

✠ **TODAY AT GRACE** ✠

Organist: **Sue Nelson** Elder **Brandt Wendland**
Ushers **Pat Paplow, Alex Baker, Kevin Baker, Dan Degnan, Brian Eichstadt, Brandon Paplow**
Counting Team **2 Gary Gunther; Rick Nelson; Bill Rust; Bob Vandev eer, Clint Welker**
Church Cleaners **R & H Nelson**

✠ **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** ✠

Ushers **Roger Ochsner, Jeremiah Boe, Arnold Gehrls, Bob Maki, John Maki, Jack Maki, Joel Stifter**
Counting Team **3 Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Benno Sydow; Brandt Wendland; Chad Hestekin**
Church Cleaners **R & H Nelson**

✠ **OUR SCHEDULE** ✠

Sun., July 5: 9:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
Sun., July 12: 9:00 am – Worship Service
 11:00 am – Council Meeting
Sun., July 19: 9:00 am – Worship Service
 10:15 am – Quarterly Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings
August 3-7: 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School
Sat., Aug. 8: 9:00 am – School Cleaning Day
Mon. Aug. 10: 7:00 pm – School Ice Cream Social
Mon., Aug. 24: 10:00 am – Immanuel Opening Service @ Eau Claire, WI
Mon. Aug. 31: 8:00 am – School Opening Service (First Day of School)
Sun., Sept. 13: Return to Regular Schedule (Worship at 10 am)

Last Week's Stats: June 28, 2015 Sun.: 98

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,199.85	CLC:	\$630.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,340.00	CLC:	1,060.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,140.15	CLC:	-430.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$79,600.12	CLC:	\$21,662.15	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	86,840.00	CLC:	27,560.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-7,239.88	CLC:	-5,897.85	
GLC Other:	155.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	150.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	0.00
ILC Student Aid:	30.00	ILC Bldg.	270.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	7,030.00	Tuition Aid:	2,206.12

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



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 Fridley, MN 55432

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Home Page: www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.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 6

Date: July 5, 2015

✠ **WORSHIP INFORMATION** ✠

Hymns:

TLH 580, st. 1-5, 9: To Thee, Our God, We Fly

TLH 579: Almighty Lord, before Thy Throne

TLH 614: For Thee, O Dear, Dear Country

Distribution: Meditative Music

TLH 577: God Bless Our Native Land

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 2, TLH p. 123

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 12 (Communion)

Psalm 2: WS, p. 30

Scripture Readings:

Proverbs 24:1-25

Mark 12:13-17

Sermon: Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God. ... ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵ And truly if they had called to mind that *country* from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly *country*. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. (NKJVTM)

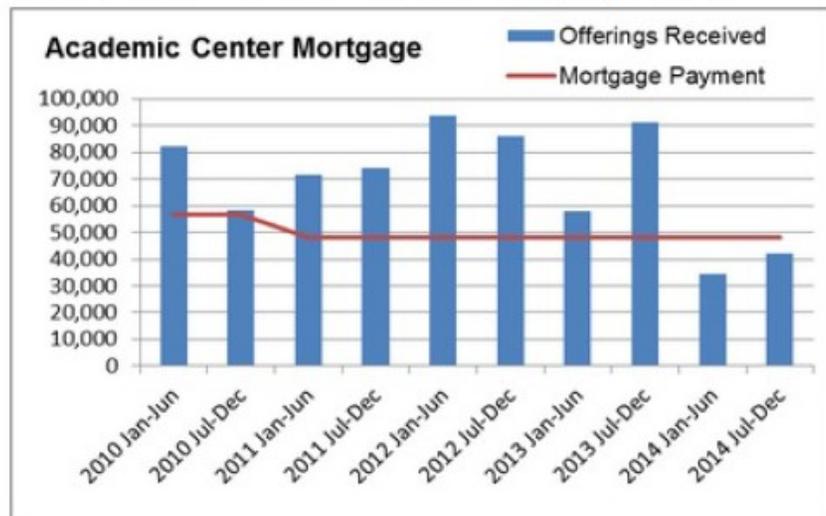
“ Is This the Same Country You Grew Up In?”

ACADEMIC CENTER UPDATE

July 2015

In our last ILC Academic Center Publicity insert we stressed the word “Commitment.” It means “to pledge, obligate, or engage oneself, as to take on financial responsibilities.” When we as a CLC voted at our 2002, 2004, and 2006 Conventions to approve and authorize the building of an Academic Center we were “committing, pledging, obligating” ourselves to this endeavor for the long term. Now the building has been built. \$ 969,480 was contributed before and during construction. For all of this we praise our loving God.

But there is much more left to be done. The mortgage payment was written at 5.5% interest rate and the monthly payment was \$ 9,410. At the current reduced interest rate of 4.0% our monthly payment is \$ 7,984. Congregation offerings over the past year are running about \$ 2,000 per month short. See graph below. Thankfully individual special gifts have made up the difference and we are current on our payments. In fact extra mortgage principal payments of some \$ 170,000 have been made largely because of the commitment of individuals making a special gift.



