



HOLY COMMUNION OFFERED EVERY SUNDAY

## Accepting the Call

by Pastor Ken D Scheck II

I received your letter on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to call me as your pastor on the way to the wedding celebration of Brandon Rohrer and Dawn Groves. My wife, Laura, was driving so I could practice the liturgy for the wedding I was presiding. As we were leaving our home, I grabbed the mail out of the box. Well instead of practicing my liturgy, I read aloud your Letter of Call to me. I was stunned to read the date Bishop Satterlee signed the Letter of Call. It was October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

The letter reads: *We call you to exercise among us the ministry of Word and Sacrament which God has established and which the Holy Spirit empowers: To preach and teach the Word of God in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; to administer Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; to lead us in worship; to proclaim the forgiveness of sins; to provide pastoral care; to speak for justice in behalf of the poor and oppressed; to encourage persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel; to impart knowledge of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its wider ministry; to endeavor to increase support given by the congregation to the work of our whole church; to equip us for witness and service; and guide us in proclaiming God's love through word and deed.*

*In accepting this call, you hereby promise to fulfill this pastoral ministry in accord with the standards and policies for ordained ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Therefore, be diligent in the study of Holy Scripture, in use of the means of grace, in prayer, in faithful service, and in holy living.*

*With this call, we pledge our prayers, love, esteem, and personal support for the sake of the ministry entrusted to you by God and for our ministry together in Christ's name. Specific responsibilities, compensation, benefits, and conditions of the call are contained in a document related to this call.*

*In testimony of this call, we have subscribed our names on behalf of the congregation on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 2017, A.D.*

I did accept the call, before it was officially signed by Bishop Satterlee. As you know, I have begun ministry with you.

Peace and joy be with you, as we begin this journey of ministry together in the name of Christ, Pastor Ken +

# GraceGram

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



## January 2018

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

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

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## Installation of our New Pastor

Pastor Ken Scheck II is going to be installed on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 2:00 PM

We invite you to come and hear Bishop Satterlee preach and witness him installing Pastor Ken.

There will be different texts than Sunday, so you will hear two different sermons if you are able to come for both Saturday and Sunday worship opportunities.

Invite your friends to this special event for our church. There is a reception following the worship service.

## President's Ponderings

by Chris Bush

Welcome to 2018! Every New Year starts off with hope and excitement for what lies ahead. Some people make resolutions to accomplish certain goals they set for themselves. With God continually renewing us, we don't have to wait 365 days before resolving to work toward whatever new mission and ministry God sets before us. I pray that you feel hope and excitement for each new day in this New Year. Thank God for both the blessings and the challenges!

I hope you are able to come to the installation service for Pastor Ken on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, at 2 o'clock. Bishop Satterlee will preside over the service, and there likely will be other Synod staff, active and retired pastors, and other area ministers in attendance to provide their spiritual support for this event in Pastor Ken's life and Grace's life. (Can you imagine all the robes??) We can expect great preaching, great music, and the great feast of Holy Communion. What an awesome opportunity to praise and thank God for blessing Grace with a new pastor!



## Daily Devotionals for the Season of Lent

by Community Outreach

Believe it or not but by the time you read this Ash Wednesday (February 14<sup>th</sup>) will only be about a month and a half away. The Outreach Committee will once again put together a booklet of daily devotions written by our members so long as we have a sufficient number of members willing to write 1 or 2 devotionals each for inclusion in the 40-day booklet. A display will be set up in the gathering area with take-home instructions on how to write and submit a devotional as well as a listing and printout of the 40 scriptural texts to be used this year. We will need to have the daily devotions submitted by Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> in order to have time to print and make the devotionals available by Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.



This Photo by Unknown Author is

## Handbell Workshop

by Kim Domke

Have you ever been interested in ringing hand bells but don't have Thursday nights available?

This event is only a two day commitment. We practice on Saturday and play the songs the very next morning at the 10:45 AM service.

ALL musicians are strongly encouraged to come. Visitors or interested new comers are welcome. No prior bell ringing experience required... just a desire to learn something new.

Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> 10:30 AM -3:00 PM

You will learn bell technique, play music games, and there will be bell and hand chime ringing... and of course...LOTS OF FUN!!

Please sign up by Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, so music and lunch can be prepared.

Any questions...talk to Kim Domke.



