



THE ANCHOR

A NEWS PUBLICATION OF MT. HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH; GRAYLING, MI

August 2023

VOLUME 42 NUMBER 8

www.mthopelcmsgrayling.org

MtHopeLCMS@gmail.com

WE VALUE

Bible-centered
Preaching &
Teaching

Dynamic Praise &
Worship

The Sacraments

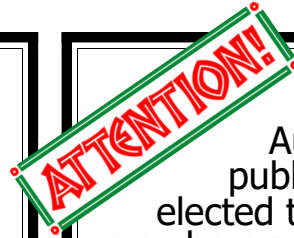
Prayer

Evangelism

Christian Education
for All Ages

Loving Relationships

Strong Christian
Families



The monthly Mt. Hope newsletter will be suspended until further notice. This August newsletter is the last scheduled publication of "The Anchor". Council has elected to pursue other methods to inform our members and friends in a more timely manner. As always, please share your thoughts and concerns with your council or elder as we work through this process. Thank you!

OUR VISION

By the love of Christ,
our vision is to work together,
reaching out to all people,
through the Gospel,
in our various activities and events.
As we encourage each other to worship
and grow in God's Word,
we will be a Christian influence
in our community.

OUR MISSION

BUILDING TOGETHER SPIRITUALLY
FOLLOWING THE TRIUNE GOD

OUR PURPOSE

Glorifying God through *WORSHIP*

Reaching out to all with the Good News of
salvation in Christ through *EVANGELISM*

Actively caring for God's people in Christ
through *FELLOWSHIP*

Creating a family of God by Word and Sacrament
through *MINISTRY*

Equipping people of all ages for life in Christ
through *DISCIPLESHIP*

Notes and Announcements

CRAWFORD COUNTY CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM-Items needed for kids: *socks, underwear, pajamas, hats, gloves, hygiene items*. Items needed for household: *cleaning supplies, laundry soap, dish soap, cleaners, sponges, etc*

Reminder: Noisy offering will be taken on second Sundays! Noisy Offering for July-September will be going to **Toys for Tots**.

Thank you for your donations.



LWML is looking for used sheets to use as middles in quilts. If you are cleaning out & find any, please donate them for quilts.

Thank you!

Anyone need name tags? Have you lost, misplaced, or maybe never received name tags? Please contact Mary Heinlein at 989.348.4350 or MtHopeBookkeeper@gmail.com



The food truck on July 22nd totals were:
211 families, 507 family members.

We will be having a **Rummage Sale** August 24,25,26th from 10am to 5pm. Proceeds will go to Toys For Tots. Have questions?
See Terry Tody

SERVING THIS WEEK

Altar

6th-Dee Musselman
13th-Judi Mesack
20th-Kathy Woodman
27th-Martha Pregler

Elders

6th- Frank Moore
13th- Mike Shields
20th- Jason Hartman
27th- Jeff Pregler

MT. HOPE'S WEBSITE

Did you know that Mt. Hope has a website? If you go to <http://www.mthopelcmsgrayling.org/> our website will come up. It is a multi page site with much information about our church, our congregation, our Pastor, what programs we are involved with and much more! Although there is a "member log-in" area, this is just for those who work on the site. Nancy Hatfield is our webmaster who keeps our website updated and makes any necessary changes. Anyone who goes to our site can access all pages. So...check it out!



<u>Mt. Hope Financial Report</u>		
Mary Heinlein, Bookkeeper		
GENERAL FUND	JUN 2023	Year to date
Income	12,345.58	111,597.42
Expense	-11,433.33	<u>-89,826.73</u>
Net	912.25	21,770.69
TOTAL ALL EARMARKED FUNDS	75,456.47	
	JUN 2023	Year to date
Together in Missions	0.00	1,626.80
Christian Help Center	0.00	1,240.00
Noisy Offering	54.45	854.05
	JUN 2023	Total to date
Church Extension Fund (CEF) Mortgage		470,000.00
Mortgage Principal Payment	1,408.56	38,465.27
Earmarked Principal Payment	24,695.00	<u>136,461.55</u>
Mortgage Interest Payment	976.44	
CURRENT MORTGAGE BALANCE		295,073.18

Attendance

June	4	45
	11	72
	18	54
	25	54



Attention: People need to sign up to host coffee hour or there will not be one.

"Thank You" to Abbi Drews for volunteering to upload our Sunday morning services to the web!!



