



THE ANCHOR

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

September 2022

VOLUME 41 NUMBER 9

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

Ladies Bible Study is taking the summer off. We will start back up on September 6th.

Reminder: Noisy offering will be taken on second Sundays!

Noisy Offering for July-September will be going to Grayling Elementary School for lost hats and mittens fund.

Thank you for your donations.

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!



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.

Upcoming Food Trucks

Friday, September 16th at 11am

Altar

4th-Martha Pregler

11th-Susie Moore

18th-Dee Musselman

25th-Judi Mesack

Elders

4th-Frank Moore

11th-Jeff Pregler

18th-Jack Owens

25th-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	JULY 2022	YTD JUL
Income	9,001.00	9,001.00
Expense	-9,669.25	-9,669.25
Net	-668.25	-668.25
EARMARKED FUND BALANCE		102,476.24
	JULY 2022	YTD JUL
Together in Missions	25.00	1,580.00
Christian Help Center	25.00	1,748.05
Noisy Offering	35.36	515.00
	JULY 2022	
Church Extension Mortgage		470,000.00
Mortgage Principal Payment	1,173.70	24,079.97
Earmarked Principal Payment	10,495.00	57,818.20
Mortgage Interest Payment	1,211.30	
MORTGAGE BALANCE		388,101.83

Attendance

July	3	51
	10	61
	17	55
	24	60
	31	64



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

Adopt-A-Highway - after church on Sunday, September 25th, 2022.
We will reschedule if it is raining.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



**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

URGENT LEGISLATIVE REPORT: PLEASE READ!

From ***Lifelines***, Lutherans For Life of Michigan, August, September, October 2022 newsletter. (Editor's Note: The sections in bold below are the exact text of the proposed amendment. If the Bureau of Elections approves the petition signatures, then this Michigan Constitutional Amendment will be on the ballot in November. Lutherans For Life of Michigan strongly urges you to **VOTE NO** on this amendment and spread the word!)

On July 11, at 10 AM, the Reproductive Freedom for All coalition or as we know them by, the anything-goes abortion coalition, submitted over 750,000 signatures to the Bureau of Elections for approval. We know this is a large number of signatures considering they only needed 425,059 valid signatures to qualify for the November ballot. We are relying on the Bureau of Elections to adequately check the submitted signatures for fraud and invalid signatures. For now, we are consulting with our legal team to weigh our options and determine the best course of action in regard to legally challenging the signatures:

(supportmiwomenandchildren.org)

Reproductive Freedom for All Amendment Text

Every individual has a fundamental right to reproductive freedom, which entails the right to make and effectuate decisions about all matters relating to pregnancy, including but not limited to prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, sterilization, abortion care, miscarriage management, and infertility care. The amendment specifically says it will impact ALL matters relating to pregnancy, and lists several examples. While sounding very tame—who would disagree that a mother should be able to make a birth plan?—these words have extremely far-reaching consequences. Though not included in the list, “sex” is obviously related to pregnancy. Individual is not defined as to age, meaning the provisions in this amendment could apply to children as well as adults. **An individual's right to reproductive freedom shall not be denied, burdened, nor infringed upon unless justified by a compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means.** This is the same basic legal standard as the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act. However, on the federal level, a “compelling state interest”—something government must do to fulfill their basic duties and purpose—is general and interpreted by judges. This amendment specifically defines a compelling state of interest below, severely restricting any possible law or regulation. **Notwithstanding the above, the state may regulate the provision of abortion care after fetal viability, provided that in no circumstance shall the state prohibit an abortion that, in the professional judgement of an attending health care professional is medically indicated to protect the life or physical or mental health of the pregnant individual.** This confusing language appears to allow late-term abortion bans, but by introducing a “mental health” exception, it would allow late-term abortions for practically any reason. Notice that it does not mention doctors, but “health care professional.” For example, a dentist could approve a late-term abortion on mental health grounds—and even perform one with no consequence, as you will see below.

The state shall not discriminate in the protection or enforcement of this fundamental right. This is incredibly vague. What does “discrimination” mean? Age discrimination is a real thing, so does this mean everything in the amendment applies to children? Rights are typically things that protect you from government prosecution, but this amendment says this right must be enforced by state-enforced against who? Parents? Doctors and nurses? A “right” is not supposed to give some people the ability to hijack a constitution and the government to gain control over other people.

