

He is Risen...

GraceGram

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



April 2018

HOLY COMMUNION OFFERED EVERY SUNDAY

INSIDE THIS EDITION

CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

by Pastor Ken Scheck II

These Easter sentences that shape our worship celebration on Easter joyfully proclaim to the world that death could not hold on to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This Easter decree tells the story about a God who gives life. This pronouncement helps us realize that Jesus gives us real life. These Easter sentences help us realize that Jesus is on the loose in our lives and that we will ever be refreshed and surprised by love and grace that is given freely to us by our living God. The resurrected Jesus grabs hold of us and gives us life, even in the midst of death.

CHRIST IS RISEN!
CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

Often the Easter Good News “gets lost” among our work and busy-ness. We get lost in our work and daily duties of life. But when we meet the risen Jesus we are lifted into the fullness of Christ’s power, and we are able to realize that the stone is rolled away for us too. We have new life in the resurrected Jesus. We cannot explain how Jesus is risen. We have faith, we depend upon the promise our Easter proclamation dares to make. Death does not have the final say. Because Jesus lives, we know the power of life that God intends for each one of us. Let us share God’s life with each other.

CHRIST IS RISEN!
CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

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

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

Good Friday Cross Walk

Friday, March 30

by Pastor Ken

We invite you and community members to participate in a Cross Walk through the community of Hastings. The event begins at Grace Church, traverses Michigan Avenue, proceeds down State Street, crosses the street and returns to the church. Throughout the walk a cross is carried in silence, stopping at 5-6 places to hear the Good Friday Gospel and to sing a verse of “Were You There.”

We continue to make a witness to the community by making the cross a visible sign of God’s redeeming love. revealed by Jesus Christ. We will meet at the church at 9:30 am, gather for a prayer and then begin the procession. When we return, the group is invited to stay for refreshments in the Gathering Space.

We hope that you can come and be a witness of God’s grace in action, as we hear the story of God’s sacrificial love given to us by the suffering love, death and burial of Jesus Christ. This event happens on Good Friday, during the time that Jesus was first crucified. If you can make it, you will be enriched by the poignant events that lends support to the devotional character of Good Friday, but also gives one a unique perspective—moving throughout the community, carrying a cross, hearing the story of God’s salvation for us all and celebrating the gift of redemption each of us have received by Jesus Christ.

Easter Egg Hunt

by Pastor Ken

We thank the members of Grace who have contributed candy for this year’s Egg Hunt for this coming Sunday at 9:45am. The Egg Hunt will take place between our Sunrise Service at 8:00am and our Festival celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ at 10:45am. The Egg Hunt is especially designed for children up to 5th grade. We hope to see you there!



ELCA Armed Forces Prayer Book Donations

by Mike Kemper

Rev. Christopher Laughlin, a rostered minister of the N/W Lower Michigan Synod, is currently serving as an Army Chaplain at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, for a year. At the 2017 Synod Assembly Bishop Craig Satterlee suggested that congregations consider sending Chaplain Major Laughlin copies of the ELCA Armed Forces Prayer book which he could pass along to interested soldiers during their 10 week basic training. There are approximately 900 new soldiers completing basic training every 10 weeks at Fort Leonard Wood.

The Grace Community Outreach Committee decided to join other synod congregations and take up this outreach ministry on behalf of Chaplain Laughlin. Using “Thrivent Dollars” funds from Grace member Luke Domke an initial order of prayer books have been purchased and we are inviting other members who would like to participate in this outreach opportunity to also purchase additional prayer books. A suggested donation of \$8.00-\$10.00 will purchase a book and help with mailing costs. Watch for the display of prayer books and sign-up sheet that will be set up in the coffee fellowship area the Sunday after Easter. We want to complete this project by the end of April. If Grace members have a family member or friend they would specifically like a prayer book sent to we will be happy to do so if we are supplied with the military member’s name and mailing address.

We may also be requesting some home-made cookies to be sent along with the prayer books. We will be contacting Chaplain Laughlin concerning the need for cookies and what quantities can best be used and when. That information will also be available on the display table.

Questions? Speak with Outreach Committee chairperson, Mike Kemper.



Easter Breakfast

by Pastor Ken

Come and enjoy a breakfast put on by the Brothers of Grace. We are blessed that these fine men who are willing to cook a breakfast for the congregation and our guests. There is something about spending time in fellowship with one another, as we share in God's bounty by celebrating the life that is given us through Jesus Christ. Come and enjoy this meal this Sunday after the early worship service. The kitchen closes at 10 am, so there is plenty of time for the Brothers of Grace to join in the 10:45 worship time.



Houston here WE come!

March was a very busy month of fundraising. First there was the Pasty Sale which was a huge success, 360 pasties were made that Saturday for about \$1,600. Thank you to the 38 volunteers who helped with flour mixing, meat cutting, potato peeling and cutting, and all the other various tasks to create those delicious pasties. We had many new individuals learning so many different pasty making skills. We also want to thank everyone who purchased a pasty and prayed for us. Secondly, the spring plant sale was also a success. There were approximately 50 plants sold. Thank you to all for your purchase and in some instances donation of the flowers. We are grateful for your kindness.