Upcoming Food Trucks (all Saturdays)

September 23rd

October 7th

TO PLACE SOMEONE ON PRAYER CHAIN:

Call Lynn Richmond at 989-390-8632 or lynncarolmorris@yahoo.com

Jamie Wohn will be handling the **sign changes**. Please email him with any necessary info for the sign at jackwohn3@gmail.com or jackwohn3@aol.com. If urgent, text him at **(810) 965-1891**

Congregation Meeting - Elders Report
June 25, 2023
Mt. Hope Lutheran Church-LCMS

Mt. Hope and Trinity Lutheran Churches Dual Parish continue to be blessed to have Pastor Ken Bernthal and Pastor Paul Schneider serving us during our pastoral vacancy. The Dual Parish Board with a joint meeting of both Elder Boards in discussions with Pastor Bernthal and Pastor Schneider decided to have Pastor Bernthal conduct all services at both churches; he continues to decline any salary or mileage remuneration. Pastor Schneider will serve as the Administrative Pastor for both churches for which he receives a salary. As the administrative pastor, he organizes the bulletin for the Scripture readings and selects the hymns for the services each week, overseeing the work of the secretaries at both churches as well as attending the Elder Board meetings and advising the Elder Boards. The secretary at Trinity compiles the bulletin using the LSB program. Mt. Hope shares the cost of that work with Trinity.

At Mt. Hope he has organized and revised Nicole Alma's work schedule tasks – these include updating the members' records on our Shepherd Staff records software program. This included working with Council to obtain photos of all members since the ones for the newer members hadn't been obtained. He also has used the program to revise and include our Elders' Member Assignment list. He has our secretary update weekly the Bulletin listings of those serving weekly, those on the Prayer List and list the Bible readings for the next service. We now have one up-to-date email contact list for Mt. Hope for use by the Chairman, the Council, the Elders, the secretary, and the Prayer Chain. Pastor Paul now has an up-to-date shut-in list and is contacting those members.

We continue to record our services with our recording equipment - video camera, sound board system (overhead mikes, lapel mike, handheld mike, piano keyboard) and audio input device - and place the recordings on our web page via YouTube for subsequent viewing by members and others. Our audio input device (the little red box by Focusrite) had not been recording the input from the sound board, only the two overhead mikes. It was the warranty replacement of the first input device and configured differently. Jim Heinlein determined that only two of the input ports on it were being fed into the recording program. The maker of the input device, Focusrite, said we need to download a routine that will let us enable the other two input ports on the back side to function in the recording program so that we can input three sources (two overhead mikes and sound board). Tyler at Classic Computers who has the technical skills came and enabled the two input ports on the back of the Focusrite audio input device so we can record all audio sources for our services.

In discussions with Northern Pines Nursing Home, they expressed interest in seeing the recordings of our church services. With our recording issues solved enabling good sound recording we will reach out to them.

Having received many requests, we returned to serving Communion at the Altar. We have not yet decided to return to using the Common Cup during Communion. We have also reinstated attendance cards and prayer requests being collected during service. Elders will again give prayer requests to the pastor if individuals put them on the attendance cards or request the elder on duty to bring them forward. We urge members to fill them out. We collect them during the first hymn as the elder on duty is busy with ongoing recording operations throughout the service, making that the best and most logical time to do so.

We were saddened by the unexpected passing of Mike Nowak. For years he has overseen and recruited greeters and ushers. We are need of a member to take on and provide this role for the good order of our services. We also removed the 2nd pew from the back on the left side to facilitate an aisle way to eliminate the bottleneck at the soundboard and recording station. This was Discussed with Trustee Mike Shields presented to and approved by Council.

We held Advent Services – Nov 30, Dec 7, 14, 21 with mid-week devotions and snacks afterward; Frank Moore searched for and acquired Advent material that members could follow. We planned and held Lenten services for only Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. David Paul Britton was scheduled to hold a musical worship service for the June 18th service for both D-P congregations.

We prepared the Elders Budget for FY 2023-2024 and submitted it to Council. We increased it by about 5% to reflect the current inflation rate. We gave appropriate annual raises to our secretary, bookkeeper and pianist. Our pianist lives in Grayling and has declined any mileage remuneration.

We discussed the need for a larger TV for the Fellowship Hall to make it easier to read. Steve Koch donated an 86-inch flat screen smart TV to Mt. Hope. It is used for Bible Studies and Movie Night. The 55-inch TV was moved to the Sunday School Room.

The Trustees evaluated the viability of and had the electronic sign serviced and enabled to be accessed via a Bluetooth link. Jim Heinlein got the laptop that is used to posts the messages updated for using a new Wi-Fi link. Backup training for a second person that can update sign messages was held.

We have discussed our needs for marketing, outreach and administration needs, but this is partly dependent of our calling a pastor. We don't think that this can be done by member volunteers and is in addition to the time given in the serving Mt. Hope by a Dual Parish pastor. Our goal is that it should be a separate part-time staff position.

We recommended to Council that they appoint a separate committee that would review our By-Laws for expanding responsibilities and explanations.

We discussed having our Stephen fund be enhanced by more specific procedures to more easily enable helping urgent requests for help and aid by individuals contacting our church and clarify who has authority to provide assistance.

We have had the services of A.J. Stansil, a gifted pianist and musician, for a whole year.

Mitch Lindahl keeps our Facebook page up to date.

