



THE ANCHOR

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

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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

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

The LWML would like to thank everyone who contributed to our 80th Anniversary. Mite Offering. There was \$122.61 donated. This will be sent to the Michigan District LWML to be used on mission projects.

Volunteers are needed to deliver meals one day each week on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Mileage reimbursement is available. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Alice Snyder at the Crawford County Commission on Aging at 989-348-7123.

Reminder: Noisy offering will be taken on second Sundays! Noisy Offering for April through June will be going to the Crawford County Christmas Program.

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



SERVING THIS WEEK

Altar

**7th-Dee Musselman
14th-Louise Lazzarino
21st-Martha Pregler
28th-Kathy Woodman**

Elders

**7th-Dave Jansen
14th-Frank Moore
21st-Jack Owens
28th-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!



Mt. Hope Financial Report		
Mary Heinlein, Bookkeeper		
GENERAL FUND	MAR 2023	Year to date
Income	7,147.00	76,210.84
Expense	-8,362.69	<u>-61,010.17</u>
Net	-1,215.69	15,200.67
TOTAL ALL EARMARKED FUNDS	76,463.84	
	MAR 2023	Year to date
Together in Missions	20.00	1,301.80
Christian Help Center	20.00	1,215.00
Noisy Offering	0.00	633.48
	MAR 2023	Total to date
Church Extension Fund (CEF) Mortgage		470,000.00
Mortgage Principal Payment	1,350.15	34,296.95
Earmarked Principal Payment	9,410.00	<u>105,311.64</u>
Mortgage Interest Payment	1,034.85	
CURRENT MORTGAGE BALANCE		330,391.41

Attendance

March	5	50
	12	45
	19	46
	26	36



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)

May 6th
 June 10th
 July 22nd
 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**

MT. HOPE HAPPENINGS

Teen and Young Adult Bible Study will be held on Sunday's 5/7 and 5/21 at 9:30 AM

Tuesday morning Bible Study with Pastor Schneider meets from 9:30-11:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We continue our study of the Book of John, All are welcome!

Women's Bible Study will be at 1:00 every Tuesday this month in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying "Fifty-Two Women of the Bible".

The first food truck for the 2023 season will be Saturday, May 6th. Posted time of 11:00 is dependent on the arrival of the semi.

Potluck for May-21st (Council)

Family Game Night is Monday, May 8th from 5 to 7 and will be held at the CADC Pavilion. This will be a hot dog/hamburger picnic & potluck, provided by Mt. Hope. In addition to board games, we will have corn toss, horseshoes and other outdoor activities. Bring family and friends! All are welcome!

Council Meeting will be held the 3rd Wednesday of May (17th) at 9:00 AM (NOTE THE DATE AND TIME CHANGE!)

"Noisy Offering", taken the 2nd Sunday of each month will be distributed to the Crawford County Christmas Program for both May and June. Thank you for your donations!

Volunteers are needed for ushering, greeting and coffee hour. Sign up at the bulletin board.

Thank you volunteers for your participation in April's Adopt-A-Highway.

We are updating our contact information/photos and Time, Talent & Treasure surveys. There will be a table in both the Narthex and Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 7th and Sunday, May 21st. Members are asked to update/provide their phone numbers, mailing addresses and e-mail addresses. Photos will be taken on site and surveys handed out.

THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MAY 7TH FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRESENTING THE COMTRONICS SECURITY SYSTEM PROPOSAL.



FAMILY OUTDOOR GAME NIGHT!

PICNIC & POT LUCK DINNER!

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND/OR FRIENDS!

ON MAY 8, 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 for the
next day's school and be fully alert!

FAMILY GAME NIGHT
April 18, 2023 Council Report

Twelve men, women and children attended the April 10th Game Night. We had a TERRIFIC time. The youngest was Ruby Hartman checking at 7 years old and our eldest was Roxie Chumack checking in at 87 years of age. Ruby suggested we ALL play Uno. What a GREAT time we had playing. We played 3 games of it with 3 winners per game. Guess what our youngest and most senior both won a game. Paul Musselman played one game and came in first place!

We discussed next months and activities throughout the summer. We decided to meet in the summer even though many will be on vacation, have family visitors, and many other activities that may interfere in the summer. But many of us are staying home and would still like to visit with each in Christian fellowship. Therefore, weather permitting, we are going to make the events picnic events with hot dogs and hamburgers provided and other picnic dishes to pass brought by those in attendance. It would help the board if you are able to let us know who can attend during the summer so we can provide enough food, if possible. BUT if you decide to come at the last minute don't HESITATE, please come! We'll have enough. Salena said we can use the pavilion on these nights, if we want to.

