



GRACEGRAM

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



OUR
MISSION

Saved by Grace.
Called to Worship.
Sent to Serve.

February 2016

HOLY COMMUNION OFFERED EVERY SUNDAY

INSIDE THIS EDITION

From the Pastor's Desk

by Pastor Paul E. Kuhlman

Ash Wednesday, February 10th, begins the season of Lent. Lent seems to go on forever sometimes, but it is really only 5 weeks and a few days long, 40 to be exact. When it is finished, we are in the midst of Holy Week, the beginning of Easter, and the first hints of spring.

However, let's not jump ahead. Lent is a serious and important liturgical season. It is a time to develop the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting and charity—the three disciplines discussed by Jesus in the Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday.

During Lent, 2016, we will begin a Wednesday Prayer Group to develop this important discipline, and to seek discernment for the direction and future of Grace. What does God have in mind for the future mission and ministry of Grace? How can we put "others" as the focus for our mission? How well do our present programs and activities help us to be an outreach church in Hastings? How can we better welcome visitors and strangers to our church?

It is time to stop talking, stop criticizing, and stop complaining. It is time to listen and prayerfully wait on God's invitation and call to a deeper, broader mission as the Body of Christ. We need to listen in prayer, listen in the Word, and listen in the world.

- Living Liturgy
- Evangelism News
- Handbells
- ELCA World Hunger
- Side Notes

A Look @ Next Month—March, 2016

Theme: "White, Yellow, Gold – From Death to Life"

- Walking Through Holy Week, A Holy Adventure
- Building Renovation - Six-Month Plan
- Easter Day – Activities Abound

*Deadline for inclusion in the March Gracegram is **February 17, 2016***

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

Living Liturgy — Shades of Purple – Disciplines of Lent

by Pastor Paul

The color of Lent is purple. Unless a congregation has a large budget to purchase matching vestments and paraments, you will usually find various shades of purple on any given Sunday, in any given church.

Purple was the color worn by Roman royalty, and later became the traditional color for Byzantine royalty and Christian bishops. Liturgically the color purple has always meant piety and suggested a somber or solemn mood. Purple is a combination of red and blue, and varies as one adds more of one color than the other.

Lent is a season of discipline. Jesus calls us to practice prayer, fasting, and charity. These have come to be known as the disciplines of Lent. On Ash Wednesday the Gospel reading invites us to pray, to fast and to be charitable, but not as the world would do—being obvious and outward so that the world praises our actions. Rather, we are to pray, fast and be charitable because they project a righteous life.

Most importantly, Jesus calls us during Lent to practice these disciplines so that they become a part of our daily lives well beyond Lent. Prayer is more than an opportunity to offer to God all of our wishes and demands (ok, requests). Prayer is a discipline of emptying ourselves before God of any pretense of winning God's favor through piety or service. In prayer we present ourselves before God as beggars (to quote Luther), in need of God's mercy and grace through Christ Jesus. In prayer we confess our humanity, praise God for Jesus, and lift up our petitions, longing always to join our prayers with the will and action of God.

Fasting is more than going without food, it is changing our focus in life. How many of us see fasting as a useless discipline that has almost no purpose other than to lose weight? The church has always viewed fasting as an opportunity to use the time spent with preparation and consumption of food for the purpose of study, prayer and service. We go without food when we fast, for sure; but we go without food because we want to spend more time in prayer and study, and use our resources to help others who may need it to live (charity).

Lent is also about charity/service, or almsgiving as it is expressed often in the Gospel. In prayer we focus on God and in charity we focus on others. These two disciplines sum up the very nature of Lent—to take ourselves out of the center of the universe and place God and others there. In Lent we begin to reverse the dominant view that our needs and our wishes are the important issues in life. Charity and service—responding to the needs of other—help us to change from self-centeredness to a focus on God and the needs of others.

So what will be your focus during Lent, prayer, fasting or charity? Or maybe you could do a bit of all three. How you do it is like adding more red or blue to the color of Lent—creating different shades and hues. Let's all chose a shade that best fits our need for change, let's practice the disciplines of Lent. Who knows, they just might become permanent "colors" of our lives.

