

Click here to open service webpage for: 2015/01/11/

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson Elder: Frank Radichel
Ushers: Paul Lentz, Brad Kitzman, Rick Nelson, Keith Radichel,
 Bob Vandev eer, Bobby Vandev eer, Matt Vandev eer
Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel;
 Pat Paplow
Hospitality Team 2: Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz; Jenny Kleifgen
Church Cleaners: Kirkham School: Wales

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Paul Lentz, Brad Kitzman, Rick Nelson, Keith Radichel,
 Bob Vandev eer, Bobby Vandev eer, Matt Vandev eer
Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Bill Rust; Bob Vandev eer;
 Clint Welker; Mark Wales
Hospitality Team 3: Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Ryan & Mikey
 Oman; Nick & Miranda Duehlmeier; Dan & Cindy Degnan
Church Cleaners: Anderson School: Wales

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Jan. 11: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality
 12:00 pm – Council Meeting
Tue., Jan. 13: 11:00 am – Pal Dauer Funeral (visitation @ 10 am)
Wed., Jan. 14: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class
Sun., Jan. 18: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality
 11:30 am – Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings
Sat. Jan. 24: 9:00 am – Work Day
Sat., Feb. 7: 11:00 am – Bridal Shower for Christina Hein
Wed., Feb. 18: 7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship Begins

Last Week's Stats: Jan. 4, 2015 Sun.: 115

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,838.44	CLC:	\$691.60	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,340.00	CLC:	1,040.00*	
	-Under / +Over:	-501.56	CLC:	-348.40	
GLC Other:	150.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	30.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	15.00	ILC Bldg.	50.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	+3,175.00	Tuition Aid:	+6,499.12	

*Based on 2014 Figure. Voters have yet to determine 2015 amount.

Grace Lutheran Church & School



✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Pal Dauer:** This past Tuesday morning, Jan. 6, Georgia "Pal" Dauer was transferred to heavenly glory to be with her Lord Jesus. The family has planned a funeral service for this coming Tue., Jan. 13, 11 am, here at Grace Lutheran Church. There will be a visitation starting at 10 am and a luncheon will follow the funeral. Dorcas Guild Committee #1 will serve, Krista Sandhoefner, Sara Boe, and Rona Flesner as committee heads. All members are asked to bring salads and desserts. There is an estimated attendance of around 125. A committal service will be held at the cemetery just north of Nicollet, MN, following the luncheon. Memorials may be directed to Grace Lutheran Church. Correspondence: Fred Dauer; 3908 Xylon Ave. N.; New Hope, MN 55427. May the Lord Jesus comfort the family at this time.
- ◆ **Bridal Shower:** A bridal shower will be held for Christina Hein on Saturday, Feb. 7 at 11:00 am here at the church. See the invitation on bulletin board for details. Please RSVP to Heidi Nelson by Feb. 1.
- ◆ **Choir:** With a new year beginning, Jan Davis, the choir director is seeking new choir members. Those interested may speak with Jan.
- ◆ **Directory:** We are again preparing for the publication of the yearly directory at Grace. Please check your contact information in the draft copy of the directory located in the narthex. Place a check mark by your entry if it is correct. If it is not, then please edit as necessary. If you wish to add email or cell numbers, please do so.
- ◆ **Thanks:** We would like to thank everyone for the love shown to our family during our time of need. Thank you for all of your thoughts and prayers. We greatly appreciate all of you for the love and support so graciously given. Thank you to all who helped with the memorial service preparation and for preparing and serving such a wonderful meal. May God richly bless all of you for your loving kindness which has touched us deeply. Dorothy Hammond and family.
- ◆ **2015 Cleaning:** The 2015 cleaning sign-up list is posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **Immanuel Positions:** Immanuel is hiring a new dormitory supervisor for our female students and a new food services manager/head cook. To apply, please contact ILC President Steven Sippert (steve.sippert@ilc.edu / 715.836.6620) prior to January 11, 2015.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Frank Gantt of St. Luke's in Lemmon, SD, has returned the call to Resurrection in Corpus Christi, TX. He is still considering the call to Calvary in Marquette, MI. ✠ Pastor Matthew Hanel of St. Matthew in Dallas, TX, has returned the call to Redemption in Lynnwood, WA (Seattle area). ✠ Pastor Vance Fossum of Holy Trinity in West Columbia, SC, has the call to Resurrection in Corpus Christi, TX.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #11 – 9th and 10th Commandments