Please come to our first Outdoor Picnic Game Night on May 8, 2023 beginning at 5:00 pm. Bring a friend or visiting family. Spread the word, it is a Picnic Game Night!!!

Board of Youth
Jason Hartman
Salena Laskowski
Sharon Hopkins

TEEN & YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

We are still studying "**Wonderfully Made.**" As of now we have 2 young women and 1 young man in our group. Our May dates are: May 7th and May 21st beginning at 9:30am before Worship. If you know anyone who might be interested in this study, please invite them. We have room for many more!

Sharon Hopkins

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

We're still studying the "**52 Women of the Bible.**" We're learning a lot about how these ancient women can affect our lives of today! It's very interesting and enjoyable. All women of Mt. Hope and other churches are welcome to attend. We meet every Tuesday from 1-2:30ish pm.

Our May schedule is as follows: May 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and the 30th, beginning at 1:00pm.

Sharon Hopkins

Deliver Us, O God!

by Virginia J. Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations

“If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king” (Daniel 3:17).

Having taken classes at the University of Minnesota, I get invited to attend their bioethics webinars—some of which have attention-grabbing topics. I attended one a few months ago that I couldn’t pass by: **Beyond Abortion, the Consequences of Overturning Roe**. I am not writing to disparage the U of M bioethics department, as they do provide some meaningful studies. However, in this session I sat at my computer stunned at what I saw and heard. What struck me the most was how the For Life movement was described and how, it was said, overturning Roe has created injustice for all women. This was done very methodically by a guest professor from another university and a lawyer representing a reproductive justice organization. While they both seemed like nice people, their cause is tainted.

The professor gave historical data going back to the 1850s stating that a fair amount of the For Life movement is founded on racism, eugenics, and white supremacy—and made a case that *all women*, are negatively affected by the Dobbs decision. She made a point to say this includes all people capable of getting pregnant—even those who do not identify as women—and showed a picture of a transgender pregnant couple to make her point.

The lawyer made the case that our Constitution has rights that cannot and should not be changed by the states. Thus, for the Supreme Court to turn the abortion decision back to the states is an infringement on women’s rights. (I am not a constitutional scholar, but I don’t believe abortion is listed as a basic right in the Constitution.)

Equally as disturbing were the examples of incarceration shared by both presenters for women who lost their babies through miscarriage, still birth, or a self-managed abortion. Examples were also given of drug abuse causing women to be charged with not maintaining a healthy body and then put in jail. Forced cesarean surgery was also stated as a misdirected means to protect a baby’s life, even though the mother’s life was put in danger. All of these examples were given to make the case that these situations from the past will now be happening in states banning abortion. There is evil in this world, so there may be some true examples in what was shared. I can only pray that we Christians speak up when injustice happens.

Along with the fear tactics were statements saying there will be increased abuse by men involved with the pregnancy as well as more suicides by women. The statement that ectopic pregnancies, hemorrhaging from a miscarriage, and severe uterine infections won’t be treated in states banning abortions is a lie. The final example that tore at my heart was that there will be increased severe anomalies “incompatible with life.” How can a baby created by God be incompatible with life? Yes, due to congenital issues, a baby may have just a few minutes or hours to live after birth, but only God should decide how long our lives will be, and no human being is incompatible with life because God loves life.

We, as For Life Christians, may be somewhat insulated from what was shared in this webinar as most people we associate with are like-minded. Praise the Lord! It’s difficult when exposed to the reality of the reasoning going on in the world that doesn’t agree with or accept God’s truths. Yet, what I experienced in this webinar is what many people in our country believe today, and the lies Satan perpetuates keep being reinforced through many (not all) in the public education systems. May our Christian educators and parents speak up and make a difference.

As I watched this webinar, I thought about our world being like the fiery furnace where Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were protected by an angel of the Lord to be a witness of the power of God over the evil intent of King Nebuchadnezzar. God is all powerful, and no matter what lies are told or evil intent is released upon us, we need to stand firm. Even the evil King Nebuchadnezzar was converted. Scripture and prayer are our strongest weapons to change hearts, and we must persist and never give up, no matter how disappointing things get with evil laws being enacted or evil intent coming our way.

May God send an army of angels to protect the babies in the womb from the laws being enacted in some states taking away protections for God’s smallest, most vulnerable humans. May hearts be changed with the truths found in Scripture. And may the influence the devil has on our society, with his culture of death, be deposed.

Dear Lord, we pray for those who educate our young people and influence society with the misdirected concept that we have a right to kill babies in the womb. Turn our society to the truths in Scripture that show that life is precious. Change the hearts of mothers contemplating abortion to always provide protection for their precious babies. Amen.

