

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Frank Radichel

Ushers: Roger Ochsner, Jeremiah Boe, Arnold Gehrls, Bob Maki, John Maki, Jack Maki, Joel Stifter

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

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 2: Gary Gunther; Rick Nelson; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever, Clint Welker

Church Cleaners: S. Vandever

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

- Sun., July 26: 9:00 am – Worship Service
- Sun., Aug. 2: 9:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
- 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)
- Wed, Sept. 2: 4:30 pm – Catechism Begins for Public School Students
- Sun., Sept. 13: Return to Regular Schedule (Worship at 10 am)

Last Week's Stats: July 19, 2015 Sun.: 102

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,563.25	CLC:	\$1,090.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,340.00	CLC:	1,060.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+223.25	CLC:	+30.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$88,984.87	CLC:	\$24,378.75
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	96,860.00	CLC:	30,740.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-7,875.13	CLC:	-6,361.25
GLC Other: 180.00	Living Faith: 0.00	Tuition Aid: 70.00		
SAF Endowment: 0.00	MDF: 57.50	Kinship: 50.00		
ILC Student Aid: 30.00	ILC Bldg. 400.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00	
Current Balances:	Parking Lot: 7,365.00	Tuition Aid: 2,561.12		

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

*Grace Lutheran
Church & School*

He came
and preached
peace to you.



Ephesians 2:17

Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Fridley, MN 55432



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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 9

Date: July 26, 2015

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 375: If Thy Beloved Son, O God

TLH 173: Lord Jesus, We Give Thanks to Thee

TLH 376: Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

TLH 11, st. 1-3: Safely Through Another Week

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 23, TLH p. 128

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 246:1,4

Scripture Readings:

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Mark 6:30-34

Sermon: Ephesians 2:13-22

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (NKJVTM)

“ The Wall of Separation Is Destroyed ”

✠ 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.
- ◆ **Immanuel Clothing:** CLC member Andy Buck has put together a short-term ordering opportunity for Immanuel clothing. While the CLC Bookhouse has a few items available in Eau Claire, the Regents have asked Andy to provide people throughout the CLC an opportunity to order items online. This quality apparel can be worn to promote the school with which our Lord has richly blessed us. A lot of different choices are available such as shirts, shorts, jackets, hats, etc. These items are available for ordering until July 31 with an option to ship or pick up in Eau Claire. Go to: www.cv-sports.com/Promotions.aspx, find the "Immanuel Lutheran" line, and click on "Go." Contact Andy for questions (andy.buck@cv-sports.com/715.836.6840).
- ◆ **Student Account Help:** Occasionally families are in need of financial assistance to pay their current Immanuel student account due to factors out of their control. This impacts the ability for students to return. Some people have been willing to help students anonymously in such situations. Perhaps there are others. Those interested in learning more about how you can help, please contact Pastor John Hein (612-408-1635/john.p.hein@gmail.com). Thank you for your consideration.
- ◆ **Snell Open:** This year's Snell Open will take place on Sat., Sept. 26 at Hidden Greens Golf Course in Hastings, MN. More info will be coming shortly, but for now, start getting a team together and let Steve Schierenbeck (steve.schierenbeck@metrostate.edu) know if there is anything you are willing to do or donate to help out the Scholarship Fund.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Recent graduate, Leah Ude, has returned the call to teach at Trinity in Watertown, SD. ✠ The congregation has now issued a 1-year call to Becky McKenney of Fort Atkinson, WI, daughter of Pastor Kevin McKenney.
- ◆ **Address:** While at basic training, Karie Davis may be reached at SRDavisKarieR; Ship 12 Div 303; 3515 Sailor Drive; Great Lakes, IL 60088-3515. Graduation is expected to be Sept. 11.

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!

IT IS NOT ABOUT WINNING THE ARGUMENT

Detractors of Holy Scripture frequently get in the face of a Bible-believer and denigrate the Scriptures. Thinking they can match wits with God, they think that they have accomplished something if they can stump the Bible-believer and perhaps make him and the Bible look foolish. They do so by making comments, or asking questions that are not asked for the purpose of learning, but to ridicule.