We thank the Lord for those special gifts, but we also need to keep in the minds and hearts of all of us this commitment which we made to the Lord so that our bills can continue to be paid.

Our current mortgage balance (5/31/15) is \$ 1,370,001. This amount will be approximately doubled because of the interest unless we can pay off early.

Remember Christ’s great commitment to us. He gave us His life, His body and blood, so that we could be freed from our sin, death and hell. We thank God that with the Academic Center we have the opportunity to teach and proclaim that Good News on a daily basis during the school year to our next generations.

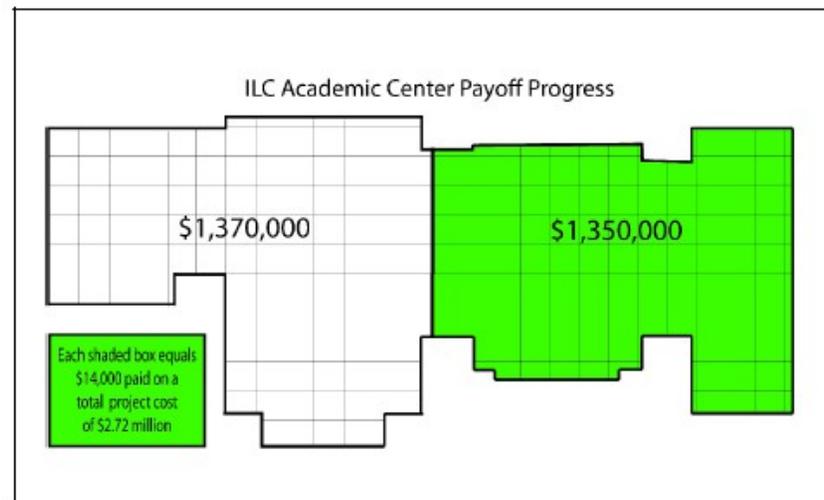
Please remember the ILC Academic Center Building Fund in your prayers and in your offerings. The best way to contribute is through your home congregation collection plate. Simply mark your offering as “Academic Center Building Fund.”

Some other figures you might find interesting:

★ Total Building Cost:	\$ 2,721,284
★ Contribution (previous)	\$ 969,480
★ Mortgage started 1/2010:	\$ 1,751,804
★ Principal Paid on Mortgage to Date:	\$ 381,653
★ Interest Paid on Mortgage to Date:	\$ 362,419
★ Total Mortgage Payments:	\$ 744,072
★ Approximate Balance in Fund	\$ 24,000
★ Total Contributed to Date:	\$ 1,737,552

Praise God from whom all blessings come!

ILC Academic Center Publicity Committee
June 2015



✝ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✝

- ◆ **Vacation Bible School:** On August 3-7, 9:00 -11:30 am, we will be having our VBS here at Grace. This includes children age 4 years to children going into eighth grade. Please register your children on the sheet by the guest book.
- ◆ **VBS Staff:** In preparing for VBS, we still need a music coordinator. Please consider this labor of love and let Pastor know of your willingness.
- ◆ **Youth Conference 2015:** Deadline for registration is July 15. Cost is \$355.00. Due to generous donations, there is no cost to ride the bus to Youth Conference from Mankato. See full details and register. Work dates are scheduled in Mankato July 6-9, 13, 20-23, and August 7-9. Those who are in the area are able to work food service on these dates and earn financial credit toward youth conference costs.
- ◇ **Eden Prairie VBS:** Theme: All Authority in Heaven and on Earth
Website: <https://clcswmetro.wordpress.com/vbs/>
Dates: July 16-17, 9:30am-3:00pm
Ages: Grades K-8
Contact: clc.tvbs@gmail.com
Location: Edgewood /Jan's Place at Hyland Park
(Continue past Chutes and Ladders Park)
10145 Bush Lake Road, Bloomington MN, 55438
- ◆ **Sponsors Needed:** CLC Project KINSHIP provides for orphans and seminary students in India, Nepal, and Africa through the kind sponsorship of stateside CLC members. Right now there is a need for several new sponsors, including one for a student at the BELC seminary in Nagalapuram, India, and two for students at the CLCI seminary in Nidubrolu, India. The cost to sponsor is \$35 per month. If you are interested in sponsoring a man who is preparing for the Lutheran ministry in India, please contact KINSHIP Committee member Rev. David Fuerstenau, 426 Buren Road, Ketchikan AK, 99901, phone (907) 225-2842, e-mail djfuerstenau@kpunet.net.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Recent graduate, Leah Ude, has received the call to be teacher at Trinity in Watertown, SD.



MARRIAGE and A CALL TO REPENTANCE WITH A PROMISE

In the sight of God sin is still sin regardless of what church authorities say, governments stamp, or courts approve. The recent decision of the Supreme Court (6/2015) perhaps did not surprise many people. As it took away from the states to make their own decision on the subject of homosexual/lesbian unions, it effectively put the federal stamp of approval on immorality. But leaving the politics behind, the decision of the court validates the fact that what is legal is not necessarily moral. It made legal the perversion that brought God's judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18), and which Scripture in other places, for example Romans 1, roundly condemns.

