

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Frank Radichel

Ushers: Paul Lentz; Brad Kitzman; Rick Nelson; Keith Radichel; Bob, Rob, & Matthew Vandevveer

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

Church Cleaners: Anderson

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Paul Lentz; Brad Kitzman; Rick Nelson; Keith Radichel; Bob, Rob, & Matthew Vandevveer

Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Rick Nelson; Bill Rust; Bob Vandevveer, Clint Welker

Church Cleaners: Anderson

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Aug. 23: 9:00 am – Worship Service

Mon., Aug. 24: 10:00 am – Immanuel Opening Service @ Eau Claire, WI

Sun., Aug. 30: 9:00 am – Worship Service

Mon. Aug. 31: 8:00 am – School Opening Service (First Day of School)
10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study @ Inver Grove Hts., MN

Wed, Sept. 2: 4:30 pm – Catechism Begins for Public School Students

Sun., Sept. 6: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper

Mon. Sept. 7: Labor Day – No School

Sun., Sept. 13: Return to Regular Sunday Schedule
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality; 12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Wed., Sept. 16: 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class Resumes

Sun., Sept. 20: Grace Church Picnic

Oct. 6-7: Minnesota Pastoral Conference (Detroit Lakes, MN)

Sun., Oct. 11: Mission Festival (w/ Pastor Jim Albrecht)

Oct. 14-16: CLC Teachers Conference (Inver Grove Hts., MN)

Last Week's Stats: Aug. 16, 2015 Sun.: 97

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,989.51	CLC:	\$780.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,340.00	CLC:	1,060.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-350.49	CLC:	-280.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$100,527.48	CLC:	\$27,607.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	110,220.00	CLC:	34,980.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-9,692.52	CLC:	-7,373.00	
GLC Other:	50.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	50.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	100.00
ILC Student Aid:	440.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF:	0.00
				CEF:	0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	7,695.00	Tuition Aid:	2,801.12

Grace Lutheran Church & School

**I WILL SING ALOUD
OF YOUR STEADFAST LOVE
IN THE MORNING.**

PSALM 59:16



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 13

Date: August 23, 2015

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 10: This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made

TLH 202: Welcome, Happy Morning!

TLH 540: With the Lord Begin Thy Task

WS 792: Let All Things Now Living

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 1, TLH p. 123

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 246:1,4

Scripture Readings:

Proverbs 9:1-6

John 6:51-58

Sermon: Ephesians 5:15-21

¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God. (NKJVTM)

“CARPE DIEM”

SEIZE THE DAY TO THE GLORY OF GOD

1. By walking carefully as one who is wise
2. By being filled abundantly with the Holy Spirit
3. By joining together with your fellow Christians for worship

Prayer to Face the Day

Dear Lord Jesus, You have blessed us with this day as well as with all other days so that we may glorify You in all our doings. May we cherish the rich measure of the Holy Spirit which you have given us. By being moved by Your Spirit, may our daily walk with You be pleasing in Your sight. Lead us to appreciate and to take advantage of each day we have on this earth to give all glory to You. Amen.

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Service Schedule:** Please keep in mind that the service schedule will be changing on **September 13**. Sunday School and Bible Class will begin at 9:00 am with regular morning worship at 10:00 am.
- ◆ **Sunday School Teachers:** With Sunday School beginning soon, we are looking for volunteers to teach. Those interested may speak with Michael Ude or Pastor Hein.
- ◆ **Catechism:** Classes for those in public school will begin on Wed., Sept. 2, 4:30-6:15 pm. This is for those in 6th through 8th grade. Please pray that the Lord will richly bless the instruction of our youth!
- ◆ **From CLC Mission Board Chairman Todd Ohlmann:** The Board of Missions will meet by conference call on Thursday evening, August 27 to issue a divine call for a full-time resident missionary to India. Since the primary role of our foreign missionaries is to assist in the training of pastors, qualified individuals should be seminary trained. The Board of Missions is asking the members of the CLC for nominations. You may send the name(s) along with any pertinent information to Pastor Ohlmann at: tohlmann@swbell.net or 1183 Big Bend Rd, Manchester, MO 63021. The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, August 25.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Rev. David Lau has returned the call to Trinity in Millston, WI. The congregation has now called Pastor Richard Kanzenbach of Morning Star in Fairchild, WI, and Peace with God in Onalaska, WI, to be Pastor/Coordinator for scheduling pastors, professors and seminary students to conduct Sunday services and himself being responsible to fulfill other congregation needs. He has accepted this call. ✠ Becky McKenney, Fort Atkinson, WI, has returned the call to teach at Trinity in Watertown, SD. Collette Krause has both received and accepted the call to teach at Trinity for one year.

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!

