

April 22, 2016



Receiving Christ Continually as God's People through Word and Sacrament

Grace Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Heart of the Tri-Cities*

REQUEST FOR PASTORAL CALL CANDIDATES

As we move forward in the Pastoral call process all members of Grace have an opportunity to recommend an LCMS Pastor for consideration. Names received from the members will be given to the Michigan District Office and will be included in the official call list we will receive from them. If you know of a man that you feel would be a good fit for Grace now is the time to let us know. When submitting a name please provide the Pastor's name, his current service location, and a paragraph or so explaining why you think he would be good for Grace. The preferred method of delivery for this information is email to president@graceauburn.org. If you do not have email capabilities you may submit your suggestion in

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Lessons for this coming
Sunday

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18

Revelations 21:1-7

John 16:12-22

Worship Services

This Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Divine Worship

Sunday School begins at 10:30

in the chapel

Divine Worship 7:00 p.m.

Every Wednesday

NOTICES

- There will be a Transition Task

writing - please place it in a sealed envelope labeled "Grace Pastoral Candidate" and place the envelope in my church mailbox. **This deadline for submissions is April 24, 2016.** *Don Rauschenberger*

PASTORAL CALL COMMITTEE

The following members have been selected and have accepted to be on the Pastoral call committee:

Nathan Beethe,
Heather Bierlein, Cindy Fredrich,
Tammy Hyatt, Larry Klamer,
Rachel Kozuch, Bob Krystosek,
Terry McNally, Jordan Pyle, Lynn Schmidt, Rosie Taglauer, Ernie Weiss Vice-chair, & Don Rauschenberger, Chair

SHUT IN

Our shut-in this week is Barb Reiss. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. If you wish to send her a card or note, she resides at Auburn Fields Assisted Living, 4710 Stephanie Court, Auburn 48611.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Our Christian sympathies are with the family of **Mike Bickham** at his death this past week. Funeral arrangements will be forthcoming.

Force meeting on May 5th and May 16th at 7:00 p.m.

- Choir practice is April 28th at 7:00 p.m.
 - President Maier will be here on May 4th to speak on the call process.
 - Executive Board will meet on Monday, April 25th @ 7:00 p.m.
 - Young Adult Bible Study is Monday, April 25th @ 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room.
 - Please sign up for your portrait session for the new church directory. Sign up sheets will be in the narthex or you can sign up by going to the website and clicking the picture.
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Birthdays

Carol Harrison, 24th;
Kevin Whalen, 24th; **Kathy Feinauer**, 25th; **Deb Pyle**, 25th; **Rosie Taglauer**, 26th;
Bob Arnold, 27th; **Nathan Morford**, 28th; **Zachary Mularz**, 28th; **Nolan Morford**, 29th; **Kelly Cole**, 30th; **Craig DuFresne**, 30th;
Cindy Fredrich, 30th

Anniversaries

23 **Terry & Diane McNally** 28th

Larry Keidel, (contending with ALS),
Dale Pickelman

ISSUES, ETC.

EXPERT GUESTS, EXPANSIVE
TOPICS, EXTOLLING

CHRIST... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk
show produced by Lutheran Public
Radio in Collinsville, IL and
hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken.

This weeks topics include: The
American Prosperity Gospel, Christ's
Descent into Hell, The Movie "The
Jungle Book," Jesus Teaches Us to
Pray and more. You can listen at your
convenience at

www.issuesetc.org and on the
Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

LANDSCAPING PROJECT

Spring has sprung! A
Grace Landscape
project work date is
planned for Sat. April



23, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,
weather permitting. In case of bad
weather, Sat. Apr. 30, has been
scheduled as an alternate date.
Additional work dates, if necessary,
will be determined at that time. Even if
you did not sign up, but would like to
lend a hand to remove the existing
landscape materials and start the task
of beautifying the front landscaping of
Grace church, you are certainly

25 **Larry & Marie Klamer**

46th

26 **John & Noel Braman**

2nd

30 **Bob & Olive Schmidt**

67th

THURSDAY A.M. FRIENDS

Join us this Thursday,
April 28th for a fun
morning of cards,
games and



fellowship at 10:00. Lunch will
be served at 11:30 a.m.

COUNTING COMMITTEE REQUEST

We are asking a favor from our
members. When making a
contribution in one envelope to
both the general fund and to a
special account item like Large
Print Braille for example, please
write two checks as it creates
confusion in recording when writing
just one check for multiple items. If
cash is used there in no problem
because we can split cash but we
can't split a check. If you still need
further explanation please feel free
to ask a counting committee
member. Thank you.

