



GraceGram

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



September 2017

HOLY COMMUNION OFFERED EVERY SUNDAY

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Call Committee Confidentiality

by Brenda Teegardin

The Call Committee continues meeting every 1-2 weeks preparing to receive candidates for our next Pastor.

As we announced a few weeks ago, we have received a candidate name and are working through the process reviewing their information, planning for a visit and interview, and determining the next steps. We anticipate being able to share more about that soon.

It is important for *all* of us to keep in mind that this is an **extremely** confidential process. Candidates submit their name with the understanding that all information will be held in strict confidence and we are sworn to abide by that.

Taken directly from the Synod Call Process Manual it states, "The call committee keeps the names and profiles of all candidates in the strictest confidence throughout the committee's work." We are charged with protecting the integrity of the process and take that seriously, so please understand and remember we are doing our job and not able to share details.

We ask for your continued patience, support, and prayers as we continue on this journey, trusting that God is with us every step of the way.



- **In Due Time** pg 2
- **Women's Bible Study** pg 3
- **Trunk or Treat** pg 3
- **Worship Committee News** pg 4
- **The World is About to Turn** pg 5
- **Reflections on our Assembly** pg 7
- **September Calendar** pg 8

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

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

President's Ponderings

by Chris Bush

I work for the state health department as a toxicologist: I look at chemical contamination in the air, water, and ground, and determine whether it poses a public health hazard. And then I tell the public. This can be challenging at community meetings, but it's a totally different beast going into someone's home and telling them not to use their well water, that it's putting their family's health at risk.

I had such a task recently, getting home late after visiting several families with my colleagues from other agencies. The next morning, as I relayed the experience to my coworkers, I started experiencing something like post-traumatic stress disorder, reliving the time I had to tell my parents that my brother had died in a kayaking accident. I went out to my car to cry and pray. The reactions I had witnessed the previous night, in such personal settings, had rocked me: these people had just received a major blow. Some were furious, some were fearful, and one person, whose well had the worst level of this contamination that I have ever seen, had laughed and joked about it!

I realized that I was doing my job: using my education and experience, showing empathy, and expressing the news scientifically yet person-to-person. I also realized that I was not responsible for how the people would take the news, just that it was important that they get the news. This epiphany got me to thinking about how we, as Christians and Lutherans, communicate with each other. Whether it's telling someone about the Good News or resolving a conflict with a fellow member, we need to use our brains and our hearts as well as our mouths and our ears. And then we need to leave how that person receives the message to the Spirit. We can be available to help a person wrestle with faith, but we are not responsible for the outcome of that wrestling. Leave it in the hands of the Lord.

In Due Time...

by Chris Bush

As we say good bye to Pastor Paul and look uncertainly into our future we have to trust that God will connect our dots in the future. We will be able to look back on our journey when this is all over and see where God was at work and see how each and every dot was connected and why. Right now we are in the trusting and prayer stage. We wait for the dots to be connected. We are all anxious and saddened by Pastor Paul leaving but with his departure remember there is hope too; because without this step we wouldn't be stepping closer to our new permanent Pastor to make their home here.

Congregational Culture

by Derrick Rosenberger

As a member of the Transition Team and Call Committee I have had the great pleasure of getting to know a large part of our Congregation over the last 6 to 8 months. I have also learned a lot of how the church operates and the many great things our family at Grace has to offer to our members and community.

I recently had the opportunity to read an article about how a Church's culture can affect its mission and strategy for growth, effectiveness, and evangelism. The article by Tim Brown was published on LivingLutheran.org and it spoke of how a toxic culture can negatively influence the church and included some of the warning signs that may be present. The author also spoke of ways to encourage a healthy culture and it made me think of how many of these things do we do at Grace?

Do we have an honest reflection of who we are as members and as a congregation? Do we love our habits more than our mission? Honest reaction is needed to promote a healthy culture and a healthy culture will allow for honest reflection if bad behaviors occur. The author states "we should strive for excellence when it comes to how we treat each other".

