



# Gracegram

## September 2015



### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Holy Communion**

**Every Sunday**

**Winter**

(1<sup>st</sup> 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

**5<sup>th</sup> Sundays**

Sundays @ 10:00am

**Advent and Lent**

Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.



**Winter**

(1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Labor Day – May)

9:30 AM

**5<sup>th</sup> Sundays**

@ 8:45 AM



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



**OUR MISSION**

Saved by Grace.

Called to Worship.

Sent to Serve.

**Mission Partners**

**Redeemer Lutheran Church – Lansing**  
**Trinity Lutheran Church - Battle Creek**



**Grace Lutheran Church**

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Hastings MI 49058

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Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI

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**Ministers: People of Grace**

- Parish Administrator: Victoria Alt  
E-mail: [ParishAdmin@grace-hastings.org](mailto:ParishAdmin@grace-hastings.org)  
Monday - Thursday  
8 AM - 3PM                      Lunch 12 PM - 1 PM
- Financial Coordinator: Linda Trongo  
E-mail: [LTrongo@grace-hastings.org](mailto:LTrongo@grace-hastings.org)  
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or [trongocamper@mei.net](mailto:trongocamper@mei.net)
- Custodian:
- Minister of Music: Cindy Olson
- Choir Accompanists: Marcia Bowman,  
Chris Bush
- Bell Choir Leader: Kim Domke
- Organist Emeritus: Donna Buehl

*2013 - 2015*

Executive Committee

- President, Doug Neeb
- Vice President, Chris Bush
- Secretary, Kate Watson



**Committee Chairs:**

- Lorie Gladyness, Worship
- Tom Peck & Phil Poholski, Property
- Bill Freedlund, Evangelism
- Margaret Wood, Congregational Care
- Jana Bishop, Youth & Family
- Lorraine Freedlund, Education
- Tim Schoessel, Stewardship
- Diane Neeb, Social Activities
- Kay Howell, Sarah Circle

If you have any concerns or questions regarding church affairs contact one of these council members.

## October Gracegram Deadline

September 17, 2014

Please submit articles to Stephen Kaiser (SLK) at: [ihohrevlis@yahoo.com](mailto:ihohrevlis@yahoo.com) or the Gracegram mailbox.

Blessings of peace and love !

SLK

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### Newsletter Articles

September, 2015

#### From the Pastor's Desk:

I am not one who likes to use the latest catch-phrase, the popular word invention. Our culture seems to produce, manufacture, and invent new words and new meanings for old words on a monthly basis. Never cared for that! A phrase that was in use a short time ago, one which is still in use in some intellectual circles is "paradigm shift." Miriam-Webster defines "paradigm" as, "a model or pattern for something that may be copied; a theory or a group of ideas about how something should be done, made, or thought about." I often thought that Grace needed a paradigm shift.

My article last month seemed to touch a chord with quite a number of people. As I pointed out to the bishop in my quarterly report, I have never received so many responses from so few words. I wrote, "I have heard members describe Grace as a 'family.' Why are there so many cliques or factions in this congregation, most notably during coffee hour where everyone sits with the same 'family' group?" Quite a number of people thanked me for these words; they seemed to say what many had witnessed and experienced themselves.

So I began to think that what is needed at Grace is not a paradigm shift, but a culture shift. A culture is, "a way of thinking, behaving, or working that exists in a place or organization," according to Miriam-Webster. Such thinking, behaving, or working that separates us into cliques or factions, often does not welcome visitors/strangers, and leaves out others without even knowing it. Well, such behaving needs to change.

We are first and foremost, the church, united and shaped by the blood of Christ, brought together through the waters of baptism to be different than the world, to function under the sign of the cross. The cultural shift we need is grounded in the cross of Christ. Grounded in the cross, Jesus said at the Last Supper, "Love one another as I have loved you, for then the world will know that you are my disciples."



## Sunday Adult Forum: Bible 101—Getting to Know the Lutheran Methods for Study

*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. —Mark 13:31*

Pastor Paul will be leading a Sunday morning class on how to study the Bible. He has made it clear throughout his time here that study of scripture is most important to change the culture of the church, to build the faith of the believer/church, and to define the mission and ministry of the congregation. The task seems simple, but to obtain the maximum value of the book, a few learned skills are necessary.