At our July 2022 meeting Jack Owens was elected to serve as Chair for the Elder Board. Jeff Pregler was elected as Chairman of the Congregation while still continuing to serve as an Elder. Dave Jansen was appointed by the Council to fulfill Steve Koch's term as Treasurer; he continues to serve as an Elder. The Elder Board appointed Mike Shields to replace Steve Koch as an Elder after Steve's passing; we are thankful for his long service and that Mike accepted fulfilling our need for a sixth Elder.

Board of Elders chairman
Jack Owens

FAMILY GAME and MOVIE NIGHTS

Family Night

The July 10th Family Game Night was very successful with 25 people in attendance: members, non-members, and children. Hot dogs and hamburgers were cooked by chef, Charlie Belt, he did a superb job., while the other guys supervised. Thank you, Charlie. Games were played indoors as well as outdoors. Whoever is on Salena Laskowski's team for corn hole will win. I understand her family is very competitive per her mom, Terry Sherman. Everyone had a good time and God gave us TERRIFIC weather, again. **Come** and join us on August 14 at 5:00pm.

The July 19th Movie Night, began at 6pm with **"The Chosen"** with Pastor Paul doing a small explanation, Q&A, and short Bible study. The planned schedule for **August is the 2nd, 16th and 30th** beginning from **6pm to 7:30pm**. If children come, they can see a film in the Sunday school room, therefore children are encouraged. Another GREAT opportunity that God has given us to learn from Him through Pastor Paul.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

The Mother's – Father's Day diaper collection was great. I took 1,366 diapers and 1,704 wipes to New Life Pregnancy Resource Center in Gaylord and 1,820 diapers and 2,264 wipes to River House Shelter, Inc. in Grayling. Both places were extremely appreciative. Thank you to ALL who donated and supported this project.

Thank you so much for your donation of diapers and diaper wipes. It is very much appreciated, and we appreciate people like you!! Thank you, The River House Staff.

Dear Mt. Hope Lutheran Church & Sharon Hopkins, Thinking of you... How your time, servant hearts and partnership continue to amaze us! Thank you for your generous donation of diapers and wipes. A special thankyou for the warm smile and hugs and for the many ways you give and serve. We appreciate you! Your friends at New Life, Board President, Kris Gahm, Executive Director, Tammie Nemeth, Staff: Kelly, Angie, Kacey and New Life Volunteers.

We hope to have them speak to us about their programs in the near future.

If you have any ideas for Lutherans For Life, please contact me, Sharon Hopkins

MT. HOPE HAPPENINGS

1. Family Game Night will be held Monday evening, August 14th from 5-7. We are continuing with a picnic theme! Bring your family and friends as all are welcome!
2. Potluck for August will be on the 6th. Host to be Evangelism. Hope to see you there!
3. Council meeting is scheduled for August 16th from 9-10:30.
4. There is a food truck August 5th at 10am. Our last two trucks are scheduled for Saturday, September 23rd and Saturday, October 7th. POSTED TIME OF 10:00 IS DEPENDENT ON THE ARRIVAL OF THE SEMI. NOTE THE TIME CHANGE!
5. The fall Adopt-A-Highway pick-up will be held the last week in September. Specific date will be announced in early September.
6. Sunday Bible Study for Youth will be from 9:30-10:30 on August 13th and August 27th.
7. Movie Night is held on the first and third Wednesdays, August 2nd and 16th and 30th from 6-7:30. We are viewing "The Chosen".
8. "Noisy Offering" will continue for August and September, with your donations earmarked for Toys for Tots.
9. Tuesday morning Bible Study with Pastor Schneider meets from 9:30-11:00. We are currently studying the Book of John.
10. Women's Bible Study, held in the Fellowship Hall is every Tuesday from 1-2:30
11. Don't forget to sign up for ushering, greeting and coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall!
12. Items needed for the Crawford County Children's Christmas Program include socks, underwear, pajamas, hats, gloves and hygiene items as well as cleaning supplies, laundry and dish soap, etc. Contact Terry Tody for more information.
13. Mt. Hope is having a Rummage Sale on August 24, 25, and 26 from 10am-5pm. Contact Terry Tody for specific information. Proceeds will go to Toys for Tots.



FAMILY OUTDOOR GAME NIGHT!

PICNIC DINNER!

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND/OR FRIENDS!

ON AUGUST 14, 2023!

THE PICNIC BEGINS AT 5:00PM.

Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided.

Guests are always WELCOMED!!!

This way, you can come from work
and have dinner served!

The best part our little ones can come,
have dinner, enjoy themselves
and get home in time for bed and
be fully alert the next day!

A VISIT FROM THE TESSAROS

On August 6th Trinity and Mt. Hope will be blessed with a guest minister for our Sunday worship service – Rev. Chuck Tessaro, of Lutheran Bible Translators. He is a missionary serving in Nigeria, and he and his wife Karen are home in the States this summer, visiting congregations and sharing news about the ministry in which they serve. He and Karen have been to Trinity several times in the past, as he comes “home” to the states periodically to spread the news of this ministry to congregations in the United States. He will administer our worship service on August 6th, and Karen will stay after service to share information about the culture and ministry they experience in Nigeria. PLEASE PLAN TO STAY AFTER SERVICE DURING COFFEE HOUR AND LEARN MORE INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THEM AND THE MISSION FIELD IN NIGERIA. Their ministry is dependent on the support of the people in God’s kingdom, and a basket for donations to their ministry will be available that day, should you wish to offer your financial support. Below is some background information about the Tessaros.



