



THE ANCHOR

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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

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!

Reminder: Noisy offering will be taken on second Sundays!

Noisy Offering for April-June will be collected for Book a Month for the children at our Day Care.

Thank you for your donations.

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

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.

Food Truck

Friday, May 13th

Sign up sheet for volunteers on bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Questions? See Terry Tody

Altar

Elders

1st-Dave Jansen

8th-Jason Hartman

15th-Jeff Pregler

22nd-Jack Owens

29th-Steve Koch

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 2022	YTD JUL-MAR
Income	11,000.76	106,440.74
Expense	-10,177.41	-87,353.22
Net	823.35	19,087.52

EARMARKED FUND BALANCE 65,262.62

	MAR 2022	YTD JUL-MAR
Together in Missions	20.00	1,435.00
Christian Help Center	20.00	1,702.80
Noisy Offering	40.00	361.11

	MAR 2022	
Church Extension Mortgage		470,000.00
Mortgage Principal Payment	1,123.66	19,462.43
Earmarked Principal Payment	3,285.00	45,518.20
Mortgage Interest Payment	1,261.34	
MORTGAGE BALANCE		405,019.37

Attendance

March	2	17
	6	32
	13	50
	20	53
	27	29



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

WANTED: The Mt. Hope Lutheran Church Life Team has contacted River House Shelter & Domestic Crisis Services, Grayling. They would like donations of diapers and pull ups sizes 4 and up.

Also, we spoke with New Life Pregnancy Resource, Gaylord. They would like donations of diapers: premies, newborn, 4 and up sizes and pull ups size 4 and up.

You will find a baby crib in the Narthex for your donations. Let's fill my trunk and back seat!

This is an annual effort we do for Lutherans For Life of Michigan. Of course, both organizations will take monetary donations also: **New Life** for their ultrasound facility and equipment and **River House** for their individual programs for those who need shelter. See Sharon Hopkins privately about these donations.

Both organizations are willing to come to Mt. Hope and share their organization's needs and what they are about with us. As the TEAM gets together, we will be discussing these programs and when/how to present them to the Congregation. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please speak with any of your Mt. Hope Life Team members.

Thank you so much for your support,

Sharon Hopkins, Steve and Shirley Koch and Terry Toddy

**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

**Council Approved Minutes
Council Meeting March 15, 2022
Mt. Hope Lutheran Church-LCMS**

Meeting Called to Order by Ken Bendick at 3:03 pm.

No opening devotion was given.

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 A	Elders: Jack Owens P	
Education: Dave Mauro A	Evangelism: Terry Tody P	
Stewardship: Shirley Koch A	Stewardship: Paul Mesack A	Trustees: Mike Shields A
CADC: Salena Laskowski P	CADC: Steve Koch A	Youth: Salena Laskowski P

Guest: Roxie Chumack

Jack Owens moved the approval of the February 15, 2022 Minutes, seconded by Terry Tody, approved.

Terry Tody moved the approval of the Special Congregation December 5, 2021 Minutes, seconded by Jack Owens, approved.

Reports: Council and Boards:

Bookkeeper: Mary Heinlein emailed ahead of the meeting.

February 2022	Income: \$13,953.00	Expenses: \$17,808.18
Net loss -\$3,855.18		
2021-2022 YTD	Income: \$95,439.98	Expenses: \$77,175.81
Net gain \$18,264.17		

Treasurer Mitch Linendoll: No report.

Council Secretary Sharon Hopkins: No report.

Chairman Ken Bendick: No report.

Vice Chairman Bret Krabill: Letter of resignation:

Good afternoon. As many of you have undoubtedly noticed I have been absent from most of our council meetings for a bit. Having changed positions again and helping with basketball, baseball (next week), little league after, and Audrey growing up, my available time is limited.

I do not like to commit to something and not show. With that in mind, I am stepping down as vice chair. I will still organize the ballot for the June election. Please know that while this was not as easy decision, it is the right one.

Board of Elders Jack Owens:

Pastor Paul Schneider provided Holy Week service schedules.

We discussed about the pastoral vacancy and Called Rev. James Mayland.

Mitch is recording the services when he can attend service.

A Buddhist couple approached the Elders for a Pastor to reside over their marriage, they were told that only Christian marriages were performed at Mt. Hope Lutheran Church.

Joan Thompson, a former member, was received by Profession of Faith.

Nicole, church secretary, received a raise.

Carol Wakeley is writing articles on faith and distributes them.

Board of Trustee Mike Shields: No report.

Salt and sand have been put in the parking lot.

Board of Education Dave Mauro: No report

Board of Evangelism Terry Tody:

Terry is collecting candy for the Shawono Center, without any response from the Center.