Also mentioned is honest rejoicing, celebrating as a congregation and as individual members and the sharing of moments of love.

Finally, the article encouraged honest rejection, which is explained as a congregation knowing what it can and cannot do. It is recognizing that we are not perfect as a community and that we don't have to be perfect to have a healthy culture. As we continue through our transitional period, I encourage us all to look at ourselves and how we contribute to our culture here at Grace so that we can continue to grow and change in a positive manner.

Hopefully my brief synopsis will encourage you to read this wonderful article!

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/08/culture-eats-strategy-breakfast/>



Weekly Women's Bible Study

by Kate Watson

A women's bible study meets Tuesdays at 12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be starting a new study in September that digs deeper into the women of the Bible and their stories. All women are welcome, and we are accustomed to having children join us to play nearby while we study. Contact Kate Watson (kp0027@gmail.com) with questions.

Grace's Renovation Project

by Doug Need

We have started on Phase 2 of our renovation project. The choir loft has been removed and hauled away. There were a few unexpected discoveries that have caused us to stop and research the proper ways to address them. Plans are underway to bring in a lift to prep and paint the rear wall. We still have trim work and painting left to finish Phase 1. Plans are being developed to finish this part and lastly and maybe most exciting is the fact that the Congregational Council has approved the ordering of carpet for the church!

Trunk or Treat Returning in October

by Pastor Mike Kemper

Just a reminder from your Community Outreach Committee: Once again we are planning to invite children from the community to stop by Grace on Halloween night, October 31st for "Trunk or Treat". We will again set up 6 or 7 rooms hosted by our members to hand out treats, and show off their best costumes if desired.

Additionally, we are looking for someone who would be willing to serve as the boo-tiful coordinator for this project – someone to communicate with the congregation and volunteers and help organize the various rooms, treat

donations, etc. It's a scary good time! for a sign-up to be posted the end of September. Mike Kemper, Outreach

is a
Watch
sheet
toward

Mike

Chairperson



Bell Basics Ring-a-long

by Kim Domke

Are you ready to hear those HANDBELLS RINGING again? Would you like to be part of an AWESOME GROUP that PRAISES THE LORD through music?



Not sure about the commitment or if you can do it? (No commitments to the semester until after you try ringing.)

You are invited to come find out on:

THURS., SEPTEMBER 14TH 5:30-8:00 PM

This includes dinner (please bring something to share)

- for all youth (past and newly interested, minimum 4th grade)
- for new adults interested in exploring the bells and hand chimes
- for parents of interested students
- for past adult members who would like some review

Rhythm games, bell history, how to hold a bell & chime, "music reading", bell set up, and more!

Sharing dates for this first semester are
Adults and kids: Sunday, Oct. 15, Sunday, Dec. 10
Adults only Wed. Dec 13

Please let Kim Domke know if you have any questions or if you are planning to come. Kim Domke
269-908-0024

Thank you!

THANK YOU GRACE for the loving response to the Hastings Food Pantry June Food Drive. 480 pounds of food X \$2.17 (Feeding America formula) equals about \$1,040 plus the \$605 in cash donations. Hastings Food Pantry sends their thanks and invites anyone who wants to volunteer to come check it out at First United Methodist Church in Hastings. Talk to Kim Domke for more details.



CROP Walk

by Kim Domke

SAVE the DATE for CROP WALK: October 8th, 2017 Grace Lutheran is hosting this year for Barry County and we need your help to welcome 10-15 churches and up to 300 people. You can sign up to donate food or be a volunteer the day of the event. You can participate as a walker by signing up with Kim Domke or on-line at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/hastingsmi> Donations will be collected September 17th – October 8th. Checks should be made out to CWS-CROP. Please see the board in the Gathering Space for more information, or talk with Kim Domke.