Who is ready for the **Hastings Helps Houston Paint Party on Friday, April 20 from 6 – 8:30 pm!** All ages (~6 and up) are invited to participate in an evening of painting, creating, food, & fellowship during a SIGN MAKING PARTY. **Personalized items available....must be ordered by April 9.**

A TON OF FUN creating painted vinyl signs...think graduation presents, birthdays, weddings, classrooms, bedrooms, or other home décor.

Check out www.lifeexpressionsdecor.com for exciting, creative project ideas. It is exciting that Team Grace 4 Houston will receive \$10 of each project purchased.

THREE EASY STEPS:

1. look through the catalogue / poster to choose your saying
2. choose your vinyl color
3. order through any of our youth going to Houston or Kim Domke

Additional upcoming fundraisers with details to follow in the next few weeks:

- A Grace tradition, the geranium sale! As in past years, people will order their flowers and the pick-up will be May 19.
- Mexican Connection dinner out – Tuesday, May 15 from 4-8pm. 15% of all food sales during that time will come to Grace for our Houston trip.

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

Holy Week Schedule

by Pastor Ken

Maundy Thursday, March 29—7:00 pm

Good Friday Cross Walk, March 30—9:30 am

Good Friday Tenebrae, March 30—7:00 pm

Easter Vigil, March 31—7:30 pm

Easter Day, Sunrise Service, April 1—8:00 am

Easter Breakfast, April 1—9:30 am

Easter Egg Hunt, April 1—9:45 am

Easter Day, Festival Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, April 1—10:45 am



Fifth Sunday – April 29th

by Pastor Ken

Remember, on 5th Sundays Grace only celebrates one service at 10:00 am, and the Adult Forum moves up to 8:45 am. April 29 is a 5th Sunday. Come and celebrate our unity together through this one worship opportunity.



VBS is coming!

by Pastor Ken

We have chosen the curriculum for our Vacation Bible School program this year. We are using Group's Shipwrecked. Through this program we will witness how we are rescued by Jesus. Grace Church is thankful to the generous spirit of a member, who paid for the initial materials that were ordered. Our Vacation Bible School at Grace will be during the evenings of the week of July 22, 2018. We hope that you are willing to help in making VBS a time of learning and growing in God's grace revealed in Jesus Christ. Shipwrecked provides an irresistible environment to relay the message of God's salvation given to us through Jesus Christ. Please pray for this ministry we share in Jesus' name with children, youth and adults as an outreach to our community.

Handbell Choir

by Kim Domke

Interested in ringing hand bells?

Please come visit a rehearsal on Thursdays at 4:00 for beginners, or try a private lesson with Kim.

Practices start up again on April 12th.

The next sharing dates are May 20th at Grace and May 31st at Thornapple Manor.



Renovations Update

by Chris Bush

Little by little, the carpet is being changed out. The drywalling and painting by the entrance to the sanctuary is done. The doors to the sanctuary have been stained.

There are a few more jobs that need to be tackled to complete Phase 2 of our renovations: the top step in the front of the sanctuary will be removed to make a wider "stage" area in the chancel, the overflow room will be painted, vinyl plank flooring will be put down in the coat room, and soffit needs to be replaced. Yes, these renovations have taken quite some time, but we can pat ourselves on the back that we did much of it ourselves with our own funds. I think the methodical pace we took gave us the opportunity to allow ourselves to absorb and grow into the new look we have. Still, I know that I'll be happy when the paint rollers and ladders are put away, melt-off and rain are coming off the roof the way they're supposed to, and we can say to each other, "Look what we've done with God's help! This church and this building will continue to be a blessing to the Hastings community!"

President's Ponderings

by Chris Bush

This month's article starts with a huge, very heart-felt thank you to Grace for showing me so much support and love during my dad's decline in health and upon his passing away. Being uplifted and surrounded by your love felt like one gigantic and comforting hug. Thank you for sending cards and flowers, checking up on me, and expressing your concern and care. Remarkably, I feel quite at peace, knowing that his suffering is over, he and many loved ones have been reunited, and that I'll get to see him again at some point.

Speaking of cards, have you looked at the sign-up sheet on the side of the mailboxes for sending cards to members who are homebound or in nursing homes? Please consider putting your name down on one or more dates, then grab the mailing list in the mailbox that's near the sign-up sheet, and put down a few sentences, or paragraphs, and send off your cards. Currently, there are 10 names on the mailing list. This is such a great ministry, especially since these people may really be missing Grace.

Please remember that all regular council meetings (third Tuesday of each month, at 6 PM) are open to anyone. The agenda typically gets posted the Sunday before the meeting, outside of the parish office (across from the mailboxes), and the minutes are provided to the parish administration so you can get them electronically or by photocopy.

Same 5 Questions 10 Different Faces – installment 2

by Jenn Rosenberger

I was given the amazing task of interviewing the cast of characters going to Houston. I am excited about this trip and I am excited to get to know all of these people better. So now I get to share a bit of what I have learned...