She needs a copy of Mt. Hope's Articles of Confederation.

The Chamber Awards Ceremony was attended.

First food truck is tentatively scheduled for May 5th.

LWML Spring Rally is May 7th.

Holy Week service schedules have been put in the Avalanche.

LWML will sponsor a rummage sale, June 9 & 10 with proceeds going to Toys for Tots.

Starting Easter Sunday, Sunday school will resume, thanks to the students' mothers.

There will be a pot luck on Palm Sunday after church.

LWML presented a \$250.00 check to the Christian Help Center Food Pantry from the Super Bowl

Sunday sub sandwich sale profits.

Needed is someone to man the Chamber Business Expo table on April 21st; set up is between 10am -3pm and open to the public from 4pm-7pm.

There will be a collection of children's items for the Children of Haiti during the month of April.

Board of Stewardship Shirley Koch: No report.

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

One more staff member is needed.

CADC paid for books for the Literacy program for April and May while Mt. Hope's total would be \$224.49.

\$325 additional monthly payment is being made on the principle of the mortgage beginning in April instead of \$625 they were paying. The \$300 will be used for staff wages.

They applied and received a Child Care Stabilization Grant for the Fall of 2021. It was used in the following way:

Funds to be used for any operational costs/expenses.

Includes a staff bonus for childcare workers (\$1,000 for full time and \$500 for part time.)

Building Concerns:

Ice build-up around the doors.

New Licensing Consultant temporally assigned until a permanent one is assigned.

Heating consistency throughout the building. Hometown came out to try to fix the issue.

The Bryant distributor who sold the units was contacted and will stop by and evaluate the system and issues.

Due to below temps we've had ice and frost build up on the walls of the vestibule.

Board of Youth Salena Laskowski:

The children will be excused during the Easter service sermon for related crafts and goodies - this will kick off the return of Sunday school.

The church activity bags will be changed.

Sunday school will resume after Easter.

Pastor's Report: No report.

Unfinished Business:

LFL Life Team Sharon Hopkins:

Ordered 40 *"How Dangerous Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Laws and Ordinances Could Imperil Your Rights and Freedoms"* bulletin inserts from Michigan Family Forum.

The inserts are free.

Call Committee meeting Ken Bendick:

There will be a Meet & Greet with Rev. James Mayland and his wife on 3/21, lunch will be served and the council is invited to attend.

Terry Tody moved to accept all reports, seconded by Jack Owens, accepted.

New Business:

Terry Tody moved that Mt. Hope donate \$224.49 to CADC for books to finish out the Literacy Program for the year, seconded by Jack Owens, approved.

Terry announced that the Easter lilies will be provided and paid for by Mt. Hope this year.

The next meeting will be on April 19, 2022 at 3:00 pm.

The Devotion will be led by Jack Owens.

We adjourned at 3:45pm.

Ken Bendick closed with a prayer.

Respectively submitted by,

Sharon Hopkins, Church Secretary

Food Truck

Friday, May 13th

Volunteers need to be at church by 9am. Sign up sheet in fellowship hall. Questions? See Terry Tody.

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for people to host the **coffee hours** on Sunday. You will be responsible to set up and clean up after. You don't have to furnish all the snacks. Lots of people bring in items to be used.

Rummage Sale is being hosted by Evangelism Board on June 10th & 11th. You can start bringing in items anytime after May 15th. The proceeds will be given to the Crawford County Toys for Tots program to purchase toys for the kids of Crawford County.

Saturday, May 7th

The Land of Lakes Zone Rally will be held here at Mt. Hope. Anne Hume will be our speaker. See the bulletin board for more information.



The Rev. Dr. Juhana Pohjola, departs worship following his consecration as bishop of the Evangelical Mission Diocese of Finland on Sunday, Aug. 1, 2021, in Loimaa, Finland. (LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford)

By Kevin Armbrust

The case is closed. At 1 p.m. on March 30, the Helsinki District Court in Finland issued its decision to acquit both the Rev. Dr. Juhana Pohjola, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland, and Dr. Päivi Räsänen, a medical doctor and longstanding member of the Finnish Parliament.

The trial of Pohjola and Räsänen began on Jan. 24. Their prosecution grew from a complaint in 2019 regarding the publication of Räsänen's 2004 pamphlet, *Man and Woman He Created Them: Homosexuality and the Challenge to the Christian Concept of Man*. In that pamphlet, published under Pohjola's authority, Räsänen confesses the biblical view of marriage and sexuality, including the Bible's teaching that homosexuality is a sin.