Join Pastor Paul in a look at "Lutheran Insights for Bible Study" using a book written by biblical scholars, Diane Jacobson, Mark Allan Powell and Stanley N. Olson (with a name like Olson, this book has to be good) titled, *Opening the Book of Faith* (Augsburg Fortress, 2008). With Pastor Paul's able guidance, we will look at the different views the church has had and still has of scripture, learn some important Lutheran skills for understanding scripture, and then plunge the depth of several texts to see what they have to say.

Overall, it will be a helpful experience, and promises to be a life-changing study that will give us the ability to open many texts that have been closed to us before this. The class will take place every Sunday morning between services.

#### Adult Formation Study: The Gospel of John

"The Gospel of John is one of the most significant books for the church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century to study and understand," says Pastor Paul. You can see he is passionate about this book, and loves to reveal the depth of its message and promise. You can be a part of this study.

Every Monday evening, beginning at 6:00 pm, Pastor Paul will lead a journey of interested members through the caverns, valleys, precipices and fault-lines of the Gospel of John. A journey through John is no "walk in the park," nor is it a climb up Mt. Everest. The Gospel of John will challenge you, it will change you, it will frustrate you, it will leave you with more questions sometimes than answers, it will call you to new faith, but more importantly, it will always bring you back to the basics, Christ Jesus.

Though the study will be continuous, do not feel you need to be at all of them, though that is certainly encouraged. Drop in when you can, pick up the discussion when you are moved to do so. Bring your Bible with a pencil because you will

want to mark some verses which you will not want to forget.

The study begins September 14<sup>th</sup>, and will meet in the Pastor's Office, initially.

## **Living Liturgy—From Collects to Prayers of the Church.**

### **Prayer of the Day:**

P: O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children.

**C: Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

In the old *Service Book and Hymnal* (SBH), the “first red hymnal” of the Lutheran Church here in America, the Prayer of the Day was referred to as the “Collect.” This term has its origin in the Latin Mass of the Middle Ages. Luther did not radically change the “general” structure of the Mass in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the Latin terms for the different elements of Sunday worship remained the same throughout the Reformation, up to the liturgical reform of the 1970's with the introduction of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW—commonly known as the “green hymnal”).

Many parts of the liturgy kept their Latin name. Terms like “collect,” “Agnus Dei,” “Gradual,” “Introit,” and a host of others. Some of these titles were actually taken from the first words of the elements they introduced; “Agnus Dei” means “Lamb of God,” the first words of an important canticle we still sing today. Remember the “Magnificat?” Today we simply call it the “Song of Mary,” but the first words in Latin were, “I magnify...”

Some of the titles represent a function. Since the collect changed every Sunday, using the first word to title this prayer would have been impossible. But its purpose or function was to collect central thoughts of the readings of the day into an introductory/opening prayer. The Prayer of the Day is a kind of “collection” of the major theological/spiritual thoughts of the day; thus the term “collect,” a shortened version of the Latin term, “collectio.” The function of the Prayer of the Day is the same; the name was changed to protect the innocent, or at least to make the liturgy truly an “American” liturgy. The SBH included many different “collects” throughout the service.

The Prayer of the Day and all of the “collect-type” prayers in our liturgy have changed over the years. Traditionally in Lutheran circles, as in the previous SBH, the pastor read the prayer and the congregation concluded with a sung amen. How many of you

remember that? With the advent of the LBW, the Prayer of the Day remained the function of the pastor, but a spoken sung amen replaced the sung amen.

Practices in many churches have changed these prayers even more. We all agree that whether the pastor or the congregation leads the prayers, they are still the prayers of the church or congregation. Keeping that in mind, many reformers, your pastor included, have concluded that the congregation ought to read or lead these prayers. Have you noticed how the prayers are prayed at Grace since your interim pastor arrived? Just look at the beginning of this article. The pastor begins the prayer, but the congregation prays the petition and affirms the prayer with amen. The offering prayer and the prayer after communion use the same format.

## **Constitution Reform—Process on Track**

Constitutional reform sounds like the most boring thing the church has to do; worse than singing old German hymns! I guess it is, in a way, ploughing through issues that pertain to the law of the church, with little regard or concern for the Gospel. Easy to lose focus.