December Council Meeting Summary

by Kate Watson

Congregation Council met on January 19. Council reviewed Chapter 4 of "Reclaiming the E Word" and discussed "What is the *point* of our congregation?" Is it to bring people in, or to send people out? How can we awake to the purposeful life of spreading the Gospel that we are called to live out?

Council voted to purchase two new sets of communionware. Council approved Randy Teegardin as Treasurer and Victoria Alt as Financial Secretary.

Outreach meetings for dispersing the updated draft Constitution were set for March 5 at 9am, March 6 between services, and March 10 at 7pm. Council will seek guidance from the Synod and Bishop Satterlee's office on updates to the Abuse and Sexual Misconduct Policy.

President's Perspective

by Doug Neeb

With thoughts of the New Year, like many people, mine turn to looking toward the future. Planning things I would like to get accomplished in the coming year or things I would like to change. I started to ask myself, what would God want me to change? I am sure that there is a list and that I would not understand why I would need to change some things. A reading from Corinthians came to mind as Paul lays out some of the changes he made for the Gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:19-27*New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)* ¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

I have always struggled with this reading at first glance, to me; it brings up visions of a used car sales man doing or saying anything to make a sale. With no concern for the wellbeing of the person they are interacting with. What I have come to see is that Paul had to have spent time to get to know who he was communicating with, so that he could find the way that he could communicate effectively God's message to them. Paul trusted that God would help him find the words and changes he needed to make to share God's message. Paul had the courage to step outside his comfort zone, to make changes for the sake of spreading God's word. I think that this is our challenge here at Grace, to trust God to lead us forward; having the courage and trust to make changes in order to reach out to more people so that they can hear God's saving words.



Notes from the Veep

by Chris Bush

Alas, winter has indeed arrived, but hey, I'm headed to Florida this month! My mom and step-dad spend summers at the tippy-top of Maine and enjoy fresh-squeezed OJ and winds off the Gulf in the winter. Thank goodness too, because I visited my Mom in Maine once over Christmas and winds made the temps go to 50 below and she was living in a rather "airy" house! That was a different type of "blue Christmas"!

The visits down to Florida involve seeing old friends and other family members who live down there. I am still getting to know their neighbors at their mobile home park, and sometimes I get to check in with other Grace folks vacationing in the area. I am thrilled that my parents, birth, step, and in-laws, are relatively healthy and financially secure. While I thank God daily for that blessing, I know there will come a time I will be asking God for guidance as Dennis and I take on the role of caretakers and decision-makers.

This growth - from being cared for by, to walking in step with, and then caring for family members - happens in a church family too. When I first started coming to Grace, I was a little quiet (really, I was!), testing the waters, waiting for others to show me the way. Similarly, the young people in our midst look to us for guidance. As we invite our youth to take more steps in their mental, emotional, and spiritual growth, they discover and sometimes create more ways to serve. As I became more comfortable in the life and doings of this congregation, I started seeing where my talents and time could be used. Years ago, I never imagined that I could lead VBS, write our new Constitution, or be the Vice President of a congregation. I look at our youth, at any one of us, and wonder, "Where are you leading this person, Lord?" Indeed, where IS God leading us? Let us follow Him and bring others with us!

Brothers of Grace

by Joe Longcor



We had nine brothers attend our meeting for faith, food and fun on December 8th. There were at least three new visitors. Meetings have been moved to the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7-8:30 P.M. The location may move around as we try to engage more brothers.

Adopt-A-Highway projects will begin in April. Any interested helpers should talk with Doug Neeb or myself (Joe Longcor).

Brothers remain willing to help do small projects for Grace members as needed. Please talk with Joe on Sunday, leave a note in his mailbox, etc, so it can be determined if BOG is able to do the work and in what time frame.

