



HOLY COMMUNION OFFERED EVERY SUNDAY

From the Pastor's Desk

by Pastor Paul E. Kuhlman

My Last Words About That

This is my last article in the GraceGram as pastor of Grace. I will not use it to address the usual things of a “last” nature. Those kinds of things I will say in worship on Sunday. I did, however, want to say a few things about this newsletter and communications in the church in general.

Firstly, let me give a hearty thanks to Steve Kaiser for keeping the GraceGram going through some very turbulent and difficult times. Through his efforts, he kept the congregation informed of coming events, and made sure the membership was informed. We are all thankful for his efforts.

Secondly, when I began here I realized that the GraceGram could become more than it was with a facelift and a new approach to format. With a simple use of color, new masthead and a consistent font, the newsletter has become a great asset of Grace and informative besides. Furthermore, we have tried to remain timely in publishing, something that Victoria has been very good at doing. We are thankful for Victoria's care and dedication to this instrument.

Thirdly, besides all of the changes there are still things that need to improve and change. You will notice some of those in this edition. With the formation of a Communication Team (allow me to thank Kate Watson and Jenn Rosenberger for their tireless contributions), we have been trying to improve on all the communications of the church—Facebook, website, newsletter and the announcements in the bulletin. Not too far down the line we will need to add several screens in key areas of the church for ongoing and updated news, announcements, and inspiration. I would suspect that the new pastor might want to offer weekly devotions sent to smart phones, and a better way to keep the church's calendar of events center stage for the members. Yep, change is inevitable! Welcome to the 21st century! I just want to retire in the quietness of a house on the lake!

Gracegram GraceGram



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A Look @ Next Month – September 2017
Theme: “We Begin Again”

- *Call Committee – report*
- *Welcoming a New Pastor – what to remember*

*Deadline for inclusion in the September GraceGram is **August 17, 2017.***

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

Thank you!

1. **Everyone who helped last month with the Renovation Project.** We are nearing the end of Phase One
2. **All the volunteers who removed the trees**—fallen and unhealthy trees around the woods. You people worked hard and accomplished a lot in a few hours.



Home

by Jenn Rosenberger

Throughout the years the word home has meant different things to me. When I was younger it was four walls in which my Mom and Dad lived. It was simple, shelter. I was terrified of thunderstorms and mostly for me it was shelter from the storm. I do, however, absolutely love snow but every so often I would get too cold so this dwelling would then be a source of warmth too. Home was simple then.

When Derrick and I were first looking for a house to buy, I was searching for a feeling rather than just a building. When we walked into our current home I had that feeling. We have lived here now for 14 years, these walls have protected us but they are just walls, I have memories here. Thinking of moving on to a new home is very scary right now. This is the place I was first taken to as Derrick's wife, the place I first took my babies home to. The next home will be where my babies leave from to go to college; it will be the next stage in life. However, home now is rooted in who is around me. I think of home more in the memories and my people; my family. I had a bad day this past week, just the world was unkind type of day, all I wanted was to go home, but it really wasn't home I wanted it was Derrick. I wanted his shelter and safety; I wanted his kindness and love to shelter me and surround me to protect me from the world.

Later I thought more about this. As we are moving on in our lives eventually home will have to change again. Derrick is human; he will not be here forever, neither will I. My home will eventually change again to Heaven. Some may think this is morbid or I shouldn't be thinking about death but we are told to "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." (Colossians 3:2) Instead of thinking of Derrick as my home, I need to focus on God as my home. That is where my true comfort and shelter will always come from. One of my favorite verses that I held on to in high school was Psalm 18:2 "The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield." That sounds like shelter from the

storm to me, and He will always protect me and you as well.

High lights of Chapter 3 from Living Lutheran by Dave Daubert:

If we want to see what God is up to, then we need to look at more than the inside of a church building. God's movement in the world is full of purpose and this continues throughout all of human history. We cannot know everything about this kingdom of God – it is not yet fully present to us. God's kingdom is both "already but not yet." It is already in the sense that God brought it about in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a guaranteed reality. Also the kingdom of God is "not yet". God is not finished with the world. We are waiting for its final fulfillment. This tension between the kingdom being "already" but also "not yet" is the tension in which Christians are called to live. God's dream includes celebrating for those who have little to celebrate. Those who are poor or outcast or forgotten are a priority in God's dream that have been forgotten in the world – but God

wants no one left out. When we pray the Lord's prayer we are asking for a radical transformation of our world. We are urging God to finish his work in the world so that the dream of love, justice and peace will be here once and for all. Christians can only be faithful if they pray for a radically new future because that is what Jesus is committed to. God's work and dream are bigger than the church. It is God's work and God is doing it. We can only rejoice, respond, see and announce it to the world.

