

Grace Lutheran Church
45476 St. Hwy M-26
P.O. Box 249
South Range, MI 49963
(906) 482-2011
www.gracesoutherange.com

Grace Notes

June 2016

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

I am writing prior to our council meeting with Bishop Skrenes, so I have no idea what was discussed or what, if any, plans were made. This seems a good time to share some words from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and an ELCA publication I received last fall.

In her video address to all Synod Assemblies, Bishop Eaton had this to say about our church:

"We believe that we are church for the sake of the world because we have been seen and known by Jesus, and our eyes are open to see Christ in others. We don't see people as problems to be solved, but as precious children of God, created in the image of God.

The Gospel has set us free - when we were helpless sinners, enemies of God, we were reconciled to God by Jesus. Our job is never to save, but we are invited to participate in the reconciling work God does in the world. We are church first. We are not a social service agency with sacraments. But, because of our life in Christ, nourished at the Lord's table and claimed in baptism, abiding in God's love, we are set free and able to do this work.

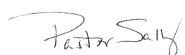
"We are the Body of Christ and together, we are church for the sake of the world."

What does this church for the sake of the world look like? The following items are taken from the *Top Ten Marks of a Missional Congregation*, published by the Division of Congregational & Synodical Mission.

1. *Always Listening* - To God, each other and the community. Creates space and hospitality for everyone to tell their story.
2. *Mentors and Trains Leaders* - leadership is shared by all. The pastor and church leadership is always nurturing the gifts and talents of the congregation and encourages them to take leadership roles. **Especially**, young people...on behalf of the whole church.
3. *Embraces Change* - the way church is done is always changing to fit the needs of the community. They hold on to what is essential and change what is not working or outdated. It is able to make quick decisions and try new things. New effective ministries are solidified and ineffective ones terminated.
4. *Rooted in the community* - the needs of the wider community are just as important as the needs of the worshipping community. A missional church is empowered by worship to be out in the world, sharing the love and grace of God.
5. *Grounded in Worship that is Relevant and Uplifting* - coming together as a worshipping community is the heart of the community and provides the strength needed to go out and serve. The congregation is propelled by their baptismal call and nourished by holy communion to go out and service. In worship, the congregation practices hospitality, uses inspiring music, and its practices connect with a variety of ages.

I've run out of space. Watch for the last five marks next month. I can certainly see where and how we meet this mark. I can also see plenty of ways we all can do more.

Your partner in learning and growing,





Kiitos Paljon



Thank you to all who taught Sunday School and helped with the After School and Faith Formation Programs.

Notes from the office

Would you like to start receiving a weekly devotion from the church office on Mondays? Please send Katie your name and email address.

Newsletter items are due in the office the last week of the month.

Please save your Econo receipts and return them to a box in the library. Grace receives 1% of the total receipts.

If we do not have your birthday or anniversary, please let us know.

Anniversaries

Don and Sally Rule
June 17



Birthdays

Paul Slinde 4	Marissa Bukovich 5
Tonya Waltanen 6	Olivia Anderson 7
Deb Kangas 8	Betty Tapani 13
Emma DeRosier 13	Randy Aho 17
Elma Rice 18	Tom (BoBo) Savola 18
Stefan Krznarich 20	Tracy Immonen 21
Esther Parolini 21	Steve Nicholas 28
Tanner Nicholas 30	

If you have not already visited our web site, take a look.
www.gracesoutherange.com

Find us also on Facebook
www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranChurchSouthRangeMi



1003 W Sharon Ave
Foughton, MI
906-487-9675
Store: 1006

Cashier: 364 JENNIFER
05/13/16 12:53:45
Member card number: 41005265545
DAIRY DP 2% MILK 1.75 F
COUPONS NI -.05
GROCERY BAG NI
MISC BOTTLE REFUND NI -.40 F
SUBTOTAL 1.30 F
TOTAL TAX .00
TOTAL 1.30
CASH TENDER 5.00
CASH CHANGE 3.70
NUMBER OF ITEMS 1
41005265545
Unchanged Savings Total 748.88
Trx:124 Term:5 Store:1006 12:54:25

Thank you

Reminder, we are always collecting Econo receipts.

Since 2012, we have received almost \$600.00 from collecting receipts from Econo Foods. What a simple way for us to help our church family.

