



HOLY COMMUNION OFFERED EVERY SUNDAY

# GraceGram

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



June 2017

INSIDE THIS EDITION

## From the Pastor's Desk

by Pastor Paul E. Kuhlman

### Pentecost – the Gift of the Spirit

Easter is coming to an end, and the beginning of a five month season is about to start, “Sundays after Pentecost.” They used to be called the “Sundays after Trinity,” but no one knew how Trinity Sunday defined the Sundays that followed. So they became known as the Sundays after Pentecost, and we know the central meaning of Pentecost—the gift of the Spirit and the beginning of the church’s mission.

Nonetheless, several words and actions from Jesus during the Easter season define the meaning of Pentecost and the following season. During Easter we remembered the times Jesus appeared to the disciples behind closed doors, and on one of those occasions he ‘breathed on them the Holy Spirit.’ Several events later, Jesus reminds his disciples, particularly Philip, that he must go so that the disciples and the church can be blessed with faith, accomplishing great things, even *greater things* than Jesus; because of the Spirit.

On Pentecost, the last Sunday of the Easter season, June 4<sup>th</sup>, we remember the gift Jesus gives the church, the gift of the Spirit. Such a gift helps us remember the things Jesus said and did; the Spirit moves us into the world for mission and ministry; and the Spirit gives us courage to live with faith and love in the world.

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- **Mission Possible** pg 4
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- **Communication – Let it empower you** pg 6
- **June Calendar** pg 7

**A Look @ Next Month – July/Aug 2017**  
**Theme: “Summer in the Church”**

- *Call Committee – report*
- *Nominating Committee– report*
- *Budget Review Meetings – when can we see the new budget?*
- *Grace’s Annual Meeting – date & time*

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*Deadline for inclusion in the July/Aug GraceGram is **June 27, 2017.***

*Send your articles to Victoria Alt at:*  
[parishadmin@grace-hastings.org](mailto:parishadmin@grace-hastings.org)

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# On the Cover – The Church in the World

by Pastor Paul

Whenever I see this window, I am reminded of the offertory song we sing often, especially during the Easter season, “As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill / were gathered into one to become our bread; / so may all your people from all the ends of earth / be gathered into one in you.”

Besides, a window with so much yellow, my favorite color next to red, has to be good. The background of yellow screams Easter and the offertory I quoted. Note how the circle is divided up into ten sections, each with more division marks and the ten main division have lines that continue outward. This would imply, it seems to me, the mission of the church; always outward and throughout the “whole” world.

The characters in the circle are dressed differently and include different races. The mission of the church and the work of the Spirit goes to ALL people, people of all colors, races, languages, dress and history. The center of the mission of the church and this window is focused and grounded in the cross of Christ in the world. The church, through its mission as servant and its words, is centered on the cross of Christ. “For God so loved the world...”

*This ends the "On the Cover" series we have run for many months. We hope it has given you a new perspective on the windows that surround us in worship each Sunday. More importantly, we pray it has moved you to see them more clearly, and to ponder the many other windows we have not discussed.*

## Notes from the Veep

by Chris Bush

The Nominating Committee is faithfully carrying out its charge to discern, invite, and then list nominees for council and other positions for the coming Grace year. In previous years, the number of candidates equaled the number of openings to be filled. This year, it's possible that the Spirit will lead us to have more candidates than openings, in which case the vote will not be its usual “pro forma” but that voting members will actually need to select from several candidates. Don't worry, we will not have campaign speeches, paid ads, or yard signs! The slate will be ready by mid-June. Till then, we ask for your continued prayers as we work on this important task.

The first meeting has been held to plan for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston! More meetings have been scheduled. You can expect to hear about this exciting opportunity for youth AND adults every month from now through next summer. We will be asking for investments of time, prayer, and (yes) money. What do you get back on that investment? Well, you might not ever know how the experience changes a person's life. We don't know how we might have affected the people in Detroit when we participated in the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering there. Or maybe you will see such a change in that individual, it will bring tears to your eyes. The light I saw in one youth's face and the re-lived excitement I heard in her voice when she talked about the Detroit Gathering just floored me. This is what faith is all about people: doing something FOR GOOD and FOR GOD.