Education News

by Lorraine Freedlund



The Education committee is working on a pilot program for children who attend Sunday Services. After the children's message is given by the Pastor, children ages 4 years old through 5th grade will head for a half hour bible story lesson and activity in one of the Sunday School rooms. The children will then return during communion time and sit with their parents or caregivers. This program would meet the needs of children who are not able to come to Sunday School. We are looking for teams of adults who will lead the kids in bible story time with a short activity. Do you feel God's nudge to minister to our children? Please contact Lorraine Freedlund, in person or by phone, 616-765-3185.

There have been two Intergenerational get-togethers, one in September and one in November of 2015. The morning begins with a small breakfast and is followed by a themed activity for all to enjoy. The next get-together is planned for Sunday January 24, 2016 from 9:30am to 10:30am. We need your "helping hands" so come and participate in this group session. It is a time for fun and fellowship.

Evangelism News

by Bill Freedlund

The Evangelism / Outreach committee has begun their discussion of "Living Lutheran".

Chapter One highlights:

Traditionally the church was at the center of society. Today the church has moved to the edge of society and is perceived to be not as important as in the past. This trend began in the 1960's. During the 2000's the church has continued to shrink. This trend is found to involve other mainstream denominations – not just Lutheran. Churches that grow have clear visions and vibrant ministries. Thriving congregations need to be open to change. Our question should be "What do we need to do to be more effective for God?", while struggling churches tend to be interested in survival, more inward. Evangelism to just recruit members does not work. God is not interested in a bigger church as much as a transformed world (community). Our first task is to reclaim a voice that is uniquely ours and that has something to say to the world. If the church is to renew we have to find our Lutheran voices for the 21st century.

A card of thanks was received from the City of Hastings for our participation in the Holly Trolley. It is posted on the narthex bulletin board. A check for \$100 was sent to Barry County Transit for our Trolley fee.

Seven Christmas Baskets were given to community families. Thanks to all who contributed funds and food also for helping with packing and delivering the baskets.

Participation cards are being used on a weekly basis. Visitors and congregation members are asked to fill out a card each Sunday morning. Part of this information will be used by the Outreach committee. Visitors will receive a welcome letter from the church based on the card information. A call will be initiated from the Outreach team after subsequent visits.

We reviewed the Honduras mission information. The committee agreed that the monies in the Honduras fund at Grace should be given to the ELCA Honduras program. Information will be gathered for a possible visit from the Honduras mission representative.

The Good Friday Cross Walk will be held again this year. Contact will be made to advertise in the Hastings Banner and perhaps contacting other local churches for more involvement.

The Grace Banner will be updated with contact numbers and our web page address. A check will be issued to cover the price of this update, after an inquiry is made on the balance of funds available in the Evangelism account.

The committee expressed interest in participating in Summerfest in August. Contact will be made with Hastings to see the requirements for participation.

We discussed the feasibility of advertising the 5th Sunday potluck in the newspaper. Discussion will be held with the social activities committee.

We discussed the participation of Grace by offering service support to the Barry Roubaix Bike Race on April 16th that will be held again in Hastings. We will discuss this further at the next meeting in February.



Grace's Youth

by Jana Bishop



Seven youth and three adults attended the Michigan Gathering in Lansing at the end of December. It was a time of praise, singing and sharing our faith with over 300 other youth from throughout Michigan. One of our youth wanted Grace to know what she experienced:

"It was an amazing experience that changed my life. I am so grateful to the church for giving me such an amazing opportunity."

If we have changed even one life, to have given them faith that will last a lifetime, that has been Grace in action. H.S. Youth will meet on January 24, February 7 and so on, plan every other week at this point. Look for more information on the homelessness event in May or June. We are planning a lock-in for later in January or early February. Lastly, the geranium sale will take place in May to prepare for Spring.

The Middle School Youth Group continues to meet every other week, ie, January 24, February 7, etc. We have 5-6 regular attendees and have had upward of 10 some weeks. We are averaging 2-4 non-Grace youth which is awesome!!

The youth have been talking about prayer. How it is a chance to thank God, make petitions and ask for direction when there are decisions to be made. It is exciting to see how engaged the youth are.