The state shall not penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against an individual based on their actual, potential, perceived, or alleged pregnancy outcomes, including but not limited to miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion. This section could stop investigations of infanticides. For example, if someone gives birth and then abandons the baby in the trash, the state can't even investigate the situation because investigation is an “adverse action” against a “perceived pregnancy outcome.” Back when abortion was illegal in Michigan, women were not investigated for miscarriages, but infanticides do occur today and any such “alleged pregnancy outcome” absolutely should be investigated and prosecuted if proven in a court of law. People don't have a right to kill a newborn baby, but this amendment could give them one, and make the state enforce it. **Nor shall the state penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against someone aiding or**

assisting a pregnant individual in exercising their right to reproductive freedom with their voluntary consent. This could stop the state from even investigating someone who assists with an abortion. A school counselor could take a 13-year-old girl to get an abortion without telling her parents, and there is nothing her parents could legally do-if they ever find out. An untrained employee at an abortion facility could perform an abortion, and health and safety regulators could be powerless to address it.

For the purpose of this section: A state interest is “compelling” only if it is for the limited purpose of protecting the health of an individual seeking care, consistent with accepted clinical standards of practice and evidence-based medicine, and does not infringe on that individual’s autonomous decision-making. This section is the key to invalidating so many laws. Any existing law related to pregnancy, sex, abortion, sterilization, etc. has to overcome three separate obstacles. First, the law can only be for the purpose of protecting “health,” which not defined. So, for example, Michigan’s law which stops taxpayers from paying for abortions could be repealed, since the law is about protecting conscience rights. If a nurse doesn’t want to be forced to help perform a late-term abortion, their legal rights will not be respected. Second, the law must agree with “accepted clinical standards of practice.” Who writes those for abortion procedures? The abortion businesses themselves. For example, they say screening women for coercion to prevent forced abortions isn’t “evidenced-based,” so our state’s law requiring screening for forced abortions could be repealed and sex traffickers, abusive spouses, and incestuous relatives will be able to cover-up their crimes. Abortion businesses object to health inspections and safety regulations that other outpatient facilities are required to follow, so no health or safety regulations could survive. Waiting periods, requiring abortionists to give women the ability to see the ultrasound of her baby, informed consent before surgery: none of these laws will be accepted as clinical standards by abortion clinics. This gives abortion businesses ultimate control over state laws, not voters or their elected officials. Third, and this is VERY IMPORTANT, not law on anything related to pregnancy can infringe on a person’s “autonomous decision making.” Well, every law infringes on someone’s decisions; a law preventing a restaurant from serving you raw meat infected with salmonella is infringing on their decision to serve it and your decision to buy it. Most people agree your country health department has a compelling state interest in stopping from dying by food poisoning. This means that the amendment makes consent the only legal limit. If someone convinces a child to be sterilized, the parents have no say. This applies to anything related to pregnancy. Laws preventing adults from having sex with children could be impacted, since is related to pregnancy and it never defines individuals as adults. If a brother and sister want to have a child together, this amendment gives them an absolute to do that. It doesn’t matter if the amendment authors didn’t intend to throw into question laws against statutory rape or incest, what matters is the confusing text of the amendment they wrote. This one sentence in the amendment could have far-reaching effects for things beyond abortion or sex that aren’t immediately obvious. For example, our state’s ban on human cloning could no longer be enforceable, since cloning oneself is an autonomous pregnancy decision. Buying and selling babies through commercialized surrogacy could be legalizes, and any health or safety regulation of the fertility industry could be impossible. If a mother wants to use her son’s sperm in IVF, the state not only can’t intervene, but must enforce her “right” against IVF-clinic doctor who objects to this unethical situation. **“Fetal viability” means: the point in pregnancy when, in the professional judgement of an attending health care professional and based on the particular facts of the case, there is a significant likelihood of the fetus’s sustained survival outside the uterus without the application of extraordinary medical measures.** Fetal viability is defined as the point a child can survive outside the womb. The amendment changes this definition, so that any newborn with a significant illness or disability could be defined as a non-viable child. For example, an incubator in a neonatal intensive care unit is an extraordinary medical measure. Any “health care professional” could make this medical determination, not just doctors. If the woman and her health care professional decide to leave a disabled child to die, the state could not even be allowed to investigate this “alleged pregnancy outcome.”

