



HOLY COMMUNION OFFERED EVERY SUNDAY

# GraceGram

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



OUR  
MISSION

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

## November 2016

INSIDE THIS EDITION

## From the Pastor's Desk

by Pastor Paul E. Kuhlman

The end of November generally marks the end of another church year or liturgical year and the beginning of a new year. The year ends on Christ the King Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, and the new liturgical year begins on November 27<sup>th</sup> with the First Sunday of Advent.

The liturgical year is divided into two main, almost equal parts. The first half addresses the events of Jesus' life, beginning with the preparation of his coming in Advent, and goes through Pentecost Sunday in May. In the second part, we hear the words of Jesus and witness his miracles, ending with the Christ the King Sunday, as mentioned above.

These are not the only changes that occur with the passing of an old year into a new year. The readings from one year to the next change also. In November we will end the Gospel readings from Lectionary C, most of which come from the Gospel of Luke. Beginning with Advent, our new year will see the Gospel being read from St. Matthew, my favorite Gospel next to John.

More importantly, the end of one year and the movement into a new year should give us pause and thought. We are given another opportunity to witness the miracles and mission of God in Christ Jesus in a way different from the year before. We are blessed with the presence of Jesus in word and sacrament for another year. Let us "reap the whirlwind" and join in the celebration of a new year.

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**A Look @ Next Month - December 2016**  
**Theme: "Advent: A Season of Expectations"**

- *Transition Team*
- *Christmas Baskets*
- *Christmas Eve Services*
- *Christmas Day and New Year's Day Services*
- *Christmas Invitations for Hastings*

*Deadline for inclusion in the December GraceGram is **November 17, 2016.***

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

## On the Cover

by Pastor Paul

This window is one of my favorites. And to think that it was hidden away in the former chapel where no one could see it. I like it the best because it portrays the sacrament and action of God I find most important.

This window is about baptism. How do I know that? Well, it contains the symbol of the most important gift of the sacrament (dove); it uses the symbol upon which the sacrament is grounded (the cross); and it uses a symbol that has always represented baptism (the shell with three drops of water).

**The dove** has always represented the Holy Spirit in Christian tradition, and the Holy Spirit is one of the gifts of baptism. Luther, in his Small Catechism, quotes Titus 3, “*This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ...*” Traditionally, the anointing of oil in baptism has served to portray the gift of the Holy Spirit in the history of the church. We are reminded of the story of Jesus’ own baptism, “*And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.*” Lutherans confess that at baptism God gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit. The color red that surrounds the white dove reminds us of the color attributed to Pentecost Sunday when the church celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit—the color of fire.



## President’s Perspective

by Doug Neeb

In Hebrews 11 faith is described as: “Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” Then the author of Hebrews goes on to write out a long list of actions that their ancestors were commended for that displayed their faith. The thought of faith being displayed as an action is foreign to me. I had always thought of faith as something that was there, but was hard to see, feel or get a handle on. Kind of like the Holy Spirit, always there, always speaking to me, but hard to hear or understand.

When I was a much younger man I can remember some of the things I had faith in. Faith that if I did the things my coaches were telling me I needed to do, I would get to play the sports I loved. Faith, that when I started working, that hard work and commitment to my company’s goals would lead to promotions and financial gains. Then I stopped and considered what actions that faith has caused me to do. Anyone who has gone through a football camp can tell you of the hard work and the pain they endured, and I remember the late night or all night efforts that I put in at work. Then I started to see the connection between faith and action.

When Jesus tells his disciples, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, move from here to there, and It will move.” At first Jesus’ words seem impossible. How could I tell a mountain to move and expect it to move? What I think Jesus is trying to tell us is that if we have faith and our actions show it, we can move mountains. What actions are your faith causing you to do? If we allow our faith to lead us, great things are ahead of us.

## Sunday Adult Forum

### The Book of Psalms

by Pastor Mike Kemper

The Psalms are some of the most commonly read portions of Scripture and are routinely used as part of our weekly worship services. However, how much do we really know about the collection of Psalms in the bible? When were they written? Who wrote them? How were they used? How and why do the Psalms continue to instruct and comfort us?