Rev. Chuck and Karen Tessaro

Rev. Chuck and Karen Tessaro first set foot in Nigeria, where there are over 500 different language groups, in 1985. They serve with multiple local translation teams including the Old Testament teams for the Ikwerre, Yala, Kukele and Gokana languages. These teams also promote literacy and serve in their local community as teachers and helpers.

The Tessaros met and married at Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Michigan. By the time Chuck had graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN, their family had grown to four. Called to serve on a translation team in Nigeria, the Tessaros spent a year at the Summer Institute of Linguistics in Texas before heading for Africa. Since finishing the Eleme New Testament in 2002 and assisting with the consultant checking of the Ikwerre New Testament in 2010, Chuck and Karen are principally responsible for mentoring LBT’s International Associates in Nigeria and training and consulting with various Old Testament translation teams.

Mid-Week Stewardship Thought

Go and Wash Feet

During the last meal Jesus had with His disciples, the very eve of His betrayal and crucifixion, He knelt to “wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around Him” (John 13:5). Jesus interrupted His dinner to do this incredible act. Jesus started a pattern of humility to follow. If foot washing was not too lowly for Jesus to do, His disciples could not turn away from doing such humble acts.



What Jesus may be saying to the disciples and to us is that this is what it means to carry on His work and God’s command to love our neighbors as ourselves. It means not simply our condescending willingness but our eagerness to stoop to the humblest act of service on the behalf of others. We are to meet those in our midst in loving concern and utter humility at the point of their greatest and most immediate need.

We are born to be servants. If we are to truly serve Jesus, it may well involve washing another’s feet, engaging in a most humble act of loving service to others.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, help me to share Your love within me with others. Use me as Your instrument of love, grace and mercy. In Jesus’ precious name I pray. Amen.

Blessings on your stewardship journey!



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!

AUGUST 2, 16 AND 30 AT 6:00 PM

“THE CHOSEN”

WILL BE SHOWN THROUGH OUT
AUGUST ON THE 1ST & 3RD & 5TH
WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH.

THERE WILL BE EITHER A MOVIE OR GAMES
FOR CHILDREN IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM!

BRING A SNACK FOOD TO PASS IF YOU WISH
MANY SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED!

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND/OR FRIENDS!

ON AUGUST 2ND, AUGUST 16TH, & AUGUST 30TH, 2023!

THE MOVIE BEGINS AT 6:00PM.

Four Fathers: Luther on Authority and the Fourth Commandment

April 14, 2023 / [Articles](#) / By [Bryan Wolfmueller](#)

A Twitter user asked *The Lutheran Witness*:

Why does Luther define the categories of fatherhood in the Large Catechism (4th Commandment):
by blood
of a household
of a nation?

This Tweet got me thinking about the ways that Luther speaks of fatherhood. Luther, in fact, discusses four kinds of “fathers” in the Large Catechism, in his explanation of the Fourth Commandment:

So we have introduced three kinds of fathers in this commandment: fathers by blood, fathers of a household, and fathers of the nation. In addition, there are also spiritual fathers — not like those in the papacy who have had themselves called “father” but have not performed a fatherly function. For the name of spiritual father belongs only to those who govern and guide us by the Word of God.

(*LC I 158, KW*)

Luther’s language

By “father by blood” Luther speaks of a parent, the natural father, dad.

To understand “father of a household” we remember that until very recently the “home” included a number of workers. Many families and individuals would work together in a household: working in the fields, in the kitchen, helping with the children’s education, accounting, cleaning and so forth. Imagine a farm where the home is also the business. In this arrangement, the patriarch is the “father” of more than his own children; he also has responsibility for all those who work in the homestead.

Luther extends this office and responsibility also to the nation. Brilliantly, Luther understands all authority to extend from the office of parent. “Furthermore, in connection with this commandment, we must mention the sort of obedience due to superiors, persons whose duty it is to command and to govern. For all other authority is derived and developed out of the authority of parents” (*LC I 141, KW*). Rulers, then, are “fathers of the nation.”

They are all called fathers in the Scriptures because in their sphere of authority they have been commissioned as fathers and ought to have fatherly hearts toward their people. Thus from ancient times the Romans and peoples speaking other languages called the masters and mistresses of the household *patres et matres familias*, that is, housefathers and housemothers.

(*LC I 142, KW*)

Luther also recognizes pastors as “spiritual fathers,” those who govern and guide the Lord’s church with the Word of God.

In short, Luther understands any [authority or “headship”](#) to be connected with fatherhood.

And other authorities

Beyond this, the Twitter user asked, “Why?” I think this question could be taken in two different ways: “Why does Luther extend the Fourth Commandment beyond the natural family into human government?” or “Why does Luther see fatherhood in these different ways?” Both are good questions to consider.