Grace Lutheran Church & School



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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: Epiphany 1

Date: January 11, 2015

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 134: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

TLH 35: Songs of Praise the Angels Sang

TLH 39: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

WS 792: Let All Things Now Living

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 2, TLH p. 123

Liturgy:

WS, p. 12 (Projected)

Psalm 8: WS p. 27

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 49:1-6

Mark 1:4-11

Sermon: Acts 16:25-34

²⁵ But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

²⁷ And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. ²⁸ But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." ²⁹ Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his *family* were baptized. ³⁴ Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household. (NKJVTM)

♪ SINGING THE GOSPEL ♪

1. A POWERFUL HEALING
2. A POWERFUL WITNESS

WHO—WHAT—WHY—and HOW?

In a recent article in a magazine for seniors (the golden agers) a retired “reporter, editor and professor” commented on life as he gets older. One of the things which he addresses is his spirituality. In his advancing years, he has come to “discern what a spiritual life looks like.” This has led him to consider, in his words, the questions: “Why am I here? What am I to do? In what, in whom, do I believe?”

These are questions—at least the first two—that perhaps even Christians, including ourselves, have thought about. There are no easy answers to the questions if one is lacking a sound ground of faith. The answers, however, lie in Scripture. Scripture testifies to the existence and the person of God. Scripture works in the heart faith in the living God, as well as an acknowledgement of the love, mercy and grace of God Who has reconciled us unto Himself in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18), and Who has made us His own. We find the answer to such questions in the context of what our Lord says, “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine” (Isaiah 43:1).

Against the backdrop of that precious word from our Father in heaven we answer the third question first, speaking with the confidence of the apostle Paul who in his prison epistle to Timothy wrote: “... I know whom I have believed ...” (2 Timothy 1:12). Paul was confident to commit his life and ministry, that of Timothy, as well as the life of the Church to the Lord even as the Psalmist wrote: “Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him and He shall bring it to pass” (Psalm 37:5). We do not believe in a “what!” We believe in the eternal, living God Who was, Who is, and Who ever shall be!

“Why am I here?” is predicated on knowing who it is in whom we believe. The answer in one sense is obvious, “We are here because here is where the Lord put us!” More to the point, we are here to serve the Lord Who, while we are here, is using the time of grace He has given to us, to prepare us for the conclusion of our temporal service when He shall take us to the heavenly home prepared for us through the meritorious atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is quite understandable that people who do not believe in the living God, or who deny His existence have no clue as to why they are here or what is after here. What an empty life that is!

“What am I to do?” while I am here? We are to do the will of God. He set forth His holy will in the Law. An honest reading of the Law forces the conclusion that we have failed, not only miserably but fatally, to measure up to what God demands. That is sin! Sin has earned us its wages—death (Romans 6:23) —which is contrary to the original intent of God for man at creation. Man was not created originally to die, but to live in perfect harmony with God.

But God the Father had another will for us. It was a will, different from that of the Law, proceeding from His own heart of love, totally unmerited. Out of love the Father promised and sent the Lord Jesus Christ into the world. “‘What are the works God wants us to do?’ (The disciples) asked (Jesus).” “‘What God wants you to do,’ Jesus answered them, ‘is to believe in Him Whom He sent’” (John 6:28-29-AAT*). But how is it possible for us to do that “work,” being the obstinate sinners that we are? The Father took care of that also. He called us by the Gospel through which the Holy Spirit worked faith in the heart. By the power of the Spirit we believe and confess that Jesus is Lord (1 Corinthians 12:3). “God has saved us and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 1:9). Further in answer to the question, “What am I to do?” Scripture tells us, “This is the will of God, even your sanctification” (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

Sanctification is the holiness of life which flows from the Spirit’s work in our heart, for by Him we have been “created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). The Christian hope, confidence of salvation and power to bear fruit acceptable to God is predicated on our knowing in Whom we believe! The “why” and the “what” are inseparable from Him in “Whom” we believe.

How blessed and privileged are we and all who know in Whom we believe, and who trust in Him. From the fear and guilt that nags us because of our daily sin, our release lies in Him Who gives forgiveness, strength, and new resolve to serve Him in His kingdom “in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness” (Explanation of the 2nd Article). In that short sentence of the 2nd Article is summed up the “why” and “what” of our being. The Father’s own through the redemption that is in Christ (Isaiah 43:1) take ownership of the privilege and responsibility to serve Him!