Yet, it is an exciting thing as well, revealing the changes and transformations that need to take place to have a dynamic and fluid church. And things are changing in the constitution. Grace has not kept up with the changes to the *ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations* since the formation of the ELCA. We are way behind changes that should have been made for organizational and legal reasons. The Model becomes the backdrop for the constitution that we will need to consider and approve in 2016.

The Constitution Reform Committee is working diligently to put a draft together that the Congregation Council can consider as early as November of this year. The members of the committee managed to resolve a major issue--the structure and makeup of the Council—at its last meeting. Now they can move on toward completing the basic outline of the constitution by the end of September. The next major issue they will face will be the bylaws of the church.

The Congregation Council has targeted January, 2016 as the month for a Special Congregational Meeting to cast the first required vote on the new constitution. Hopefully, November and December will be months for special gatherings to discuss the format, purpose, and nature of the revised constitution with all the members of Grace, in anticipation of the first vote. These gatherings will also help the committee identify anything they have overlooked in their reform. More on the dates of those meetings in later issues of the GraceGram.

## **Evangelism Committee—“Living Lutheran: Renewing your Congregation”**

The past many months, the Evangelism Committee has been studying a book to help them focus on issues central to church reform. Beginning in September, the committee will begin a study of another book, *Living Lutheran: Renewing your Congregation*, by Dave Daubert. It is one of a series of books published after 2005 by Augsburg Fortress entitled, *Lutheran Voices*. Previously, the congregation studied Kelly Fryer’s Book, *Reclaiming the ‘L’ Word*, and the Congregation Council has begun the study of her second book, *Reclaiming the ‘C’ Word*, beginning in September; all part of the *Lutheran Voices* series.

Dave Daubert’s book is a great study for the Evangelism Committee because it discusses the issue of renewing the “outreach” ministry of congregations. Chapter 3 is titled, “God Has a Dream,” and he concludes this chapter with these words:

*In the end, to discover our Lutheran voice we will need to remember that mission is not prescription but rather description. It is not our work to tell God what to do. A Lutheran voice does not legislate what we are to do as if mission were simply another law piled up on all the rest. It is God’s dream and we cannot prescribe when or how it will happen. Rather than being prescriptive, a Lutheran voice is descriptive. Through the eyes of faith the use of our Lutheran voice is to describe what God is doing—to see it and announce it. Claimed by Christ, we see God at work. My wife Marlene calls these glimpses of God at work “kingdom moments” or “little flowers.” It is our privilege and our joy to see what many people miss—that God has a dream for our world and that God is loose, out there in the world, already making it happen! (pg. 32)*

I know this gives you only a glimpse, but if you like what you see, why not join the Evangelism Committee each month for this study. I am not asking you to join the committee, though you are certainly welcome to do that. I am inviting you to join the committee in the study of this book, to discuss its content and its meaning for the life and mission of Grace. Let us together hear a Lutheran voice encourage us in a direction of constructive and real mission/evangelism. The walk together will not be easy, but it will be constructive, and may give us a glimpse of what God has in mind for Grace.

Check the calendar for the next Evangelism Committee meeting in September. Discussion of the book is the first thing on the agenda. If you care about the future of the Lutheran Church in Hastings, then join

us for some serious reflection. Order the book through *amazon.com* or let Pastor Paul know that you are interested and he can order one for you. The cost of the book is roughly \$12.00 (a *Kindle* edition is only \$10.50).

## **Worship Committee—Favorite Team Jersey Sunday, September 13:**



The church’s Fall Schedule kicks off on September 13<sup>th</sup> with the beginning of our “Faith Building” program, classes that will help members of Grace of all ages grow in faith and mission. The Worship Committee decided in their last meeting to participate in this “new beginning” by inviting the congregation to welcome in the fall with their favorite team colors.

As most everyone knows, the fall is the beginning of the football schedule for Middle School, High School, college and professionals. If you have a favorite team that you would like to support, even if that team is a sport other than football, wear those colors to church on September 13. You can wear a favorite jersey, sweatshirt, t-shirt, cap or uniform if you are moved to do so. All colors are welcome, yes, even scarlet and gray.

So, support your favorited team, join your church family for worship, and gather together for “Faith Building” as we all move forward together, discovering what God is calling us to do and be. Could be fun!