This story from Finland has echoed throughout the world, as the very Word of God was placed on trial. As the trial proceeded, the prosecutor general discussed interpretation of the Holy Bible. The words that were labeled as hateful were none other than the very teachings of the Scriptures. Though the prosecution demanded that writings, interviews and social media posts be taken down, and that both Räsänen and Pohjola pay a fine, the court ruled to acquit.

"I feel relieved that the Helsinki District Court unanimously dismissed all charges," said Pohjola. "This was a great victory not only for me and Mrs. Räsänen but for everybody, even our opponents, because freedom of speech and religion are basic rights in a democratic society.

"However, the prosecutor most likely will appeal the decision to the Appellate Court, so the decision of the District Court is not yet final. I'm pleased that the rule of law was maintained in Finland and the court was not taken over by the all-present and powerful gender ideology, which tries to silence biblical teaching on human sexuality."

Upon hearing of the acquittal, Pohjola expressed his thanks to all who have prayed for him. "I feel very humbled that so many congregations and Christians have kept us in their prayers and so many have in various ways shown their support," he said. "I want to thank all for the love and support we have received here in Finland."

As befits his faith and flows from his love as bishop and pastor, Pohjola wants to encourage the church to remain faithful: "I hope that this encourages us and all others who share the same struggles to confess Christ Jesus and biblical teaching with joy and boldness. After all, it is His Word and He is responsible for it and for those who testify in His name. The Lord be with you all!"

Teacher disciplined after Down syndrome remark: 'I would have killed

By Cassy Fiano-Chesser | March 22, 2022 , 06:46am



A teacher in Auckland, New Zealand, was disciplined after leaving a message on a video posted online by the mother of a child with Down syndrome. The teacher said she would have “killed it,” referring to the child.

The New Zealand Herald **reported** that the mother of a child with Down syndrome posted a video on Tik-Tok, saying she treats her child the same as any other child. The teacher responded with a comment saying, “Brave. If my test came back with that I would have killed it. If I were I’d want mum to do the same.”

Neither woman was named by the Herald.

The mother of the child with Down syndrome told the Herald that the comment was, understandably, “very hurtful,” and that while she expects to hear such things from teenagers, she was shocked to see a *teacher* leave such a comment.

After receiving pushback, the teacher tried to defend herself. “You have taken my message the wrong way,” she wrote. “I said you were brave and meant it. I couldn’t do it! I had the test while pregnant and had the talk about options. I couldn’t do it and think you are brave.”

READ: *Doctors said baby with Down syndrome would die, told mom to abort before confirmed diagnosis*

The mother refused to accept the apology, writing back, “I think you’re just mad I called out your disgusting behaviour. I never asked for your unsolicited ableist comment.”

It wasn’t clear how the teacher’s school became involved, but the principal sent a message to families addressing the controversy. “I would like to touch base with families to confirm that we are aware of the post that is currently circulating online,” the message read. “The Board of Trustees and I wish to affirm this is not reflective of our school’s position where we celebrate diversity, difference and inclusion. As you will understand we cannot comment on an individual employee but we can say that we have robust processes to deal with concerns.”

Despite the lip service paid to celebrating inclusion, New Zealand has, on **multiple occasions**, denied residency for minor immigrants with Down syndrome, even when the children’s parents were specifically recruited for jobs there. The government deemed people with Down syndrome to be a burden and therefore decided that they were not allowed to live there long-term.

When the government itself is publicly declaring that people with Down syndrome are not worthy to live in New Zealand and describes them as burdens, is it any surprise that ableist comments encouraging eugenic abortion flourish?

Channels of God's Amazing Love

Because God is love, His nature is to love. Love is not merely an attribute of God; it is His character. *"God is love,"* (1 John 4:8), and His love to us is a gift. From the time that He created the world, God has never stopped pouring out His love. He gives us His complete and perfect love not because we are worthy or attractive people, but because He is a God of unfathomable love. That love moved Him to give His Son to rescue us from sin that entered the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit. Out of obedience to His Father and love for us, Jesus gave His life for us. Through His birth, life, death, and resurrection from that death, we through faith have received the forgiveness of our sins and life eternal.

We often find it very difficult to love someone we believe does not deserve our love or who does not reciprocate our love. God's love overcomes those barriers that each of us has. He loves us even though we are unworthy of His love. He doesn't love us because we please Him. He loves us simply because He is love. His love is unconditional. This is the difference between God and us. Since *"God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8), we must realize that we, too, are undeserving. How can we withhold love from others when we ourselves have received such abundant, undeserved love from our Father in Christ?

God charges us to share His love. As the Holy Spirit leads and directs us, convicts and encourages us, the command to love others becomes a joy, not an obligation. It is God's love flowing through us to others that makes loving others natural and joyful. Throughout God's Word, He calls us to love everyone which includes not only our families and friends but our enemies, neighbors, and strangers. Jesus tells His disciples that, when they feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit those in prison, they are really doing it for Jesus (Matthew 25:35-40). When we love our neighbors, God's love is perfected and shown in us and through us.

