



# Gracegram

MAY 2015



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Holy Communion**

**Every Sunday**

### Winter

(1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Labor Day - May)

Sundays @ 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

### Summer

(June – Labor Day)

Sundays @ 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School in recess

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

Sundays @ 10:00am

### Advent and Lent

Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.



### Winter

(1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Labor Day – May)

9:30 AM

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

@ 8:45 AM



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



**OUR  
MISSION**

Saved by Grace.

Called to Worship.

Sent to Serve.

### Mission Partners

**Redeemer Lutheran Church – Lansing  
Trinity Lutheran Church - Battle Creek**



## Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St

Hastings MI 49058

Website: [www.discover-grace.org](http://www.discover-grace.org)

Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI

Phone: (269) 945-9414

(269) 945-2645

Fax: (269) 945-2698

## Ministers: People of Grace

- Parish Administrator: Victoria Alt  
E-mail: [ParishAdmin@grace-hastings.org](mailto:ParishAdmin@grace-hastings.org)  
Monday - Thursday  
8 AM - 3PM                      Lunch 12 PM - 1 PM
- Financial Coordinator: Linda Trongo  
E-mail: [LTrongo@grace-hastings.org](mailto:LTrongo@grace-hastings.org)  
E-mail: [FinancialCoord@grace-hastings.org](mailto:FinancialCoord@grace-hastings.org)  
or [trongocamper@mei.net](mailto:trongocamper@mei.net)
- Custodian: Sharon Palmer
- Minister of Music: Cindy Olson
- Choir Accompanists: Marcia Bowman,  
Chris Bush
- Bell Choir Leader: Kim Domke
- Organist Emeritus: Donna Buehl

### 2013 - 2015

Executive Committee

- President, Mark Bishop
- Vice President, Doug Neeb
- Secretary, Steve Carr



## Committee Chairs:

- Lorie Gladyness, Worship
- Tom Peck & Phil Poholski, Property
- Bill Freedlund, Evangelism
- Margaret Wood, Congregational Care
- Jana Bishop, Youth & Family
- Lorraine Freedlund, Education
- Tim Schoessel, Stewardship
- Diane Neeb, Social Activities
- Kay Howell, Sarah Circle

If you have any concerns or questions regarding church affairs contact one of these council members.

## May Gracegram Deadline

**June 17, 2014**

Please submit articles to Stephen Kaiser (SLK) at: [ihohrevlis@yahoo.com](mailto:ihohrevlis@yahoo.com) or the Gracegram mailbox.

Blessings of peace and love !

SLK

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### **Tough Love**

Colossians 3:17 – And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

I recently reread our March Gracegram, where Pastor Amy listed everything that the people of Grace do in the course of a year for outreach. This was quite a list that took parts of several pages. The list was not boastful in nature, but rather a compliment from someone that knew she was leaving our Grace family. Grace LC has a long history of being generous where there are needs and she wanted us to know that.

I have a scenario to share with you all that is “food for thought and prayer”. Have you ever been involved with a group of people that are well intending and seeking fellowship, yet there is one or two involved that lessen your experience? I’m talking about people that feed off of rumor and gossip; tell off color jokes and are negative and quick to criticize. I am sure that we have all had this experience. How did you handle it? Speaking from experience, ignoring these folks does not lessen the problem. More than once, I took the easy way out by disassociating myself from the group. Looking back, I wish that I would have called out this behavior and respectfully pointed out what that person was doing or saying was inappropriate and was not reflective of the love Jesus provided as an example to be followed. It only takes a few people to overshadow all the good that is being done regardless if it is a service group or a church group.

This is the tough love part. My plea is for everyone to try harder and not stand on the sidelines. Pastor Amy’s resignation is not about “throwing people under the bus”; it is about actively being part of positive change within our house. We have to do this. We can not expect to hire a pastor to do this for us.