God's Children will be meeting on February 17 and March 16 – meals will be provided and the group meets from 5:30-7pm. Any questions contact Lisa Pohl 269-945-9969.

ELCA World Hunger 40 Days of Giving

by Bill Freedlund



Grace will participate in the ELCA 40 Days of Giving during the Lenten season. There are canisters in the narthex to take home as a reminder of the need throughout the world to grow communities of faith, overcome disease, confront hunger and poverty, and to assist our global companion churches. Please consider using the canisters to make donations during the season of Lent. If you wish to add a check please make it out to Grace Lutheran Church and add "ELCA World Hunger" or "where needed most" to the memo line. Please return your canisters to the church office by Sunday March 20th, 2016 (Palm Sunday).



by Kim Domke

Lansing Area Ministry of Bells L.A.M.B.
Concert Invitation

You are all invited to a great hand bell concert on March 12th. Six hand bell ringers from Grace will be ringing in the concert. Other ringers, families, and friends are invited to carpool over to come hear the concert. Carpool will leave the Grace parking lot at 3:00P.M. After the concert, we will have a dinner out at a local restaurant (to be determined).

WHAT: L.A.M.B. 32nd Annual Spring Ring

WHEN: Saturday, March 12, 2016, at 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: South Church 5250 Cornerstone Dr., Lansing, (off Snow Rd., south of I-496).

This facility is handicap-accessible and located near Waverly High School.

DETAILS: The theme of the concert is "Ringings Through the Year—A Celebration of Church Seasons" and hand bell arrangements of music of the church year (Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Advent, and Christmas) will be featured. About 100 ringers from 10 choirs will join together for massed ringing; solo numbers will also be played. The concert is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be taken.

Sunday Morning Adult Forum A Look at Samuel 1 & 2

by Pastor Paul

Plan to attend the Sunday Adult Forum, every Sunday morning at 9:30 A.M.; 8:45 A.M. on fifth Sundays. The class offers us an opportunity to meet some very important characters of the Old Testament, in the book of Samuel 1 and 2, and to learn how God worked through them all, in spite of their shortcomings. We might learn, at the same time, how God can and does accomplish His will through us, the people of Grace. Another opportunity to "learn how to become servants".

Wednesday Prayer Group

A New Beginning, A New Church, A New Direction

by Pastor Paul

Grace Lutheran Church is at a very important turning point in its history. With Lent approaching, we are reminded of the disciplines that must be center-most in a life of service and faith—prayer, fasting, and charity. We are also at the point in which we need to discover what God expects us to be and do as the Body of Christ. We need to discern, through prayer and study, what we need to be “about”. The study part of this discerning is offered in several opportunities and programs throughout the week, and everyone is encouraged to continue their own devotions and study of scripture. Prayer is one discipline we need to develop.

Beginning on Wednesday, February 3 at 6:00 P.M., the church will open for community prayer. The format is quite simple and informal. We will sit near the front of the sanctuary, the pastor will begin with a text or Psalm, and the rest of the time (about 30 minutes) will be spent in open prayer. Open prayer means that anyone can speak, and the silent prayers of everyone are also the prayers of all.

Primarily we are gathered to discern the future mission and ministry of Grace. Prayers need to be focused on what we are doing now as disciples, on our congregational leaders, and asking for God’s clear call to go “beyond ourselves”. Be clear, however, we are not going to limit or “manage” the prayers of anyone. We are wanting to focus on the direction of the community, but we are open to the personal needs and concerns you might bring.

So, every Wednesday evening, yes, even during Lent, we will gather for 30 minutes of prayer and discernment, trusting that God not only listens to the prayers of his people, but God also “speaks” to his people as well. Help us, Oh Lord, to know your voice, and give us courage to follow your call in faith.

Words from the Wise

Autopsy of a Deceased Church

by Thom S. Rainer

by Pastor Paul

Thom Rainer wrote his book after looking at the causes for the death of 14 churches. The churches were of different sizes and locations, but they have the common theme that they all had to close at the “end” of their life. The author tries to identify the things that effected their demise, in order to warn the rest of us and avoid a similar fate. I give you chapter 9, one of my favorites:

The Church Rarely Prayed Together

The man sitting across from me was not enjoying the moment. We were talking about a church he loved. Indeed the small group of two men and three women seemed ill at ease...