This Changes Everything

by Chris Bush

There is less than a year to go until the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering convenes in Houston. The theme for the Gathering is “This Changes Everything.” The Gathering includes a day of service in the community, a day of faith building with other congregations in our Synod, and a day of faith exploration with other ELCA congregations. There are worship services every morning and inspirational speakers and music every evening. Grace plans to send seven youth and at least two adults to the event.

How can you help? Here are some ideas, and we’ll have more specific requests in future articles:

- We are looking into flying to Houston. If you have frequent-flyer miles that you can donate, please talk with Cherie Clements.
- Ask the youth who are going (check with Chris Bush, Melissa Patton, or Jenn Rosenberger who those youth are) WHY they are going. Show them your interest.
- Ask the adult leaders who are going, Melissa Patton and Jenn Rosenberger, how you can be a part of preparing the team for the event. Event organizers provide Bible study and team-building exercises. Having someone help lead these studies and exercises will show the team that this is a Grace-family mission, not just a youth-group mission.
- Pray for all the thousands of youth and adults who will be a part of this amazing, grace-filled event. Pray for their safety and the presence of the Holy Spirit as they prepare for, embark on, and return from the Gathering.

Worship Committee News

by Worship Committee

The Worship Committee strives to communicate effectively with our congregation. To further that goal, we’ve established an email address:

gracelutheranworshipcommittee@gmail.com

You can email the Worship Committee to communicate on any Worship topic, including: concerns on a specific worship issue, suggestions, or even questions about why we do what we do. Emails will be answered via committee at our meetings (which occur monthly, so please give the committee up to a month to respond to your email request). The Worship Committee’s email address will be listed in the weekly bulletin, the monthly GraceGram, and on Grace’s Website.

In continuing to strive for excellent communication, the Worship Committee would like to present the schedule for September and October supply pastors. These pastors will preside over worship while we await the installation of our next pastor.

September 3rd and 10th - Pastor Mike Kemper

September 17th and 24th, October 1st - Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

October 8th- Pastor Darrell Golnitz- Representing Food for the Poor (Forum will be available between services. More information to follow.)

October 15th - Pastor Galen Knutson

October 22nd and 29th - Pastor Mike Kemper

We are grateful to all the supply pastors for being willing to serve Grace during our time of transition. We are grateful to Bishop Satterlee and the Synod staff for their assistance and support.

Grace Lutheran's 3rd Annual Car Show

by Gary Golnek

Grace Lutheran's 3rd annual car show was a success. Over 20 vehicles were on display for church members, car owners, and spectators to view. Church services were under the tent with Pastor Mike Kemper officiating. After the service a free luncheon was attended by an estimated 125 folks.



Youth Mission: Detroit

by Jenn Rosenberger

I left a piece of me in Detroit. It was a better piece of me, a whole piece. Part of my heart now lives there to welcome love and accept those that don't have enough love and need some or need some to give. Love can regrow in me because I have hope. My hope is ever growing and changing. It is electric and I feel it daily. Some of the people I witnessed and came in contact with their hope has become stagnant and needs to be recharged and find new life. This is why mission is so important. We are recharging. The more I can push out my positivity and love the more I can regrow and give freely because I no longer fear that I will have enough. I know I can be drained and that I will recharge and be filled again. My God is big enough.

We did not go to Detroit to preach. We went to show love through works and show others what a Christian can be without having to verbalize it. We wanted to show that their neighborhood was our neighborhood and we cared for them just the same.

I asked the kids to think of a word each day, just one word to sum up the day and answer, "Who is God to ME?" It was incredible the answers I got, now they are sharing a final word to describe the entire week...Supporter, Mentor, Home, Provider, Guide, Love.

Brothers of Grace

by Joe Longcor



The next Grace Adopt-a-Highway will be Saturday, September 16. We'll meet at the church at 8:45 and leave for the site at 9:00 a.m. We will likely be done about 10:30 a.m. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the coffee area. Any questions...please ask or call Joe Longcor (269)623-2348.