Lastly, I am watching the Carpet Fund grow. To be honest, it's somewhat like the Renovation Project: sometimes it moves ahead in leaps and bounds, sometimes it tiptoes forward. But forward is the way we are moving! Do I need to “trip” again to remind you of the safety benefits we'll reap? Let's keep moving this forward! Donate now, donate again! Thank you, Grace!

## President's Pen

by Doug Neeb



We are continuing to pick away at our remodeling project each week we get a little closer to it being completed. Phase one, is winding down on the inside of the building. We still have to attack the rest of the work on the outside of the building. The process is taking more time than we have planned on. The use of volunteers has helped extend the project in the time it takes to finish. On the positive side the use of volunteer labor has saved us about \$5,500 from what it would have cost to have contractors do the same work. With all the needs we still have with our Church building and Church grounds; the money we have saved will help us address more of our needs. Thank you, to all who have helped with this project.

We are working on the start of Phase two. One of the issues that stalled the starting of Phase two was a shortage of manpower. We have broken the work down into smaller segments that can be accomplished with smaller work groups over a longer period of time. Total timing will depend on available manpower.

## Adopt a Highway

by Joe Longcor



Picker dates:

- July 15 (rain date July 22)

- September 23 (rain date September 30)

Will plan to meet at Grace at 8:45, leave to do the pick up by 9:00 am and likely be back to Grace by 11:00 am. Talk with Joe Longcor if you have questions. I would love to have 6-8 people for each pick-up.

## Grocery Bags for Hunger Project

by Mike and Jane



In speaking with Marcia Szumowski, director of the Hastings Area Food Bank, located at First United Methodist Church, we learned that during the summer months donations to the Food Bank generally run behind what they usually receive during the rest of the year. With children out of school the needs

of families using the Food Bank increase because their children no longer receive breakfast and lunch meals from school as they do during the school year.

Therefore, your Grace Community Outreach Committee decided to sponsor a new project for the month of June this year – “Grocery Bags for Hunger”. The first Sunday of June, the 4th, we will place 30 grocery bags in the gathering area. Each bag will have a list attached with a number of food items that may be purchased and placed in the bag. You may purchase all the items listed or less - whatever your budget will allow. We are asking that the grocery bags be returned to the church by Sunday, June 25th. We will then deliver what we have received to the Food Bank.

When we mentioned this project to Marcia she was most appreciative of our thoughtfulness and stressed that during the summer they frequently run short on several food items. These are the items we have listed on the grocery bags. Thank you in advance for your generosity in helping make our Hastings community a better place to live in this simple manner.

**P.S.** If you have some **artistic talent** and are willing to take on a project, Marcia also mentioned that they have an egress window that looks out on to a wall of cement blocks. It would help brighten up the place if a painting of some sort could be created for that area. If you are interested, please contact Marcia Szumowski at 269 948-2169.



### June Birthdays

6-3 Gwen Hansen, Melinda Shepler  
6-4 Eliana Reid  
6-6 Opal Gillions, Beulah Benedict  
6-10 Beverly McManaway  
6-12 Chelsie Hughes, Jack Barnaart  
6-14 Vickey Argo, Hope Peck, Emmalee Peck  
6-19 Kristen Beckwith  
6-20 Tom Drumm  
6-24 Tom Duits  
6-30 Diana Brown

### June Anniversaries

6-1 Larry & Linda Maupin  
6-6 Lyle & Joyce Proksch  
6-7 Michael & Charlotte Anton, Rod & Marcia Bowman  
6-10 Pastor Mike Kemper/Jane Secor, Dan & Melissa Patton  
6-17 Ed & Kim Domke, Phil & Amy Poholski  
6-23 Russ & Linda Trongo  
6-24 Steve & Traci Wales  
6-26 Jack & Carol Vos