During the Sunday morning Adult Forum throughout November and December we will learn the answers to these and other questions while studying a variety of Psalms and reflect on how they continue to speak to our human and spiritual experiences in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Come and lend your thoughts and questions to our weekly discussion.

Pr. Mike Kemper, retired.

- Nov. 6: Introduction to the Psalms (Ps. 23)
- Nov. 18: Psalms of Lament & Repentance (Ps. 51)
- Nov. 20: Psalms of Instruction (Ps. 73)
- Nov. 27: Psalms of Thanksgiving (Ps. 66)
- Dec. 4: Psalms of Wisdom (Ps. 1)
- Dec. 11: Psalms of History (Ps. 137)
- Dec. 18: Psalms of Trust/Praise (Ps. 91)

## November Events

by Worship Committee

Don't forget to set your clocks back on **November 6** or you might miss our All Saint's Day celebration. This year only the names of those who have passed during the last year will be verbally recognized during the service. Names that meet that requirement will need to have been submitted by November 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be a time during service that you may write names on a slip of paper provided to you if you so choose. Those slips of paper will be deposited by you into a prayer box that will be placed in front of the altar. Silent prayer and reflection is our main focus in choosing not to read all names aloud.

**November 20<sup>th</sup>** we'll celebrate the last Sunday of the liturgical year, Christ the King.

**November 27<sup>th</sup>** marks the beginning of the new liturgical year as well as the new season of Advent.

The first Wednesday evening advent service will be **November 30<sup>th</sup>**. There will be a sign up sheet for groups and/or families to sign up for providing advent dinners to those attending the Wednesday services.

Advent will last the 4 weeks before Christmas. The seasonal color of blue is used to represent hope.

The Worship Committee would like to congratulate Emmalee and Hope Peck, Jackson and Gabe Barnaart, Gavin and Grayson Patton who are set to be confirmed in their faith on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

## Thank you!

**Deborah Wilke**—for sewing a number of fabric marble mazes to be added to the worship busy bags for children

**Renovation Team**—everyone who gave of their time to continue this project.

**Communications Committee**—putting the photo directory together.

**Volunteers for Landscape Project**—thanks to all who donated their time on a rainy day, October 1<sup>st</sup>, and added new landscaping to our front yard.

**CROP Walkers** and those who supported them. Grace's participation was a huge success in the number of walkers and the donations received.

**Trunk-o-Treat Volunteers**—for donating their time and efforts to welcome hundreds of visitors to our church on Halloween night. Special thanks to Mary Kuhlman for chairing this project.

**Denny Farms**—for the donation of 5 large pumpkins used at Trunk-o-Treat.

## Transition Team – the first major step in the call process

by Pastor Paul

October was the first major step in the call process - the formation of the Transition Team. In its October meeting, the Congregation Council completed the list of team candidates they felt the Holy Spirit had given them in faith. A longer list of names was the focus of prayer throughout the month, again at the meeting, and finally when the names were revealed. Those chosen by the council, we believe, are the names chosen by the Spirit.

Members of the council are in the process of inviting the chosen members of the team to become a part of the transition process, with the hope of meeting for the first time in November. The council has put together a list of parameters for the work of the team, and the council will monitor their progress throughout the process. The council has established the end of February as the deadline for the completion of the *Mission Site Profile*, the document that reveals the history, mission, purpose and context of Grace Lutheran Church for future candidates for ministry in Hastings.

This document, the *Mission Site Profile* (previously called the Congregational Profile) will then guide the synod in its search for candidates for Grace and will influence the Call Committee's interviewing and search process for a new pastor at Grace.



Update: The first draft of the photo directory was mailed to LifeTouch. We are waiting for them to return the draft in book form for our final edit. We are getting close!