CONFIRMATION

welcome and invited to do so.

We will go over all trees, plants, shrubs, and perennials (hosta's, tulips & crocus) that we wish to save for possible replanting. The Grace Landscape Committee members thank you for your support of this project. It could not have gone forward without the extra financial assistance from several of our Grace family members. Monies received will enable other needed projects to be completed also.

DIRECTORY

INFORMATION NEEDED

Grace Board of Elders is working to get the church membership roster up-to-date before the new called pastor arrives so he will know who members are. Additionally, the first two weeks of June we will have our pictures taken for a new pictorial directory.

We all have noticed that some members have moved, joined other churches and/or failed to notify the church of their current status or location. Our goal is to connect with every member and inform them what's happening at Grace and address any concerns that we can help with. If you have any information to share please let the office know.

Some people we are looking for are:
Christopher Greenleaf

SUNDAY

Please keep Ethan Kent and Allison Kubiak in your prayers as they



prepare to complete their confirmation instruction.

Confirmation will be on May 1st with a reception to follow in the chapel. There will be no Sunday School or Bible Study that Sunday. We rejoice with them and welcome them as communicant members.

Praise be to God.

MOTHER'S DAY DIAPER

SHOWER

Beacon of Hope

Pregnancy Resource Center

May 1 - May 15, 2016

In celebration of Mother's Day and to thank your mother for choosing life for you, Lutherans for



Life of Michigan is again asking Lutheran congregations across Michigan to collect disposable diapers for our local Pregnancy Resource Centers. The local center we have been supporting is Beacon of Hope in Bay City. They are encouraging mothers who find

Brian James Keidel

Kurt Greenleaf

Nicole Meyer

RESTORED TO GLORY

Restored to Glory's 29th Annual Dance Presentation will be held at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Birch Run on Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7 at 7:00pm. Restored to Glory is a dance ministry that includes children, teens, and adults who dance to worship, praise God, and glorify Him. For tickets (\$5) or more information, please contact Suzanne Tomashewsky at 989-450-1183 or stomashewsky@gmail.com. Her daughter Lillia will be dancing in the presentation.

Restored To Glory



Dance Ministry

VLHS SUMMER CAMPS

Registration is now open for Valley Lutheran's summer camps! If your child is entering 4th - 9th grade and has an interest in band, drama, art, computers, liturgical dance, soccer, basketball, wrestling, football, or volleyball then there's a camp for them! All information including the full schedule and a link to the registration form is available online at www.vlhs.com/camps. Please contact Amy Cooper, Summer Camp Coordinator at acooper@vlhs.com or

themselves in a crisis pregnancy situation, to CHOOSE LIFE for their unborn child and provide emotional support before and after the child is born. In their new location, they have rooms to provide counseling, ultrasound services, and classes including health issues relating to pregnancy, prenatal development, and parenting skills. Voluntary Bible studies are also available. A spacious shopping area allows families to spend "baby bucks" they have earned upon completing classes for diapers, formula, baby items, and clothing.

To help support Beacon of Hope, we will be collecting diapers (size size 5 and 6 diapers are most needed) at a table in the church narthex from May 1 through May 15. Any gently used or new baby items, such as clothing up to 2 Toddler, bottles, crib sheets, formula, baby food, or maternity clothing are also greatly appreciated. Monetary donations will also be accepted and checks can be written to "Beacon of Hope." If you have any questions contact Gary or Jean Peters at 989-402-1120. Thanks for putting your faith into action with your support for the unborn, a life God has created.

LWML PRAYER DAY AND SPRING RALLY

The Mid-Michigan zone of Lutheran Women's Missionary League will have Prayer Day along with the Spring Rally on Saturday, April 30, at Zion Beaver.

LADIES OF GRACE

The Ladies of Grace prepared 15 care packages and sent them to the college students in our congregation. Here is another thank you letter from the recipients: Thank you to the Ladies of Grace for the box of goodies I received. That was very nice and very much appreciated. It was also nice to be reminded that my Grace family is continuing to think about me and pray for me while I'm in college. Thank you again!

Brendan Harrison

I just got my kit from Grace. Its the first package I've gotten this semester... was not expecting this. Thank you so much, Ladies of Grace!