Let us pray for each other and continue to do God’s work through Grace Lutheran Church. 1 Peter 4:8 – Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

Peace to you,

Mark

### **Saved by Grace Called to Worship Sent to Serve**

### **Poems by Julie Jarvis**

"Viewing the Cross is Silence"

During last Wednesdays Lenten Service you see, I heard Pastor Amy speak so directly, of the "Love" given by God so unselfishly.

All that he asks is for us to follow his lead and not to question what must be.

These words spoken by Pastor Amy you see, embody his meaning so eloquently.

Her words flow with grace and beauty of "God" the Father you see,

for he is the one directing not you or me.

We will miss the word spoken so on cue you see, "Our Loving Pastor Amy" she will always be.

Written with "Love and respect for Pastor Amy Luckey"

By, Julie Jarvis

On One Lenten Service Night

As I listened and heard the word spoken one Lenten Service Night,

all was spoken clear and right by Pastor Amy, what a delight. . .

this beautiful word she speaks so well of what is

good, true and right. . .  
Gods words I could listen to and hear all through  
the night. . .  
Spoken by, Pastor Amy what a delight. . .  
From the very beginning I could hear this beautiful  
word spoken so true,  
so clear. . . simply follow . . .didn't you hear?  
Of course listening and hearing must together be  
applied,  
to deny one to the other simply can't fly. . .  
Pastor Amy Luckey, you see was chosen by "God"  
to bless us did she,  
by her word spoken so eloquently. . .  
Thank You to Pastor Amy for giving us you "All"  
you're taller than your  
stature will ever show. . . by following "God's"  
word where ever you go  
and being that blessing to all you know. . .

I love you and will miss you deeply!  
Julie Jarvis

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## Brothers of Grace

May 9<sup>th</sup> is the scheduled date for the Home Plate event at Tiger stadium. We expect to have tickets for everyone who has requested them. We have 16 people who have requested tickets. We have arranged transportation to and from Comerica Park. We will be meeting at Grace at 6:30 AM on May 9<sup>th</sup> and leaving from Grace to the Home Plate event. We will plan one break stop on the way to the event and are planning on stopping to eat on the way home from the event. The ticket price of \$32 includes the admission to the home plate event, the following Tiger game, and a \$5 food voucher for use at the stadium. Please plan accordingly. We expect to return to Grace by 8 PM.

## Social Outing

The social activities committee would like to see if there is an interest in attending Meijer Garden as a group and having brunch for some off campus fellowship time. I looked at dates and am shooting for Saturday, May 30th. We could have Brunch at the church and carpool to the gardens. The cost is \$11.00pp group rate which includes the tram tour. They have several wheelchairs if someone is unable to walk the whole gardens, and I'm sure we would have people to help push. I think this would be a good time to welcome in spring and to come

together as a congregation. I will post a sign-up sheet in the foyer to see how much interest there is. Or you can contact Diane Neeb - at 269-945-9470

## Farewell Gathering

There will be a fairwell party for Carleen Overholt and her family on May 3<sup>rd</sup> after second service, with cake and ice cream. Carleen is requesting NO gifts, as she is moving to Texas, but cards would be welcome and appreciated.

## Geranium Sale

April showers...brings May GERANIUMS!

That's right...Grace Lutheran Church Youth Geranium Fundraiser will be on May 16.

Grace Lutheran Church's youth groups are partnering with Thrivent Financial to sell beautiful red, five-inch geranium cuttings for \$4.75 each. Gwen Hansen is working with Thrivent Financial to provide supplemental funding to benefit youth activities at Grace.

These are robust geranium cuttings from Cotants Farm Market in Hastings. Please do thank Cotants for their ongoing partnership in helping us fund youth projects. Joe Longcor will lead this effort with youth help.

Geraniums need to be ordered in advance. There is a limited number of geraniums available. A sign-up poster will be posted soon at church. Pick up is May 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 239 E. North Street (across from Magnum Care). To place an order for geraniums, call Mary Rider, 269-945-9864 or Vickey Argo, 269-623-2348.

