

HOLY COMMUNION OFFERED EVERY SUNDAY

Easter: It's a Wonderful Life

by Pastor Ken Scheck II

Easter isn't just a day. It's a seven-week season of celebration. Easter isn't over. It is over on the Day of Pentecost on our calendars. But we really know that Easter is never over for a Christian. It is a way of life for us Christians! Baptized into Christ, our earthly and eternal lives belong to our gracious God, who truly gives us Easter-life that never goes away.

Easter-people and their way of Easter-life exists in the context of knowing God, who gives us a beginning and an end and every moment, every day, every month and every year securely in God's care and life. Easter-people have incredible freedom to risk and to be vulnerable. As Easter-people, Christians know that death is not the end. There is something eternally more powerful than death. We know about the power of God who gives life to the dead.

Paul tells us in Romans 8:31-39 that nothing (including death) can separate us from the Lord's saving, resurrecting love. We, as Easter-people, can boldly and gladly do things we otherwise might not do, things that others might think are pointless, even foolish. What kind of things? Perhaps you remember the New Jersey woman who gave away the majority of her 8.5 million-dollar winnings to her congregation and the rest to charity. What kind of things might Easter-people be inclined to do? Perhaps invite someone to church. Perhaps baking cookies. Perhaps sharing a hello.

We are called to live like Easter-people. People who share life. People who know God's love and give love away freely.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

GraceGram

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



May 2018

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

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

Small Groups Brainstorming

by Derrick Rosenberger

Small group ministry team is looking for suggestions from the congregation on new small groups to start up. Please fill out the back of the participation card during service on Sundays or slip a note into Derrick Rosenberger's mail box with your suggestions. We would really love to see some new small groups form to encourage fellowship outside of Sunday service.



Petals, petals everywhere

by Pastor Ken

Bursting into blossom, a symphony of song and color. Mountain glories of Lebanon - a gift. Awesome Carmel, stunning Sharon - gifts. God's resplendent glory, fully on display. God awesome, God majestic. Isaiah 35:2

It's time for flowers or is it???? With snow, ice and cold winds it is hard to believe that it is almost time for our May planting season.

The youth are selling red Geraniums for \$5.00 a plant. We are thankful that Cotants have promised 400 plants to us. We are thankful for their partnership. In addition to the geraniums, we once again have Sun Patience (New Guinea) plants. This year we have two "new" colors and two best sellers returning. Each color will have a guarantee of 50 plants. We have Electric Orange and Hot Coral as the new plants on the block as Royal Magenta and Tropical Rose return as the favored Sun Patience plants.

If you are not a flower person that is fine, please still consider helping by donating funds to us to help the youth go on down for a Texas Rodeo while we praise God with worship and service projects.

Sign-up sheets are hung up, please sign up by May 13th, delivery will be May 19th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (noon). Any questions please feel free to call the church at 269-945-9414.



And it's 1,2,3 strikes you're out!

by Joe Longcor

Brothers of Grace are pulling together an INTERGENERATIONAL fellowship time at the Whitecaps on Friday, June 8th.

Men, women, boys, girls, grandchildren...all are welcome.

We plan to meet between 5 & 5:15 pm in the Grace parking lot, leave by 5:30 pm for Whitecaps park in Grand Rapids for the game starting at 7:05 pm.

As an added bonus, there are FIREWORKS after the game for those wishing to stay. At this time, we plan to drive as many cars, etc. as needed and trust the good Lord helps us balance car needs for those returning early (right after the game) and those staying for the fireworks.

Cost: \$15.50 per person, includes a hot-dog and a pop. If it's a wash out...we can use the tickets for a later date.

There's a sign up on the wall in the coffee area/Gathering Area. We need to make our commitment by May 7th for tickets so please sign up ASAP.

Can we get to 30 or more??? That would be a wonderful memory.

Questions...catch me at church or send an e-mail. Joe Longcor 616-430-1225 or joelongcor@mei.net

	AT BAT	BALL	STRIKE	OUT	H/E
	<input type="checkbox"/>				
VISITOR	<input type="checkbox"/>				
HOME	<input type="checkbox"/>				

R.O.C.K. in Event for Youth!

by Lisa Pohl

On Friday, May 4th, the Middle School Youth Group will be hosting R.O.C.K. (recreational opportunities for Christian kids) Group here at Grace from 6 – 9 PM. R.O.C.K. Group is an opportunity for Pre-K – grade 5 kids to play games, do crafts, watch videos, enjoy snacks, and have fun together. Parents can sign their children in any time after 6 PM. They can stay for an hour or the whole evening. This event is free-of-charge and all elementary age children are welcome to attend. Contact Lisa Pohl (269) 838-5726 if you have any questions.