# Renovation Update

## There is a light!

by Chris Bush



In keeping with the light of Epiphany, the light at the end of the renovation tunnel is getting bigger and brighter! The new doors to the sanctuary and overflow/cry room are being finished up, and the carpeting has been ordered! Here's what you can expect to see happen in the next couple of months:

1. The sanctuary will be painted a warm, cream tone. The consultant who devised the color palette for the building, when we started on the renovation "journey," absolutely loved the wood components of the building and proposed colors to enhance that look. So, the wood arches, front side walls, and ceiling will stay the same, and the block walls will get a fresh look.
2. The raised floor of the chancel (the front of the sanctuary) will have that very top step removed. This will make that area safer for the bell choir and others to use, by having just one level to navigate. Previously, as some will remember, there used to be a railing in front of the chancel, and the altar was typically on that very top step. Now we more often have the communion "table" among God's people, allowing us flexibility for using the chancel area for various purposes (such as bells, special choir events, liturgical drama and dance, worship art, Vacation Bible School).
3. The carpet will be replaced, starting at the far end of the building (the rooms off the Fellowship Hall) and working toward the sanctuary. The Pohl family has graciously volunteered their time and labor to install the carpeting (my understanding is that installation cost is typically equal to that of the carpet alone), and we are *very* thankful for this gift to Grace. We will need some helpers to move items in and out of rooms as they get carpeted and to help with the installation. Please let Chris Bush know if you can be a laborer and we'll get a schedule worked out with Rob Pohl.

# Save the Date for the "Soup-er Bowl"

by Community Outreach

On Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> after the second service, Outreach Committee will be hosting a soup luncheon. All donations will be given to ELCA World Hunger. Good cause, good food, good fellowship, and even a few surprises!

Just for the fun of it, beginning on January 28<sup>th</sup>, you can vote for your favorite football team. Just drop your blue ELCA World Hunger envelope in the soup pots marked...Patriots? Steelers? Vikings? Eagles?



# Houston . . . here we come!

by Cherie Clements

The planning is well underway for our youth and adults going to Houston in June 2018. Every fundraising event is being thoughtfully planned.

Some upcoming fundraisers:

- January 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> will be a pop can drive and Plato's Closet Collection; and
- February 11<sup>th</sup> a Chili cook-off and the favorite Silent Auction.

Details will be released as more events are finalized. Keep an eye out for them in the GraceGram, bulletin, your mailboxes or posters. This group is very creative.

Please remember that all the proceeds from these events are being used to send our youth to the National Convention.



# The Rebellion

by Jenn Rosenberger

The high school youth will be heading out on December 27<sup>th</sup> to Lansing for the Gathering. Four youth are going this year, all juniors in high school and all girls. While this will be interesting to watch unfold I have been anticipating this. The Rebellion, just the name causes me to think what this all could be about? Then I remember what it is like to stand in one of the worship times there. I want to try and describe it to you. There are no boundaries, no insecurities, no questions at that moment, it is freedom. The lights are dimmed so nervousness can be washed away. The music is loud so you can sing louder and no one will hear. You can raise your hands in praise and clap, you can dance, no one will care, and in fact they might join in. Then the realization that the love overflowing and outpouring of rejoicing is coming from teens, some as young as 14 or 15. Some not truly knowing who they are but knowing deep inside whom they belong to. You can feel the ties that bind us together and no one has to be afraid to speak of our savior. This place creates such awe and inspiration and fills me with such energy, especially after being so drained physically and emotionally by the hustle of Christmas.

I have now realized this is our Rebellion, challenging the world to live each day like our worship times. This is my thought anyway. I challenged my youth with this thought at our last meeting, what were we rebelling against? First answer was Satan, but beyond that we thought deeper and saw that he also had other things that pulled us, physical, material and spiritual things that could pull us away and we had to rebel against those as well. We had some amazing discussion and I only hope it left them with a lot to think about. I left them with my final thought, just as God has angels to help, Satan has many helpers too, watch for them.

What do you think The Rebellion is all about?

## Our Prayers for

Healthy pregnancy – Katie Haddix,  
Myrina Clements, Joanna Cremeans

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

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

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

by Outreach Committee

Once again we extend a very sincere “Thank You” to everyone who helped make our December Outreach activities so successful. We served approximately 100 children and adults hot chocolate and cookies. We sang Christmas songs with some 150 riders on the Holly Trolley in downtown Hastings on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Large food baskets to prepare an ample Christmas dinner along with gifts for 16 children in 5 different families were donated by our members and delivered on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Finally, the Christmas Clothing Tree will supply many school children with warm mittens, gloves, socks and shoes. For a congregation our size we do a lot for our community, especially during Christmas time, and we, your Community Outreach Committee, couldn't do any of it without your generosity. THANK YOU!



## January Birthdays

1-4	Randy Hughes
1-6	Jerry Knickerbocker
1-7	Jeannette Ulrich
1-11	Clyde Watson
1-13	Carl Schoessel
1-14	Dean Rounds, Christina Pontius
1-15	Jennifer Rosenberger
1-18	Mary Kuhlman
1-20	Rick Duits
1-22	Steve Kaiser, Logan Clements
1-23	Lacie Hughes
1-25	Allison Neeb
1-26	Sheryl Gorden
1-30	Jane Power

## January Anniversaries

1-05	John & Mary Kleinbrink
1-26	Shirley & John Smith

# 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:

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*