Bethany Weiss



TO: Michigan District Congregations and Schools

FROM: Mr. Bruce Braun, Superintendent of Schools; Rev. Dr. David Maier, President

RE: Invitation to comment on the State Board of Education LGBTQ

Recommendations

DATE: April 12, 2016

This memo is to inform you of a very important proposal from the State Board of Education that will impact students and parents regarding a self-declaration of gender and how schools correspond with parents/guardians. You are invited, as members of Michigan District congregations and schools, to use your voice and comment on the set of recommendations from the State Board of Education regarding the LGBTQ question in public schools. **The period for public comments has been extended thirty days beyond the April 12th cutoff and it is important that faith-based voices be part of the conversation.** Each of us should read this document at:

Statement and Guidance on LGBTQ

We join with the Board of Education on encouraging schools to put a stop to bullying and abusive language and actions for all students. Peter reminds us of this where he writes by inspiration of God in 1 Peter 2:12 (The Message). *"Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul. Live an exemplary life among the natives so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they'll be won over to God's side and be there to join in the celebration when he arrives."*

We would invite you to pray for discernment as we look at some other areas that we find challenging with these recommendations. They include but are not limited to:

Is biological sex assigned at birth? While the language of "assigning sex" is in vogue, it does not reflect reality. Whether based on one characteristic or many, sex (female or male) is revealed and not assigned or chosen. After it is revealed it is noted and recorded. Though the language and idea of 'assigning sex' may gain more cultural traction yet,

there are real-life examples that indicate that we know this to be disingenuous. Take for example the newly pregnant couple. Even though we live in a world where many people in culture subscribe to the unfounded notion of "assigning sex," we will still find a majority of husbands and wives who, now pregnant, are wrestling with the decision of whether to "find out" if it is a "boy or a girl" when they have an ultrasound test done. That is telling and will remain telling. Lutheran doctrine teaches in Psalm 139: 14 (ESV): "*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.*"

- **What will support look like for districts?** Does support for the formation of Gay-Straight Alliances mean "allowing" or is it instead equivalent to "actively bring about"? At what age will these clubs be formed? Do the voices of the parents/guardians matter in making these decisions?
- **Does the responsibility for determining a student's gender identity rest with the student?** First, there are many decisions that, as parents, we do not leave to minors. Why in such a formational, and already confusing time of life, are we telling them that they are all alone in the making of such large decisions? Any number of decisions are not in their hands because they lack the wisdom to make such decisions and because we want to spare them the weight of such decisions until such a time as they have the "shoulders" to bear it. What makes this "determination" so light and small that we would divorce them from the families and communities in which they live and leave them to their own? Additionally, why is this a conversation and a decision that may not be "appropriate" for a father or mother to be a part of as a parent/guardian? Who decides whether it is appropriate for me to be a part of the conversation? From the text, this decision would not appear to be up to the parent/guardian. The implied position here is that each and every student must be protected (By the teacher? The principal? The Board of Education? The State Board of Education? The Governor?) from their parents/guardians, unless an individual parent/guardian is deemed momentarily safe, presumably by the student/child! There is a wedge being driven here between school and

home, child and parent/guardian. The Fourth commandment is "*Honor thy Father and thy Mother.*" This proposal does not acknowledge any part of a parent's role as their child's first teachers.

- **Should students be allowed to use the restroom or locker room in accordance with their gender identity?** What about other students and adults who aren't comfortable with this? Is this only the start of breaking down all gender-assigned roles? Why have separate boys and girls teams if there is no reason for meaningful separation?

ENCOURAGEMENT TO MAKE PUBLIC COMMENT

As we stated above, it is our hope that you would take the time to make public comment. You can do so by sending your written or printed comments via the USPS to:

Kim Kovalchick, Supervisor
Michigan Department of Education
Coordinated School Health and Safety Programs unit
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909

You may also visit the website *Every Voice Counts in Michigan* hosted by the Michigan Department of Education at:

[Every Voice Counts](#)

We encourage you to make use of BOTH the "Every Voice Counts in Michigan" website AND a mailed letter. A stack of letters has to be physically dealt with but we fear that a stack of emails and electronic submissions can be too easily "filed" and forgotten. In any and all cases, please take the time to share with them not only your concerns, but also your reasons. In conclusion, if our beliefs don't influence our behavior, why do we have our beliefs?

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you

do be done in love" (1 Corinthians 16:13-14 ESV).

Michigan District, LCMS
3773 Geddes Road | Ann Arbor, MI 48105
michigandistrict.org



The Lutheran Hour

Radio: Sunday morning on WSAM-AM
1400

from 8:30 - 9:00 A.M.
Internet: lutheranhour.org

Grace Lutheran Church

| (989) 662-6161 |

pastor@graceauburn.org | <http://www.graceauburn.org>

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***"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all
sufficiency***

***in all things at all times,
you may abound in every good work."***

2 Corinthians 9:8