## Reformation Memories –



### “Official” Attempts to Silence Luther

by Pastor Paul

Several attempts were made, early in the Reformation, to change or silence Luther from his position on indulgences. Bishop Albert of Mainz, the one who bought his church position through the sale of indulgences, quickly informed Rome of the “monk problem” and passed it on to the Roman Curia for their attention. The Curia was a bureaucratic group of church officials loyal to the structure of the church and to the power of Rome and the pope. They generally did not want to promote changes in the structure for fear they might upset the present balance of power, riches, and comfort.

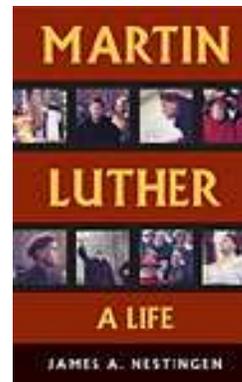
The Curia initially pressed their case to silence Luther through the Augustinian Order. Cardinal Volta, the Vicar General of the Augustinian Order, instructed Johann Staupitz, mentor and vicar of the Wittenberg order, to bring an end to Luther’s protests. Though appreciative of Luther’s walk in faith that led him to the radical conclusions he had drawn, Staupitz was still obedient to his supervisors. Staupitz believed he had a solution to the problem, naming Luther as the speaker at the convention held each year in Heidelberg of all the German Augustinians. Luther presented another set of theses later known as the *Heidelberg Disputation*. Staupitz must have felt that this event would give Luther a public forum for his views that could, in turn, be tempered by the gentle correction of his peers. Just the opposite happened, Luther was a big hit among the German Augustinians.

The Curia also attempted to gather the support of the local political leader to silence Luther. They sent a nobleman to Frederick the Wise, the prince over the area of Wittenberg. Frederick was offered a significant honor from the pope that included both a great deal of money and the right to name the next bishop of the area. Frederick refused the offer. He enjoyed the attention Luther brought to his newly formed university in Wittenberg.

The next attempt to silence Luther was the most significant as well as the most dangerous. Dr. Thomas Cardinal Cajetan agreed to meet with Luther to discuss his views, something that Luther always wanted to do with a reputable theologian of the church. Cajetan was a well-respected professor in Rome and throughout the church, a leading expert on the theology and writings of Thomas Aquinas. His books are still major reading in most Catholic seminaries today.

Luther and Cajetan met in the city of Augsburg, late in 1518. James Nestingen, in his book, *Martin Luther: A Life* (published in 2003 by Augsburg-Fortress), believed that Cajetan was the first theologian to recognize the serious implications of Luther’s views. Cajetan saw Luther as impertinent and a boorish challenge to his own authority and theological wisdom. Realizing that the discussion with Cajetan was not going well and fearing his arrest (though Luther had been granted a promise of safe conduct), he escaped Augsburg in the middle of the night.

Luther’s story and the challenges from Rome do not end here. Luther’s next serious threat would come from Dr. Johann Eck.



## ELCA Hunger Appeal Thanksgiving with another meaning

by Pastor Paul

Long before the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Sunday before Thanksgiving was dedicated to a special offering to address the issue of hunger throughout the world. Special offering envelopes were placed in the bulletin to encourage congregations to give to this important mission.

Grace is returning to this tradition on November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday we are calling the **ELCA World Hunger Appeal Sunday**. The Community Outreach Committee decided to address the issue of hunger in our world in a focused way. Special “ELCA World Hunger” envelopes will appear in your mailboxes on both November 13 and 20 to remind you of our commitment to address hunger throughout the world. Make your checks payable to *Grace Lutheran Church*, write in the memo section “*ELCA World Hunger*,” and place your check or cash in the envelopes provided.

We have so much for which to be thankful. Let your offering reflect your thanksgiving by giving so that others may be able to eat and give thanks.

Happy Thanksgiving!

# Same Ministry, Different Way of Assigning It

## Grace Committees Redefined

by Pastor Paul

Change, change, change, that seems to be my mantra at Grace. It is not so much change for change-sake. Rather, the mantra I use as the reason for necessary change at Grace is, “*Different leaders, different pastor, different times.*” All these three things have changed over the years and they demand that we change our means of doing ministry and mission.