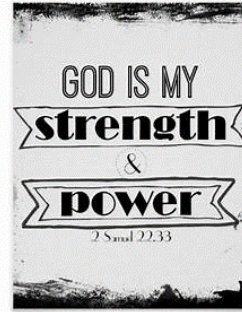
God's love to us in Christ is that power that enables us to love Him and others. *"We love because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19). By God's grace, we become people responding out of love to serve those He places in our lives. When needs arise, Jesus opens our eyes and hearts so we can respond to those needs. The Apostle John wrote, *"But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God love abide in him?"* (1 John 3:17). Are others seeing God's love through us? May God help us all be channels of God's amazing love.

Stewardship Corner

Through faith, we understand that our call to be God's stewards is based on what God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Knowing that we are created and redeemed by God, we express our gratitude through the faithful use of our time, talents, and money. In the words of the Apostle Paul, *"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). God richly bestows upon us the capacity to be faithful stewards who respond to His call.

**GOD HAS EMPOWERED AND EQUIPPED
US STEWARDS FOR THE TASKS TO
WHICH HE CALLS US.**

“...the immeasurable greatness to us who believe, according to the working of His great might that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead ...” (Ephesians 1:19-20).



**CHRISTIAN STEWARDS
ADOPT A SENSIBLE LIFE-
STYLE, LIVING AS GIVERS,
NOT TAKERS.**

“Freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8 NIV).



**STEWARDS ARE TOOLS IN
GOD’S HANDS TO DO HIS
WORK.**

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).



**AS GOD’S REDEEMED CHILDREN,
WE ARE HIS STEWARDS BY HIS
CALL AND THROUGH HIS GRACE.**

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.” (John 15:16).



Brothers shuffled between foster homes for two years hope to be adopted together

By Cassy Fiano-Chesser | March 20, 2022 , 03:38pm



In a plea for adoption, two brothers in Indiana are hoping to find parents willing to keep them together.

Thirteen-year-old Owen and nine-year-old Leland have been in foster care for two years, and have been moved through three different homes in that short period of time. The brothers, who are close, love being together because they say they always have fun. And they're both big fans of sports.

"I like to play baseball, basketball and I want to sign up for football," Owen told local news station **WNDU**. "And I like hockey." Leland added that he loves "[f]ootball, baseball, basketball, soccer and tennis." Owen, who is autistic, wants prospective parents to know he is a picky eater, while Leland said his favorite food is McDonald's. Both brothers love fishing, hunting, riding dirt bikes, and being outdoors.

READ: Adoption of four siblings from foster care made family of eight complete

The Indiana Adoption Program also **gave more information** about the brothers:

Leland is as active as any other boy his age (maybe more!), so be prepared to keep up! He enjoys playing outside with his brother, and can get so excited that it's hard to settle him down. While he enjoys all sports, Leland likes playing kickball, and also like building with blocks and completing puzzles. Leland makes friends easily and gets along with others. Leland loves to have his people around him – the more, the better!

Owen is equally active, and loves having fun and joking around. He likes to ride his bike, go swimming, play video games and watch movies. He likes attention (what kid his age doesn't?), and has found that being a comedian gets people's attention for sure.

Some of the boys' answers gave a heartbreaking insight into what their lives may have been like up until now; they say they want parents who will be nice to them, and hope for a Rottweiler that can protect them.

Children Owen and Leland's age are less likely to be adopted — and aging out of foster care without a family can have **dire consequences**. Children who leave foster care without being adopted are at extremely high risk for homelessness, unwanted pregnancy, substance abuse, unemployment, higher chances of criminal activity, and more. Yet most parents prefer to adopt infants, feeling like older children have too much baggage.

All children, including older kids and teenagers, deserve a safe, stable family, and to have parents who love them. Interested families should contact the **Indiana Adoption Program**.



3rd - David Mauro

3rd - Alberta Sperry

4th - Dollie Adolph

7th - Cheryl McCarver

12th - Colton Krabill

18th - Harry McGee

20th - George Fenton

25th - Bill Woodman

Anniversaries

4th - Lynn & Shirley Bragg

Healing Members

Bill Richmond
Judi Riske
Ruth Stocker

Friends

Matthew Woodman
Mike Morris
Karen Sperry

Cancer Members

Dave Weissenborn
Paul Smith
Barb Mauro
Steve Koch

Friends

Anne Koch
Larry Morris
Janice Knoellinger
Denise Sisung
Wendy Weiss Weitz
Jim Dugdale



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

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

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