## Thank you!

1. **Everyone who helped last month with the Renovation Project.** With the crown molding going up, things are looking really good.
2. **Kids and youth who presented a very meaningful puppet play** on Luther's meaning of the Ten Commandments. Special thanks to Chris Bush for writing the play.
3. Pastor Paul for building the new storage furniture for the sacristy. He is now working on a table for the same room.
4. **Children's Church volunteers**—all those who helped lead the program and our children throughout the year. Your efforts will certainly bear fruit. Special thanks to Eve Wright for organizing this wonderful and “anticipated” program for our children.
5. **Stewardship Committee**—for working so hard on our 2017-2018 budget.
6. **Call Committee**—and especially Brenda Teegardin for accepting to chair this committee. You all have a great task before you. Remember we are praying for your commitment and success.

## Mission Possible Detroit Summer 2017

by Jenn Rosenberger

Matthew 19:26(NLT) <sup>26</sup> Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.”

WHO: Youth 6<sup>th</sup> Grade through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

WHAT: A mission to go into Detroit and serve the people there by restoring run down homes and faith to the area.

WHERE: Detroit Michigan

WHEN: July 22- 27

HOW: Through prayer, God’s strength, a supportive church (and a carefully detailed schedule)

A few more details... I am planning a parents meeting soon, Myles and Molly have a birthday soon and that has been consuming some of my time... I apologize. Right now the plan is to have commitment from the youth by June 4<sup>th</sup> or possibly June 11<sup>th</sup>, depending on when I can get the parents meeting done. The commitment date is when the deposit (\$50) needs to be in so we can get kids registered to go. Then we can solidly plan our next fundraising events and also plan our team building events for youth attending and for chaperones so we can show up as a united front, we are Grace! The next fundraising event will either be the end of June or early July depending on planning and other church events. At the parents meeting we will go over:

- 1) What the fundraising events will be,
- 2) What is expected of the youth
- 3) team building events
- 4) Cost.

Any questions before then please contact Jana or Jenn. Thank you for supporting us in this.

### Our Prayers for

Healthy pregnancy – Danielle Gorman & Jessica Bakhuyzen

Nursing home residents – Dorothy Mayo, Deb Wood, Vivian Allerding

Shut-ins – Dave Bolton, Ilene Hilson, Jamie Coplin, Opal Gillions, Shirley Smith

Military members – Phil DeVries

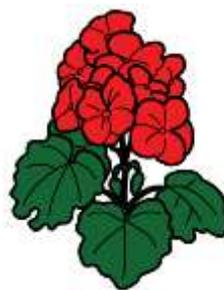
## Geraniums Made My Cranium Insanium!

by Jenn Rosenberger

Saturday morning I awoke with a jolt, my alarm hadn’t gone off, I was supposed to be leaving in ten minutes. I think I levitated out of bed and ran like a cartoon to the shower. I was super grateful to myself from the night before for preparing and laying out clothes and all items needed for breakfast so I could move quickly and toss things together. I knew I had to be there for the kids, I couldn’t let them down.

I am always running late it seems but somehow I get things done and most of the time with a lot of laughter. I made it to church and got things set up, we were moving. The truck arrived and I had NO idea what 440 pots of flowers looked like, but the coffee area of the church looked like a small garden center, it was pretty! The youth worked hard and politely carried flowers out to cars. The rain held for us, it was beautiful. I was proud of them!

They are raising money to go on a trip they chose and they are really working for this. Tears welled up some and I can see God moving. Then the thought hit me, I want these kids to know that I chose them! They chose this mission trip and I want to work for them to get this trip paid for through fundraising, I chose them! Preparing for this sale has been work but nothing compared to what will be done in Detroit and absolutely nothing compared to what God is going to do in their lives. I chose them over and over again and I thank all of you for supporting us and showing up to be there for these youth. Thank you for standing by me to show that together as a church we chose them!



## Feed the Soul

by Community Outreach

Grace is inviting everyone to participate in a community outreach program by volunteering at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church's weekly Community Breakfast.