Did the church members pray together?

Inevitably they paused. They weren’t sure how to answer the question.

You see, most of the churches, almost to the day they shut the doors, had some type of prayer time. It may have been a part of the worship services. It may have been with some type of fellowship like a Wednesday evening meal...It was at that point that I asked the questions: Do you really think that was a meaningful time of prayer? Do you think that’s how the New Testament churches prayer?

Inevitably there would be a pause and then an admission. No, they said. It was more like a routine or ritual. It would hardly qualify as corporate prayer in the New Testament sense.

And then they would reflect. Their eyes would open. They would remember those days when church members came together for powerful times of prayer. Some recalled twenty-four hour prayer emphases the churches had. Those “good old days” of prayer typically coincided with the best days of the churches, at least to the best of their recollection.

Not coincidentally, prayer and the health of the church went hand in hand. When the church is engaged in meaningful prayer, it becomes both the cause and the result of greater church health.

A New Testament Example:

It was the first church, the Jerusalem church. Many had become Christians and they began to gather together in places at Jerusalem. Luke, with his eye for detail and historical accuracy, describes the early days of this church in Acts 2:42: *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayers.”*

We could spend volumes on this one verse, but note what the early followers of Christ found important: the apostles’ teaching (the Word of God), the fellowship and the breaking of the bread (each other), and the prayers.

Don’t read too quickly past the word “devoted” in Acts 2:42. The word meaning has much intensity and deliberation. It is like a wild and hungry beast ready to devour its prey. When the early Jerusalem church members devoted themselves to prayer, they were doing a lot more than reading names off a list. They were fervent, intense,

and passionate about prayer. They had no doubt that God was listening and responding. A failure to pray was tantamount to a failure to breathe.

Prayer was not an add-on to give them permission to eat a meal. It was serious stuff for a serious group of church members.

Prayer was the lifeblood of the early church.

But Not the Deceased Churches:

He paused when I asked the same questions. He was no different than the others who had graciously given of their time for these autopsies. But he did not have a ready answer to the questions: Do you really think that was a meaningful time of prayer? Do you think that's how the New Testament churches prayed?

After a short pause, he said something very telling. "There was a day when prayer was powerful in our church," he began. "People would pray before the worship services. Small groups spent a lot of time in prayer. We prayed intensely for our community."

"Then," he stopped. It was like a light went on. "Then our community started changing," he spoke methodically and slowly. "We were afraid. Many members sold their homes and got out as quickly as they could. We started focusing on fear. We stopped serving the community."

"And..." Tears welled in his eyes. He started again. "And we stopped praying with the passion we once had. That's it. That was the beginning of the decline that led to our death. We stopped taking prayer seriously. And the church started dying."

No prayer. No hope. And the church started dying.

Questions for Prayerful Thought:

1. Most churches have times of prayer. What is the difference between those churches that have meaningful prayer and those churches that do not?
2. Why would a church's failure to engage in meaningful prayer lead to its demise?
3. What is the role and place of prayer in the early Jerusalem church in the context of Acts 2:41-47?

Thom S. Rainer, ***Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive.*** (B&H Publishing Group: Nashville, TN, 2014), pg.39-45.

New Member Class

Becoming One Body: How Worship Shapes Us

by Pastor Paul

Beginning February 7th, Pastor Paul will be leading a New Members Class after late service, and will include leaders/members of the congregation to help introduce worship life and membership at Grace. The class will last for only 60-70 minutes each week and will take place in the sanctuary of the church, beginning at around 12:15 pm.

The New Member Class, ***Becoming One Body***, is open to all people who would like to join Grace Lutheran Church whether through transfer from another Lutheran body, baptism, or affirmation of faith. Any member that would like to refresh their understanding of worship and membership are also encouraged to participate.

