



HOLY COMMUNION OFFERED EVERY SUNDAY

## Installation Thank You

by Pastor Ken Scheck II

**Worship the LORD in holy splendor. Psalm 29:2b**

We certainly worshipped God in holy splendor on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January. We heard the call of each of us to reach out to the hurting community. We heard the glorious sounds of organ, brass, flute, piano and the voice of singing hymns to the praise of God. We heard the voice of one who said, Yes, by the help of God. We made promises to pray for and with each other. We made our worship space a place of celebration to the Glory of the Lord. Thank you for the gift of fellowship. Thank you for the wonderful gift of welcome in the name of Jesus. Let us welcome those who do not know Jesus in our midst.

**“Welcome those who are weak in faith.” Romans 14:1**



# GraceGram

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



## February 2018

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*Deadline for inclusion in the March 2018  
GraceGram is **February 17, 2018.***

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

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## President's Ponderings Inviting and Welcoming The Stranger

by Chris Bush

I was listening to an NPR story about the history of the civil rights movement and was struck by something a historian stated: while people of color in the south were invited to come to the northern states (for purposes of union-busting), these persons were not welcome. The words “we want you here” were not followed up with “we’re glad you’re here.”



I thought about the nearly 25 years I have been coming to Grace. I remember how the congregation, adults and children alike, was encouraged to invite people to worship. Some of our current members first came through our doors as the result of a direct invitation. Some of our members who are now adults first came here as a youth because their classmate at school or next-door playmate invited them.

Some people are great at inviting, whether it's to Vacation Bible School, the Cross Walk or Car Show, or to a worship service. (I confess, inviting is an area where I need improvement.) Some people are great at welcoming, whether it's making sure the stranger several pews away gets a handshake during the passing of the peace, accompanying the new face to coffee hour after worship, or showing a visitor attending one of our events around the building so they can find the restroom and fellowship hall. (I am getting more comfortable reaching out and meeting new people. My every-day job involves such work, so you'd think I'd be a pro by now – not!) Some people can both invite and welcome and seemingly do so with ease!

Our Welcoming Space in the narthex has become a hub for friendly conversations, catching up with the “regular” crowd but also meeting and greeting visitors. Let's continue the Grace tradition of inviting and welcoming, just as the first disciples told others to “come and see,” and as Jesus welcomes us to His presence.

## Spotlight on Victoria Alt Parish Administrator

by Kate Watson

One of the behind-the-scenes heroes of our church is our Parish Administrator, Victoria Alt. She has been working for Grace since December of 2013 and is in the office Monday thru Thursday from 8am to 3pm. Victoria prints our bulletins, keeps track of announcements and the prayer list, places orders for teaching materials and equipment, collects the data from our worship attendance cards, and does dozens of other important duties that really keep us running and effective in ministry.

Victoria is married to Dan, a retired engineer, and has a daughter, three sons, and a granddaughter. She says that having been both a mom and a grandma...being a grandma to her almost 2-year-old granddaughter is so much fun! Victoria spends her spare time working on her home business, which is decorating treasure and jewelry boxes. She sells her boxes at festivals and in her online store ([facebook.com/alt.ternativefaces](https://facebook.com/alt.ternativefaces)). She loves to read (young adult fiction to historical novels) and wishes she had more time for motorcycle trips and kayaking. She and her husband go to Hawaii every other year to spend time with family, go snorkeling, hiking, kayaking, and eating anything from a food truck.

If there was one thing Victoria would like everyone in the congregation to know, it's that she would love to personally meet each of you. If you haven't met Victoria already, stop in the office to say “hi!”. She loves having people come in.



# Lent

by Pastor Ken

**“The road is hard that leads to life.” Matthew 7:14**

The 40 days of Lent are soon to be upon us. Ash Wednesday is on Valentine’s Day. Yes, I am asking you to postpone or go a day early to celebrate your love, so that you can come and experience a Valentine meal with the community of faith. We are having heart healthy soup, Valentine’s Day decoration, and we will be marked with the greatest gift of love. The cross of Jesus Christ in the form of an ashen cross on our foreheads.

Everyone needs to experience God’s love that is revealed during our difficult journey on the road that leads to life. Enclosed is a poster for you to share with others.

Each Wednesday during Lent, except the Wednesday during Holy week, we gather at 6:00 pm for a meal and 7:00 pm for Holden Evening prayer. Let us experience God’s grace that comes to us on our hard road, which gives us life.

## Save the Date for the “Soup-er Bowl”

by Community Outreach

Immediately after second service on Feb 4, Outreach Committee will be hosting a soup luncheon.

Nearly 100 million Americans are expected to tune in to watch the Super Bowl. Many of them will be hosting or attending parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, nearly 1 billion people will be hungry—some worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and securing the next meal. Please join us in remembering the hungry this Super Bowl—and toss your donation to help fight hunger into a soup pot after worship on Super Bowl Sunday.

Checks should be made out to Grace Lutheran, in the memo: ELCA World Hunger



## Is it chilly or Chili?

by Cherie Clements

A huge thank you to all who contributed to the can and bottle drive. We raised \$303 towards the 2018 Gathering in Houston. I can hardly believe that it is already February and before we know it, our youth will be on their way to Houston. It was exciting to hear that their airfare was booked in January. The plans are starting to fall into place but we still have a lot of work ahead of us.

Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction!!! Yes, if you heard the rumors, they are true. On February 11, the youth will be hosting a Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction. We are in need of chefs who would like to make a batch of chili. There will be a sign up for our chili chefs. We also will need people to taste test and vote for the best chili. At the same time, there will be a Silent Auction happening. We will have some really good things at the auction again this year.