First, many people are surprised by the “and other authorities” in Luther’s explanation of the Fourth Commandment.

Honor your father and your mother. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents *and other authorities*, but honor them,

serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

(SC I, The Fourth Commandment, emphasis added)

Isn't God just telling us how to treat mom and dad? How did my teacher and the police officer get into the commandment? Luther explains in the Large Catechism that the teacher and the policeman, the judge and the governor, are all there to help and serve mom and dad in raising the children. "Where a father is unable by himself to bring up his child, he calls upon a schoolmaster to teach him; if he is too weak, he seeks the help of his friends and neighbors; if he dies, he confers and delegates his responsibility and authority to others appointed for the purpose" (LC I 141). All temporal authority, as Luther understands it, is to protect, bless and serve the children. The children live under this authority.

Luther's division of fatherhood into blood, household, nation and church echo his understanding of the "three estates": the family, the church and the state. These three estates shape the way Luther sees and understands the world.

In 1528 Luther wrote, "But the holy orders and true religious institutions established by God are these three: the office of priest, the estate of marriage, the civil government" (LW 37:364). These same categories are recorded in Luther's Table Talks: "The Bible speaks and teaches about the works of God. About this there is no doubt. These works are divided in three hierarchies: the household, the government, the church" (LW 54:446). [Throughout his writings](#), Luther continued to teach about [these three estates](#).

The three estates form a framework for Luther's thinking, and when applied to fatherhood in the explanation of the Fourth Commandment, the father of the house, the nation and the church are all expounded.

Who Is My Neighbor?

by Dr. Donna Harrison

Love: self-giving, self-effacing, scary. Our journey to love is tortuous. Parents, siblings, friends, spouse, children—all calling us to more self-giving, more forgiving, more painful introspecting. As Christian women, we are frequently driven to ask this question: "Who is my neighbor?"

Who do we protect as our own? Who should be protected and included in our circle of belonging?

As Christians, our circle includes all human beings. Why? Because all human beings, by the very fact that they exist, bear the image of God. The image of God isn't like clothes that are put over our body. It isn't like intelligence, which varies from person to person. Scripture teaches us that every living human being bears the image of God simply by the fact that they are a living human being. Period. Even the tiniest. So for a Christian, the terms "human being" and "human person" are describing the same thing.

But we live in a culture now which is at war with God. Our culture wants to include some human beings in the circle of belonging and call only those human beings "persons." Our culture wants to push other human beings outside this circle of protection and call them "non-persons." Exclusion from the circle allows the excluded human beings to be treated as property rather than persons.

How we view our fellow human beings, whether as persons or as property, determines what we are okay with doing to them. **Embryo research, elective abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, and slavery all have two very important things in common:** 1. They all have been or currently are legal in the USA and, 2. They all assume that there are human beings who should be excluded from society's circle of protection and treated as property.

And unfortunately, that is the position most comfortable to our fallen human nature. Dehumanizing our neighbors allows us to do terrible things to them and then not feel remorse or guilt for what we have done. How do we manage this psychological gymnastic and still feel good about ourselves? We change the language! We call human beings we want to protect "persons" and those we don't want to protect "non-persons" (and other things) so that we can treat them as property.

A few years ago, I was writing an amicus brief on a legal case which would decide the fate of human embryos who were being stored in the deep freeze while the mother and father divorced. One spouse wanted them to be implanted in a caring mother's womb and given a chance to thrive. The other spouse wanted them destroyed to avoid the responsibility of being a parent. In the amicus, I argued that scientifically these embryos are undeniably tiny human beings, and their custody should be decided according to

family law, which considers what is in the best interest of the children. The other side argued that the tiny human beings are just property and the fate of these living human beings should be decided under property law, which would mean that they should be destroyed.

As Christians we are called to include all human beings in our circle of protection. As Christian women, we are especially called to embrace our children as gifts.

As women, we have been given an incredible gift of being the indispensable link between the past and the future of the human race. That is pretty awesome. A woman who nourishes her tiny neighbor in her womb is beautiful, especially in God's eyes.

But sometimes finding out that you are carrying a baby in your womb doesn't feel like a gift at all. Doesn't God understand how hard it is to do what I want to do if I am required to take care of this human being for 20 years or even for eight months?

The answer is "Yes, He does."

And that is one reason I love the story of the Good Samaritan. I really doubt that the Good Samaritan was on some kind of an emotional or spiritual high when he was pulling his donkey along the mountainous road from Jerusalem to Jericho. I have been to Jerusalem, and I have driven up and down that tortuous mountain road. When the Samaritan picked up his very inconvenient neighbor, it is very likely that he still had a long journey to go to get to Jericho. And now, he would have to walk it. Because someone else was slumped over his donkey. I'll bet he was tempted many times to dump the guy off and get back on his own donkey and ride. What many other people would have done, he didn't do. God had made him see the human being who needed him, who would die without his help. That is real love.