The manner of our response is important. Jesus did not counter with a question, but he did counter with an irrefutable logic when speaking to the accusatory scribes. “If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand” (Mark 3: 23-26)

Such challenges are always a reminder to us of the importance of getting into the Scriptures, first of all for our own benefit and blessing, but also that we can stop the mouths of the gainsayers (those who speak against the Lord and His Word). Such are not new in the world. Paul wrote to Titus, concerning a bishop (a spiritual overseer) that he should “hold[ing] fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped ...” (Titus 1:9-10). Paul was speaking to a specific situation. Nevertheless, his advice is to the point also in our day. Further, while Paul was speaking of overseers, his pastoral counsel is worthy of acceptance by Christians in general who are confronted in the world by people who demean Christ and the Word of Life. Notice that the appropriate response is by applying “*sound doctrine.*”

Two things come to mind here. By responding with sound doctrine, we will not be drawn into the mire with the inquisitor, and we will not get lost in the haze of reason. Secondly the approach to winning souls is not by the exercise of reason. We do not come from the position of trying to win an argument. The Christian intent is to win a soul who is outside the kingdom of God, or a professing Christian who is endangering his soul. The only thing that can convert a heart and win a soul is the Word of God through which the Spirit of God works. “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword ...” (Hebrews 4:12)

In addressing those who mock the Lord, His Word, and finally our faith, we need to use the Law of God. The Gospel seed does not bear fruit when thrown on concrete. The heart needs to be crushed. That is the function of the Law. The Law is the hammer that prepares the hard heart for the seed of the Gospel to take root. It is the Gospel that changes the heart from mocking God to love for God, from death to life. The Word, specifically the Gospel, is “the power of God to salvation for everyone that believes” (Romans 1:16)

In the context of applying the Law, we might respond to challengers by throwing back a question at them. Frequently, unfortunately, we may need to respond in like fashion to such as profess to be Christians.

To those who claim to be Christian but say, “I do not believe the whole Bible is the Word of God,” one may counter with the question, “Who then decides what in the Bible is the Word of God and what is not? You say that you believe that

Jesus died for you, but deny that the whole Bible is the Word of God. Since the Bible is the source of the salvation message how do you know that what you claim to believe is true?” Or “You say you believe the Bible, but you still deny the Genesis creation narrative. What makes one part of the Bible more believable for you than another?” Or, “You say you believe in God. The God in whom you claim to believe tells us that the Scriptures are His Word, for He inspired their content. If not everything in the Bible is truth, are you saying that God in whom you claim to believe is a liar? Or are you saying He was incapable of speaking clearly?”

Who gives man the authority to pick and choose what is God's Word and what is not? The irrefutable reality is that if one does not believe the whole Bible, he cannot be sure of any of it.

One, who espouses the preposterous evolutionary idea that the world and man himself are a consequence of random, chance, happenings might be asked when evolution stopped. What was the origin of the substance from which the world was allegedly made? I could suggest that the house in which I live had no planner, no designer and no constructor, but that it arose happenstance overnight out of the earth? By his response to the absurdity of my comment, the detractor of God and Scripture obliterates his own claim that the intricacies of nature and man himself just happened. Enough!

The most that such argumentation can accomplish is to show the absurdity of the accuser's argument, and perhaps at very most make him pause before he takes on a Bible-believer. If our response, however, causes one to look into Scripture, even secretly, perhaps the Spirit will work a miracle through the Word. One positive on a personal level could be that we are reminded that God's wisdom is wiser than that of men.

Of course, the bottom line is that anyone who doubts Scripture, and questions the faithfulness of the Lord God and the reliability of any part of the inspired Scriptures puts his eternal welfare into jeopardy. It behooves us to speak the truth, always in love for God and for our neighbor. That means that we speak the Law in its fullness, and proclaim the Gospel in its beauty and grace. We will add to or subtract nothing from the Word but will speak what is committed to us as faithful witnesses of our Lord. Our purpose is not to win an argument, but rather to be instruments of the Spirit of God by speaking the Word of God through which He convicts on one hand, and creates faith unto salvation, on the other. In speaking truth without wavering we reflect the heart of the Father Who desires the salvation of all.

It is a given that before we try to convince the gainsayers, we must ourselves know the Word, and trust it without reservation. We want to live in the Word ourselves. As we are convinced in our own heart that the whole Scripture is the inspired Word of God and therefore truth, and as we are convinced in our own heart of the Father's love for us in Christ, we will be prepared to give answer to those who ask or challenge. Be prepared to speak; speak when the opportunity or necessity arises. Then get out of the way, and let the Spirit work.

It is not about winning an argument. It is all about loving our neighbor so much that we share the message of the Lord Jesus, Who is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9)