At Grace, the committees, with the Congregation Council, set the tone for mission and ministry. Since our mission and ministry must change, so must the committees which address them. The new committee realignment, defined in Continuing Resolutions passed by the council in their September meeting, is as follows:

**Children/Youth Ministries** shall be responsible for nurturing the Christian spirit of the children and youth of our congregation and the community, together with their families; to engage children and youth to share what interests them; to provide faith related activities to enhance those interests; and to promote Grace’s outreach among the children and youth of the Hastings community and beyond.

**Community Outreach** shall be responsible for planning and providing programs to help this congregation to reach out to the community and prospective members of Grace. The committee shall provide opportunities for this congregation to be involved in various social ministries. The committee, with the pastor, shall develop a plan for contacting visitors to Grace.

**Congregational Care**, with the pastor, shall be responsible for providing pastoral care through a shepherding plan, including ministry to active and inactive members. The membership list of this congregation shall be maintained by this committee. The committee shall make recommendations for removal from membership to the Congregational Council, according to the bylaws.

**Social Activities** shall be responsible for providing and overseeing programs and events which provide fellowship and

interaction for all members and guests of the congregation.

**Property Management** shall be responsible for overseeing the maintenance and improvement of the building and grounds of Grace Lutheran Church.

**Small Group Ministries** shall be responsible for coordinating, strengthening, and supporting all the adult small groups in Grace, adult education, and the formation of new small group ministries; for planning and providing programs for ministry among adults of all ages; supporting existing programs and developing and encouraging new programs that respond to the spiritual, educational and fellowship needs of adults and fulfill the mission of Grace Lutheran Church.

**Stewardship** shall foster the financial wellbeing of Grace Lutheran Church and promote the fruitful use of the congregation’s time and talents. The committee shall be responsible for: planning, preparing, and presenting the annual budget to the Council and congregation; providing status reports to the Council on a regular basis; maintaining the time and talent inventory; tracking memorials and other gifts that are not designated to the Mission Endowment Fund; and acting as a resource for using the congregation’s funds and talents.

**Worship**, with the pastor, shall be responsible for worship planning, scheduling of all worship servants, and working with the Congregation music staff and volunteers to design and strengthen worship life.

To find out the name of the chairperson and/or council liaison for each committee, note the back page of the GraceGram. That list will be updated each month as new chairpersons are chosen.



# Get Ready!

by Kate Watson

As you saw in the past two issues of the GraceGram, our congregation is taking the first steps toward calling a new pastor. We are forming a Transition Team, which will precede the Call Committee. This is a big step for GLC. We have learned much over the past year about functioning in healthy ways as a congregation and being led by the Holy Spirit with our focus on mission and ministry. There is yet much for us to tackle though. As I look toward the end result of having a new Pastor leading our congregation, I feel excitement, but also trepidation.

GLC has a great responsibility to uphold. The Apostle Paul tells us in Hebrews 13:17 to *obey them that have rule over you, and submit yourselves unto them for they watch over your souls, as they that must give an account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief, for that is unprofitable for you.* In other words, we have influence over whether our pastor's time with us is joyful or difficult, and if we cause him or her difficulty, it will not be profitable to our congregation's mission and ministry.

As we wait in expectation of the new things that God will do at GLC with a new pastor, I encourage us to prepare our hearts to care for this pastor and his or her family. We should be prepared to have thankful hearts, open minds, and a servant attitude.

First, I think it is wise to remember that every good thing that comes to us is from God. We should be thankful in advance for the pastor that He is planning to bring us. I have seen God do such great and mighty things in our congregation over the past year and a half that I believe and fully expect that he has a plan to bring someone into our midst that will lead us further into fulfilling our mission and ministry. Begin thanking God now for the person He's preparing for GLC. Express your confidence that God has someone wonderful waiting for us when we arrive at that juncture.