You have kids, and not sure what to do with them while you are attending the class? Well, bring them along. The class is short, and we love children to be a part of everything we do.

Website Upgrade Defining a New Look

by Pastor Paul



I received the first introductory draft to Grace's new website. It is absolutely a wonderful change and very "upbeat." Though we are still in the infancy stages of development, and there is so much more to do, the basic format and layout has been revealed. I must say, it is beginning to look good, and is quite a change from the past.

This initial peek at the website basic format has been viewed by a number of members at Grace, and if you would like to see it, we will try to set it up in the Conference Room after worship, so that more members of the community can "take a peek." We would love to hear what you have to say about your "general impression" of the website look.

Now that we have seen this first draft and have been able to gather some responses, the next steps will be to refine the look; add, edit, delete, and change some of the pictures, content, and format; until we get to a design we like and fulfills the purpose of outreach to the e-community. This will take some time yet, and many more people need to participate in the process. We hope to have it up and running by March.

Participation Cards

Oh So Helpful: “Let Me Count the Ways”

by Pastor Paul

Way to go, members of Grace! So far you have responded well to filling out the Participation Cards each week. It is just one more discipline to learn, for the sake of outreach and congregational care. Such a small thing to do for such an important ministry.

We have gleaned so much important information from these cards. So far we have expanded our mailbox service to members and friends who wished to receive better communication from the church. We have been able to assist our members with their nametags because they have made it known on the Participation Card that they needed a new one. We have been able to be more consistent with sending thank you notes to our “first-time” visitors and to visit our more consistent visitors (3 or more visits to Grace).

The next task we will be focusing on is how to more effectively communicate the information we glean concerning the participation of our membership at worship with the Congregational Care Committee. That committee is concerned with addressing the pastoral concerns of our members. We will soon be entering the attendance information into the computer so that we will be able to see more clearly and quickly the attendance trends of our members, and the Congregational Care Committee will decide how to effectively address members in need.

Thanks, everyone, and keep up the good responses. If you have any ideas concerning the information or questions we might put on the back of the cards, just talk with the Evangelism Committee (Bill Freedlund) or Pastor Paul.

Side Notes

Retired Pastor Anton will be teaching a class titled "A Look at Contemporary American Culture" for the Kellogg Community College Institute for Learning in Retirement in Hastings. The class will meet on Mondays, February 15, through March 21, from 1:30-3:30 P.M. The role of religion in Politics, culture, and the growing economic divide will be explored.

If you would like more information and/or registration materials, contact Mary Dawson at 945-9479.

Constitution Reform

Congregational forums, Dates set

by Pastor Paul

Dates are set to introduce the reformed constitution draft to the congregation. At the January meeting of the Congregational Council, the members decided to offer three opportunities to talk about and ask questions concerning the proposed constitution. The dates are the following:

Saturday, March 5th at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall of the Church

Sunday, March 6th at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall of the Church

Thursday, March 10th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the Church

These forums are meant to both inform the congregation of the nature of the constitutional reforms and the process of making those changes, and to give members the opportunity to make suggested changes to the text. We would hope all the members of Grace would participate in one of the forums. Remember, this is only a draft. A vote on a proposed constitution will come later in the year.



by Pastor Paul

Food for the Poor, an independent Lutheran ministry that responds to poverty throughout Latin America, will be sending a visitor to Grace to tell us the story of this ministry. Rev. Robert Berger will visit on February 14th, and he will invite us to make a contribution to the work of Food for the Poor. Pastor Bob will preach the sermon that day and will meet with the Sunday Adult Forum to continue his message of their ministry.

In the words of Food for the Poor:

“We do our best to meet needs both physical and spiritual, as well as at the individual, family and community level. We provide food, housing, emergency relief and much more to the poorest of the poor. We feel a special calling – and uniquely equipped – to serve the poor of the Caribbean and Latin America.”



Sandy Mosteller has a new address. Please make note of it in your Church directory.