## **Worship/Congregational Care Committees—Renewing our Prayer Lists**

Beginning this month, the prayer list that has appeared in the bulletin for several years will appear in the GraceGram only. Each month we will print a “new” list; so if you want a name to appear each month, you will need to let the office know each month.

Though we are moving the list to the GraceGram in September, in October we will want to change the list’s format slightly. Many people who use this list for their prayers would like to know who presented the name and for what they need our prays. When you notify the office of a name you would wish to add to the prayer list, please include the following information:

--the name of the person added to the prayer list

--your name and your relationship to the person (friend, co-worker, relative, etc)

--the reason for the prayers (in general terms, such as “cancer,” “family issues” or “personal concerns”)

Please feel free to include names of people you want the church to pray for who are deployed by the military. Members in the military will be mentioned each Sunday in the prayers.

On Sunday morning we would like to also remember members of our church family who are in need of prayers due to illness. If you would like your name offered on the Sunday prayer list, please contact the office and/or Pastor Paul. If you know of someone in the congregation whom you would like to place on the prayer list for Sunday morning, make sure that the person is willing to have their name on the list, and then contact the office.

Be clear, we are NOT trying to eliminate names from the prayer list, especially if they are in need. We are trying to maintain a list that is up-to-date, as well as maintains an active prayer relationship between the members and the people on the list. We not only want to pray for the world, Jesus calls us to pray for the world. We hope and pray that the new lists each month will draw us all closer to the needs of those on the list and move us to more frequent prayer.

## Faith and Art

### Walk News

Plans are still in the works for the Faith and Art Walk that has been scheduled for October 3, 2015. The walk will be held in the afternoon. We still are seeking volunteers to be involved as tour guides, greeters, devotion presenters and musical performers. Please see the sign up sheet in the narthex. It is through the participation of our congregation that this event and others can be a reality.



## **News From Evangelism**

We ask for your guidance, Lord, as we discuss evangelism at Grace. Help us to show the community that Christianity is still as viable as it was long ago. Help us to spark interest in others so that they can see the importance of your message and the comfort of your promises. Inspire us to promote our Christian values and unite behind our mission that is inspired by the principals of our faith. We ask this in your name. Amen

Evangelism met on Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. We reviewed the last chapter of Reviving the Congregation by Pastor Foss. This chapter dealt with resistance in the congregation. Pastor Foss stressed the need for clear values and mission. A list of values should be developed and narrowed down to perhaps four. Having clear values and mission

help to unite a congregation. As far as resistance in the congregation, we need to work from a model that says a person has a right to disagree, but does not have the right to undermine or derail the plans of the congregation that are put forth by the church leaders and council. The congregation can only go in one direction at a time and needs to be united in our mission. Church leaders need to be listening to honest disagreements and at times may need to involve input from the council.

Congregation members should know their beliefs. Visitors should be clearly able to see what the church believes and where it stands. Perspective members need to know these things. Church leaders also need to evaluate ministries to make adjustments on a regular basis.

This completes the discussion of this book and we will move on to another book discussion next month.

Business: Evangelism is providing forms and info cards and signs for the upcoming car show.

Members will be involved during the day to help with activities. \$100.00 has been given to BOG to help defray costs.

The backpack preparation will take place during the week of August 17<sup>th</sup>. Purchases are being made and backpacks will be ready for the worship service on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Information about Grace will be included in the packs.

Faith and Art Walk sign-up sheets are now in the narthex. Devotion writers are asked to return devotions by August 30<sup>th</sup>. As always, volunteers are needed to continue with plans. We look forward to active participation and hope for a good turnout this year.

Evangelism will be recruiting a Christmas basket team to carry on this program to provide service to the community of Hastings.

Finally, we discussed the need for an evangelism brainstorming team that can meet to present new and effective ways to reach the community through ministries and advertising. Look for more information on this in the coming months.  
Bill Freedlund - Evangelism Chair

## Education Committee News September 2015

Vacation Bible Experience Day took place on Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. Youth enjoyed the day filled with singing, crafts, games, story-telling and good food. Adult leaders and helpers did a superb job. A BIG thank you to Kim Domke, Chris Bush, Jeannette Ulrich, Mary Kleinbrink, Steve Wales, Diane Neeb, Kay Howell, Melissa Patton, Joe Longcor, Mary Kuhlman, and Pastor Kuhlman. We all shared our faith, had fun and ate, sang and danced together in fellowship.