Begin to open your mind. *Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails* (Proverbs 19:21). Chances are that you have a "vision" or a "wish list" for what the new pastor will be. Maybe it's a list of things he or she *won't* be. Either way – *let it go*. There will be something different, something unlikeable, some disagreement in scriptural interpretation between you and the new pastor. But none of that is important. Let go of your "person" plans, and grab hold of the "God" plan. Look beyond your personal wish list and think about whether this person is furthering mission and ministry. If you have an issue related to mission and ministry, bring it to the new pastor and council so it can be discussed. Have an open, respectful, and Holy Spirit-led discussion. It is through this

exercise that the "God" plan becomes clear to our community of faith.

Get ready to be welcoming. There are many circumstances that could surround our new pastor. It could be a young single person – someone straight out of seminary. It could be a family with 4 children under the age of 6. It could be a more experienced person who went to seminary as a second career and has a grown family. Whatever the situation, begin warming up your servant's heart, hands, and feet now. Start thinking about what it would be like to show up in Hastings from across the country and know no-one. What it would be like to move to a place where you don't have a single friend or family member before you arrive. To move away from your support people into a new situation with only your trust that God is going to provide for you. Start planning now that you will invite the pastor and family for dinner with you and yours. Begin anticipating the ways you will ease his, her, or their transition into their new surroundings. Can you recommend good restaurants, the best playgrounds, reliable daycare, or a great place to get a cup of coffee? Can you pray regularly for our new pastor and let him or her know that you are doing this? Better yet, how great would it feel for our new pastor to hear over and over in his or her first weeks here that people had *already* been praying for his or her growth, development, and preparation to lead the mission and ministry of GLC before he or she even knew us?

While it is sad to know that Pastor Paul's time with us will come to an end, I know that God loves to do new things, and He has a mighty plan for GLC. Please join me in praying for our Transition Team, our Call Committee, and our new pastor. He or she is out there somewhere, right now, being developed and groomed by God to come to GLC. I can't wait to see what God has planned for us!

## November Birthdays

11-5	Doug Neeb
11-6	Fred Kogge
11-8	Michael Wilkinson
11-10	Chris Bush
11-12	Lyle Proksch, Amber Pontius
11-14	Danielle Powers
11-15	Shirley Smith, Steve Carr, Cheryl Allarding
11-17	David Bolton
11-18	Diane Wilkinson
11-19	Dorothy Mayo
11-23	Dan Patton
11-25	John Burdick
11-30	Kailyn Wales

# Confidence in the Plan

by Jenn Rosenberger

On October the 8, I had planned a trip for the High School Youth Group (as I wrote last month). God planned a different trip for me that day however. *"I know the plans I have for you"* Jeremiah 29:11 I had a few "no" responses from the youth but was unsure if the plan had truly changed. I came to church that day ready to go, but no one came. I knew I had an alternate plan for the day, but I knew my service plan was where my heart had wanted to be. God had a plan to use me elsewhere; I joined a gym this summer. Let me be honest, I hate summer, I don't like the heat at all, so I joined the gym so I could be in air conditioning and sweat in comfort. Again, God and His humor, I go for my first training session and their air conditioning had broken! Now, I did not quit, I have stuck it out and this has made my trainer and I grow ever closer because she has seen the good, the bad and the really ugly come out of me.

Okay, back to my adventure now. I return home after waiting, I change and feel the rush of excitement knowing I can make it to my trainer's power lifting competition! (Complete opposite of what my plans were for the day...) I drive into downtown Grand Rapids to DeVos Place, I walk in to a room and there is screaming heavy metal playing, men and women dressed in singlets, grunting and sweating and there is an electric vibe in the air. I find my trainer and there is a giant smile on her face, she was SO excited to see me. The mixture of gratitude and surprise from her was amazing. The large group of people that were there to support her truly shows how amazing she is and how many people she touches. I watch the competition in awe and admiration of these people.