Brothers of Grace will begin meeting on Tuesday, September 12, from 7-8:30 p.m. at Grace. All fellows over 18 are welcome for fellowship, devotional, light snack, and a "bit" of story telling for sure. If you have questions, please contact Joe Longcor.



September Birthdays

- 9-3 Deb Watson
- 9-7 Shirley Beck
- 9-9 Peg Newton
- 9-11 Steve Wales
- 9-14 Steve Kogge
- 9-15 Donna Buehl
- 9-16 Mark Bishop, Gavin Patton, Grayson Patton
- 9-19 Scott Larson
- 9-22 Rob Pohl
- 9-23 Gabriel Barnaart
- 9-24 Mark Anton
- 9-25 Linda Melcher
- 9-26 Alexis Watson
- 9-30 Mary Dawson

September Anniversaries

No known anniversaries in September

Freed & Renewed in Christ

by Synod Office

Following are the remaining events in the Greater Grand Rapids Conference observation of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. For more information, please visit <http://reformation500gr.org/>.

From Conflict to Communion: Ecumenical Conference
Saturday, September 9, 8:30 am-12:30 pm, Cost: \$15.00,
preregister by calling 616-459-7267

Catholic Information Center, 360 Division Ave. S, Suite 2A, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Guest Speakers: Dr. Karin Maag, Calvin College & Dr. Susan K. Wood, Marquette University, Wisconsin

Renewed in Word, Faith and Grace – A Juried Art Show
October 1-31

- Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 Fulton St. E, Grand Rapids, MI 49506
- St. Lukes Lutheran Church, 3215 Four Mile Rd, Grand Rapids, MI 49525
- Christ Lutheran Church, 2350 - 44th St. SW, Wyoming, MI 49519
- Samaritas Senior Living, 2000 32nd St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508
- Catholic Information Center, 360 Division Ave. S, Suite 2A, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
- Faith Lutheran Church, 2740 Fuller Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Martin Luther: Reformer of Church and Society
Tuesday, October 3, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, registration not required.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 Fulton St. E, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Presented by: Dr. Kurt Hendel & Dr. Philip D.V. Krey

Reformation – a musical by Gary Sironen
Thursday & Friday, October 19 & 20 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, October 21 at 2:00 pm

Wealthy Theatre, 1130 Wealthy Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door

Box Office (616) 459-4788 x131, or available online at

<https://grcmc.org/theatre>

Common Prayer for the Ecumenical Commemoration of the Reformation

A prayer service for Catholics, Lutherans and the entire community of faith

Reformation Sunday, October 29, 3:00 pm

Cathedral of Saint Andrew, 215 Sheldon Blvd. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Co-Presided by Catholic Bishop David J. Walkowiak & Lutheran Bishop Craig A. Satterlee

50 Years of Catholic Lutheran Dialogue
Tuesday, November 14, 7:30-8:45 pm; preregister by calling 616-459-7267

Catholic Information Center, 360 Division Ave. S, Suite 2A, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Presented by Rev. Brian E. Daley, SJ & Dr. Kathryn Johnson



The World is About to Turn

by Chris Bush

We have said goodbye to Pastor Paul and Mary, thankful for their service at Grace, wishing them Godspeed as they move into the next phase of their lives. It is the next phase of Grace's life too. There is a new council, new committees, and soon, a new pastor! We have learned not to be afraid of change, because with new things comes a new spirit. I pray that we maintain this spirit, as we finish renovations to our building, welcome new opportunities and new faces, and approach Grace's mission and ministry with servant hearts. In "The Canticle of the Turning," which is a hymn based on The Magnificat, we sing:

“My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait.”

Grace's next phase is here. The world is about to turn. to sharing our progress with you all in the months ahead.



Reflections on our Assembly

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

Continuing from last month's newsletter, I invite you to read the final two reflections from our Synod Assembly in May.

