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✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Phil Radichel

Ushers: Mark Wales, Don Auel, Ole Olmanson, Adam Wales,
Eli Wales, Brandon Wendland, Brandt Wendland

Counting Team 4: Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl;
Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner

Church Cleaners: Welker

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Mark Wales, Don Auel, Ole Olmanson, Adam Wales,
Eli Wales, Brandon Wendland, Brandt Wendland

Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel;
Pat Paplow

Church Cleaners: Fleischer

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Aug. 17: 9:00 am –Worship Service

11:00 am – Council Meeting

Sun., Aug. 24: 9:00 am –Worship Service

Mon., Aug. 25: 8:00 am – Opening Service for Grace School

10:00 am – Opening Service for Immanuel @ Eau Claire

Wed., Aug. 27: Catechism Begins for Public School Students

Sun. Sept. 7: 8:30 am – Choir Practice

9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School Begin

10:00 am – Worship Service (Regular Schedule Resumes)

11:15 am – Hospitality (Team 2)

Sun., Sept. 14: Grace Church Picnic

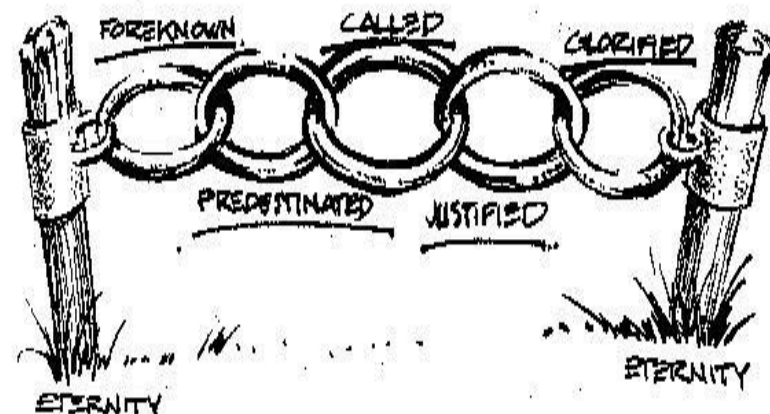
Last Week's Stats: August 10, 2014 Sun.: 131

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,497.35	CLC:	\$600.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,200.00	CLC:	1,040.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+297.35	CLC:	-440.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$101,043.34	CLC:	\$31,630.65	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	102,400.00	CLC:	33,280.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-1,356.66	CLC:	-1,649.35	
GLC Other:	135.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	250.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	120.00	Kinship:	0.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	330.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Projection:	-439.67	Tuition Aid:	+6,490.12	

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9

Grace Lutheran Church & School

CHAIN OF GRACE



Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432



Email: jphein@clclutheran.com

Home Page: www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635)

Phone: 763-784-8784

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 10

Date: August 17, 2014

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

WS 743: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
TLH 529: I Leave All Things To God's Direction
TLH 521: What God Ordains Is Always Good
TLH 200:1,7-8: I Know that My Redeemer Lives

Worship Prep:

Psalm 119, 2, TLH p. 149

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)
Gloria: TLH 246:1,4

Scripture Readings:

1 Kings 3:5-12
Matthew 13:44-52

Sermon: Romans 8:28-30

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. (NKJVTM)

“Faith Inspires Confidence”

- I. That God Makes All Things Work For Our Eternal Good
- II. That Our Eternal Salvation is a Done Deal

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **From Pastor:** Last Sunday I received the call to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lawrenceville, GA. Some thoughts about the call and the calling process are included in this morning's bulletin.
- ◆ **Service Schedule:** Please keep in mind that the service schedule will be changing on September 7. Sunday School and Bible Class will begin at 9:00 am with regular morning worship at 10:00 am.
- ◆ **Sunday School Teachers:** Sunday School begins the Sunday after Labor Day. We are looking for volunteers to teach. It is a great opportunity to instruct our youth about the truths of Scripture. If you are interested, please let Rick Nelson know so he can hopefully find a place for you on staff. He is interested in full-time teachers, part-time teachers, and substitutes.
- ◆ **Online Course at ILC:** Immanuel Lutheran College will be offering Religion 407 online in the fall semester and Religion 408 online in the spring semester. These two courses comprise the Christian Dogmatics (Christian Teachings) course required at the college level for education students. Both semester courses are also required of teachers seeking CLC certification and of CLC members with a four-year degree who wish to enroll in Immanuel Lutheran Seminary. The online course begins the same day as the classroom course (August 25) and meets three times a week. Cost of Religion 407 taken for credit (3) is \$637.50. The cost for auditing the course is \$191.25. These same rates apply also to Religion 408 (the continuation of Rel. 407), which begins January 12, 2015. For more information about the courses and how to register, see the online courses link on the home page of the ILC website (www.ilc.edu).
- ◆ **Invitation:** St. Paul of Bismarck plans to celebrate its 25th Anniversary on Sun., Sept. 7, beginning with a 10:00 a.m. service, with a meal and program to follow. Members of area congregations are invited. Consider joining us to give thanks to God for the blessings of the past 25 years. Pastor Michael Roehl
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor John Hein has received the call to Zion of Lawrenceville, GA (Atlanta area). ✠ Pastor Joel Fleischer of Calvary in Marquette, MI, has accepted the call to Berea in Sioux Falls, SD. ✠ Pastor Luke Bernthal of Grace/Peace/St. Paul's in Valentine, NE/Mission/White River, SD, has been called to Messiah in Eau Claire, WI, to be its third pastor.