Grace Community Intergenerational Opening will take place on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary. Committee members are working together to prepare for the Opening.

An Education sub-committee is focusing on “Faith Building” activities and events to lift up and support youth and adults on their faith journey. Intergenerational groups sharing their faith is what community is about. The committee is brainstorming ideas that are focused on faith building, fun activities and community fellowship.

Sunday School teaching teams are needed this year. We are looking for you, Grace members, to touch the lives of our youth and adults here at Grace. Think of reaching out for just a 6-7 week period during the year. Together we can do this.

Lorraine Freedlund, Education Chair

### Remember These???

These were the things that members wrote down when asked what they like or value about Grace Lutheran Church. What a great list – something to remember when things get hard and we may need some uplifting. We will be speaking more about values and mission in the coming months. Let’s try to share our positives with others!

*Scripture based*  
*Liturgical*  
*Caring*  
*Fellowship*  
*A praying church*  
*Abounding love*  
*Sharing*  
*Comfortable and welcoming*

*God’s love*  
*Accepting*  
*Community*  
*All are welcome*  
*Hugs*  
*God’s word preached*  
*Biblically Based*

*Be among God’s people*  
*Musical*  
*Listening*  
*Family*  
*Joyful*  
*Inviting*  
*Serving*  
*Leading*

*Positive*  
*Warm*  
*Hoping*  
*Comfortable*  
*Come as you are*  
*Christ centered*  
*Friendly*  
*Accepting*

### Financial Coordinator’s Office Hrs.

September 25, 2015  
8:00-12:00



### Thank you!

Scott and I would like to thank everyone for their cards, good wishes and gifts at our fair well gathering the end of May. I’m sorry this has taken so long but life has given us many hurdles to climb. The weather is HOT but the nice Fall and Winter is coming. Hope all is well at Grace. Hope to get back and see you all.

Scott and Cindy Hubbard

### September Birthdays

9-1 Mary Thompson  
9-2 Alison Verus  
9-3 Deb Watson, Colleen Moore  
9-5 Lydia Cole  
9-7 Shirley Beck, Hannah Hinken  
9-9 Peg Newton, Molly Moore  
9-10 Chris Steinke  
9-11 Steve Wales  
9-13 Nic Converse  
9-14 Steve Kogge, Dylan Bowman  
9-15 Donna Buehl  
9-16 Mark Bishop, Gavin Patton, Grayson Patton  
9-17 Dustin Bowman  
9-18 Jessie Moore  
9-19 Scott Larson  
9-22 Rob Pohl  
9-23 Gabriel Barnaart  
9-24 Mark Anton  
9-26 Bryan Allarding, Alexis Watson  
9-30 Mary Dawson, Ken Brown

### **September Baptisms**

9-8 Abbie Opperman  
9-9 Barb Bowman, Emmalee Peck, Hope Peck  
9-11 Jessie DeDecker  
9-14 Ted Baker, Mackenzie Maupin  
9-18 Mary Rider  
9-20 Lisa Golnek  
9-21 Peg Kaiser  
9-22 Doug Baker  
9-26 George Lietz  
9-29 Joyce Proksch

### **Wedding Anniversaries**

9-16 Danielle & Jeff Storrs  
9-27 Walt & Shirley Beck

### **Memorials**

9-1-1981 Louise Leary  
9-1-2007 Karl Larsen  
9-4-1983 Howard Greiner  
9-4-2011 Dewayne Arthur Thompson  
9-5-1969 Pete Tossava  
9-6-1979 H. Vern Neil  
9-6-1981 John Curtis  
9-8-1995 Wilda Allarding  
9-13-1997 Greta Greiner  
9-15-1989 Gerald Cutchall  
9-17-1962 Henry Disch  
9-17-1973 Floyd Belcher  
9-20-1973 Dorothy O'Connor  
9-22-1990 Craig Sheffield  
9-22-2006 Rod Scobey  
9-23-2000 Gordon Cole  
9-24-1980 Jo DeBroux  
9-27-2008 Elizabeth McManaway  
9-28-1995 Anna Mae Ogden  
9-29-2011 Peggy Raines  
9-30-1986 Warren Burdick