Funds will support youth trips, outreach, river and highway clean-up, homeless event, adopt-a-teens, trunk or treat, VBS, and other local events for the greater Hastings area. Grace presently provides Faith, Food and Fun for youth from four years old through high school to over 30 young people sharing God's message and shaping tomorrow's leaders.

If you have any questions about the Geranium fundraiser call Joe Longcor at 269-623-2348. Thanks and blessings...

## Education News in May

The last day for Sunday School classes is on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be a closing celebration for all Sunday school youth and adults in the fellowship hall. Come join in the celebration of fun, and fellowship on our faith journey.

Conversations have begun regarding Vacation Bible Experience Day. Presently, we are brainstorming several ideas to consider in sharing faith and fellowship with our church and community youth. Many people are needed to make this day occur. Areas of need are: crafts, puppetry or storytelling, music, games, advertising, lunch and registration. Also, let the Education committee know if you have any ideas you would like us to consider.

Thank you, Traci Wales and family for guiding the Easter Egg Hunt for the youth at Grace. The children enjoyed the treats and Easter craft.

The Education committee and youth committee will join together to begin discussions and brainstorm options for instructing our Grace youth in their faith formation. Grace community members are encouraged to share their ideas and feelings, so please contact any education or youth committee member.

It takes a community of faith-filled people to uplift and encourage youth and adults on their unique life journey. Tell a child, friend, or co-worker you are thinking about them.

Blessings each day, Lorraine Freedlund

## Evangelism News

We discussed chapter 3 and 4 of "Reviving the congregation" by M. Foss. Some of the ideas from Pastor Foss:

- Effective church leadership calls for shared core values
- Equipping members for the ministry of witness
- Reaching out to visitors so they are fully included from beginning to end of a Sunday visit
- Making the church building presentable as there is one shot at a good impression

- Be open to change
- Foster excellence in communication
- Discipleship translates ideas into practice

The committee looked over the new Grace Yard signs. We have a limited number of the new Grace yard signs available. A sample was located on the easel in the narthex. Those interested were asked to place their names on the sheet provided by the sample. There are only a few available at this time but if needed and requested we can order more. Participants were asked to place the sign on their property (off the public right of way) and to return the sign later. Thanks to all who participate in this project.

We discussed the vision team's goal of revamping the Grace internet web site. Old information will need to be updated along with new additions and format. This is an important step in taking information to the community. Chris Bush volunteered to look into more details. This task will need input and guidance from those with ideas and knowledge of internet. In the past, George Weller has been instrumental in putting information on the web and he has new ideas to share.

We reviewed a sample welcome package that is used at Faith Lutheran Church in Springfield, IL. This package of information is passed out to visitors and tells about ministries, schedules and other information.

Members discussed a summer event that would be open to the community. Suggestion was to meet with other committees and interested people from Grace. A decision would need to be made on what the event would include. If there is interest a car show could be included along with children and adult activities, outdoor worship, food and/or other ideas.

There has been interest in using Grace information cards as a way to reach out to the community. These cards will show schedules, activities and contact information. They can be given out to people we meet who may have an interest in visiting. A few were printed and used during the Easter season. It was decided that we will print up the cards on a limited basis for those who would like to use them. More cards can be printed if interest grows.

Bill Freedlund

From Fred Kogge

### John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

### Youth Ministry fundraiser

Check out the Christian caps for sale in the Fellowship Hall during the month of June (on display now in the glass case). Grace member Diane Davis graciously provided these, since she's been quite impressed with the growth of our youth ministry programs and wants that success to continue. Just in time for Father's Day gifts and shading your noggin on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, they are \$10 each. Funds will go toward various youth ministry activities and outreach. See Chris Bush for more details.

