



# THE ANCHOR

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

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

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## 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

TUESDAY WOMAN'S BIBLE STUDY is every Tuesday at 1:00PM. We are studying "52 Women of the Bible." ALL women are invited and can come anytime - we'd love to have you!

Please direct all questions to 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-Marj Kelsey  
13th-Louise Lazzarino  
20th-Dee Musselman  
21st-Dee Musselman

### Elders

2nd- Dave Jansen  
(Ash Wednesday – 5:00pm)  
6th- Jack Owens  
13th- Jason Hartman  
20th- Dave Jansen  
27th- Jeff Pregler

## Family Fare Receipts

There is a basket on the table in the narthex for these receipts. We are collecting them for the Day Care. If you have questions, please talk to Terry Tody.

The Evangelism Committee has placed a basket in the narthex to collect items for Easter Baskets. We are making these for the boys at Shawano Center. We need grass, individually wrapped candy, and any other items we can put in their baskets. We will be doing this for the month of March. Please help us give the boys a joyous Easter!



Reminder: Noisy offering will be taken on second Sundays! NOISY OFFERING is still going to LFL of Michigan for march.

Thank you for your donations.

*LFL Team, Sharon Hopkins, Steve and Shirley Koch and Terry Tody*

## 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

**Attendance**

| <b>GENERAL FUND</b>              | <b>JAN 2022</b> | <b>YTD JUL-JAN</b> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Income                           | 8,976.00        | 81,486.98          |
| Expense                          | -8,599.36       | -59,367.63         |
| Net                              | 376.64          | 22,119.35          |
| <b>EARMARKED FUND BALANCE</b>    |                 | <b>64,616.33</b>   |
|                                  | <b>JAN 2022</b> | <b>YTD JUL-JAN</b> |
| Together in Missions             | 25.00           | 1,345.00           |
| Christian Help Center            | 30.00           | 1,660.00           |
| Noisy Offering                   | 32.71           | 265.41             |
|                                  | <b>JAN 2022</b> |                    |
| <b>Church Extension Mortgage</b> |                 | <b>470,000.00</b>  |
| Mortgage Principal Payment       | 1,096.45        | 17,235.54          |
| Earmarked Principal Payment      | 2,795.00        | 31,438.20          |
| Mortgage Interest Payment        | 1,288.55        |                    |
| <b>MORTGAGE BALANCE</b>          |                 | <b>421,326.26</b>  |

|         |      |    |
|---------|------|----|
| January | 2nd  | 31 |
|         | 9th  | 40 |
|         | 16th | 33 |
|         | 23rd | 30 |
|         | 30th | 39 |



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

**TO PLACE  
SOMEONE ON  
PRAYER CHAIN:**

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

**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!

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**

Dear Mt. Hope Members,

As we did NOT have a December and January Council meeting, you are not receiving any minutes for either December or January. You did receive November 2021 Unapproved Minutes in the February Newsletter. We are scheduled for a council meeting on February 15, 2022, therefore you will receive those minutes in the April newsletter.

Any questions, please contact either Ken Bendick or Sharon Hopkins.

Have a blessed March.

Sharon Hopkins

End of Life

**What I Remember the Most**

by Pastor Chris Brademeyer

September 13, 2021 – It was today, two years ago, that I laid my little girl into the cold ground. It wasn't the sleepless nights wherein we were feeding her every two or three hours by syringe pump that I remember most vividly. Nor is it the guttural scream Katherine uttered when Sophia passed away in her arms, the sort of cry of despair that only a mother can make when her baby's life is robbed of its expected fullness. It isn't the funeral that I recall most, even though people came from near and far to support us and to lay her to rest. I must admit, her 34 days are a blur of stress, work, sleeplessness, worry, joy, and thanksgiving. No, the thing I remember the most is the total and utter helplessness I felt when I watched her two grandfathers lower her casket into the ground. Grown, respectable men, holding back tears, faces contorted in pain, lips tightly pursed to keep their emotions in check; it is these stoic, heartbroken men kneeling on the damp earth in their best suits, to lower a small white casket into that merciless, uncompromising grave that sticks in my mind most vividly. They stooped down and, like the great greedy beast it is, that grave swallowed her little body, her little casket, never to give her up again.