2905 S. Charlton Park Rd, Lot #18
Hastings, MI 49058

When to call a Pastor - You decide

by Pastor Paul

Sometimes the pastor is the last person to find out that someone has been ill or in the hospital and would have appreciated a visit. So here is a short list of the times you might call a pastor or the church:

- Before going into the hospital--several days in advance
- When you have been taken to the hospital emergency--have someone call for you.
- If you are ill or home-bound, unable to get to church, and you would like communion.
- If you have a friend, relative, or neighbor who might like a visit from the pastor.
- If a major change is happening in your life that has caused you to be away for some time.
- If you want to get married.
- If you have a child to be baptized.
- If you have a question about the church and/or its ministry.
- If you want to volunteer for a specific ministry.
- If you feel called to start a new ministry.
- If you are considering full-time ministry in the church--pastor, missionary, etc.
- If you would just like to talk with the pastor--he loves to be invited for lunch.

This is not an exhaustive list. Maybe you have some ideas you could add. You can reach Pastor Paul at the church, 945-9414; by email: gracehastingspastor@gmail.com, through his cell phone, 269-908-7168; or at his home, 945-9683.



Lenten Wednesday Evening Prayer – February/March

by Pastor Paul

Plans are being made for the Lenten Wednesday Evening Prayer. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board for groups to volunteer for the Lenten Suppers before the services. The Worship Committee is planning the service and the focus of the homily each Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a service of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion on February 10th at 7:00 pm. During the five weeks of Lent that follow, every Wednesday evening beginning February 17th through March 16th, a Lenten Supper will be provided (freewill offering is appreciated) beginning at 6:00 pm, and the Prayer Service at 7:00 pm. Plan to attend to deepen your experience of the disciplines of Lent and their transforming character on our spiritual lives.

Thank You

- *What comfort and support we were given in the loss of Walter Beck. Thanks to those who sent cards, notes, calls, food and expressed their caring and provided help. Also, thanks to those who served with special music and shared their talent. And to those who helped, donated food, etc. with the delicious luncheon afterwards. It all was appreciated! Walt had been a member of Grace since 1957. He served the Grace Family in many ways throughout those years. God bless us all!*
 - *Shirley Beck & Family*
- *Chris Bush*, for organizing the new Coffee Hour in the narthex (entrance). To all the volunteers who have made it a flawless, weekly event.
- *Visioning Team*, for sharing with council and setting the tone for the future of Grace
- *Julian Kratochkvil*, for the wonderful Advent/Christmas liturgical display.
- *Bell Choir*, for their first 2016 participation in worship. Well done!

Adult, Child, and Infant CPR/AED & Standard First Aid

Ideal for Daycare Providers, Teachers, Parents, Spouses, or Anyone Who Cares for Others!



- Reflects the Latest Science for First Aid, CPR and Emergency Cardiovascular Care
- Flexible Teaching and Learning styles
- Superior Quality ... with lots of practice time on the infant, child, and adult manikins
- This course meets State of Michigan requirements for childcare providers and workplace OSHA requirements.

An injured person is the worst fear of anyone who cares for another person. In less time than you think, American Red Cross training can give you the vital knowledge and skills you'll need to respond with confidence to a life-threatening situation involving an infant, child, or an adult.

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 and poisoning

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 SKILLS CARD WILL ALSO SERVE AS AN EXCELLENT REFRESHER AND REFERENCE TOOL AFTER TRAINING IS COMPLETE.

Mark your calendar today for our next 2016 training session:

Date & Time: Fri., Feb. 26 5:30-9:30 First Aid & Sat., Feb. 27 8:30am-1:00pm CPR/AED

Course: Adult, Child, and Infant CPR/AED \$60 & Standard First Aid \$50 both classes \$75

CHALLENGE OR RENEWAL STUDENTS: \$35 Please call instructor to set up an appointment.