### A letter from Carleen Overholt...

Dear Grace-ful Sisters and Brothers,

Hugh and I became a part of Grace worshipping community in 1979. Surprise, it was Hugh's decision! He felt he needed Communion oftener than every month or two. After our first visit we began sitting much closer to the front, being a dentist, he wanted to be one of the first to receive the wine. The Chalice was the only option at that time. My reaction on the first visit, Grace is a praying church.

Your prayers over the years have been a most precious gift. Thank you. God's gift of Jesus continues to be the best gift I have ever received. His Spirit walks and guides me wherever I am. Farewells are sad/glad times, yet the Lord has plants to use you and I wherever we go. I am waiting to see that new 'call'. Yes, I will miss you all, the memory bank is full of caring friends.

I share my verse with you.

Hebrews 10:24, 25 "Let us stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another as you see the Day approaching."

Love and peace,

Carleen Overholt

5701 Virginia Parkway

McKinney, TX 75071

### THANK YOU

The family of George R Ulrich Sr. would like to thank everyone for all the love, prayers, cards, food, plants and donations that were sent when our beloved George went home to be with our Lord.

Special thanks to Pastor Amy Luckey and Grace Lutheran Church for the luncheon.

Jeannette Ulrich and families

AND

Thank you so very much for all the cards, prayers and love !

Ingrid Wilson

### Notes...

Financial coordinator office hours May 15th, 8 am - 12 noon

Pastor Anton will be presenting a program during the Sarah Circle meeting on his trip down the Danube River, May 6th at 7:00 pm. All congregation members are welcome to attend.

## May Birthdays

5-2 Nick Peck  
5-2 John Fear  
5-3 Helga Scobey  
5-3 Sharon Varkula  
5-9 Cheryl Drumm  
5-10 Irene Loughlin  
5-10 Abbie Opperman  
5-13 Kay Howell  
5-15 Todd Pontius  
5-15 Zarek Rudesill  
5-17 Russ Trongo  
5-19 Melissa Golembeske  
5-21 Bernie Bowman  
5-23 Jan Tossava  
5-24 Ann Bolton  
5-28 Tim Schoessel

## May Baptisms

5-1 Julie Jarvis  
5-1 Marcia Bowman  
5-1 Luke Domke  
5-1 Steven Brown  
5-1 Gibson Brown  
5-6 Riley Jarvis  
5-8 Therese Maupin-Moore  
5-12 Brianna Neeb  
5-15 Randy Teegardin  
5-17 Evelyn Granzow  
5-18 Cindy Olson  
5-20 Angie Metzger  
5-21 Rob Pohl  
5-21 Robbie Burrus  
5-22 Vivian Allerdin  
5-22 Rod Bowman  
5-22 Peter Ware  
5-23 Steve Wales  
5-24 David Bolton  
5-24 Frank Bolton  
5-24 Robert Bolton  
5-27 Dylan Bowman  
5-28 Russ Trongo  
5-28 John Kleinbrink  
5-31 Kim Domke

## Wedding Anniversaries

5-6 Jane & Bob Power  
5-19 John & Teresa Burdick  
5-22 Cherie & Bret Clements  
5-22 Bill & Lorraine Freedlund  
5-24 Dan & Chris Steinke  
5-24 Bob & Jan Tossava  
5-24 Scott & Cindy Olson-Larson  
5-25 Peter & Dawn Ware  
5-26 Abbie & Mark Opperman  
5-30 Tina & Todd Pontius

## Memorials

5-4-2010 John De Broux  
5-11-2002 Vern Mosteller  
5-16-1990 Homer Bauchman  
5-17-1993 Louise Loughlin  
5-20-2009 Barb Leary  
5-24-2000 Jennifer Rase  
5-25-2005 Laurain Sheffield  
5-27-1976 Joel Buehl  
5-28-1986 Tony Young  
5-29-1992 Charles Converse  
5-31-1988 Mildred Morgan