



# THE ANCHOR

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

February 2022

VOLUME 41 NUMBER 2

[www.mthopelcmsgrayling.org](http://www.mthopelcmsgrayling.org)

[MtHopeLCMS@gmail.com](mailto: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

**Ladies Bible Study** on Tuesdays at 1pm.  
If you have questions, please ask Sharon Hopkins.

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!



### Altar

6th-  
13th-  
20th-  
27th-

### Elders

6th-Frank Moore  
13th-Jack Owens  
20th-Dave Jansen  
27th-Jeff Pregler

Noisy Offering for  
January, February  
and March 2022 is  
going to the  
**Michigan Lutherans  
For Life**  
Reminder: Noisy  
offering will be taken  
on second Sundays!

### 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	DEC 2021	YTD JUL-DEC
Income	15,187.06	72,510.98
Expense	-8,375.95	-50,768.27
Net	6,811.11	21,742.71
<b>EARMARKED FUND BALANCE</b>		<b>66,009.81</b>
	<b>DEC 2021</b>	<b>YTD JUL-DEC</b>
Together in Missions	1,215.00	1,320.00
Christian Help Center	1,540.00	1,610.00
Noisy Offering	47.75	232.70
	<b>DEC 2021</b>	<b>470,000.00</b>
<b>Church Extension Mortgage</b>		
Mortgage Principal Payment	1,064.28	16,139.09
Earmarked Principal Payment	765.00	28,643.20
Mortgage Interest Payment	1,320.72	
<b>MORTGAGE BALANCE</b>		<b>425,217.71</b>

**Attendance**

December	5	48
	12	63
	19	43
	24	95
	26	43



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



**Church Extension Fund**

Mt. Hope received two grants from Church Extension Fund (CEF). The Equip Grant for technology for \$2500 and the Connect Grant to connect people for \$350. These grants were made possible thanks to investments with CEF by Lutherans in the Michigan District. Grant monies were used toward costs associated with the new video recording of our worship services.

**TO PLACE SOMEONE ON PRAYER CHAIN:**

Call Lynn Richmond at 989-390-8632 or [lynncarolmoris@yahoo.com](mailto:lynncarolmoris@yahoo.com)

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

**Reminder about inclement weather and church functions:** Our policy for bad weather cancellations has been to cancel morning Bible studies, etc. when local schools close. Evening meetings and events will probably continue, as long as road crews are out and a storm is not intensifying. Sunday services, as well as Advent and Lent midweek services, are seldom cancelled. However, do not attempt to drive if your local conditions are poor and you are uncomfortable driving in the weather!

Dear Mt. Hope Members, As of today's writing, the Council had NOT had a meeting since the November 2021, therefore you are getting NOVEMBER 2021 UNAPPROVED MINUTES in the newsletter.

Thank you, Sharon Hopkins

**Council Unapproved Minutes  
Council Meeting November 16, 2021  
Mt. Hope Lutheran Church-LCMS**

Meeting Called to Order by Ken Bendick at 3:05 pm.

Opening Devotion was given by Ken Bendick based on Psalm 119 "God's Will." Consider your vocation vs God's Will for you!

Opening Prayer was given by Ken Bendick.

Attendance:

Pastor: Chairman: Ken Bendick P Vice Chairman: Bret Krabill A  
Secretary: Sharon Hopkins P Treasurer: Mitch Linendoll A  
Bookkeeper: Mary Heinlein P Elders: Jack Owens P at 4:30 pm.  
Education: Dave Mauro P Evangelism: Terry Tody P  
Stewardship: Shirley Koch A Stewardship: Paul Mesack A Trustees: Mike Shields P  
CADC: Salena Laskowski P CADC: Steve Koch A Youth: Salena Laskowski P

Guests: Jim Heinlein and Roxie Chumack

Mike moved the approval of the October 19, 2021 Minutes, seconded by Dave, approved.

Reports: Council and Boards:

Bookkeeper: Mary Heinlein emailed ahead of the meeting.

October 2021	<b>Income: \$18,671.00</b>	<b>Expenses: \$7,440.98</b>	<b>Net: gain</b>
<b>\$11,230.02</b>			
2021-2022 YTD	<b>Income: \$48,971.92</b>	<b>Expenses: \$33,542.56</b>	<b>Net: gain</b>
<b>\$15,429.36</b>			

Mary Heinlein requested Jim Heinlein to present an update on our CEF loan, our facility for use by CADC.