The Apple Theory

by Pastor Lonie Eatherton

If people were just apples, then each tiny little seed
Could be planted or discarded solely based upon the need.
And each struggling little seedling looking up to see the sky
Could be cultivated nicely or cut off and left to die.

Not a life would be protected, not an apple tree exempt
From the fate that would befall it ...
And if someone should attempt
To set parameters for conduct in our dealing with a sprout,
Then the civil rights committee would step in and throw him out!

If people were just apples, then the green and wormy may
Without fear of accusation, quietly be put away.
Any immature or handicapped, the slightest of degrees,
Might be sorted out like apples and discarded as you please.

If people were just apples, then the ones that start to age
Growing old and soft and wrinkled, moving far beyond the stage
Of when the quality of life was fully beautiful and strong,
Would be ushered to their coffins without fear of doing wrong.

If people were just apples, then we'd measure and we'd weigh
Which were good enough to save and all the ones we'd throw away.
And someday soon the refuse pile of life would get its due –
Someone would come along and judge that we should be there, too!

The author, Rev. Lonie Eatherton, sent this poem to Dr. Jean Garton in the 1980s when she was president of Lutherans For Life. It was shared on Dr. Garton's "Speaking of Life®" radio program and was recently revised and sent to LFL. Rev. Eatherton wrote, "As a teacher and pastor, I would tell my students and catechumens that I believed (prayerfully) that there would come a future day in America when perhaps their own grandchildren would look up at them in disbelief and ask, 'Was there really a time in America when they killed babies before they were even born?' We're still praying for that day when everyone will see, through God's eyes, how precious each person is."

64,443,118 Babies Killed in Abortions Since 1973

A new factsheet that tallies the number of babies killed in abortions since 1973 presents heartbreaking news for pro-life Americans. The new figures from the National Right to Life Committee show that almost 64.5 million babies have been killed in abortion since the Supreme Court legalized abortion in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973.

Although abortion totals per year have gone down since their highs in the years after *Roe*, almost 900,000 babies are killed in abortions every year, and those totals have increased slightly in the last two years because of the COVID pandemic and massive uncertainty in the world, according to NRLC's projections.

The most accurate abortion figures for the United States come from a pro-abortion group that was formerly a part of Planned Parenthood because those figures come straight from abortion centers that kill babies. The CDC also collects annual abortion figures, and their totals are reflected, but their annual data is incomplete because California and a couple of other states are not included.

Randall O'Bannon, Ph.D., the director of education and research for the pro-life group, provides further analysis of the chart and the horrifying figures.

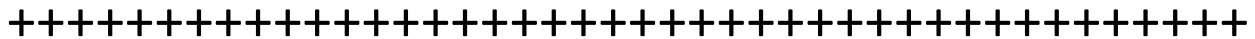
He says the good news is that the overturning of *Roe* will undoubtedly reduce these numbers as more babies are saved from abortions. *Read more:* www.lifenews.com/2023/01/09/64443118-babies-have-been-killed-in-abortions-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973

Tragic Abortion Statistics | United States | Worldwide Abortion Was the Leading Cause of Death Worldwide in 2022, Killing 44 Million People

More human beings died in abortions than any other cause of death in 2022. A heartbreaking reminder about the prevalence of abortion, statistics compiled by Worldometers indicate that there were over 44 million abortions worldwide in 2022. The independent site collects data from governments and other organizations and then reports the data, along with estimates and projections, based on those numbers.

Worldometers bases its daily abortion figures on a fact sheet from the World Health Organization, which estimates an even higher figure for abortions per year than Worldometers. "Around 73 million induced abortions take place worldwide each year," the WHO says ... When contrasting the abortion numbers to other causes of death, including cancer, HIV/AIDS, traffic accidents and suicide, abortions far outnumbered every other cause. By contrast, an estimated 9.6 million people died from cancer in 2022, six million from smoking, 16 million from disease, and two million from HIV/ AIDS. Deaths by malaria and alcohol are also recorded.

With 67.1 million people dying last year from a cause other than abortion and 111 million people dying in total from abortion and all causes, that means abortions accounted for almost 40% of deaths around the world last year. *Read more:* www.lifenews.com/2023/01/02/abortion-was-the-leading-cause-of-death-worldwide-in-2022-killing-44-mil



Stewardship Corner

Richard Foster wrote, "Nothing disciplines the inordinate desires of the flesh like service, and nothing transforms the desires of the flesh like serving in hiddenness. The flesh whines against service but screams against hidden service. It strains and pulls for honor and recognition." As God's stewards, we are to serve all people, not just those who can bring us status or clout or return the favor. Helping others minimizes the problem of self-absorption or pride that interferes with a life of servanthood. When we do mundane, unnoticed acts of service for others, we receive the reward of knowing that it is really Christ we are serving (Matthew 25:40).