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THE POWER OF THE CROSS:

Scripture tells us that all people since the fall into sin are born with sin. Original sin is an inherited trait. Adam and Eve were created in the image of God—pure and holy. They introduced sin into the world (Romans 5:12). Subsequent to their disobedience their offspring (we) have been born in *their sinful* image (Genesis 5:3). That which is born of flesh is flesh (John 3:6). In the natural flesh nothing good dwells (Romans 7:18). Since fallen man's knowledge of right and wrong was compromised, God reiterated the Law on Sinai (Exodus 20).

The Law of God recorded in Scriptures defines sin, (1 John 3:4), uncovers sin (Romans 3:20, Romans 7:7), names the wages of sin, (Romans 6:23). The Law also pronounces the consequence that befalls the sinner (Romans 5:12). Furthermore, the Law defines what is right and wrong in the sight of God. It is the will of the holy God that His Law be kept perfectly, to the last jot and tittle (Galatians 3:10, Matthew 5:48, 1 Peter 1:16). You can look up these passages and more on the subject of sin, its consequences, and God's expectations. When you have read them remember the indictment: "They have all turned aside; they have altogether become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one" (Romans 3:12, Psalm 14:3). The holy God is the interpreter of the Law, the judge, and the jury!

Honest people must say, "Woe is me, I am undone..." (Isaiah 6:5).

Honest students of the Bible must acknowledge that they are not able to rescue themselves from the consequences of sin. They cannot save themselves from damnation. They cannot contribute to their salvation. Dead in trespasses and sins, they are just that: dead to satisfying the just judgments of the holy God. Honest students of the Bible accept that the Law only condemns and does not save. "By the deeds of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight..." (Romans 3:20). Salvation is "not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2:8). Our helplessness only increases our woe.

The reality is that unless one has totally seared and scarred his conscience through sin, wickedness, and unbelief, he must live in fear of death, and terror of judgment and everlasting separation from God!

But wait! There is hope! The Heavenly Father does not delight in the death of the sinner (Ezekiel 33:9). He wants none to perish (2 Peter 3:9). For that reason He promised a Savior (Genesis 3:15), and He delivered on His promise after nurturing it for the duration of the Old Testament. The Savior from sin was born of a virgin (Matthew 1:22-23, Luke 1:27) as promised (Isaiah 7:14). In an incomprehensible expression of love and grace (undeserved mercy), the Creator God, justly angry over man's sin, determined to send His Son in the flesh to dwell among men. Jesus came to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). Sin had to be paid for. The debt had to be paid. The Father determined that the sins of the world should be laid on Jesus (Isaiah 53:4-6) and be paid by Him. He would make peace between the Offended and the offender by suffering and dying though He was in His own body guilty of none of that of which He was accused and for which He died. He bore the horrible judgment of hell (Matthew 27:46). Not until He had drained every last drop from the cup we should have drunk did He say, "It is finished" (John 19:28). By His resurrection from the dead according to promise, the Father showed that He accepted Jesus' sacrifice as full payment for sin. He who was delivered for our offenses was raised again for our justification (Romans 4:25). To as many as believe on the Lord He has given the right to be called the children of God (John

1:12). To all who believe is given the assurance that they shall not perish, but shall have everlasting life (John 3:16).

In the face of the risen and ascended Lord Jesus, our Advocate with the Father, we are given to see by faith the smiling face of God!

So then how shall we now live? Shall we abuse the Father's grace and the Savior's redemptive love by sinning? Paul asked, "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not..." (Romans 6:1). *Christ's gift to us is forgiveness; it is not license!* We are instead dead to sin, and are called to sanctification. We are the workmanship of the Spirit, given a new heart and mind. As such we are "created in Christ Jesus unto *good works*..." (Ephesians 2:10). While we traverse this life in Christ without whom we can do nothing, we are fruit-bearers to the glory of God and in praise of His grace. It is not even a question. A Christ-believer who looks upon the thorn-crowned head of Jesus on the cross, and rejoices in the up-raised hands of benediction of the victorious Christ desires to do all to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

When the Lord introduced the Law, He did not do so with a threat but with a reminder of His grace. "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagle's wings and brought you to Myself" (Exodus 19:4). At the introduction of the Ten Commandments He said, "I am the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage" (Exodus 20:1). But they sinned. How quickly they *forgot* the goodness and grace of God! In their forgetfulness they did what they said they would not do. They turned away. Why? Because the flesh wars against the Spirit.