Jim reported: During the first year of payments, additional contributions were made toward principal of \$11,704. This saved \$16,916 of interest payments (a return of 144.5%), and advanced loan payoff date by an additional year. He noted that an additional \$10,000 plus CEF loan rebate toward principal would again advance our payoff by another year. He also presented a comparison of General Fund \$\$ for June, August and October for 2020 and 2021. Jim Heinlein requested Council to support a motion to the congregation to apply \$10,000.00 from General Fund toward the CEF loan. Discussion.

Dave moved to have a Special Congregation meeting December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to address Jim's request at the meeting – this is the only topic for discussion at this meeting, Terry seconded the motion, approved.

Treasurer Mitch Linendoll: No report.

Council Secretary: Sharon Hopkins:

Thank you from Lutheran Fraternities of America for \$100.00 in support of their 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Food-A-Thon.

Thank you from Crawford County Community Christian Help Center for \$20.00 for their Food Pantry.

Thank you from LFL of Michigan for the donation of \$435.04.

Thank you from AuSable Valley Animal Shelter for generosity during their golf outing.

Chairman Ken Bendick: No report at this time.

Vice Chairman Bret Krabill: No report.

Board of Elders Jack Owens: No report.

Jim Heinlein rearranged the video/sound equipment.

Working on getting Mitch Linendoll back to church.

Board of Trustee Mike Shields:

Continue working on their "Goals & Objectives".

Dave Hall completed painting the shed and all garage and church exterior doors. Thank you, Dave.

Still waiting for Hometown Heating to complete the furnace repairs. A/C units have been shut down and winter covers are on.

Trustees need a copy of the CADC lease agreement for maintenance.

Cub Scouts will be using the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 pm.

Picnic tables and bike racks have been stored for the winter.

Rob Shields, Project Manager and Senior Security Consultant for Comtronics will be giving a security system estimate for the church. After they hear back from him then other estimates will be taken.

Pumping the septic tank will be scheduled in the spring.

Insurance company is sending Mike cellular monitors free.

Board of Education Dave Mauro:

Sunday school suspended due to COVID 19.

No Sunday school Christmas program this year due to COVID.

Advent blocks and Christmas books will be given to each family.

Board of Evangelism Terry Tody:

Terry will be purchasing the stocking stuffers for the Shawono boys. Terry received the list from Shirley Koch.

Terry presented each of us a list of needed food items via an Advent Calendar list.

People are needed for coffee hour or it will be suspended – lack of interest.

Elders – what time will the Advent services will be?

Board of Stewardship Shirley Koch: No report.

Board of Youth Salena Laskowski:

Bake Sale will be November 21, 2021.

Laskowski girls will be starting a Youth Group.

Mt. Hope/Crawford Au Sable Day Care Salena Laskowski:

One more staff member is needed due to moving down state.

60 books were purchased and will be given to the enrolled students.

COVID is presently a problem.

They have applied for various grants.

Do they need a Mt. Hope liaison?

Pastor's Report: No report.

Unfinished Business:

LFL Life Team Sharon Hopkins:

Received LFL Life Sunday Resources form for January 23, 2022.

We're ordering 50 bulletin inserts at \$0.10 each equaling \$5.00 plus \$8.95 shipping. Order is from CPH.

Received "Sanctity of human life Sunday info from Right to Life of Michigan – need to discuss with the Pastor who will be preaching that day.

Dual Parish meeting 11/23/21 Ken Bendick.

Member Directory: Still working on it.

Call Committee Ken:

Everything is very confidential.

They received and studied the materials of 10 potential pastors.

On 11/29/21 they will interview 3 candidates via Zoom.

Call committee will recommend 1 candidate at the dual congregation meeting.

Discussion.

Next meeting will be in 2 weeks at Mt. Hope.

Monthly Church Calendar

Each Board needs to give their events to Nicole to be placed on the calendar.

Congregation Meeting November 14th

Was cancelled.

Holy Communion discussion: Mike Shields

Back to Altar rail or not?