Two years later, my precious little girl is just as gone as she was on that day. The hole in my heart is still there. The pain is still raw and sharp, though time has helped me to manage it more. Death took my little girl. It tried to steal her from me. If there is no antidote to death, then this life is absurd and meaningless, a farce forced on us by happenstance, cosmic accident, or some demonic god hell-bent on torturing us helpless human beings for its own twisted amusement.

Every year on this day, the memories flood in as fresh and sharp as if it was still that wretched day when I gave her away.

And it is on this day, every year, I remind myself that death has been put to death. The pain still lingers, the loss is still fresh and sore, but death has been put to death. And, through Jesus Christ, who has redeemed my poor little girl, my little Sophia, I know that we will reunite. Until then, this anniversary will wear on my soul like coarse sandpaper on a fresh wound.

But death has been put to death, sin has been destroyed. In their place, she, and all those in Christ, have been given righteousness everlasting.

She was born on August 7, 2019, to live a short, torturous life. She was born again by water and the Spirit in holy Baptism unto eternal salvation a day later. Today hurts. I think it will always hurt. But today doesn't get the last word. Jesus does. And, in Christ, there is no suffering or sorrow or pain anymore.

Until I see you again in the Resurrection, my little Sophia, *requiescat in pace*. Amen

## Can You Really Trust Such “Local” News?

by James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James

Much of what people know to be true is not, and much of what is always true they have forgotten. The best songs, writings, art, poetry, and hymnography remind us of what has always been true. Love is stronger than death. Pride goes before the fall. The wages of sin are death. Life needs sustaining graces, and virtue requires cultivation. God’s thoughts are not our thoughts, and his ways not our ways. (This was seen on Golgotha, which is why the Lord invites us to follow Him by carrying the cross, daily. Something we forget, daily.)

But even with less lofty “truths” that are not true, the above dynamic remains. Progressive people know that ancient and medieval people were not as smart as us moderns, that they thought the earth was flat, that they thought the earth was the center of creation and that made it central and most important, that Galileo was a pure scientist and the Church opposed science (not merely Galileo’s book), and that science liberated man from superstition and ignorance—or is trying to do so.

Progressive people also know that Darwin proved man arose by natural selection working on random changes occurring in organisms. Few know that many scientists of his day disagreed, more scientists after his day disagreed, and that even some agnostics and atheists don’t think his grand theory holds water or has ever been “proven” even in the sense that it is the best possible explanation for the empirical observations that we all agree have been made.

I have finally made a small dive into some of the contra-Darwin literature that explores the larger picture of Darwin’s times, his predecessors, current thought at the time, how his thinking fit into older ideas and prejudices—such as: God can’t possibly be involved in something as messy as “nature red in tooth and claw” or involved in the mundane creation of various species of butterflies, insects, trees, shrubs, and the entire planetary menagerie of animals and conservatory of plants. This was an argument relied upon by Darwin and, today, by Dawkins and company.

“What would God do?” If His ways are not our ways, then how would we know what He would do? As to God’s direct involvement in Creation, let’s go a step further and say that God is still directly involved in Creation:

**“If he should set his heart to it and gather to himself his spirit and his breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust” (Job 34:14–15).**

**“For by [Christ] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:16–17)**

Deism is not true, even if widely assumed to be true by most people who say they “believe in God,” based on the way they live. If God is not involved in the lives of the species, why would He micromanage or give a hoot about my “sexual activities”?

However, not only is God’s eye on the sparrow, His Spirit is the “Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who is everywhere present and fills all things, Treasury of blessings, and giver of life” to whom we pray, “Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every sin, and save our souls, O Good One.”