Plans have been discussed for a new member welcome Sunday with a brunch between services on Pentecost Sunday in May.

Noisy Offering will be held once a month. Announcements will be made before the start of worship as a reminder.

We will have a representative from Honduras Missions visit

Grace on Sunday, April 3rd, who will give a presentation at both services.

April will be "Food Donation Month". Each Sunday will be scheduled for different food and cleaning supplies. These products will be sent over to the Hastings Food Pantry.

We are in the planning stages for the Barry Roubaix bike race volunteer participation on April 16 and possible Summerfest participation.

The Grace banner is being revised with additional church information.

There will be preliminary information gathering on the printing of a new church pictorial directory.

Ballot for 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting

At our annual meeting in July, we will present a slate of candidates to serve as Officers on the Executive Committee, on Council, next year's Nominating Committee, and as voting members to the 2018 Synod Assembly. To help you consider Grace's leadership team, the lists below show whose term is ongoing, whose term is finishing, and the proposed candidates. Please note that we will also be accepting nominations from the floor during the annual meeting.

Current Executive and Council members whose terms expire in 2018 (not up for vote):

Vice President Chris Bush (unless elected President)
Treasurer Randy Teegardin
Margaret Wood (unless elected Vice President)
Phil Poholski
Diane Neeb
Lorie Gladyness (currently vacant)

Terms finishing this year:

Executive Committee

President Doug Neeb – declining second term
Secretary Kate Watson - willing to serve a second term

Council

Jana Bishop – declining second term
Tim Schoessel - term limited
Kay Howell – declining second term
Cherie Clements – declining second term

Nominations (Year Term Would Expire)

Executive Committee

President - Chris Bush (2019)
Vice President (to finish Chris Bush's term if Chris becomes President) – Margaret Wood (2018)
Secretary – Kate Watson (2019)

Council

Jan Schreiner (2019)
Gary Golnek (2019)
Derrick Rosenberger (2019)
Sheryl Gordon (2019)
Gwen Hansen (2018; to finish Lorie Gladyness' term)
Dave Neeb (2018; to finish Margaret Wood's term if she is elected Vice President)

2018 Nominating Committee

Tom Drumm

Voting members to attend 2018 NWLM Synod Assembly

Ed and Jeanette Markwart

Proposed Amendments for Grace's Constitution

At the Annual Meeting, the voting members of Grace will be asked to accept several amendments to our constitution. One of the amendments deals with the language in constitutional provision C13.04, how the Mutual Ministry will be set up. The current language in C13.04 does not line up with the continuing resolutions that the Mutual Ministry Formation Team developed describing the purpose and goals of the Mutual Ministry Committee. Grace's Council is proposing that C13.04 have more flexible language so that, as needed, the continuing resolutions describing the purpose and goals of the Mutual Ministry Committee can be updated to fit the Committee's functions.

The other amendments being proposed are to keep our constitution lined up with new amendments in the ELCA's Model Constitution for Congregations, on which our document is based. Most of the changes to the ELCA Model deal with terminology: rather than refer to "clergy," "associates in ministry," "deaconesses," and "diaconal ministers," the ELCA is using the terms "Ministers of Word and Sacrament" and "Ministers of Word and Service." This allows for more flexibility in the constitution when referring to rostered leaders.

Another amendment in the Model falls under the chapter concerning Members. The Model has added "seasonal members" to the list of possible members in a congregation. These are voting members of another ELCA congregation who want to participate in the life and mission of our congregation, including "exercising limited voting rights." There are more specifics within the added definition. This amendment was initiated by the Grand Canyon Synod, so it may be addressing snowbirds' desire to be more involved in congregations where they are wintering.

Another amendment of note is that an amendment to the constitution could now be proposed by a minimum of 2 voting members, whereas currently 20% of the congregation's voting members would have to submit such a request.