What God established in the garden (Genesis 1, 2), and confirmed in Paul's letter to the Ephesians, was a spousal relationship of a man and a woman. We call it marriage. The Court has hijacked that term like the homosexuals have hijacked the word "gay." Both have played loosely with otherwise commonly used words.

Now as the Court has spoken are we not to support the law as well as participate, if asked to perform rites that validate what the Court approved? What is to be the reaction of Christians who believe as we do that we are to obey government (Romans 13)? In short, we will obey government so long as we are not asked to do or participate in anything that God says is sin. As Lutheran Christians who have respect for the Word of God, there is a *higher authority* to whom we must answer, and that is the Lord God. With this ruling, unlike any others that come to mind, we are now going to have to put our words into action. We have spoken boldly; now we must meet the challenge, if and when necessary, in testimony to what Scripture says, "*We ought to obey God rather than man*" (Acts 5:29). Obey God, and face the consequences in society!

Christians who on the basis of conscience oppose homosexual relationships have the Word of God as their instructor and authoritative response, whereas the other side appeals not to the Word of God, but variously to fairness, rights, and other such catch-phrases. And while Christians revolt against such uniting of homosexuals, yet they recognize it is a law that can be changed only

Welcome to our guests and visitors. We appreciate the opportunity to share God's Word with you today. Please come again! Those interested in learning more about the Scriptures and our doctrinal position, please speak with Pastor Hein. He would be delighted to visit with you!

by working in an orderly fashion within the legal system. By contrast, the other side supports its cause by intimidation, threat, boycott, and such like. They have given up the moral high ground because there is none. And it is a dark day within Christendom when churches whether as a matter of principle, or out of fear of offending someone, have participated in, if not promoted, what God calls sin.

The response of the opposition to our rejection of the homosexual life-style and the Court judgment is that we “hate” homosexuals. Any denial of that charge on our part of course falls on deaf ears; nevertheless we go on record that our objection to the situation is not born of hate for the individuals caught in this sin. But we have to make a choice. Will we choose to offend the Lord God before whom we will stand one day, or run the risk of offending other mortals who will also stand before God on the day of judgment? Will we say “yes” to the Word of God, or “yes” to what is contrary to that Word? Shall we neglect to speak the truth in an effort to save a soul caught in the snares of sin, or shall we speak the truth, and the love of God, in an effort to snatch an iron from the fire? If we have the mind of God Who does not desire the death of the sinner, but that the sinner turn from his way and live, we will speak honestly, but in love with an earnest prayer that the love of Christ will win the heart for salvation. To care about the soul is love, not hate!

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55: 7).

As Bible believers we respect God’s ordinance of marriage. He instituted marriage for the blessing of man and woman, for the purpose of protecting against immorality, and for the procreation of children. Out of respect for the Lord and His will, it is common practice that we enter into the marital relationship (one man and one woman) by pledging before God faithfulness to one another. We ask the Heavenly Father to bless the union that is entered into with the Word and prayer. Entering into the union is an implicit and explicit testimony on the part of a couple that they will remain in the union until the Lord Himself dissolves it through death.

But now we must face some difficult questions as Christians. We who object to homosexual unions, and claim respect for marriage as God

instituted it, how are we doing? Is there perhaps a bit of hypocrisy when professing Christians enter into live-in situations without marriage because “we love one another and want to spend our life together”? Sounds vaguely familiar to what homosexuals say. Some claim the divorce rate is down. We would like to think that, but could the divorce rate be down because couples no longer marry but live together without marriage? Sin is sin. Are those who decide to start “playing house together” on a higher moral ground *before the holy God* than those who enter into homosexual unions? How do people who entered into marriage in the normal way, and with the blessing of the Lord, defend opting out of the marriage because they are bored, or because they have become enamored with someone other than the one to whom they pledged faithfulness “until death parts us”? What makes adultery that causes a marriage to break up a lesser sin *in the sight of the holy God* than taking up with someone without marriage, or a lesser sin than a homosexual relationship? How are we who stay with our spouse for the life-time treating one another within that relationship? Who can cast the first stone? Is there perhaps a beam to be pulled out of our own eye before a splinter is picked from our neighbors?

Hard questions! None among us can stand before the Lord in our own robes because our robes are stained with sin and corruption. That is reality. Our witness against the perversion approved by the Court is not a “holier-than-thou” indictment, but a call to join us in daily contrition and repentance that the old Adam might be drowned and a new man — one clothed in the robes of Christ’s righteousness — might arise and stand in faith before the throne of God. As we acknowledge the sins of our own flesh, we have the confidence in God’s grace that our sins are covered. They are removed (1 John 1: 8-9). For Jesus’ sake the Father forgets them, and what He forgets, He forgets! Thank the Lord for His patience, and His abundant grace!

Drawing on His love for us may we be strengthened to live our life to His honor and glory. May we respect Him in all things, and appreciate the relationship He has instituted in marriage and which by His design is a picture of Christ and His Church. Finally, may He guard us so that we will always speak the truth in love to the erring and lost with prayer that they will turn from their way and live.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 7/2015