Discussion will go back to the Board of Elders.

New Business:

Joint dual parishes meet on 12/12/21.

January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 is Life Sunday.

Church secretary duties were discussed.

Thanksgiving Eve Service will be at 5 pm.

Christmas Eve Service will be at 5 pm.

Advent Services will be at 5 pm with a meal.

Nicole Alma and Elders need to get together for communication.

The next meeting will be on December 21, 2021 at 3:00 pm.

The Devotion will be led by Jack Owens.

We adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Ken Bendick closed with a prayer.

Respectively submitted by,

Sharon Hopkins, Church Secretary

**Spotlight on Lutherans For Life**  
**My Cup Runneth Over**  
by Michelle Bauman

One of my favorite devotional books, *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23* by W. Phillip Keller, resides on the top shelf of the bookcase near my desk. I don't remember how I came to own it, but based on its location, I know I must have received the book during our baby and toddler years—the years when all things precious needed to be placed high enough to protect them from chocolate-covered fingers, Nerf guns, and occasional wrestling matches.

The version I have isn't Keller's complete work. Rather, it's a collection of excerpts from his original text transposed on and around pastoral paintings depicting sheep and the Good Shepherd. It is a beauty to behold.

More important than its physical beauty, though, are the invaluable observations Keller makes about the relationship between shepherd and sheep. His reflections shed light on how the Good Shepherd loves and provides for His sheep just as they unabashedly depict how utterly incapable sheep are of caring for themselves. When we recognize that we are those sheep, the implications provide a stark reality. Though we believe we are independent, capable beings, the truth is the opposite. We are completely dependent—in body and soul—on the good and gracious care of our Good Shepherd, Christ Himself.

The theme for this quarter's LifeDate, **The Lord Is Our Shepherd**, gave me an excuse to pull Keller's book off the top shelf again. As usual, I wasn't disappointed, especially as I reread his musings on the phrase "My cup runneth over."

Typically, when I think of an overflowing cup, I envision a cup filled with blessing. I picture a cup so full of goodness that it cascades down, spilling over in abundance. And that image reflects reality. God certainly provides cups of blessing for us. He not only gives us daily bread, but He often fills our pantries to bursting, offering us both variety and pleasure. His cup of blessing provides many other things we need as well: home and shelter, health and community, family and friends, and so much more. As Christians, we know that all good things come from God; they are gifts meant for our good and for the good of our neighbor.

But Keller points out that some cups aren't filled with blessing; instead, some are filled with sorrow. Sometimes the cup placed in our hand runneth over with hardship; sometimes we drink from pools of suffering.

And that's difficult to swallow.

It's clear Jesus feels the same way. Matthew 26:39 records how Christ responds to the cup prepared for Him in the Garden of Gethsemane: **"And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me.'"**

Jesus knows that the coming hours will be filled with hardship and pain; He knows He will be mocked, beaten, and whipped. More than that, Christ knows He will be tortured to death. It is a deep cup full of intense suffering, and Christ prays that He might not have to swallow it.

But that's not where Christ's prayer ends. His final words, hard as they may have been to speak, model for us how we are to approach suffering. **"Nevertheless,"** Jesus says, **"not as I will, but as you will."** Christ submits to the suffering in store because through it those He loves might be saved; through it, He might redeem not only our lives but also our suffering.

This too is a difficult reality to embrace. We want to be self-sufficient; we want to believe that Christ would never give us more than we can handle. But we forget that as sheep, we really can't handle anything on our own.

Like a sheep cast on its back, we are incapable of righting ourselves. We need a Savior to intervene on our behalf, One who will carry the weight of our worry and suffering on His shoulders. Christ didn't die to prevent us from suffering, nor did He die to give us the power to handle it. He died to handle it for us. Washed in the blood of the sacrificial Lamb and wearing the clothes our Good Shepherd has dressed us in, our suffering is made holy in Christ.

Whether drinking from cups of blessing or sorrow, we are called to live as sheep, ever dependent on the mercies of our Good Shepherd. As we wait on His salvation, we rely on His promise to work through His Word, His Sacraments, and His people for our good, and we draw closer to Him.