As we began, we recounted the testimony of one who has concluded that as age has increased so has his spirituality. Perhaps we should not close this devotion on a downer, but in so doing we will be moved to thank the Lord for the confidence to which He has brought us, and we will be moved to pray for and witness to those who still sit in darkness.

The writer of the article we read expressed his newly found spirituality this way, “I do have a higher power, the God of my understanding. He/she eluded me for the first 50 years.” In every aspect of that comment, how frighteningly sad!

Beck—*An American Translation*

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2014

Lone Wolf Christianity

By: Jordan Chamblee December 29, 2014

There's never been a time when the necessity of church and fellowship has been called into question as much as today. I passed by a table of books one day and saw a title that struck me as odd. The title seemed to insinuate that there was a way to follow Christ without ever meeting together with the church body. To be fair, I haven't read the book so I could very well have misunderstood it. But I have encountered this attitude many times in social media and in person. The attitude of disillusionment with "established" religion and a kind of contempt towards formalized worship. The mantra is everywhere: "Christianity is a relationship, not a religion."

True. But it is a relationship that includes a religion. And part of this religion is meeting together with a body of believers, sitting under gospel preaching, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. These core things shouldn't be replaced or seen as unnecessary.

Yes, many churches have been disappointing. There have been schisms, scandals, frauds and embarrassments. But the answer is not to swing to the opposite end of the spectrum, reject church life altogether and adopt a "lone wolf" Christianity. Not only is this completely against scripture (Hebrews 10:24-25), but also it is detrimental to a healthy walk with Christ. When we're walking this path alone, we're actually starving ourselves of so many benefits.

It starves us of accountability.

Accountability is a strong word. There seems to be a thin line between living under accountability and living under scrutiny. No one likes to be watched, especially by "church folk." But let's face this bit of honesty: we can't take care of ourselves. One of the root principles of being a Christian is that we understand we are weak. We need accountability. We need brothers and sisters who love us enough to warn us, rebuke us even, when we stray or backslide. This cannot be found anywhere other than a community of Christians in a church.

It starves us of encouragement.

On the flipside, when we are apart from the Body of Christ we are cut off from affirmation and encouragement. We may be doing very well in our walk with Christ, upheld by the grace of God, but the toil and the hardships can still weigh heavily on us, causing discouragement. When we separate ourselves from brothers and sisters in Christ we are separating ourselves from the comfort they can offer, the validation that Christ is sufficient, and the encouragement to stand up and carry on in faith.

It keeps us from witnessing the work of the Holy Spirit among His people and experiencing Christ in the lives of other Christians.

How many times have you seen two people who did not get along finally come together in forgiveness because of Christ? Or fellow Christians finally emerging victorious over a sin that had plagued their lives? When we cut ourselves off from this fellowship, we cut ourselves off from the corporate blessings of the Holy Spirit working among His people.

It starves us of Biblical teaching.

It really isn't enough to do our own Bible reading and "quiet times." We need to be taught doctrine from a minister of the gospel. Someone who has dedicated his whole life to studying and expositing the scriptures. In the Bible we never see personal study replace preaching and church attendance. In fact, the Apostle Paul spent most of his life concerned with the welfare and spiritual lives of his fellow preachers. We cannot afford to refrain from sitting under Biblical teaching in church.

It keeps us from sharing our gifts with other Christians and makes us virtually useless in Kingdom work.

"Lone wolf" Christians are at a disadvantage when it comes to exercising their gifts. When we set ourselves apart from the rest of the church we are actually taking ourselves out of the battlefield and working in a place God did not call us to. In military terms, we are disregarding orders. We may be practicing our talents and doing great and good things, but outside of the context of the Body of Christ it is irrelevant. In a body, the eye must remain the eye and do what an eye is supposed to do. If the eye leaves the body, it is useless. In the same way, each member of the Body of Christ is to remain in the Body and accomplish within the Body what they are called to accomplish.

We have to remember something that the cross of Christ accomplished: He abolished the individual. "You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 2:5 NKJV. We are the bricks and mortar of a house, little parts of a greater whole. Our identity is no longer self, but we have been given a new and greater identity in Christ. We can't afford to separate ourselves from this "spiritual house." If we do, we're just useless stones lying on the ground all by ourselves. Christ died so that we could live in this new identity. We cannot reject it.

¹⁵And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Colossians 3:15-16