As the event is wrapping up, I get up and see the gym owner standing in the back. I walk over to say hello, he introduces me to his wife, she is this adorable little blonde, with kind eyes and you can feel Jesus radiating off from her. She might look small standing next to her husband too since he is about 6'6", he seems like a giant... the first thing she says to me is, "You are so pretty." I stare at her. I have no words. I cannot comprehend what has been said to me, and nothing is coming out of my mouth. The awkwardness is mounting to the point that I cannot fix it. I was always taught that you are pretty IF . . . there is a clause to it, you cannot just be pretty, that is being arrogant. Also, you must follow up someone's compliment with one of your own, otherwise it is not valid (or something like that). I finally said "Whaaat?!" She repeated, "You are just so pretty." I blink a few times, "Nope, I heard you, but really?!" She looks at me like I turned purple and asked "Hasn't anyone ever told *you* that?" Um... well other than the obligated persons in my life, no. After I left, this

encounter stayed in my thoughts into the next day, playing over and over in my mind.

Now on Sunday I go to church and I am simply just meditating, then it is time for passing of the peace. Again someone compliments my appearance. My world has been flipped now. My confidence has been shaken to the very core. But why?! So I take time that week to process my feelings and then I see God in the midst of both events. Not only should I be saying these compliments to myself, but why is my confidence so down? Am I not a child of God?

Then another thought came... How can I apply this to a church in transition?

So I stand back and look at a broadened picture. "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him." Jeremiah 17:7. If our church does not have the confidence it should going in to calling a pastor, then will we shy away from the mission we have so strongly started?! Look at how far we have come. Our church is vibrant and alive; we are moving and putting our name out there for others to know who we are. We need to know and have confidence that we are going where God is leading us and letting God have total control over our future. With that, we are accepting a new person into that mission, and not letting them change it or steer it into a direction we don't want to go. We will be confident that God will bring the right person to us and will guide those called to find that person. We are very fortunate people and sometimes just going along with the rhythm of things is not where we need to be and God shakes up our plans and brings us where He needs us to be and His humor is never failing.



# Congregations: At Risk to Risking Missions

by Bishop Craig Satterlee

The North/West Lower Michigan Synod is united under this vision: Proclaiming Christ and prayerfully participating in Jesus' own work of reconciling the world to God's very self by (1) Renewing Congregations, (2) Empowering Leaders, and (3) Strengthening Connections.

As Lutherans in Christ's Church we are formed as congregations to proclaim Christ in what we say and what we do, to reach new people with the Gospel, to invite people into a new or renewed life of faith, and to join in doing God's work in the church and in the world.

And yet, the cry is heard throughout the ELCA and others across the country: Our congregation is dying! Why aren't people going to church anymore? Where have all the young families gone? What do we do?!

We lament the loss of church as we knew it as we stare into an unknown future. Will this congregation continue to exist? Will our children and grandchildren know Jesus? Where did we go wrong?

If these questions ring true to you and your congregation, we encourage you to take a look at a new resource on our website, [www.mittensynod.org](http://www.mittensynod.org), "At Risk to Risking Mission." In it are surveys, worksheets and direction to other resources to help your congregation have an open and honest conversation about the future. Instead of wallowing in despair you can gain perspective about where your congregation is really at, what strengths and growing edges you possess, and where you might move in the future.

**What is an "At Risk" congregation?** Using the data from "Evangelical Outreach Analysis and Strategy" from 2003-2004, an "At Risk" congregation can be defined by using the following benchmarks • 50 or fewer weekly average attendance • \$50,000 or less in annual contributions • Over-reliance on building use or endowment income (more than 35% of operating budget)

**What does a congregation that is "Risking Mission" look like?** The ELCA's Domestic Mission unit has developed Seven Strategic Areas for Renewal in congregations. Congregations that are "risking mission" are focusing on these areas:

- Community
- Stewardship
- Evangelism
- Worship
- Faith Formation
- Spirituality
- Leadership

## Resources

This new document includes directions to the "Congregational Vitality Survey," the Survey Questionnaire: Do We Need to Change, a resource for renewal readiness, and worksheets on Congregational Sustainability and Assessment of Options.

