegetables
Canned yams
Large cans of soup
Boxes of spaghetti
Pancake mix

We will need volunteers to pack the boxes in December and deliver them to the families. Watch for sign-up sheets in the narthex! We also will need people to select a child's name to purchase and wrap a gift for them.



Annual Holly Trolley Event

by Bill Freedlund

It's time to make plans for the Holly Trolley! The Trolley will be on Friday, December 4th. The event will start at 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm. We need your help in the following ways, in order to make this a successful outreach mission to our neighbors in Hastings:

1. Several Christmas carolers to ride the trolley and perhaps sing by the courthouse lawn;
2. Several bakers to prepare cookies that are individually wrapped in a sandwich bag;
3. People to maintain the cookie/snack table;
4. People to hand-out information booklets.

We had a lot of fun last year and we were blessed with a wonderful evening.

Please look for the sign-up sheets in November!! If you have any additional ideas for the evening, please contact Bill Freedlund.

WELCA & Sarah Circle

by Kay Howell

WELCA Sunday's speaker was Miriam Sorby, a former member of our congregation from years past. (She also brought to Grace the recipe for the pasties many, many years ago).

A quote from Miriam's program, "The cross I wear around my neck is not there for show, nor is it the object of my worship. I would not be lost without it, though I do like it. I do not believe it has some mystical power nor does it protect me. The cross that I wear reminds me of the great love that God has for me. Christ's gift of eternal life is made real to me each time I look down at the cross or feel it resting lightly on my chest. In difficult times I look to the cross and feel warmth and comfort. From its gentle reminder I draw strength when I am weary, refuge when I need to rest. Whether I wear my cross or not, God is with me but sometimes it is nice to have a small reminder."

Brothers of Grace

by Joe Longcor

On September 26th, the Brothers of Grace participated in the last Highway Pickup for 2015 and were able to clean up 12 bags of trash from the Grace section of M-43 north of Hastings. Thank you to the 7 brothers who came out to assist.

A big 'thank you' to George Weller for the delicious cookout of brats, burgers and other good things to eat as well as the good time of fellowshiping with the 6 members who were able to make it out.

The next meeting on November 3 will be held at Joe Longcor's house and the December 8th meeting will be a dinner out at a local restaurant. All men of Grace, 18 and older, are welcome and encouraged to join us.

November Birthdays

5	Bonnie Converse, Doug Neeb
6	Fred Kogge
8	Charles Converse, Michael Wilkinso
10	Chris Bush
12	Lyle Proksch, Amber Pontius
14	Danielle Powers
15	Shirley Smith, Steve Carr, Cheryl Allarding
17	David Bolton
18	Diane Wilkinson
11-19	Dorothy Mayo
11-20	Ethyl Simon
11-23	Dan Patton
11-25	John Burdick
11-30	Kailyn Wales

November Anniversaries

11-3	Vern & Doris Allarding
11-5	Rick & Sharon Duits
11-15	Barry & Margaret Wood
11-17	Angie & Chad Metzger
11-28	Joseph & Sharon Varkula

In Our Prayers

Continuing Prayers

Carl Golnek, health concerns – brother of Mary Kleinbrink and Jennette Ulrich

Doreen, cancer – friend of Mary Kleinbrink & Jennette Ulrich's brother

Susan Bush, health concerns – Mary Kleinbrink's son's girlfriend

Deb Wood, health concerns – Jennette Ulrich's step-daughter

Healthy pregnancies

Jacqueline Endsley, Sarah Endsley, Heather Baucom, Mary Beth DeVinney

Military

Kayla Pohl, *daughter of Rob & Lisa Pohl*

Myrina Clements, *daughter of Cherie Clements*

Zach Duits, 101st Airborne

Aaron Endsley, Adam Miller, Alyssa Mills, Amber Reid, Andrew Ferguson, Ashley Gillons, Austin Endsley, Ben Curtis, Carl Franson, Charles & Tim Krewson, Cole Davis, Dylan Kelmer, Edward Frost, Greg Scott, Jena Harwood, Jon Ingran, Jordan Swank, Josh Lewis, Justin Ogden, Lena Jordon, Noah Daniels, Phil DeVries, Ryan Davis, Spencer Reid, Taylor Gould, Tom Fenoseff, Zackary Green

Companion Synods in Honduras, Papua New Guinea, and Latvia

Nursing home residents . . . Beth Oehler, Dorothy Mayo, Eileen Oehler, Vivian Allarding

Shut-ins . . . Dave Bolton, Ilene Hilson, Jamie Coplin, Opal Gillons

Grace Lutheran Church

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Mon – Thurs 8 AM - 3PM

Financial Coord: *Linda Trongo*
trongocamper@mei.net or
LTrongo@grace-hastings.org

Custodian: Nathan Freedlund
Minister of Music: Cindy Olson
Choir Accompanists:
Marcia Bowman, Chris Bush
Bell Choir Leader: Kim Domke
Organist Emeritus: Donna Buehl

Executive Committee:

President: *Doug Neeb*

Vice President: *Chris Bush*

Secretary: *Kate Watson*



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Winter

(1st Sunday after Labor Day - May)
Sundays @ 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Summer

(June – Labor Day)
Sundays @ 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School in recess

5th Sundays

Sunday @ 10:00am

Advent and Lent

Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.



Winter

(1st Sunday after Labor Day – May)
9:30 AM

5th Sundays

Sunday @ 8:45 am



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Committee Chairs

Brothers of Grace – Joe Longcor

Congregational Care – Margaret Wood

Education – Lorraine Freedlund

Evangelism – Bill Freedlund

Property – Tom Peck & Phil Poholski

Sarah Circle – Kay Howell

Social Activities – Diane Neeb

Stewardship – Tim Schoessel

Youth & Family – Joe Longcor

Worship – Lorie Gladyness