*Y4Life • Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life [mbauman@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:mbauman@lutheransforlife.org) • 812.350.2732 • [Y4Life.org](http://Y4Life.org)*

## **DID YOU KNOW MICHIGAN LAW ON OBORTION WAS:**

*First outlawed in Michigan in 1846...175 years ago.*

*The has never been officially rescinded.*

*Abortion has **never** been legalized in Michigan. The only way you can get an abortion in Michigan is because of Roe vs. Wade.*

*Then in May of 1973 the Michigan Supreme Court ruled in “People vs. Bricker” that abortion was **ILLEGAL** in Michigan upholding the 1846 abortion ban.*

*Michigan is **THE ONLY STATE** that has a ruling from its State Supreme Court **and** a state abortion ban that is still intact!*

*Once Roe is reversed, our old law from **1846** can go back into effect.*

## **A Call to Action**

by Katie Reid

One of the most profound experiences I had during my freshman year at Hillsdale College was when Rebecca PUNCHES, the high school and young professionals coordinator for Protect Life Michigan, gave a presentation on the many different professions we could pursue in the pro-life movement. While the content of her presentation was interesting and helpful, it was this story she told that left an imprint on my mind and still inspires me in my work today: ***There was a church in Nazi Germany that sat next to a train track. The parishioners of this church would gather together in worship each Sunday, only to be interrupted by terrible screams coming from the passing trains. These screams didn't come from any ordinary passengers but from captive Jews being transported to one of the Nazi concentration camps. The pastor was aware of the effect this was having on his congregation, so one Sunday when he heard the train approach, he decided he had to do something— and told his organist to play louder in order to drown out the screaming.***

I was shocked. At the beginning of the story, I had begun to smile as I anticipated an inspirational story about a group of remarkable Christians who did their part to help their fellow man. But as she continued, my face fell. Tears came to my eyes as I realized that this lukewarm version of Christian love was something of which I too was guilty. Proverbs 31:8-9 bids us, **“Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.”** As followers of Christ, we are called to stand up for those who can't speak for themselves. We are called to protect the needy and the helpless and not remain silent when we hear their cries, but I knew there were times that I hadn't. I had ignored the suffering of those around me for the sake of my own comfort and avoided conflict with those who have sought to undermine this injustice.

The law is certainly heavy, but God comforts and removes our sin **“as far as the east is from the west”** (Psalm 103:12). It's important to recognize when we've fallen short of God's plan for our lives, but we can't let that discourage or distract us from the work we have ahead of us.

Paul teaches us in Romans 5:3-5 that we can **“rejoice in our sufferings,”** we can rejoice in our failures, knowing that we can find hope in God's love and forgiveness where we expect to find shame and judgment.

We've fallen short of His glory and ignored the cries of the broken, but we find hope in His forgiveness and strength in His love. There's so much work to be done, so many lives to protect. The unborn, the mentally ill, the hungry, the broken, and many others still need to hear about our hope in Christ and the love He has for us, and it's our duty to bring it to them.

*Katie Reid is a 2021 Y4Life intern (y4life.org).*



## “Give Thanks in All Circumstances”

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the people in Thessalonica wrote, “...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). God wants us never to forget to thank Him for all of our blessings we receive daily. In the story of the Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19), Jesus expressed His disappointment at not being thanked. After Jesus cleansed ten people of their leprosy, only one person thanked Him for the healing that He had provided. Jesus asked, “Where are the nine?” (verse 17). Jesus wanted and expected to be thanked by all ten.

Being thankful is a prominent theme in God’s Word. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we see God at work in our lives. We are thankful because God is worthy of our thanksgiving. God gives us “every good gift and every perfect gift” (James 1:17). In Psalm 136:1 King David wrote, “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.” We give thanks for both God’s goodness and His steadfast love.

Author William Arthur Ward wrote, “Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgiving, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.” How often we take the ordinary things for granted! Living with an attitude of gratitude, we appreciate and give thanks to God throughout the day for all things. Our thanksgiving is demonstrated when we use the faith God has given us to live in obedience to His Word. Our thankfulness can be expressed at every level and in every activity of life. “And whatever you do,” Paul wrote in Colossians 3:17, “in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Dr. Robert A. Emmons, a professor of psychology, wrote, “Gratitude is important not only because it helps us to feel good but also because it inspires us to do good.” Acknowledging that God has entrusted us with gifts of time, abilities, and money, we express our gratitude by sharing them with others in Christian love. Because we know that God is the provider of our lives and blessings, we hold onto our possessions lightly and with gratitude use them to help others and extend His kingdom.