Quilters
Wednesday,
June 1st and 15th

Bible Study
Wednesdays,
11:00am
(after Cup of Grace)

Thank you...

to all who helped, to all who donated, to all who came to the "donation only rummage sale." The youth rummage sale, held April 30, generated nearly \$500 to be shared with the youth at First Lutheran in Dollar Bay. An additional donation to Grace youth came days after the sale and has been added to their fund. This was a great opportunity for the students in Faith Formation to participate in a money making activity that also provided a valuable service to the community. It was such fun to "sell" needed goods on a "whatever you can pay" basis. Some received outstanding bargains that enriched their lives. Others gave way more than the items were worth, just to support our project.

The following information is in seeking to bring musicians together for this event.

We need choir members! We need instrumentalists!
We need bell choirs! We need a timpani player and percussionists!

EVENT IS TENTATIVELY CALLED: "*FROM CONFLICT TO COMMUNICATION*" looking forward in prayer, ecumenical relations and dialogue.

The event will be a 3-day event from September 25-27, up here in Hancock, MI, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church with ecumenical guest speakers, dialogue, break-out sessions, meals, etc.

AND IT ALL BEGINS WITH A HUGE ECUMENICAL WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

They want nothing short of a Ginormous Ecumenical Choir, and also Brass and orchestral instruments (bell choir and timpani) --- some collaborative efforts, some separate. The service would be later on Sunday, September 25th.

The event is expecting quite a large number of people from many denominations.

For more information please contact
Rev. Soren S. Schmidt, Campus Pastor at Finlandia University
(906) 487-7239

June Worship Text

Sunday, June 5

Luke 7:11-17
Jesus revives a widow's son

Sunday, June 12

Luke 7:36-8:3
The women anointing Jesus is forgiven

Sunday, June 19

Luke 8:26-39
Jesus casts out the demons

Sunday, June 26

Luke 9:51-62
Jesus says, "Follow me"

LOVE
one another
as Jesus loves you

Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 12th, through

Wednesday, June 15th,

from 5:00pm to 7:30pm.

We will begin VBS with a Walk for Water. Watch for more information on both the Walk for Water and VBS.

Coming up

Pastor Sally will be preaching and presiding at Jacobsville Chapel on Sunday, July 3, at 7:00 p.m. If you've never worshipped at Jacobsville, consider doing so. If you've been there before, you know how special it is - come on back! If you are even a little interested in the drive, sites and experience, come to support Pastor Sally and meet some new people.

Grace Lutheran Congregational Contact Information

Volunteer Coordinators

Acolytes/Bell Ringers	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Altar Duty	Chris Davis	482-5567
Communion	Chris DeForge	482-8068
Counters	Marianne Bohjanen	482-8459
Funeral Servers	Patty Savola	281-5100
Readers	Cheryl Stimac	281-7909
Fellowship	Carolyn Rundman	482-6344
Ushers	Pam Long	482-4065
Greeters	Heather Aro	482-0341
Ride Coordinator	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Office Volunteers	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Gardening	Janet Kokko	482-2368

Building & Grounds Maintenance

Paul Bridgers	482-3665	Dave Aro	487-6161
Tom Stimac	281-7910	Pennie Makela	281-4667
	Heather Aro	482-0341	

Parsonage Maintenance

Paul Bridgers	482-3665	Dave Aro	487-6161
Katie Bridgers	482-2011	Pam Long	482-4065

Grace Lutheran Council

Pam Long (President)	482-4065
Cheryl Stimac (Vice President)	281-7909
Laurie Aho (Treasurer)	482-0817
Sally Wilke (Pastor)	231-0048
Katie Bridgers (Secretary)	482-2011
Chris Bohjanen	482-8459
Rebecca Frost	231-0903
Heather Aro	482-0341
Dave Aro	487-6161

PRAYERS

Dear Lord,
Thank you for the beauty in each day. Help us to open our eyes to see it.
Thank you for your extravagant grace and to know your forgiveness and peace.
Thank you for your Holy Spirit that lives in our heart and guides, teaches and comforts us. Help us to be good listeners.
Help us to know that the first and most important appointment each day is quiet time with you.
Thank you for helping us know the peace that passes understanding. We pray, dear Lord, for all who have health, emotional, and financial needs. Help us to learn to cast our burdens on you.
Lord, we pray for our church. Teach and help us to be a fruitful bounty for you.
In your name we pray. Amen.



Grace Lutheran
is a member of
the Evangelical
Lutheran
Church
in America.

Gentle Reminder
The office and financial staff do not work on Sunday mornings. Thanks for respecting their worship time with their families.

Join us for the
Father's Day
cook out on
June 19th.
See you there!

God loves each
one of us as if
there were only
one of us.
~ St. Augustine

Worship at 10:00am
the last Thursday of
the month at Arbor
Green and at The
Bluffs at 11:15am.
All are invited.