It appears other amendments in the Model are mere language tweaks. If we accept these amendments into our constitution, it doesn't really change the way we do things except for proposing future amendments and possibly the "seasonal" member language. I encourage all voting members of Grace to find out more about the amendments to the Model to help inform your vote on whether we incorporate them into our constitution. You can read about the ELCA's rationale at

<http://www.elca.org/Home/About/Churchwide/Office%20of%20the%20Secretary/Constitutions> and click on "2016 amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations." Alternatively, Chris Bush will be available before and after

worship during July to answer questions (or call or email her).

Executive Summary

by Executive Committee

Grace's Call Committee has been prayerfully and diligently working to support the call process for our new pastor. We have held three meetings since our initial training with the Synod, and have focused on the following topics:

1. Planning to receive potential candidates such that we can ensure that their interview experience with Grace is in keeping with our congregation's welcoming nature.
2. Planning to assess potential candidates relative to the stated needs of Grace in accordance with the Ministry Site Profile.
3. Ensuring proactive communication with our congregation regarding the status of our call process.

We ask for your prayers and your patience during this time, and we look forward to sharing our progress with you all in the months ahead.

President's Pen

by Doug Neeb

We continue to pick away at our building remodeling project. Phase one is 85 to 90% complete. Most of what remains is fussy trim work. Anyone who has worked on an older building knows the issues that come up. We need to replace soffit and gutters on our building. We are in the process of planning Phase two. Look for planned work dates starting on July 29th.

Looking forward we need to find a way to repair/replace our parking lot. This should be our next major project. The cost of the project will require careful budgeting and we will need to raise funds. We have seed money pledged for this project but we will need more. We need to find a way to improve the upkeep on all of our church grounds. We presently only actively groom 60% of the property we own. Most importantly we need to continue to allow the Spirit to make us over, change us, and make us into the place and people God desires us to be.



Grace Lutheran Church

239 E. North St.
Hastings, MI 49058

Website:

Website: www.discover-grace-hastings.org

Facebook:

Grace Lutheran Church --
ELCA Hastings, MI

Phone:

269-945-9414 o
r 269-945-2645

Our Staff:

Pastor: *Paul Kuhlman*

gracehastingspastor@gmail.com

Parish Admin: *Victoria Alt*

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.

5th Sundays
Sunday @ 10:00am

Children's Church

June – July – August

No Children's Church during Summer Worship



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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our Prayers for

Healthy pregnancy – Danielle Gorman,
Jessica Bakhuyzen, Katie Deip

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

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

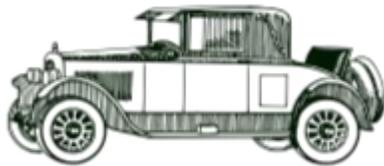
Military members – Phil DeVries

Grace's 3rd Annual Car Show - Sunday, July 30th

by Pastor Paul

Outdoor service under the tent and 3rd annual car show. One service at 10:00 A.M. luncheon to follow at 11:30. The luncheon is provided by Thrivent and the Social Activities Committee. Car show is at 9:00 A.M. and runs till 3:00 P.M..

We are worshipping outdoors so bring lawn chairs for your comfort.



July/August Birthdays

7-3 Jan Schreiner, Terry Bushee
7-7 Bob Bolton, Linda Trongo, McKenzie Rudesill
7-8 Molly Patton
7-9 Mike Kemper
7-12 Sharon Palmer
7-14 Joseph Pruitt
7-16 Phyllis Lietz, Peg Kaiser
7-17 Lisa Golnek
7-19 Paula Allarding
7-21 Kathryn Pohl
7-22 Paul Kuhlman
7-24 Jonathan Reid
7-25 Frank Bolton, Kim Ogden
7-29 Dakota Henion, Luke Poholski
7-30 John Poholski

8-1 Doris Allarding
8-3 Tommy Peck
8-7 Joyce Proksch
8-8 Randy Teegardin
8-10 Skyler Henion
8-12 George Lietz
8-15 Cindy Beckwith
8-24 Carol Vos
8-25 Bob Tossava
8-27 Diane Neeb
8-28 Virginia Henion

July/August Anniversaries

7-3 Cindy & Dave Beckwith
7-7 Tim & Nancy Schoessel
7-8 Doug & Diane Neeb
7-31 Steve & Sumire Kogge

8-5 Tom & Carrie Duits
8-10 Cheryl & Kevin Allarding, Clyde & Kate Watson
8-11 Paul & Mary Kuhlman
8-16 Randy & Brenda Teegardin
8-18 Steve & Peg Kaiser, Rick & Sharon Palmer,
Chris & Dennis Bush