This section shall be self-executing. Any provision of this section held invalid shall be severable from the remaining portions of this section. (supportmiwomenandchildren.org)

Finding Joy in Doing Good Works

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the people in Ephesus, he wrote, *"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). In order that we might do those good works, God gives us the physical and spiritual tools we need to be the instruments through which He can work. God has handcrafted us for the unique work that He has planned for each of us. We are His masterpieces filled with the Holy Spirit.

With the same power that God used in the beginning to create man from dust and later to resurrect Jesus from the dead (Ephesians 1:19-20), He raises us out of spiritual death and makes us new people—His workmanship, transformed stewards—whose works give evidence that we are new creatures. By the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, we are brought into God's kingdom. We are no longer part of or in union with the world. As new people living under the power of the Gospel, we desire to honor God and obediently do the good works He has planned for us to do. Because Christ has redeemed us from all wickedness and purified for *"Himself a people for His own possession,"* we are zealous to do good works (Titus 2:14).

In his book *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey*, William Chancellor Weedon shares an interesting perspective regarding good works,

Long before you see the opportunity for good works or recognize it, it was in God's heart as a gift for you. By that good work, He lets you exercise the resurrection life planted into you at your Baptism. That means that all around you every single day, your different callings, a huge variety of "Easter eggs" await your discovery and enjoyment.

Mr. Weedon compares the joy of doing good works to the joy that a child might experience when he/she finds "Easter eggs" on an Easter egg hunt. The more good works that God has planned for us the greater will be our joy.

God created us to do good works, but we are not saved through good works. Scripture tells us that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9). Just as the morning follows night, our good works follow our salvation by grace. Good works are an important purpose for our lives as Christian stewards. As we ask the Lord to enable us to submit to His will, He will put those good works He has prepared us to do before us. God may not tell us in advance what good works He wants us to do, but we know these works exist and that He has equipped us to do them. We can trust that, when we do good works, they are deeds needed to be done, God will be pleased, and we will find joy.

Blessings through our Giving

God sets no boundaries on His giving to us. In the words of Martin Luther, “He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.” (Martin Luther’s Small Catechism). In response to God’s great love for us and His bountiful gifts to us, we are enabled by grace to share with others the wealth He has given us. God uses us as conduits of His love and His goodness so that no one has to be in need.

Jesus said, “*It is more blessed to give than to receive*” (Acts 20:35). We don’t give to be blessed, but God’s Word clearly tells us that through our faithful generosity God will bless us. Jesus makes giving more than giving when we give to help those in need.

In his book *Money Is Everything*, Herb Miller shares a humorous story about how we get back more than what we invest:

A young intern came into a hospital nursing station one evening shaking his head. “There is an old man in the lobby by the vending machines,” he said, “and he’s putting dollar bills into the money changer. Every time he gets his quarters, he yells ‘Jackpot!’ and dances around.” A few hours later, the nurses on their way to a coffee break saw a repairman fixing a vending machine. When they asked why he was working so late, he said, “I have to get this money changer fixed. It’s been giving \$1.50 in quarters every time someone puts in a dollar bill.”

When we give to those in need, we receive something much better than some extra quarters. God blesses us spiritually and at times materially when we give faithfully. Through our generosity, we receive God’s peace and joy. May we all experience the joy in giving.

THE TALLIES ARE COMPLETED!!

It's been decided that the second Monday of each month will be Family Night beginning at 5:00pm.

FAMILY NIGHT begins on Monday, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 AT 5:00PM. The KICK OFF will begin with a Pizza Party and game night for ALL ages. Bring a game, your family, your friends-no matter the age-churched or non-churched. We'd love to have you ALL!!! Bring ideas for future Family night events!

See you on September 12, 2022 at 5:00pm for fun at Mt. Hope.

Sponsored by Church Council.

Any questions, contact Sharon Hopkins, 989-786-3795 or hoppys0301@gmail.com

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ADULT and WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

Boy, summer's gone by very/too fast! Now we can make plans for our Fall and Winter church programs. Have you missed Tuesday morning and afternoon Bible studies??? I sure have! We are so very grateful that we live in a country where we can openly still publicly worship our Lord God through Divine Worship and Bible studies. Please take advantage of the following opportunities God has given us at Mt. Hope.

1. September 6, 2022 at 9:30am Bible study with Pastor Paul - as of this writing I don't know what the topic will be, BUT come and see and hear and bring your Bible!
2. September 6, 2022 at 1:00pm women, come and join us for our Women's Bible study. We are studying "52 Women of the Bible." We left off with Esther. Bring your books and your Bibles. For newcomers, which we WELCOME, we will have materials for you. It's so much fun and interesting to learn the plans God had for these women and how they relate to us in today's world and our personal lives.