Heart to Heart

Prayers, Cards, Calls, Visits, Hugs

Elaine Aro at home
Delores Paavola at home
Eleanor Maki at the Bluffs
Amanda Mountjoy at home
Nancy Harris at Omega House
Irene Kokko at Portage Pointe
Esther Parolini at Portage Pointe

Where's Pastor Sally?

Grace Lutheran
Mon. & Wed.
Sally's day off is
Thursday.
On Tues. & Fri.,
she's at
First Lutheran.



Service Workers for June

Altar Duty ~ Patty Savola and Katie Bridgers

	June 5	June 12	June 19	June 26	
Counters	M. Bohjanen C. Stimac	C. Davis K. Bridgers	P. Long K. Johnson	S. Slinde J. Simila	
Fellowship	Open	Stimac family	Father's Day Cook Out	Open	
Ushers	Tom Savola	Don and Sally Rule			
Acolyte & Bell Ringer	Youth	Youth	Youth	Youth	
Assisting Minister	Cheryl Stimac	Rebecca Frost	Jeanine Baillod	Janet Kokko	

A note about visiting from Pastor Sally

As I call on people who have become less active in the congregation in recent years, I am finding that many of them just sort of "drifted" away while keeping their membership intact. Although I am being well received, it seems they would like to hear from you. I know what you're thinking, "it's too little, too late," but the truth is, I'm pretty sure they would be glad to hear from you and would enjoy a visit from you.

The next time you run into someone in the grocery store or at the gas station, instead of a quick hello and "getaway," what if you invited them to coffee, or invited yourself over to their house. Try this, "You know what? It is really good to see you. I miss you.

How about we go for a cup of coffee when we finish shopping/gassing up the car?" Or, in response to their comments about church, you could say, "Oh, I'm not talking about Sunday morning (or quilting or choir - whatever fits), I just miss you. Is it okay if I give you a call later, just to talk or maybe to get together sometime soon?" And then be sure to follow up as soon as possible.

I think you will be surprised at the responses you will hear. What do you have to lose?

PS - Even if you are not interested in being a home-communion server, why not drop in on some of our members who live alone and don't get out too often. I know they love visits. Thanks for reading. Why not pray about this and see where God leads you.

Pennie's Pick of the Month

Are you a bread maker?

Yeast can be expensive, so my suggestion to you is to buy yeast in bulk, because it is considerably cheaper this way.

Place the desired amount in a sealable plastic container and keep refrigerated. Enclose the remaining package in a freezer zip-lock bag, seal and freeze until needed.

I buy my bulk yeast at Econo in the institutional size aisle.

Happy Baking!

May Council Highlights

1. Gift Acceptance Policy will be revamped so it is more specific to address the memorial as well as non-cash gifts.
2. The new Pole Barn Agreement will go into effect this coming season. Council president, Pam Long, will send out a copy of the new pole barn agreement to current renters.
3. Katie will be adding the memorial committee to the committee listings.
4. We received no applicants for the church musician at this current time, so an ad will be placed in the Daily Mining Gazette.
5. Council members will ask selected members of the congregation to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2016, as no one volunteered.

Learning Circle

The Learning Circle that meets at the parsonage regularly is always open to new members. Our next gathering will be on Sunday, June 5 at 5:30 at the parsonage. As a group, we decided that having supper together is distracting, so we no longer share a meal, but we do share our enthusiasm, doubts, questions and concerns that have come up in our reading. This is a way to approach the bible as people of today's culture, society, economy, and options. Brian McClaren's book follows the seasons of the church year, as we know and observe them. As a result, we are reading the chapters on the release of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost) and the development of the church. If you are at all curious, just come to one session and try it out. Copies of the book can be made available to you or download it to your digital reading app and check out chapters 42-44. Each chapter is very short.

Seven Important Things Luther Said (and one funny one) And What They Meant

(Adapted from The Lutheran Handbook)

Watch for more in the upcoming months!

"A Christian is a perfectly free Lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all."

~*The Freedom of a Christian* (1520)

By this, Luther meant that Jesus Christ is a Christian's only Lord – a Lord who commands us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.



Pastor Sally Wilke

231-0048

Office Hours

Mon. & Wed.

pastorsally@gracesoutherange.com

Katie Bridgers

Grace Office: 482-2011

Office Hours

Mon. to Thurs. 8am to 2:30pm

grace@gracesoutherange.com

Gathering in coffeehouses, huddling in homes, working around gardens, or converging in church basements, new church communities have sprung up across the nation. They have different means of social cohesion, focused variously on social justice, creation care, art, reading, or music, but most of them have one thing in common—their small size.