The free community breakfast is held every Saturday morning from 8:00 to 9:30 am at the Episcopal Parish House and is open to everyone. A typical Saturday will see between 70 and 115 breakfasts served.

Volunteers can assist in this undertaking from 7:30 until 10:30 am by helping to prepare the meal, serving the food, greeting, bussing tables, and general clean up. Volunteers are encouraged to sit down and share a meal with community members.

You will have an opportunity to hear more about this opportunity through Temple Talks on June 4, or by contacting; Randy or Brenda Teegardin, Barry Wood, Pastor Paul, Jack Vos or Cherie Clements.

## July/August GraceGram

by Communication Team

We will run a two-month newsletter in July. So if you have articles you would like to have read for August, send them to us by June 27.

## Call Committee Progress

by Call Committee

The Call Committee has been formed! Members of this committee include Brenda Teegardin (Chairperson), Steve Carr, Carrie Duits, Karen Halstead, Hope Peck, Derrick Rosenberger, and Clyde Watson. Each will be wearing distinctive orange nametags at worship during the Call Process so feel free to seek them out and inquire about progress. Key updates for the congregation at this time include:

- The Call Committee held its first meeting on 5/17.
- The Ministry Site Profile became active on 5/20, formally starting the process for searching for our new pastor.

The Call Committee is committed to keeping the congregation informed on our progress, stay tuned for updates!

## VBS Planning for 2017

by Pastor Paul

A few things have been settled concerning Grace's VBS Program, 2017: The date is set for August 7-10; it will last four days, but begin on a Monday rather than a Sunday; the program begins each day at 5:30 pm and will end at 8:00 pm; parents will be invited to the dinners each day, and will begin for some at 5:15 pm; and the theme for this year is "National Parks."

We will need volunteers for certain parts of the program, so when the signup sheet appears or you see the opportunity to offer your help on the back of the Participation Card on Sunday, be sure you step up and step forward. This program is only as successful as the number of members who volunteer.

An attempt was made to invite other congregations of the community to plan a village-wide VBS program, but we were not successful in this endeavor. We will try again next year.



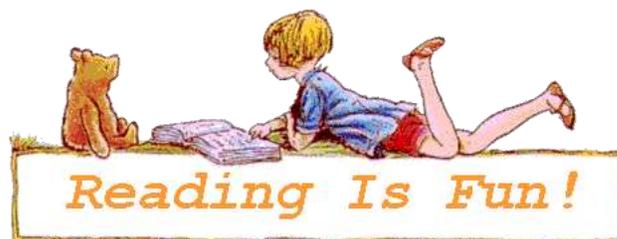
## Summer Reading List

by Pastor Paul

I wanted to include two more books a member of our church has suggested for summer reading. This member was quite motivated talking to me about these books. They must be good! Enjoy!

A DOG'S PURPOSE, and A DOG'S JOURNEY both by author, W. Bruce Cameron.

LOVE WARRIOR and CARRY ON, WARRIOR both by Glennon Doyle Melton



# Communication

## Let us Empower You!

by Kate Watson



*Did you know that Grace has a Communications Team? We work on the GraceGram, our Facebook Page, and website. We even worked on the new Grace Directory together.*

Communication to the congregation is an extremely important aspect of church leadership. As a member of both the Executive Committee and the Communications Team, I can assure you that your leaders want to both keep you well-informed as well as hear what you have to say about where Grace is and where our congregation wants it to go. As with most endeavors, we've had some ups and downs in achieving that goal.