I can finally perceive that God put some of the most difficult neighbors in my life at some of the most difficult times in order to bring me to the end of myself. Jesus didn't say that what God asks us to do would be easy. What God asks is impossibly difficult if God were not actually alongside us, helping us every step of the way. But the good news is that He is alongside us, helping us every step of the way. And His real, tangible love transforms us in ways we can't even imagine, into someone beautiful. That is why we love, because He first loves us.

Donna Harrison, M.D., is Director of Research at the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (aaplog.org).

1,200 Crosses

by Emma VanTol

Arms full, Bulldogs 4 Life members walked to the center of the Concordia University Nebraska campus carrying 1,200 crosses to be placed along the walkways. Nebraska Lutherans For Life sponsored this moving display where each cross represented two of the approximately 2,800 babies lost to abortion in the United States each day. The display spurred questions about the effects of abortion and gave a visual representation of the sheer number of lives lost.

A gasp was heard when one of the campus custodians saw the display for the first time and read the sign that accompanied it. She pulled out her phone and started filming while walking around the quad in awe.

One of the Bulldogs 4 Life members commented on the impact picking up the crosses had on her. She counted each cross as she stacked them in her arms. One. Two. Three. Four. Five. Ten. Twenty. Thirty-Five. She was holding 70 babies in her arms. It made her feel sick to her stomach.

This simple display left a lasting impression on the members of the club who are active in the fight for life, as well as those of the general Concordia University Nebraska community.

How to Honor a Life

by Rosalind Stanley

"Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent" (Psalm 71:9)

Communion comes once a month at my church, and there is a moment during each of these services that stops my breath. After everyone in the pews has come forward, received the Body and Blood, and sat back down, the pastor makes his way to the very back where Albert sits and patiently waits.

This man, 95 years old and no longer able to get himself to church, to his pew, or even to the bathroom alone, served our church and community with his hands, heart, and mind for seven decades. A German immigrant, he survived the wreckage of WWII, even hiding out in barns near the end to escape notice. He built a life here and is known to my children as the one who used to hand out Twizzlers to them after Sunday school. He has helped care for the property, the building, and the people inside it for more than twice the time that I've been alive. Now that he can no longer do those things, what is to be done with him?

There are some who would have you believe that his is a useless life now, a burden on himself and on others and that, for the good of everybody, we should release it—or, at least, look the other way as his candle snuffs out.

The Church offers a different take, one that is on display in that moment during every communion service when the pastor heads to the back row. There is no fanfare, no announcement saying, “Now it’s Albert’s turn.” (I’m not even sure it’s appropriate for me to turn my head and look, but I can never help myself.) As the pastor quietly gives, and Albert quietly takes, I’m always struck by the beauty of this simple moment between men who love each other—the one in the prime of his life bestowing the greatest gift in the universe to the one whose only duty now is to receive.

In that moment, when the script is flipped, when the old receives from the young, when the young offers to the old, when the Savior touches down and unites them both, is the Church.

From Right To Life, July 2023

Hypocrite: *A person who pretends to have virtues or qualities that he or she does not have. A person whose actions contradict their stated beliefs or feelings. Behavior that contradicts what one claims to believe or feel.*

Dear Lifesaver,

Lansing is full of hypocrites!

Now that may sound harsh, but it’s true. The blatant hypocrisy of some of our elected officials was on full display recently when House Bill 4673 was introduced.

This is an effort to outlaw declawing a cat in Michigan.

The sponsor of the bill, who is pro-abortion and represents one of the most pro-abortion districts in the entire state, said that we must ban this practice because it could “...possibly hurt these animals throughout their life.”

In a Detroit Free Press letter to the editor, one supported of the ban, a licensed veterinary technician, called the procedure a “barbaric disfigurement.”

As an animal lover myself, I concur! There is no place for animal cruelty in a civilized society.

But here’s what I don’t understand...how can someone be so passionately **opposed** to tearing claws off a cat, yet passionately **support** tearing the arms and legs off a baby!

It is the height of hypocrisy to create new protections for our pets, while destroying existing protections for the unborn child! To me, that makes no sense at all!

TWO BATTLEFRONTS

Today, in our state capital, with our radically pro-abortion Governor leading the way, we are battling two major assaults on the unborn child.

There is an ongoing effort to **repeal** previously pro-life laws.

At the same time, pro-abortion forces are attempting to **pass** brand new legislation.

In a nutshell, that’s their game plan: repeal and pass. Together, we must fight both of these efforts simultaneously. In order for us to prevail, I will need your steadfast support.

I’ll only take the time to highlight one pressing example that needs our immediate attention. Without going into all the details, there is an effort underway right now to once more remove **PARENTAL CONSENT** from the abortion decision making process.

WE CANNOT ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN!

The elections of 2024 are right around the corner.

Many key decisions will be made in Michigan including the presidential race, one U.S. Senator seat, U.S. Congress, the entire state House, along with two seats on our State Supreme Court.