Food & FUNdraising!

by Cherie Clements



May 15th between 4PM and 8:30PM, enjoy dinner at Mexican Connexion! 15% of all food sales and gift card purchases during that time will come to Grace for our Houston trip. What a great opportunity for an awesome meal, fellowship and chance to help raise funds for the Gathering.

Also, the geranium sale is returning. As in past years, people will order their flowers in advance. All flowers will be ready for pick-up on May 19th. Tell your family and friends. Place orders on the sheet on the bulletin board at church.

Help us have a strong fundraising month in May to reach our goal.

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.



Children's Church

by Eve Wright

We have just one more month of Children's Church before our summer break.

We started out last year with four children, but then one by one we began to grow. There are Sundays now when we have as many as 12 children. What a blessing, our God is good! We may need a larger room; we have outgrown our little chairs and short table.

My thanks to the wonderful teachers who have given of their time and talents. Also, a thank you to the parents and grandparents who bring the children each Sunday.

Please mark May 20th on your calendars. Teachers, families, parents and friends are invited to a brunch after the 10:45 am church service. It will be a time for us to thank all who have made this a successful year. You have all helped our family at Grace to grow in Christ.

Vacation Bible School

by Pastor Ken

I've thrown myself headlong into your arms - I'm celebrating your rescue. Psalm 13:5

Monday through Friday, July 23-27, 2018. Vacation Bible School takes place here at Grace Lutheran Church under the theme **SHIPWRECKED: RESCUED BY JESUS**.

Youngsters from ages three through fifth grade are invited to participate. Vacation Bible School features music, singing, crafts, class time study, recreation and snacks! In other words, VBS remains much like Grandmas and Grandpas remember it; a lot like parents remember it: a time in a fun way to study the Word of God and to share in the Church of Jesus. Remembering always that it is by grace that we are saved.

In the midst of all the summer activities and the countless ways we try to enhance the life of our children and one another, dare we ignore this week of Christian training? We need folk for childcare, kitchen staff, opening and closing worship sessions, telling the Bible stories and other chores related to VBS. We need folk to drive their youngsters to church and to volunteer to bring other youngsters. Vacation Bible School is an important ministry in the life of this church. Share it with us!

Homebound Communion Visitation Team

by Pastor Ken

I can't do a solitary thing on my own: I listen, then I decide. John 5:30

You heard the call inviting you to consider sharing communion with our homebound members in March's GraceGram. God invites us all in many and various ways to share in ministry. We are thankful that four members of Grace heard the call. Listened to what God was calling them to do with this invitation and responded to sharing the gift of Christ's body and blood with our homebound members. We are blessed with Donna Buehl, Chris Bush, Julie Jarvis and Barry Wood, as they listened and decided. At times we hear the call and realize it isn't for me. Other times we hear God's call and we joyfully follow sharing in what we hear in the invitation. Let us continue to listen to what God calls us to do in our lives.



President's Ponderings

by Chris Bush

My job has been fairly high-pressure the past couple of years. We have been dealing with the water contamination issues that you probably have heard about in the news. It is not uncommon for me and my coworkers to put in 50-60 hours a week. Some of this time is spent in meetings, going over lab results, figuring out what the public health message should be, and trying to work out a solution between multiple agencies. I find myself laughing less at work, thinking that it is inappropriate to laugh when some communities are worrying about their water, their health, and their economic livelihood.

In last month's council meeting, I noticed the laughter shared among council members. Even when we were wrestling with spending decisions or correcting a real bone-headed miscommunication, people smiled and even laughed at times. I realized that we were sharing the joy of working together for a common good, achieving milestones in that work, and just plain enjoying each other's company. Yes, there will be more spending decisions, and we are human, so there likely will be more bone-headed miscommunications. But the laughter shared was such a gift: it released tension, gave us a burst of oxygen, and allowed us to connect as people of God.

God put me and my other state colleagues into our jobs to do justice and accomplish things for the people we serve. Just like life, work is not always a walk in the park. But I need to faithfully do the work I've been given, push for justice, and connect with my coworkers better. Laughter can strengthen the human bond, in council meetings, in work, and in life. I thank God for this gift.