Our local Mission guru is Rev. David Sprang, Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission. He is very happy and excited to talk with you congregation about mission and renewing the ministry for the 21st century.

## How should we prepare?

The best preparation for examining the congregation's mission and ministry is an open mind and an open heart. You are likely to discover things about yourself or your congregation that you don't like very much. Remember, that's OKAY. Jesus doesn't just redeem individuals but indeed institutions like the church and your own congregation. So spend time in prayer and reflection as individuals and as a community. Determine together that no matter the outcome you will trust the guidance of the Spirit. Trust that God is already preparing a way for you and all you have to do is follow.

## Link to "At Risk to Risking Mission":

<http://mittensynod.org/docs/RiskingMission.pdf>

# Congregational Care

by Margaret Wood

Recently the Congregational Care Committee welcomed Jane Secor as a Shepherd and Melissa Patton as an alternate Shepherd.

A call to all knitters and crocheters – we are in need of prayer shawls. A prayer shawl is given at times of sickness, grief or other need. If you can help, please contact Margaret Wood at 269-948-4307.



# How Well Do You Know the Reformation?

by Pastor Paul

TRUE  
 FALSE

Following a suggestion by the Worship Committee, I will run a brief “test” of your knowledge of the Reformation. There will be ten questions each month that are to be answered “true” or “false.” Answers on page 10

1. T or F Luther’s loyalty was to the church structure and tradition of his day, and he would do anything to keep them functioning and safe.
2. T or F Rome, at the time of Luther, was more concerned with the theology of the church than with the wealth and riches it had accumulated.
3. T or F Though Luther was granted a promise of safe conduct for his visit to Heidelberg to discuss his views with Cajetan, he remembered that a 15th c. reformer, Jan Huss, was also granted a promise of safe conduct but was arrested and burned at the stake.
4. T or F Many of the church leaders who opposed Luther were from the Dominican Order.
5. T or F Johann Staupitz was an important mentor for Luther and was favorable to his views.
6. T or F Luther referred to the “papists” as anyone who opposed his views.
7. T or F Luther was a subject of Frederick the Wise, secular ruler of Wittenberg and the surrounding areas, and Frederick could have arrested Luther at any time to end the Reformation movement.
8. T or F The spark that lit the Reformation was not the nailing of the 95 Theses to the door of the church at Wittenberg but the printing press that disseminated the ideas of Luther throughout Europe.
9. T or F Luther agreed with his opponents that indulgences were a good thing if they ended the old practice of penance.
10. T or F Dr. Thomas Cajetan was favorable to Luther’s view of indulgences because they shared the same church order; they were both Augustinians.

## World Hunger

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC--Sowing seeds in the Bohong region in western Central African Republic, Georgette, a widow, toils in the field to provide for her grandchildren. When fighting between militia groups overwhelmed her town, her family and neighbors all fled for safety. When they returned home, they found the fields destroyed and their farm tools stolen. The fields were their main source of food and income.

Together, in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger helped distribute more than 20 tons of seeds and thousands of farm tools to more than 2,000 households in the Bohong region. And we continue to walk with Georgette and her neighbors as they struggle to survive in a region torn apart by war.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger help remind our sisters and brothers that they are not alone. In Georgette’s words, “We gave thanks to God as we realized that we were not abandoned but that we have sisters and brothers who think about us despite the distance that separates us.”

Thank you for supporting ELCA World Hunger and helping families, like Georgette’s, start anew.

Make your check payable to “ELCA World Hunger.” Place your gift in your congregation’s offering plate or mail it.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support innovative solutions that fight hunger and poverty in nearly 60 countries around the world, including the United States. Will you help with your gift today?

By Mail/Online/Phone:  
ELCA  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009  
ELCA.org/hunger/donate  
800-638-3522

# Are you a Snow Bird?

by Parish Administrator Victoria



If you will be headed out of town for the winter, please provide your contact information to me so that I can keep in touch with you, sending Gracegrams and other important news. You can leave me a note or call/stop into the office Monday – Thursday between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm, to let me know when you will be leaving and when you anticipate you will return, along with your address and phone number for your ‘home away from home’. The church office phone number is 269-945-9414.