Another Great Year of the After School Program (ASP)

I'm not waiting for the annual report to tell you what a great year we had with the After School Program this year. Thanks to all the wonderful teachers and workers, under the direction of Katie Bridgers, we had a nice group of young people, ages 3-14, most Wednesdays after school. We divided them into three groups this year: Those in 4th grade and under, referred to as the ASP kids; the 5th and 6th graders, who feel too old for the children's group, and are too young for the faith formation group, referred to as the "Middlers;" and the 7th and 8th grade students who participate in Faith Formation in preparation for making public affirmation of their baptism in the rite of confirmation. I cherish the moments when I get to share a bible story through Godly Play with the ASP kids, as they are usually pretty attentive and get engaged in the stories. Their retention is amazing. Other story tellers bring their own creativity to the bible stories as I am not always able to be present. Thank you, Janet, Marianne, and Cheryl for your shared passion for teaching and loving children. "Especially when the children were in the middle of or anticipating a cool craft project with Chris Davis, it was a little more challenging to keep their attention." Although Katie and Chris DeForge kept the "middlers" occupied with a number of service projects and the group size dwindled as the students became involved in extra-curriculum school activities, I did have occasions to walk through the bible with them as well. We used the Connect curriculum from Augsburg that provided them with mini-craft projects to accompany the bible story. Our time was short and interests were varied, and it was still a great experience. Thank you to Patty and Sharon for keeping the kids fed by preparing food. I am so proud of all the students in Faith Formation (FF) this year, as class attendance, worship participation, and involvement in other activities was excellent. I love each one of them and value the differing styles, beliefs, and faith they bring to the table. I like to think they love me too, but I'm sure it's the Oreo cookies that keeps them coming. I am also grateful to their parents, and to Sharon and Cheryl for their assistance in FF this year. What a privilege I have in being with our young members as they learn the stories of our faith and continue to develop their own relationships with God.

Pastor Sally

Kids' Korner

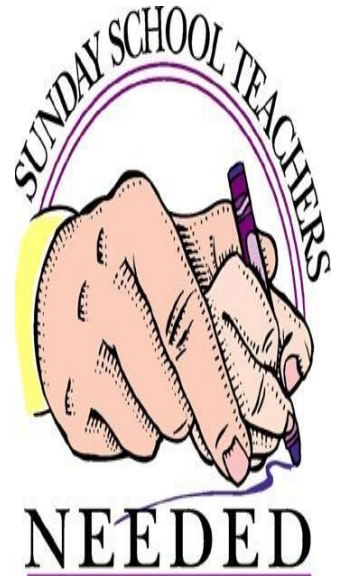
Vacation Bible School

Sun., June 12th, to Wed.,

June 15th, from

5:00pm to 7:30pm.

VBS will begin with a
Walk for Water.



We are currently looking for Sunday School teachers for the next year (2016/2017).

If you are interested please see Pastor Sally. Teachers do not lead a class every Sunday. The more teachers we have, the fewer preparations are needed.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00am Cup of Grace 11:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Quilting	2 9:00am Kitchen Clean Up	3 8:00pm AA	4 9:00am Church Yard Clean Up
			5 11:00am Worship 5:30pm Learning Circle	6 6:30pm Prayer Service	7 1:00pm Knit, Pray, Crochet	8 10:00am Cup of Grace 11:00am Bible Study
12 11:00am Worship 4:00pm Walk for Water 5:00 to 7:30pm VBS	13 5:00 to 7:30pm VBS	14 1:00pm Knit, Pray, Crochet 5:00 to 7:30pm VBS	15 10:00am Cup of Grace 11:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Quilting 5:00 to 7:30pm VBS	16 8:00pm AA	17 8:00pm AA	18 8:00pm AA
19 11:00am Worship with Cheryl Stimac 12:00pm Father's Day Cook Out	20 8:00pm AA	21 1:00pm Knit, Pray, Crochet 6:30pm Council Meeting	22 10:00am Cup of Grace 11:00am Bible Study 2:00pm Nursing Home Visits	23 8:00pm AA	24 8:00pm AA	25 8:00pm AA
26 11:00am Worship	27 8:00pm AA	28 1:00pm Knit, Pray, Crochet	29 10:00am Cup of Grace 11:00am Bible Study	30 10:00am Arbor Green Worship 11:15 The Bluffs Worship	30 8:00pm AA	30 8:00pm AA