Our Prayers for

Healthy pregnancy –Joanna Cremeans,
Leslie Sidwell, Angie Chaney

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

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving – for Dexter
Crawford, born March 23, 2018, proud
parents Myrina Clements and Cody
Crawford

Hastings Food Pantry

by Victoria Alt

Saturday, May 12th, you are invited to take part in the annual **Postal Carriers, Stamp Out Hunger** food drive. If you would like to help our neighbors in need, you can put a bag of non-perishable groceries out by your mailbox on May 12th for your postal carrier to pick up. These items will be delivered to the local Food Pantry at the Methodist Church on Green Street.

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 chicken or beef based soups, chowders, cream soups (NOT cream of mushroom, tomato or chicken noodle); Spam, corned beef hash, Pasta or Rice A Roni (not chicken or beef flavored), sugar, brownie mix, cereal, mashed potatoes, coffee – instant or ground (smaller cans are best), baked beans, refried beans and mixed vegetables. Donations can be dropped off in the wooden box in the coffee/gathering area any time of the year. If you would like to make a financial donation, the Food Pantry volunteers would be happy to do the shopping for you. Check the back page of the bulletin notes each week for an updated list of items the Food Pantry is in need of.

The Food Pantry is also currently looking for a resource to purchase meat – such as chicken or hamburger, at wholesale prices. If you know of a resource, please contact the Food Pantry to let them know.

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.

Called to the Church Triumphant

Irene Loughlin – memorial service will be July 7, 2018 at Grace.

Sharon Duits – memorial service was held April 21, 2018



A Note of Thanks

Thank you so much for your financial support! This has come at a great time because we have been weary – the students have so many needs and it has been a struggle. To know that we are remembered and cared about has been a huge encouragement. We continue to tell kids about Jesus and show them His love. Recently, we had a good talk about drugs and alcohol use and addiction spurred on by a difficult night of catching a few students using drugs/cigarettes behind our building. So many of our students have broken families and parents due to drug/alcohol addiction. We said – Jesus has something better for you! It lead to some really honest and open conversations, seeds planted that we pray will bring fruit. Another student got into some trouble and is now on probation. One of our adults is mentoring this student and we are praying he would understand and experience the life transforming love and truth of Christ. Thank you for your encouragement and support as we minister to these students!

As I read the thanks that the students wrote, I noticed that one referred to our youth center as a church. We don't call ourselves a church, but it was encouraging that she gets the picture that this group is about the Lord! Sometimes, we go through times of 'are these kids getting it?'

Galatians 6:9 – let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap the harvest if we do not give up.

~Two or Three Together (Nashville, MI)

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

Time to Update Your Directory

Ron Ogden
621 Hannah Lane, Apt 203
Hastings, MI 49058
269-818-7113

Matt & Sandy Mikolajczyk
1030 S Jefferson St
Hastings, MI 49058
Matt 269-420-6491
Sandy 269-209-8748

Don & Hailey Converse
418 S Dibble St
Hastings, MI 49058
Hailey 269-804-9854

Joberta Converse
873 Wickwood Way
Middleville, MI 49333
269-838-9291

Nathan & Kazzie Converse
2775 Quakezik
Hastings, MI 49058
Nathan 269-209-8710
Kazzie 269-953-5206

Julie Jarvis
6622 Mapleview Dr
Hastings, MI 49058
269-908-0991



May Birthdays

5-3 Sharon Varkula
5-9 Cheryl Drumm
5-13 Kay Howell
5-15 Todd Pontius, Zarek Rudesill
5-17 Russ Trongo
5-23 Myles Rosenberger
Molly Rosenberger
5-24 Ann Bolton, Angela Pruitt
5-28 Tim Schoessel

May Anniversaries

5-6 Jane & Bob Power
5-19 John & Teresa Burdick
5-22 Bill & Lorraine Freedlund
5-24 Bob & Jan Tossava
5-24 Scott & Cindy Olson-Larson
5-27 Lance & Kayla (Pohl) Champaco
5-30 Tina & Todd Pontius

Same 5 Questions 10 Different Faces – Last installment The Adults!

by Jenn Rosenberger

PASTOR KEN

Age: 50

Favorite Color: Green, just like Kermit the Frog

People or animals? People

Biggest Fear? Not being able to relate to kids.

Weird fact about yourself? I like spelunking, caving.

Why do you want to go to Houston? This is the 8th National Gathering for me to go to, first one with our kids here and looking forward to worshipping with them.



MELISSA PATTON

Age: 41

Favorite Color: Orange

People or Animals?
People

Biggest Fear?
Something happening to the kids (unhappy or sad)

Weird fact about yourself? When in a new place, I love to go shopping at their local Goodwill or Salvation Army type stores.