Hope to see you at either one or both studies. Again any questions contact either Pastor Paul or Sharon Hopkins, 989-786-3795 or hoppys0301@gmail.com

PASTOR AND MARTHA MALBURG VISIT!

On July 31st, Mt. Hope hosted Pastor and Martha Malburg for a visit. Three of their children came too. Pastor Malburg's sermon was very interesting and informative pertaining to mission work and Sri Lanka. He described what is happening in that country as well in today's world and how GREATLY the need is for Christian Missionaries to go there. The country is mainly Buddhist and Muslim. There was a collection/free will offering taken at the door for this family's mission. The proceeds of \$841.80 was collected and will go to Together In Missions directed to the Malburg mission. Mt. Hope provided a chicken pot luck for them after worship service. Thank you to all who contributed in monetary donations as well as food donations. What an enlightening day this was!

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE REPORT

August 25, 2022

108 size 5 diapers and 50 size 5 overnight diapers & 800 wipes went to ***River House Shelter***, Grayling & ***New Life Pregnancy Resource Center***, Gaylord received 289 new born diapers, 44 nighttime size s/m diapers; 84 size 2 diapers; 318 size 4 diapers; and 3 diapers 9 size; as well as 368 wipes from Mt. Hope.

Thank you very much for ALL your diaper donations. This shelter and resource center really appreciate them and especially their children.

Articles have been sent to Nicole for the Anchor

Sharon Hopkins
Steve and Shirley Koch
Terry Tody



Frank Moore~3rd
 Elsa Knutson~8th
 Jan Weissenborn~11th
 Ruth Stocker~13th
 Steve Koch~14th
 Jean Wittig~14th
 Kevin Wagner~21st
 Sherry Hanson~24th
 Bret Krabill~25th
 Judi Riske~29th
 Jeff Pregler~30th

Anniversaries

Bill & Lynn Richmond~1st
 Pete & Claudia Albright~13th
 Frank & Susie Moore~18th
 Jim & Nancy Hatfield~20th
 Jim & Mary Heinlein~25th

Healing Members

Healing- Members

Bill Richmond
 Judi Riske
 Ruth Stocker

Friends

Ava Rose Slone



Cancer

Cancer-Members

Don Welser
 Lynn Richmond
 Paul Smith
 Barb Mauro
 Steve Koch

Friends

Greg Welser
 Donna LaDuke
 Jim Dugdale
 Don Kernstock
 Barb Vidal

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

Geri Methot (Grayling)

Michigan Veterans Homes - Grand Rapids

Kenneth Hopkins

The Lighthouse at Roscommon

Elsa Knutson

MT. HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
905 NORTH I-75 BUSINESS LOOP
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(989) 348-5921
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THE CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR

Pastor's Cell Phone:

Pastor's E-mail Address:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Nicole Alma

Office Hours: Wednesday 10am-2pm

BOOKKEEPER

Mary Heinlein (989) 348-4350

CUSTODIAN

Marty Haskin

CHURCH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN

Jeff Pregler (248) 961-2433

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Salena Laskowski (231) 384-2862

SECRETARY

Sharon Hopkins (989) 786-3795

TREASURER

Steve Koch (231) 564-3080

BOARD CHAIRMAN

ELDERS

Jack Owens (810) 869-0944

EDUCATION

Paul Mesack (989) 344-0359

EVANGELISM

Terry Tody (989) 344-1734

STEWARDSHIP

Shirley Koch (231) 258-2808

TRUSTEES

Mike Shields (810) 348-6692

YOUTH

Selena Laskowski (231) 384-2862

Mt. Hope needs all of us to pitch in and keep our church running and serving others, especially without a full time Pastor to lead us.

There are many opportunities to serve, either small or large.

A couple ideas are:

- • Sign up one Sunday to host coffee hour.
- • Twice a year be responsible for Adopt a Highway
- • Help plant or weed flower beds
- • Sweep the side walk and porch entrance
- • Volunteer to help with VBS this summer

A bigger project is to lead a Kitchen Clean up day

Just like at your house, there is always something to do at God's house!!

Thank you!

Your Stewardship Committee



Mt. Hope Lutheran Church
(Missouri Synod)
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