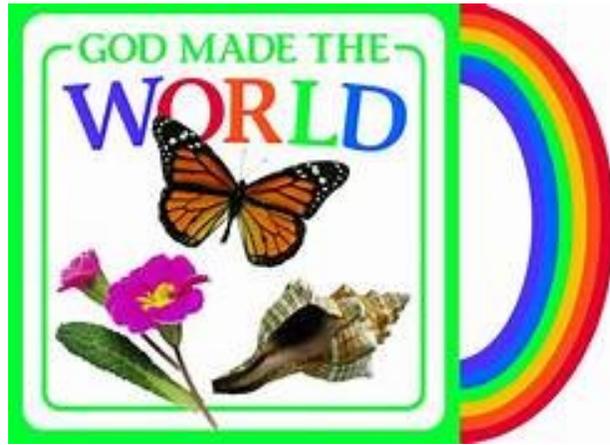
That’s just wishful thinking to modern man, who knows that God, even if real, is far away, outside the cosmos. He knows something not true. And we forget the truth that He is present, that what we do to the least of these little ones we do unto Christ, who is the Key to it all.

Richard Dawkins, in a “debate” with John Lennox, objected when Lennox spoke of the centrality of the Resurrection of Jesus. This gave the game away to Dawkins, to whom “science” as they had debated it was “grand and wonderful.” Having produced a scientific case using physics and the laws of the universe, Lennox “comes down to the Resurrection of Jesus [Dawkins says with disdain]: It’s so petty, it’s so trivial, it’s so local, it’s so earthbound, it’s so unworthy of the universe.”

He has forgotten what all men should remember, what is true: death is our enemy, not our friend. The Resurrection and re-heading of the Cosmos by Jesus is Good News, and hardly local.

**AFTER GOD CREATED THE WORLD, HE MADE US STEWARDS OF HIS CREATION.**

“And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over...every living thing...” (Genesis 1:28).



**AS STEWARDS, WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD TO MANAGE WHAT BELONGS TO HIM ACCORDING TO HIS WILL.**

“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” (Romans 12:2).



**BECAUSE GOD IS THE CREATOR OF ALL THAT IS, HE THEREFORE IS THE OWNER OF ALL.**

“The heavens are Yours; the earth also is Yours; the world and all that is in it, You have founded them” (Psalm 89:11).



**AS WE PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF OTHERS, GOD'S LOVE IS SEEN IN AND THROUGH US.**

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





- Sharon Hopkins~1st
- Louise Lazzarino~5th
- Dan Stocker~10th
- Mike Nowak~14th
- Austin Robison~18th
- Brooklynn Laskowski~22nd
- Sharon Wakeley~23rd
- George Ferguson~25th
- Mary Heinlein~25th
- Kenneth Hopkins~25th
- Salena Laskowski~30th

### Healing Members

- Ruth Stocker
- Mike Shields
- Ken Hopkins
- Paul Musselman
- Bill Richmond

### Friends

- Scott Ferguson
- Pete Phillips
- Josh Bastian
- Terry McGregor
- Kim Mendoza
- Diane Kolla



Add to  
your  
prayer  
list

### Cancer Members

- Susie Moore
- Dave Weissenborn
- Paul Smith
- Barb Mauro
- Steve Koch

### Friends

- Denise Sisung
- 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



*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

#### The Brook

Kay Gregg (Gaylord)

#### Grand Rapids Home for Veterans

Kenneth Hopkins

#### The Lighthouse at Roscommon

Elsa Knutson

## A Lesson from Higher Gas Prices

With inflation in 2022 at a multiyear high, we are experiencing some very high gas prices. Interestingly, even with gas prices approximately one dollar more a gallon than last year, many people have not changed their lifestyles by driving less. Because it is important enough to drive, we spend the money necessary to get us to our destinations, even though we may complain about the high price of gas.

Can we learn a stewardship lesson from both our willingness to spend more money and to find the money necessary for gas? The message is that, when something is important to us, we will do what is necessary. Is giving to God out of gratitude for all He has done and all He continues to do important enough for us? OPEC, oil companies, and those who run the gas stations dictate the prices we pay for gas. To guide our giving, we have the Bible. The Bible says that we are to give proportionately, cheerfully, and regularly of the firstfruits of our incomes.

In order to continue to pay for gas, many of us have needed to redirect our money from other areas. If we are to show God more thanks and love through our giving, we also may need to redirect more of our treasures to Him. Just as we find the money for gas, we can find it to honor our Lord. When we truly understand how much God loves us, we will willingly and cheerfully increase our giving.

**Mt. Hope Lutheran Church**  
**(Missouri Synod)**  
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**Grayling, MI 49738**