During the potluck that the transition team held, church leadership heard that many of you feel like you don't understand the happenings at Grace or that you would like to have more information. The Communications Team and Executive Committee have some ideas on those fronts that we are working on. While we work through improving our end of communication, we wanted to empower you by listing some places you can go to stay as well-informed as you want to be:

### Great Resources

1. The GraceGram: The Communications Team works hard to get all the pertinent information for the month into this newsletter. It may seem long, but it's really where you will find 99% of what's going on at Grace. If you want to be well-informed, read it cover to cover! The Communications Team has some formatting ideas we're going to work on over the summer to make it easier to skim and quickly pick up the info that's most important to you.
2. Back of the Worship Bulletin: Anything that wasn't ready at the time of publishing of the GraceGram, plus some reminders about things that were, will be on the back of the worship bulletin. These are weekly nuggets of information.
3. Verbal Announcements: again, these are weekly bits of information, but keep in mind that they are meant to be ministry-specific. They come after communion and before dismissal so that we can make the link between being fed at worship and going out into the world to do the work that Christ calls us to do.
4. Council Meeting Minutes: Did you know you have the right to review the minutes from each council meeting? Victoria in the office has paper and

electronic copies she can share with you, and the draft minutes are usually available within a day or two of the meeting. You can also talk to the Council Secretary to obtain a copy of these. Anything officially decided by council will be recorded there, as well as a report from each of our committees.

### NOT Complete Sources

5. Facebook Page: As of now, the Facebook page is not a complete source of information. You may occasionally find nuggets of info there, but the Communications Team is currently working on making this a more comprehensive (not necessarily complete) information source.
6. The Website: You can find the GraceGram, the Calendar, and the Worship Bulletins (typically available on the Thursday before each Sunday) on the website. But really, the website is intended to be a tool for visitors. It gives information about our core beliefs, our worship times, and how to contact us. It is not designed or used to convey congregational information.

Your council and Communications Team appreciate all you do for Grace, and we are blessed to have so many people interested in staying up-to-date! We hope this list of resources will help those of you who want to know more. And, as always, feel free to ask questions of any Council member.

## Take Me Out To The Ball Game!

by Joe Longcor

BOG and Tiger's ballgame on April 29th. Or should I say the "Polar Express Game!" We arrived about 9:30 and it was 45 degrees with a 10-15 mph wind. By game time it had climbed to an amazing 47 degrees with a 20+ mph wind. Wow! But we did have good fellowship as we had 16 individuals attend...6 of these were young people. The day began with the faith event in the a.m. with 7 or 8 current and past Tigers sharing their stories. Then we were able to go onto the outfield and "hang" with Tiger players before the game. The game - oh yeah there was a game - hmm...or was there?

Tigers showed pizzazz in the closing inning, tied the game and we went into extra innings...yeah! That also meant sitting in that wonderfully "polar-like" air longer. Didn't last long as the Tigs allowed 2 quick runs and couldn't score in the 10th. Sad :-(. But we did get to find our rides home and something called...heat...ahhh. Great times, "cool" memories, and growing fellowships.

# Grace Lutheran Church

239 E. North St.  
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Website:  
[www.grace-hastings.org](http://www.grace-hastings.org)

Facebook:  
Grace Lutheran Church-  
ELCA Hastings, MI

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

## Our Staff:

Pastor: *Paul Kuhlman*  
[gracehastingspastor@gmail.com](mailto:gracehastingspastor@gmail.com)

Parish Admin: *Victoria Alt*  
[ParishAdmin@grace-hastings.org](mailto:ParishAdmin@grace-hastings.org)  
Mon – Thurs 8 AM - 3PM

Minister of Music: *Cindy Olson*

Bell Choir Director: *Kim Domke*

Custodian: *Nathan Freedlund*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June – July - August  
Sundays @ 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sundays**  
Sunday @ 10:00am

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### Children's Church

June – July – August

No Children's Church during Summer Worship



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

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## Executive Committee:

President: *Doug Neeb*

Vice President: *Chris Bush*

Secretary: *Kate Watson*

Treasurer: *Randy Teegardin*

## Church Council Members/Liasons

*Cherie Clements – Small Group Ministry*

*Margaret Wood – Congregational Care*

*Phil Poholski – Property Committee*

*Kay Howell – Community Outreach*

*Diane Neeb – Social Activities*

*Tim Schoessel - Stewardship*

*Jana Bishop – Children/Youth Ministry*

*Open – Worship Committee*