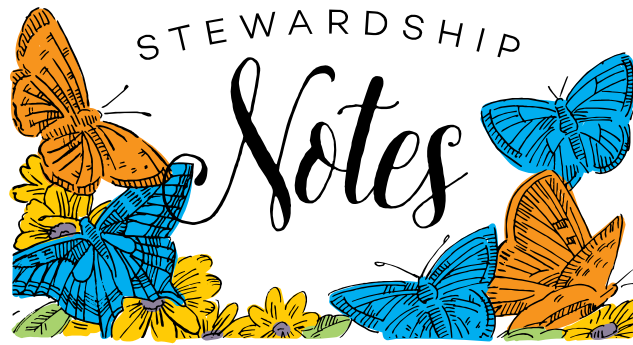
A major focus for us will be the state House. If we can win back just two to three seats, we can render the Governor a lame duck for the final two years of her current term.

In the days ahead, we’ll be talking a great deal more about target races and our overall strategy to move proliferators to the ballot box.

With your continued support, we will remain a voice of commonsense in Lansing. Yes, pets need protection from animal cruelty. Yet, it is the height of hypocrisy to support those efforts, while defending the right to slaughter innocent children.

Thank you so much for helping us be that voice of commonsense in our state capital!

With deepest appreciation,
Barbara Listing, President
Right to Life of Michigan



Stewardship Is a Free and Joyous Activity

Many Christians misunderstand stewardship because they have an incorrect perspective of it as relating only to financial issues. Stewardship includes, but is much more than, managing or giving money. Stewardship is a spiritual issue. It has to do with God’s relationship to us in Christ and how we live out that relationship. It is about our hearts. The Stewardship Department of the LCMS defines stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.”

Stewardship is faith in action. It is acknowledging that all that we are and have are gifts from God, and we, as God’s stewards, express our gratitude for Who God is and what He has done for us through Jesus by living lives that seek to do His will and to give Him all the honor and praise that He deserves. In Revelation 4:11 we read, “Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created.”

At the heart of being a Christian is being a steward. Because they are bound together, we can’t talk about being a Christian without talking about being a steward. A Christian steward is a child of God who realizes that his/her role is to take care of his/her gifts from God. As stewards, we receive God’s precious gifts thankfully, manage His gifts carefully and responsibly, and share them generously with others. God calls us to be stewards of His creation, relationships, time, abilities, and money. Being a faithful steward adds meaning and purpose for our lives.

May God help us all be the stewards that He wants us to be.

Mid-Week Stewardship Thought

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Boldly Proclaiming the Good News

Why do we hesitate to witness for our Lord? A frequent answer to that question is that we fear being rejected. Of course, we’ll be rejected! Christ Himself was “*despised and rejected by men*” (Isaiah 53:3), and Jesus said, “*A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.*” But He added, “*If they kept My Word, they will also keep yours*” (John 15:20). Not all will reject us or the words we speak in Christ’s name. Surely, for Christ’s sake and by His grace, we can endure whatever mistreatment we receive in His name for the fruit that will result.



Prayer: O Lord, You are from everlasting to everlasting. Thank You for my Savior Who has lived the perfect life on earth in my place and Who will turn the dust of my body into a glorified body which will live eternally with You in Heaven. Help me boldly tell others of Your wonderful love, grace, and mercy. Through Christ, Son of God and Son of Man, I pray. Amen.

Blessings on your stewardship journey!

EVERYTHING WE ARE AND EVERYTHING WE DO AS STEWARDS ARE THE RESULT OF GOD'S GRACE IN CHRIST.

“Through Him, we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Romans 5:2).



WE ARE CALLED TO LIVE GODLY LIVES THAT RECOGNIZE, HONOR, PRAISE, AND SHOW OUR LOVE FOR GOD.

“Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!” (Psalm 150:2).



STEWARDSHIP IS WHAT THE STEWARD DOES AND WHAT THE STEWARD DOES IS GOVERNED BY GOD'S WORD.

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful”
(1 Corinthians 4:2).



IN GOD'S PLAN, WE ARE THE ONES THAT HE COUNTS ON TO REVEAL HIS LOVE, CARE, AND GRACE TO THE WORLD.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”
(Acts 1:8).





- Jamie Dent~1st
- Nancy Hatfield~2nd
- Paul Mesack~3rd
- Kathy Woodman~6th
- Logan Dent~6th
- Joe Dent~8th
- Cari Robison~11th
- Jack Bulmer~17th
- Skyler Robison~17th
- Claudia Albright~19th
- Kay Vedder~22nd
- Marge Franklin~24th
- Miles Hartman~28th
- Brody Robison~28th
- Alice Devantier~29th

Anniversaries

- Jeff & Martha Pregler~4th
- Dave & Chris Lauria~5th
- Doug & Theresa Sherman~9th
- Dave & Barb Mauro~10th
- Paul & Judi Mesack~17th
- Don & Marj Kelsey~18th
- Harry & Judith McGee~18th
- Cari & Brody Robison~20th
- Jack & Jeanne Bulmer~26th