- **Mutually:** All of us have gifts to support God’s mission. There is no mission *to*, only mission *with* and *among*.
- **Inclusively:** We seek to build relationships across boundaries that exclude and divide.
- **Vulnerably:** Just as Jesus became vulnerable to us, we open ourselves to others.
- **Empowering:** We seek to identify and correct imbalances of power, which may mean recognizing and letting go of our own.
- **Sustainably:** To ensure local ministries last for a long time, we seek to embed mission in ongoing relationships and communities.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** God’s work. Our hands.

## Global Mission

*“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith.”* Colossians 2:6–7a.

Rooted and built in Jesus! This is the core of our work as the ELCA walks with more than 80 companion churches in other countries to participate in God’s reconciling mission through proclamation and service. Participating in these relationships, ELCA members see how people’s lives are touched by the gospel, how their lives are transformed and renewed, and how their communities live in hope. Our living, daring confidence in God’s grace propels us, along with our companions, to say “yes” to a world searching for renewal and wholeness.

As part of a global Lutheran community, we gratefully receive the witness of global brothers and sisters whose faith, hospitality, resilience and zeal energize us and our own congregations. In response, we share our gifts and talents to address the root causes of poverty and **hunger** and meeting human needs, fight **malaria** and **HIV and AIDS**, build communities that coexist in peace, and prepare women and men to preach the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

Walking and working together, we seek to *accompany* our companions. Accompaniment is defined as *walking together in a solidarity that practices interdependence and mutuality*. The ELCA lives out accompaniment in relationships with global companions, striving to share God’s love and participate in God’s mission together:

## Answers to questions on page 8-9

### How Well Do You Know the Reformation?

1. False. Luther’s views would question much of the tradition of his day.
2. False. The church functioned as the only “multinational” of its day, and worked hard to maintain the power and wealth it had accumulated.
3. True. This memory moved him to leave Augsburg by night, and to not attend the Augsburg Conference in 1530.
4. True. Luther was an Augustinian.
5. True. Staupitz worked hard to avoid disciplining Luther.
6. False. Luther and other reformers referred to opponents in Rome as “papists.”
7. True. Frederick could have arrested Luther at any time to end the conflict. He preferred the notoriety Luther brought to his new university in Wittenberg.
8. True. Luther so loved the Psalms that he memorized all 150, and taught from them often.
9. False. Luther objected to indulgences because it circumvented penance and the announcement of grace in absolution.
10. True. Cajetan was never favorable to Luther’s views, maybe because he saw Luther as a boorish Augustinian.



# Grace Lutheran Church

239 E. North St.  
Hastings, MI 49058

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

Facebook:  
Grace Lutheran Church-  
ELCA Hastings, MI

Phone:  
269-945-9414  
269-945-2645

Fax:  
269-945-2698

## Our Staff:

Pastor: *Paul Kuhlman*  
[gracehastingspastor@gmail.com](mailto:gracehastingspastor@gmail.com)

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

Minister of Music: *Cindy Olson*

Choir Accompanists:

*Marcia Bowman, Chris Bush*

Bell Choir Director: *Kim Domke*

Custodian: *Nathan Freedlund*

**Organist Emeritus: *Donna Buehl***



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Regular

(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.

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

Sunday @ 10:00am

### Advent and Lent

Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

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## All Ages Faith Building/Sunday School

### Winter

(1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Labor Day – May)  
9:30 AM

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

Sunday @ 8:45 am



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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## Executive Committee:

President: *Doug Neeb*

Vice President: *Chris Bush*

Secretary: *Kate Watson*

Treasurer: *Randy Teegardin*

## Council Members

*Cherie Clements*

*Margaret Wood*

*Phil Poholski*

*Kay Howell*

*Diane Neeb*

*Tim Schoessel*

*Jana Bishop*

*Lorie Gladyness*