I am going to present you with the youth first and break them into two groups. The final installment of this wonderful piece will be the adults!

Our first highlighted youth is:

HOPE PECK

16 years of age

Twin B, 3 minutes younger

Favorite Color: red

People or Animals? animals

Weird or Quirky fact about yourself? I have a bird

Biggest fear? failure



Why do you want to go to Houston? To learn more about the culture in Houston and to participate in fellowship with other Lutherans.

Our next youth for highlighting is:

CAEDEN MCCARTY

16 years of age

Favorite Color? Black

People or Animals? Both

Biggest Fear? The dark

Weird Fact about yourself? I don't like French bull dogs

Why do you want to go to Houston? Experience



GAVIN PATTON

15 years of age

Twin B, 1 minute younger

Favorite color? Green

Biggest fear? Heights

Weird or quirky fact about yourself? I read informational books for fun, like books on the elements or molecules.

Why do you want to go to Houston? Grow in God's faith with different types of people and learn from other's perspectives.



Our last youth being highlighted is:

KASSI WARNER

16 years of age

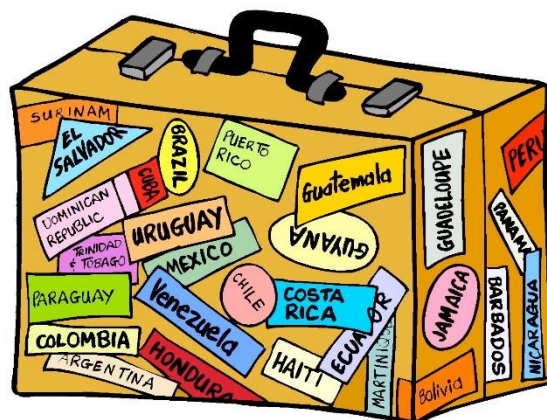
Favorite color? Blue

People or Animals: Animals

Biggest fear? Spiders

Weird or quirky fact about yourself? I'm in Science Olympiad at Hastings High School.

Why do you want to go to Houston? To meet others who share my same beliefs.



The Subject of Change

Written by a long-time Grace member

(Note of explanation - Chris Bush asked a long-time member who originally was unhappy about the renovations, but then started talking about the positive things that came about, to write down her thoughts and share them here.)



“Sometimes change can be bad, or rather, not taken very well by everyone. Then again, it can be a good thing. When the remodeling started, one of the changes was to have a three-month trial of the coffee hour taking place in the narthex rather than in the fellowship hall. I did not approve, or rather, I didn’t vote to move the coffee hour! But I have to agree, a lot of people do like it. The current coffee area is very nice, beautiful cupboards, a Bunn coffee maker, some tables and high chairs to sit in.

“There are pro’s and con’s to anything that is changed. I can see, for the most part, that the coffee hour location move has been good. There is more to be done with the remodeling; even though it’s slow going, it will be nice when done completely. Maybe we can tackle the kitchen, and other areas will be able to get done as well.

“Thanks to all who have done the work. I am sorry that I can’t help with it.”

Hastings Food Pantry

by Victoria Alt

For those of you who don’t know, the Hastings Food Pantry received roughly 3,000 pounds of food in one afternoon as part of the annual Postal Carriers, Stamp Out Hunger food drive. If you would like to help our neighbors in need, you can put a sealed, moisture proof bag of non-perishable groceries out by your mailbox on Saturday, May 12 for your postal carrier to pick up.

The food pantry is always in need of ongoing donations as well. Please consider picking up a few extra items during your next trip to the grocery store. The food pantry is currently in need of beef and chicken based soups (not chicken noodle or chicken tortilla); chowders; butter beans; dried beans; juice in 64 oz bottles; canned salmon; julienne boxed potatoes; pie filling; shortening; flour; and sugar.

If you are looking for somewhere to take your clean, not torn, plastic shopping bags, the Food Pantry would be happy to take them and use them.

Our Prayers for

Healthy pregnancy –Myrina Clements, Joanna Cremeans, Leslie Sidwell, Angie Chaney

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

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



April Birthdays

- 4-3 Jeanette Markwart
- 4-4 Mary Kleinbrink
- 4-5 Ron Ogden
- 4-9 Kim Markwart
- 4-10 Rob Pohl
- 4-11 John Kleinbrink
- 4-14 Kay Marsh
- 4-17 Phil Poholski, Clyde Watson, Jr.
- 4-20 Cindy Olson
- 4-21 Sharon Duits, Carrie Duits
- 4-22 Linda Maupin
- 4-24 Lois Von Seggern
- 4-27 Jane Secor
- 4-28 Barry Wood
- 4-30 Tanner Ogden

Grace Lutheran Church

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Our Ministers:

Ken Scheck II
Minister of Word and Sacrament
pastorken@grace-hastings.org

Cindy Olson, *Minister of Music*

Worship Committee:
gracelutheranworshipcommittee@gmail.com

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
@ 10:00am

Children's Church

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

5th Sundays
@ 10:00 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

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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