Sin is a transgression of the Law. Sin is revealed by the Law. The Law does not save a soul. The Law can force compliance. It does not make better people. The Gospel shows us our Savior and is the message of sins forgiven and eternal salvation. The Gospel gives a new spirit and a new heart, one desirous to serve the Lord. The Gospel is the power unto salvation as well as the power unto godly living.

So why do we sin? No matter what the sin, we sin because at that moment we have *forgotten the Gospel!* We sin because we turn from the cross of the suffering Christ. We walk apart from Christ. It is not possible to sin in Christ! Therefore when we sin we have stepped outside of Christ for the moment and returned to that from which we have been freed. Hurry then! With repentant hearts say with Isaiah "Woe is me" (Isaiah 6:5), and with Paul, "Who will deliver me from the body of this death" (Romans 7:24)? Quickly turn back to the cross. See the Savior Who suffered in your place. Run quickly as did Peter to the empty tomb. Rejoice in the victorious Christ. Believe what Scripture says, "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 7, 9). Rejoice that where there is forgiveness of sin, there is also life and salvation!

Even as there is comfort in the cross upon which our dear Savior died for us and in our place, when tempted to sin turn to the cross. Can one look at the cross of Christ and choose to sin and thus crucify Christ anew? Our Life and Hope for eternity are born of the Gospel. God help us that our life here is a reflection of the Gospel!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 8/2014

From Your Pastor Regarding the Divine Call:

This last Sunday I received a divine call to serve as Pastor at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lawrenceville, Georgia, a northeastern suburb of Atlanta. This means I need to consider where the Lord would best have me serve Him in sharing the Gospel, either here with my calling at Grace, or there with my calling at Zion.



In the Bible we learn that Pastors and other ministers of God's Word receive such a call from the Lord Himself through the Christian congregation. He establishes such servants for the purpose of doing His kingdom work here on earth. The Apostle Paul reminded the called servants at the congregation in Ephesus of this when he said: "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28).

Being that the Holy Spirit is the One who determines who is to be a minister and where he is to serve, we all need to recognize that a call consideration is a sacred matter. It is not something to take lightly or handle in a haphazard manner. We all should see it as the right of any congregation in our fellowship, even our own, to call Pastors to serve with the glorious message of Christ's love. A call to be Pastor is not like a regular job. It is a divine call from God Himself. Therefore, the decision is not based upon where the Pastor might like it better. There are two basic questions to consider:

1. What are the different ministerial needs of the two congregations, the one where the Pastor is currently serving and the one from which the Pastor received the call?
2. Where can the Pastor best use his God-given talents and abilities to best serve the Lord in His kingdom work?

When a Pastor receives such a call, it certainly has a profound impact on everyone involved, often holding the lives of many in suspense. Certainly in this case it would include the congregation at Zion in Lawrenceville, the congregation here at Grace, my family, and even myself. Some may even worry or become anxious about what may happen if the Pastor stays or goes. But as we hold on to the fact that the call is one from God, we can also be assured that His will and purpose are being carried out.

As I weigh the various ministerial needs and details of each congregation, I assure you that I will seek the Lord's guidance, implore Him for sound wisdom, and keep the dear blood-bought souls of Christ on my heart. I ask that all those who are impacted by this call do the same. This will surely help me as I consider where my God-given talents should be utilized to serve God's people. Inasmuch as I am human, I will do my best to factor out personal issues unless they would bring spiritual or significant physical harm to my family and me.

However, this is not only a time for a pastor to reflect on his personal gifts and abilities and the needs of the individual congregations. It is a fruitful exercise for the congregation in that it causes us all to ponder carefully our ministerial needs here and throughout Christ's kingdom. It is a time to weigh carefully what our congregation needs at this time and also pray diligently that the Lord will continue to allow the ministry among us and in Atlanta to flourish in the Word that is preached and taught.

During the week I've been able to learn more about Zion, although I'm somewhat familiar with the ministry there. Zion is a CLC-subsidized congregation, receiving financial support from our church body to conduct its ministry, focusing on outreach in the Atlanta area. Zion was formerly organized in 1998, albeit CLC pastors have served the Atlanta area as a preaching station beginning in 1984. It currently has 50 baptized souls. Since there are few CLC congregations in the southeast, Zion serves CLC members from six different states. Because of this, the church conducts some of its ministry online through Skype and online worship services. The leased worship facility is part of a business strip mall. A parsonage is also provided to the pastor's family.

As I consider this call, I certainly invite the input of any who are impacted by the final decision. A common reaction for members of either congregation is to automatically tell the Pastor to stay or go. This can make a call decision very difficult because it doesn't really get to the heart of how a call is considered. It is better to know the reasons why one thinks the Pastor should stay or go. If you have such thoughts, please share them with me!

Please keep this call in your prayers and thoughts as I seek to follow the Lord's will concerning this matter.

In Christ our Lord and Savior, Pastor John Hein