Those who continue to grieve the passing of loved ones: **Members:** Family of Steve Koch **Friends:** Billy (Barb Mauro's brother) Bruce Lennon (friend of Hatfield's), Robert Howden (Vicki's husband), Larry Albrecht (former member), Tom Smith (son of Tom & Jan Smith), Kay Gregg (former Member), Kendra Daschner (daughter of Frank & Suzie Moore)

Hospice-- Members: Paul Musselman (Palliative Care) **Friend:** Joan Nugent (Shirley Koch's sister)

Those with upcoming surgery, tests, and medical conditions: **Members:** **Friends:** Kennedy (Judi Risk's Granddaughter), Chris Flores (upcoming surgery)

Those recovering from surgery and medical procedures:

Members: Pastor Ken Bernthal **Friends:** Don Kernstock

Those with health concerns: **Members:** Bill Richmond, Ruth Stocker

Friends: Mike & Lisa Monofo, Pat Gray (dementia)

Those diagnosed with Cancer: **Members:** Lynn Richmond, Paul Smith, Barb Mauro **Friends:** Don Kernstock, Robyn--Barb Mauro's friend

We celebrate the following: **Members:** **Friends:**

Those with difficult life challenges: **Members:** **Friends:** Drew Stirgis

In Military Service

- Christopher Dysinger, Kevin Krokosky,
- Darin Nicholas, Jeremiah Hose, Travis Kulak,
- Andre' Miller, Keil Clough, Trevor Clough,
- Todd McCarver, Victoria Doster,
- Conrad Weissenborn, Rick Dillenbeck



Dollie Adolph
Jean Wittig



PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer request forms are available either in the Narthex on the podium by the guest book or in the office on the secretary's desk. If you need a prayer by

Pastor that day, you can give your completed prayer request form to one of the elders or ushers and ask that it be given to Pastor before worship. If your prayer request isn't needed until later in the week, you can place it in the offering plate or place it on the secretary's desk in the office.

Assisted Living & Nursing Home List

Michigan Veterans Homes - Grand Rapids

Kenneth Hopkins

The Lighthouse at Roscommon

Elsa Knutson

**MT. HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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GRAYLING, MICHIGAN 49738**

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MthopeLCMS@gmail.com

(989)348-0166 (fax)
www.mthopelcmsgrayling.org

THE CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR

God hasn't told us yet...

Temp. Admin Pastor

Rev. Paul Schneider

Pastor's Cell Phone: 231-329-6397

Pastor's E-mail Address: cllc1pastorpaul@icloud.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Nicole Alma

Office Hours: Wednesday 11am-3pm

BOOKKEEPER

Mary Heinlein (989) 348-4350

CUSTODIAN

Marty Haskin

CHURCH COUNCIL

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Jeff Pregler (248) 961-2433

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Salena Laskowski (231) 384-2862

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Martha Pregler (248) 224-8399

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Terry Tody (989) 344-1734

STEWARDSHIP

Shirley Koch (231) 258-2808

TRUSTEE CHAIRMAN

Charles Belt (619) 252-3559

YOUTH

Selena Laskowski (231) 384-2862

Stewardship Corner

Through faith, we believe that our lives and blessings are gifts from God and that He blesses us with the privilege of being stewards of all that He entrusts to us. Our responsibility as stewards is to manage what we've been given to honor and please God. In his book, *The Power of Pure Stewardship*," the sainted Carl W. Berner, Sr., wrote, "The faithful God and the faithful steward working together—that's the winning combination. No one can improve on that. If a man is as faithful in his stewardship as God is in His gifts and promises, failure is impossible, success inevitable."

Stewardship Corner

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Corinth, he wrote, "*But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also*" (2 Corinthians 8:7). Just as Paul urged them, we are urged to "Excel in the Grace of Giving." God calls and equips us to be generous people. In Christ, we can stop putting our self-interests first and seek to be giving and sharing people. We give because we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. By God's grace, we desire to give regularly, generously, and cheerfully.

Stewardship Corner

How blessed we are that God honors us with the privilege to be His stewards! Instead of calling upon His vast legion of angels to be the managers and caretakers of His creation, He gives us the opportunity and responsibility. On our own, we would fail, but we are not alone because "*He Who calls you is faithful, He will surely do it*" (1 Thessalonians 5:24). God promises us in His Word that He will send His Holy Spirit to strengthen us in all that we do for Him. May God help each of us to be willing to be faithful stewards.

Stewardship Corner

God, Who has created all things and sustains all things, has called us to be His instruments through which He shares His grace, love, and mercy with the world. It is amazing that, in spite of our sinful ways, God calls us to participate with Him on His team in sharing the good news of the Gospel. He wants to work with us to bring about His will on earth. God "*desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth*" (1 Timothy 2:4), and He blesses us with the honor and privilege to be in partnership to help others enjoy His kingdom now on earth and to be with Him forever in eternity.

Mt. Hope Lutheran Church

(Missouri Synod)

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