Why do you want to go to Houston? Excited to go to a community that needs help and bring our youth there.



JENN ROSENBERGER

Age: 35

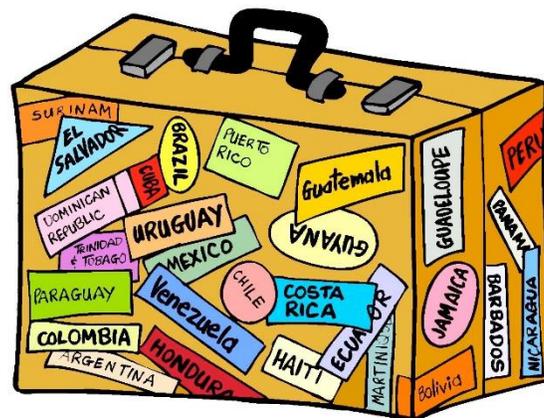
Favorite Color?
Yellow (unless rainbow counts?)

People or Animals?
Animals

Biggest Fear? My husband dying first, I don't want to live a day without him.

Weird Fact about yourself? I love powerlifting, at last check I can bench press 140 pounds, deadlift 230 pounds and squat around 140 pounds (probably more, it has been awhile for max effort). I also like to run and am training for a half marathon in October.

Why do you want to go to Houston? This is the final trip I will be taking with the youth acting as their Youth Leader. I have been so lucky to watch them grow in faith and take so many trips with them. I am truly in awe of them all and am excited to spend a week with them in worship and service one more time.



Do You Remember When?

by Sandy Mosteller

If you signed a contract at age 14, would you really know what was expected of you?



I was confirmed May 18, 1958 at Grace, along with 6 others. As I recall, a lot of our lessons were memorizing, which for some reason I haven't retained. Go figure! I do remember my Aunt Edna/Godmother taking me to Battle Creek to buy a new dress. I remember wearing a white robe and finally being allowed to take Communion. Sort of a rite of passage it seemed.

Over the years, that contract got kind of fuzzy. Especially the 10 years I spent in California. After my return to Hastings, I ran into Mrs. Louise Leary, my former Sunday School teacher. Although she only asked me to return, I felt she wouldn't take a refusal well. That nudge was a turning point.

Jump to May 1997. I asked Pastor Anton if I could renew my confirmation. He said it wasn't necessary. It was very important to me that I reconnect somehow, so he agreed to a reaffirmation of my Baptism. I told him I thought I knew what I was doing this time. He didn't make me memorize anything either, thank goodness!

You see, my Lord didn't sue me over a broken contract; He just let me try again.

It's hard to say goodbye

by Victoria Alt

After spending 4 ½ years at Grace, I've finally decided that it's time for me to embark on my next great adventure. I've put in my resignation and my last day will be May 31st, unless a new Parish Administrator has been hired and trained prior to that date.

While I am sad to be leaving and I will absolutely miss the wonderful folks here at Grace, I'm looking forward to the next chapter in my life. My husband and I are planning to take some extended RV vacations to visit National Parks throughout the country, spend lots of time with our granddaughter, take some motorcycle trips with our family, and just enjoy spending time with each other.

I'm sure the new Parish Administrator will do an amazing job at keeping the office running along like a well oiled machine, and will love the people of Grace as much as I do.

God asked, I just needed to show up

by Jenn Rosenberger

I first started coming to Grace Lutheran solely to help edit the GraceGram. It took a few more months before I started to attend services. Slowly the church family grew on me and my family grew in attendance at church. Then I asked God to use me and I would show up. I felt the Holy Spirit nudge me; I was nudged towards speaking to the youth about part of my history. Shortly after that I felt more than a nudge from the Holy Spirit and I joined the youth on a trip to Chicago and then I embraced the call to be the youth leader (it was scary and big). I was amazed by the youth here and their spirit, I felt a connection to them and I saw their love and spark for God.

It has been two years since I have stepped into that role and I have continued to ask God to use me and I will show up. Right now God is asking me to step away from the youth group. I know God is asking me to step away because something bigger is coming to me. I must trust and obey, I am nervous of what is in my future. This is not something I want to give up and it is not something I take lightly. I have grown to love these youth as my own and have cherished each moment you have shared your children with me.

This has been such an awesome joy for me and I feel grateful for being in this position because I gained so much from it. My faith has grown tremendously by being with these high school students over the past two years. I cannot thank you enough for trusting me with your children, for praying for me with them and for giving me this opportunity. I will be forever grateful for this. Thank you, love and blessings to you all.



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:

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