Eliminate Term Limits: We considered a constitutional amendment that eliminated term limits for synod vice president and secretary. While a majority supported the amendment, it did not receive the two thirds necessary for adoption. Some lay the amendment's defeat at my feet because of the way I structured the assembly; they contend that, if this vote happened after the elections (where in some cases we still needed nominations) and Vice President Schlesinger's very excellent report, it would've passed overwhelmingly.

I heard two "worst case scenarios" as reasons we need term limits. The first is that it would be possible for someone to be elected at 21 and to serve until he or she is 95 and we need a mechanism beyond elections to prevent this from happening. I hear a form of this argument from congregational leaders who determine their pastor—who has neither terms nor limits – stayed too long and they want a mechanism that forces the pastor to move on without them having to tell him so. I learned how powerfully elections serve as term limits in 2013, when a very popular presiding bishop stood for a third term and Bishop Eaton was elected.

The second "worst case scenario" I heard is that, without term limits, we won't seek nominees. Truth be told, under Pastor Timm's leadership, we are working to make nominations more transparent and inclusive. Compared to other synods, our nomination process has room to grow so that it revolves less around personal relationships and connections by giving every congregation an opportunity to lift up gifted leaders.

Our officers play a very strong role in leading our synod. The vice president leads the synod council by setting the tone and agenda, and chairs the executive committee as the synod's HR team. The secretary holds both the council and staff accountable to the directions set and the tasks undertaken through her keeping of minutes and other records. In synods without such leadership, the bishop and staff have more to do. My worry is losing wise and gifted leadership at a critical time for no reason other than it is term limited.

Both during assembly and in the weeks since, many people have reached out to me to ask if we could reconsider this next year. Some asked if we could increase

the number of terms from two terms to four. Knowing that good ideas involving change are rarely received when first suggested, I suspect we will talk about this again in 2018.

Future Assemblies: We work hard to respond to people's hopes and desires for synod assembly. This year included an Opening and Closing Eucharist, two keynote addresses, and opportunities for learning. A few have asked about the possibility of a one-day or biennial assembly. Both are possible; other synods have attempted each. In 2018, we are contracted to be in Lansing and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will be with us. In 2019, we have a bishop's election. While a bishop would be delighted to be reelected on the first ballot, making a one-day assembly possible, planning for such an outcome by scheduling a one-day assembly would be ruled "out of order." So 2020 is our first opportunity to try a one-day assembly or to omit it altogether. This gives us plenty of time to consider and plan.

While he was with us, Bishop Erwin quipped that bishops like to see synod assembly through the rear view mirror. That's true in terms of the planning that goes into them and the chances that the wheels are going to fall off. But in terms of being church together, I've become a real fan. So thanks to everyone who came to assembly and thank you for whatever role you played.

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 Lutheran Church

239 E. North St.
Hastings, MI 49058

Website:
www.grace-hastings.org

Facebook:
Grace Lutheran Church-
ELCA Hastings, MI

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

Our Ministers:

Cindy Olson, *Minister of Music*

Our Staff:

Victoria Alt, *Parish Administrator*
Mon – Thurs 8 AM - 3PM
ParishAdmin@grace-hastings.org

Kim Domke, *Bell Choir Director*

Nathan Freedlund, *Custodian*

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

5th Sundays
Sunday @ 10:00am

Children's Church

1st Sunday after Labor Day – May
10:45 AM

5th Sundays
Sunday @ 8:45 am



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

Executive Committee:

President: *Chris Bush*

Vice President: *Margaret Wood*

Secretary: *Kate Watson*

Treasurer: *Randy Teegardin*

Church Council Members/Liasons

Derrick Rosenberger – Small Group Ministry

Sheryl Gorden– Congregational Care

Phil Poholski – Property Committee

Gary Golnek– Community Outreach

Diane Neeb – Social Activities

Dave Neeb- Stewardship

Gwen Hansen– Children/Youth Ministry

Jan Schreiner– Worship Committee