Stewardship Corner

The society in which we live tells us that to be happy we always need more and more. In our culture, loving money is not a sin, but a virtue. Because the love for nice things is such a subtle problem, we may not be aware how attached we are to the luxuries of life. Money and nice things are not the problem, but the love of these things is a root of evil (1 Timothy 6:10). Our goal is to place all things in perspective. With God as our focus, we can live with a detached attitude toward our possessions, and we will be content in our own circumstances.

Stewardship Corner

"If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me," Jesus declared (Matthew 16:24). The Christian steward taking up his cross is ridiculed by the world, just as his Savior was. The world hated Christ, and the world will hate His followers (John 15:18-19). Still, we are filled with His Spirit, and, equipped with His gifts and renewed in our minds, we joyfully take up the cross He gives us. The cross, rather than being an agent of death, frees us – frees us to serve, to give, to sacrifice willingly and freely. Like our Savior on Whom we fix our eyes, we endure any hardship or discomfort for the joy that lies before us as we surrender our wills to the perfect will of our Father in Heaven (Hebrews 12:2).

Stewardship Corner

In Luke's Gospel, we are warned that, when we exalt ourselves, we will be humbled, and, when we humble ourselves, we will be exalted (Luke 18:14). As we recognize that all of our gifts, abilities, and possessions are from God, our response is humble thanks expressed through using God's gifts for His glory. St. Peter wrote, "Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5). God does not want us to be prideful people because pride is destructive. Pride destroys gratitude to God for all His kindness to us. Humility allows us to accept our smallness and God's goodness. We are stewards through humility. We are to honor Him with what we have, what we are, and what He will make of us. May God grant us all the attitude of humility.

A STEWARDSHIP LIFESTYLE IS EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FOLLOWS GOD'S WISDOM.

“For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding” (Proverbs 2:6).



AS GOD'S STEWARDS, WE ARE TO LET THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SHINE THROUGH US SO THAT OTHERS SEE CHRIST IN US.

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).



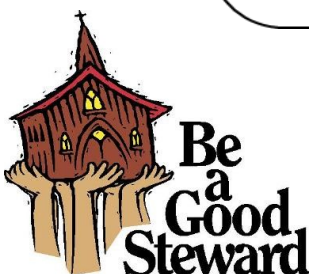
BECAUSE OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US IN CHRIST, WE DESIRE TO BE FAITHFUL, WISE, AND FRUITFUL STEWARDS OF THE BLESSINGS THAT HE ENTRUSTS TO US.

“It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy” (1 Corinthians 4:2).



AS GOD'S STEWARDS, WE ARE TO MANAGE OUR LIVES AND OUR GIFTS FOR HIS PURPOSES.

“And He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him Who for their sake died and



Stewardship helps others by using our time and talents in ministry in our churches and other Christian organizations. We serve on boards and committees, sing in the choir, usher, cut grass, provide maintenance to the buildings, etc. God blesses us with gifts that are needed to support the mission and ministry of our churches.



- 3rd - David Mauro
- 3rd - Alberta Sperry
- 4th - Dollie Adolph
- 7th - Cheryl McCarver
- 12th - Colton Krabill
- 16th-Doug Sherman
- 18th - Harry McGee
- 20th - George Fenton
- 21st-Charles Belt
- 25th - Bill Woodman

Those who continue to grieve the passing of loved ones: Members: *Friends: Jasen Wohn, Mark Hogan, Arthur Clough, Retired Pastor Roger Aumann, Ethel Stevenson*

Those in end of life care: Members: *Friends: Henry Siegling*

Those with upcoming surgery and medical procedures: Members: *Jan Smith Friends: Chris Flores*

Those recovering from surgery and medical procedures: Members: *Friends: Amber Hodgson*

Those with health concerns: Members: *Alyssa Wohn, Bill Richmond, Ruth Stocker Friends: Lisa Willis, Kendra Daschner, Jill Damon, Lynn's friend, Lakos Family's Mother*

Those diagnosed with Cancer: Members: *Lynn Richmond, Paul Smith, Barb Mauro Friends: Don Kernstock*

We celebrate the following: Members: *Dave Lauria--Cancer Free Diagnosis, Friends: Caroline Belt--healthy boy, Sara Mendoza--healthy triplets*

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

Anniversaries

4th - Lynn & Shirley Bragg

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

In Our Prayers

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

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THE CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR

God hasn't told us yet...

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Rev. Paul Schneider

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

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Nicole Alma

Office Hours: Wednesday 10am-2pm

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