Here are the youth that will be attending the 2018 Gathering in Houston: Hope Peck, Emma Peck, Kassi Warner, Shiann Molette, Gavin Patton, Grayson Patton, and Cadean McCarty.



# American Red Cross CPR, AED, First Aid

by Kim Domke

**Come join the American Red Cross CPR/AED/First Aid class to be held at Grace Lutheran on the weekend of February 23 and 24.**

You can choose to be tested at the end of the class and **become certified through American Red Cross**, or you can just come and practice the lifesaving skills on the manikins.

**You do not have to take the test.**



**Red Cross First Aid and CPR training will teach you to:**

- **Care for conscious and unconscious choking victims**
- **Perform CPR and use an AED**
- **Give first aid for a variety of injuries, such as burns, wounds, head, neck and back injuries, and heat and cold-related emergencies**
- **Manage sudden illnesses, stroke, seizure, bites, allergy attacks, and poisoning**

Class will include videos, games, scenarios, and time on the manikins and AED machines. You'll also **receive a participant's manual** and ready reference cards that include full-color images and easy-to-read text that will walk you step by step through a variety of lifesaving skills. The cost of this program is supplemented by Thrivent Cares.

Sign up is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space. Or talk to Kim Domke 269-908-0024

## Our Prayers for

Healthy pregnancy –Myrina Clements,  
Joanna Cremeans

Nursing home residents – Dorothy Mayo,  
Vivian Allerding, Dave Bolton

Shut-ins –Ilene Hilson, Jamie Coplin,  
Opal Gillons, Shirley Smith, Sharon  
Duits

# Renovation Updates

by Chris Bush

The carpet has arrived! Plans are being put in place so that the carpet can be put in place. Additionally, painting of the sanctuary should be happening in February. And I'm hoping you did not miss the framing for the doors leading into the sanctuary. I feel like we are in the backstretch, preparing to round the bend and head for the finish line!

I want to be sure that the Grace family understands how we purchased the carpeting, because leadership may not have presented the information clearly. When we first obtained the estimate for the cost of the carpet, the amount was about \$24,000. We felt that we should have about three-quarters of that amount (\$18,000) raised before we ordered the carpeting. As is typical with prices, the estimate increased little by little while we worked to build the Carpet Fund, but when we were nearing our goal, we learned that there would be a substantial increase in the price in 2018. (The price without that increase was \$29,984.) Therefore, we felt it prudent to use money we already had in the Contingency Fund to complete the amount we needed and make our purchase. The amount we owe back to the Contingency Fund is a little over \$12,000. So, we have not borrowed money from the bank but from ourselves. There will be some who see this as a financially-risky move, but, with God's grace, we have withstood challenging fiscal times before. This investment in our building makes the physical place called Grace more welcoming and will enhance the welcoming atmosphere we project as the Body of Christ.



## Pastoral Contact

by Pastor Ken Scheck

In the case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Ken on his cell phone. His number is 269.370.4632.

If there is a need to let the church know that someone is in the hospital, please call the church office and let us know. The church number is 269.945.9414.

You can also contact Pastor Ken at his new email address [pastorken@grace-hastings.org](mailto:pastorken@grace-hastings.org)

Sharing ministry with you!



## No matter how it's said ~ Thank you!

I thank you for the wonderful Christmas gifts you shared with my family and I over the Holy Days. I am blessed by your generous spirit. I thank you for the candy, cookies, money, gift card and wonderful notes.

With the money and gift cards, I bought a skillet, coffee grinder, a surge protector, scissors, queen sized pillow cases, and when Laura, Ethan and Anna came for the installation, I purchased a flatware set so we could all eat together in the apartment. Your generous spirit made it easier for me to have my family come for a visit.

~Pastor Ken

Dear Friends at Grace,

Thank you for a beautiful liturgy and a great spirit as we installed Pastor Ken. I'm holding you in prayer as I look for the Spirit to lead you in new adventures.

Peace be with you!

~Bishop Satterlee

## Updates to the Directory

by Victoria Alt

I recently learned that former Grace member Irene Loughlin has moved to Washington state and would like to share her address with us. Irene would love to hear from you with cards, letters or phone calls.

Irene Loughlin  
9536 49<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Seattle, WA 98115  
206-525-1312

Grace also has several members who have moved to new homes. Please update your directory.

Rosenberger family  
307 Lloyd Court  
Middleville, MI 49333

Gibbons family  
1401 Fairview Dr  
Hastings, MI 49058

Nursing home resident Vivian Allerdig is now living at Thornapple Manor  
Room 408, Sugarbush  
2700 Nashville Rd  
Hastings, MI 49058  
269-945-2407

★ HAPPY ★  
BIRTHDAY!

### February Birthdays

2-5	Judy Hughes
2-10	Tori Schoessel
2-14	Jack Vos, Logan Moore
2-15	Don Granzow
2-16	Nyla Rounds, Steve Rider, Teresa Burdick
2-19	Joe Longcor
2-22	Lorraine Freedlund
2-27	Gale Morway
2-28	Vern Allerdig, Kathryn Watson

### February Anniversaries

2-14	Ron & Kim Ogden
2-28	Frank & Ann Bolton
2-29	Mary & Ron Dawson

# Grace Lutheran Church

239 E. North St.  
Hastings, MI 49058

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 Ministers:

Ken Scheck II  
*Minister of Word and Sacrament*  
[pastorken@grace-hastings.org](mailto:pastorken@grace-hastings.org)

Cindy Olson, *Minister of Music*

Worship Committee:  
[gracelutheranworshipcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranworshipcommittee@gmail.com)

## Our Staff:

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

Kim Domke, *Bell Choir Director*

Nathan Freedlund, *Custodian*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

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

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### Children's Church

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Labor Day – May  
@ 10:45 AM

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



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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## 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/Jan Schreiner – 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*