In her book, *Attitudes of Gratitude*, M.J. Ryan wrote, “Whenever we are appreciative, we are filled with a sense of well-being and swept up by the feeling of joy.” May God help us all “give thanks in all circumstances.”

### Stewardship Corner

In the Old Testament, God commanded people to tithe (give one-tenth). The tithe determined the portion and amount that people were to give. The tithe was given to support the temple and the ministry of the Levites. In the New Testament, proportional giving is also commanded. “On the first of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come” (1 Corinthians 16:2). The New Testament does not specify any specific dollar amount that we are to give, but we are to give generously from the blessings that God entrusts to us. The more we prosper, the more we are to give.

**WE ARE TO CARE FOR THE WIDOWS, VULNERABLE, AND OPPRESSED.**

Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, as you did to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me" (Matthew 25:40).



**SINCE GOD IS THE CREATOR, OWNER, AND RULER OF ALL THINGS, HE HOLDS US ACCOUNTABLE.**

"But they will give account to Him Who is ready to judge the living and the dead" (1 Peter 4:5).



**STEWARDSHIP IS THE DIRECTIVE FROM GOD TO WORK, CARE, WATCH OVER, GUARD, AND PROTECT ALL THAT HE ENTRUSTS TO US.**

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15).



**FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP IS ATTENTIVE TO THE OWNER AND THE OWNER'S INTENTIONS.**

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect"





Pete Albright~2nd  
Andrea Flowers~15th  
Ken Bendick~18th  
Judi Mesack~23rd  
Jason Hartman~27th  
Dee Musselman~27th

Anniversaries

Kevin & Adrian Wagner~19th

Healing Members

Sharon Hopkins  
Paul Musselman  
Bill Richmond

Friends

Josh Bastian  
Terry McGregor  
Kim Mendoza  
Diane Kolka

Cancer Members

Susie Moore  
Dave Weissenborn  
Paul Smith  
Barb Mauro  
Steve Koch

Friends

Denise Sisung  
Cathy Knuth McGuire  
Wendy Weiss Weitz  
Larry Morris  
Jim Dugdale



In Military Service

Christopher Dysinger, Jordan Bulmer, 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

The Brook

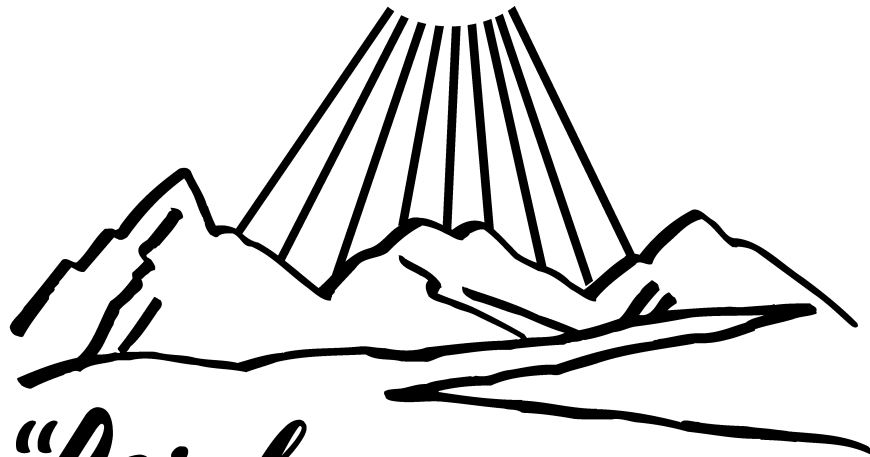
Gayle Prause (Roscommon)  
Kay Gregg (Gaylord)

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans

Kenneth Hopkins

The Lighthouse at Roscommon

Elsa Knutson



*“Lord, IT IS GOOD THAT  
we are here.”*

MATTHEW 17:4, ESV

**Mt. Hope Lutheran Church  
(Missouri Synod)  
905 N I-75 Business Loop  
Grayling, MI 49738**