For more information, contact instructor: Kim Domke at 269-908-0024

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North Street Hastings

269-945-9414

Instructor: Kim Domke



February Birthdays

2-5 Judy Hughes, Deb Baker
2-10 Tori Schoessel
2-13 Carmen Burlingame
2-14 Jack Vos
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 Allarding, Kathryn Watson

February Anniversaries

2-5 Ted & Deb Baker
2-10 Michael & Diane Wilkinson
2-10 Joe & Cheryl Cole
2-14 Melinda & Dan Shepler
2-14 Ron & Kim Ogden
2-26 Charles & Pam Converse
2-28 Frank & Ann Bolton
2-29 Mary & Ron Dawson

Memoriam

2-2-2011 Dick Allarding
2-4-1995 Katherine Johnson
2-8-2008 Helen Cole
2-9-2001 Ruth Belson
2-10-2006 Ruth Curtis
2-12-1990 Bob Stonehouse
2-12-2008 Willis (Bill) Buehl
2-14-1986 Berthena Howell
2-15-1991 Brian Converse
2-15-2014 Lorraine Neil
2-16-2009 Jan Carr
2-19-1995 Ruth Hubbard
2-19-1995 Mae Shellenbarger
2-20-1984 Ann Worthington
2-21-1984 Vern Allarding, Sr.
2-21-1993 LaVerne Bowman, Sr.
2-22-1968 Inez Beck
2-22-1985 Gladys Hubbell
2-22-2009 Doris Tossava
2-24-2004 Ray Rider

In Our Prayers

Continuing Prayers

Al Kamens – Chris Bush

Healthy pregnancies

Jacqueline Endsley
Sarah Endsley
Heather Baucom
Mary Beth DeVinney
Jessica Green

Military

Kayla Pohl, *daughter of Rob & Lisa Pohl*
Myrina Clements, *daughter of Cherie Clements*
Aaron Endsley, Adam Miller, Alyssa Mills, Amber Reid, Andrew Ferguson, Ashley Gillons, Austin Endsley, Ben Curtis, Carl Franson, Charles & Tim Krewson, Cole Davis, Dylan Kelmer, Edward Frost, Greg Scott, Jena Harwood, Jon Ingran, Jordan Swank, Josh Lewis, Justin Ogden, Lena Jordon, Noah Daniels, Phil DeVries, Ryan Davis, Spencer Reid, Taylor Gould, Tom Fenoseff, Zackary Green

Companion Synods in Honduras, Papua New Guinea, and Latvia

Nursing home residents . . . Beth Oehler, Dorothy Mayo, Deb Wood, Vivian Allarding

Shut-ins . . . Dave Bolton, Ilene Hilson, Jamie Coplin, Opal Gillons

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E. North St.
Hastings, MI 49058

Website: www.discover-grace.org

Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church
- ELCA Hastings, MI

269-945-9414 or 269-945-2645

Fax: 269-945-2698

Our Staff:

Parish Admin: *Victoria Alt*
ParishAdmin@grace-hastings.org
Mon – Thurs 8 AM - 3PM

Custodian: *Nathan Freedlund*
Minister of Music: *Cindy Olson*
Choir Accompanists:
Marcia Bowman, Chris Bush
Bell Choir Director: *Kim Domke*
Organist Emeritus: *Donna Buehl*

Executive Committee:

President: *Doug Neeb*
Vice President: *Chris Bush*
Secretary: *Kate Watson*



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Winter

(1st Sunday after Labor Day - May)
Sundays @ 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Summer

(June – Labor Day)
Sundays @ 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

5th Sundays

Sunday @ 10:00am

Advent and Lent

Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

Nursery and Cry room are available

All Ages Faith Building/Sunday School

Winter

(1st Sunday after Labor Day – May)
9:30 AM

5th Sundays

Sunday @ 8:45 am



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Committee Chairs

Brothers of Grace – *Joe Longcor*
Congregational Care – *Margaret Wood*
Faith Building – *Lorraine Freedlund*
Outreach Committee – *Bill Freedlund*
Property – *Tom Peck & Phil Poholski*
Sarah Circle – *Kay Howell*
Social Activities – *Diane Neeb*
Stewardship – *Tim Schoessel*
Youth & Family – *Jana Bishop*
Worship – *Lorie Gladyness*