CLC FINANCIAL REPORT

July 2015

<i>CLC Financial Report</i>	Balance	Year to Date	Year to Date	FY 2016 Budget	Balance
Operating Funds	7/1/2015	Revenue	Disbursed	1 Month	7/31/2015
General Fund	0	57,320	86,493	\$75,583	(29,173)
ILC Operations	0	44,930	76,085	\$111,358	(31,155)
Total	\$0	\$102,250	\$162,578	\$186,941	(\$60,328)
Auxiliary Funds					
IIF - ILC Improvement	21,975	519	0		22,494
ILC Building	16,899	4,112	14,411		6,600
MDF - Mission Development	92,551	41,513	27,355		106,709
Kinship	54,418	5,996	11,115		49,299
CEF - Church Extension Fund	1,463,337	43,129	22,463		1,484,003
SAF - Student Aid	(6,833)	6,677	3,783		(3,939)
Reserve Account	127,092	0	0		127,092

ILC Academic Center Mortgage		
Beginning Balance:	January 1, 2010	\$1,751,804
Current Balance:	July 31, 2015	<u>\$1,363,154</u>
Principal Paid to Date:		\$388,650

Comments:

- General Fund offerings in July were \$18,263 less than budget
- General Fund spending was \$10,910 over budget because two months of foreign missions expenditures were made in July
- ILC balance is negative \$31,155 but this is normal for the first month of the year and will be recovered with the fall semester registration payments
- MDF expenditures for July were \$27,355, major items included \$13,389 for outreach efforts, and \$9,000 for disaster relief
- IIF had no expenditures in July
- The Student Aid balance at the end July is negative (\$3,940) and approximately \$140,000 is budgeted for student aid for the upcoming school year
- The ILC Building disbursed \$6,427 for roof and attic ventilation repair as our part of a negotiated settlement with the building contractor

Dr. James A. Sydow, CLC Treasurer
 Philip E. Radichel, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

ANNIVERSARY OF A CHURCH-BODY

We were reminded by a brother, retired pastor Arthur Schulz, that August 12 was the anniversary date of the *Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)*. He wrote, "On this day, after many discussions, free conferences, and prayers, the Church of the Lutheran Confession was organized in Watertown, SD, on August 12, 1960." In these fifty-five years, the majority of those present at the organizing convention have gone to their home with the Lord. If we have counted correctly there are 10 pastors still living who have firsthand knowledge of that organizing convention. This does not include those still living who were in seminary at the time. From the roster of teachers it appears that there are 5 teachers still living who were actively teaching when the constituting convention of the Church of the Lutheran Confession occurred at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Watertown, SD, on August 12.

An anniversary is an annually recurring date of a past event whether good or bad, e.g., of a death, or a wedding, or the establishment of a church-body. It may be remembered with fondness or with sadness. The anniversary of the Church of the Lutheran Confession is remembered, perhaps from both perspectives—sadness because of what necessitated its existence, but more so with thanksgiving to the Lord for the grace to find like-minded believers and confessors of God's Word with whom to start anew.

To different degrees it was a difficult and stressful time for everyone. There was soul-searching and penitential sorrow over the part that pastors and individuals had played in letting things come to the pass they had. There was confession of sins for ill-advised conduct and speech. Families were divided. Many pastors (with their families) suffered dislocation, if not loss of pulpit. At the same time, in a way perhaps incomprehensible to those who did not live it, it was a joyful time. It was joyful because the hand of the Lord was visible in the manner in which He brought people together. Tears of sorrow, relief, and joy mingled as pastors and people came together to form new congregations committed to the principle that the Word of God, and only the Word, establishes what is to be taught in the Church.

It was a time which no one who lived it wants to repeat given the circumstances that broke an established fellowship with family and friends in the church-bodies left behind. Yet it was a time which those who lived it remember fondly because of the freeing experience of consciences released from guilt. A church was born that stood committed without fear or favor to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. Remember each anniversary with thanksgiving to the gracious Lord, for in this endeavor as in any endeavor in which the Christian is involved the truth is "Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain" (Psalms 127:1).

God the Father, Son, and Spirit, Ever blessed Trinity,
 Humbly now our thanks we offer,
 All unworthy though we be.
 Freely Thou hast showered blessings
 Countless as the ocean's sands,
 Blessings rich and overflowing,
 On the labors of our hands. TLH 640:1

Anniversaries look back. But anniversaries celebrated with thanksgiving to the Heavenly Father, our Savior, and the Holy Spirit call us to introspection, as well as to look to the future.

THE PAST: Every church-body has a past and a reason that contributed to its birth. We need to look back to appreciate who we are, from where we have come, and why we are. We need to look back to marvel at the grace of God Who has brought us to this time in history.

THE PRESENT: We need to look at the present to see if we are still the body that can rightfully claim to stand on Scripture alone, and whether we are still true to the name that was chosen, Church of the Lutheran Confession. That name was chosen because it declares that we confess without reservation the Confessions of the Lutheran Church *drawn from Scripture* and expressed in the Lutheran Confessions recorded in the *Book of Concord* of 1580.

Anniversary-time is not the only time, but surely a good time, to look at ourselves, lest by indifference or self-deception we deceive ourselves into believing we are what we say we are. Whether it is doctrine or life it is not impossible to deceive people into thinking that we are what we say we are, but there is nothing more personally deadly than deceiving ourselves into believing that we are what we are not!

Scripture, and it alone, is the *foundation and source* of what we believe. However, our *Confessions show the world* what we believe! That is why we say “If it is not Scripture, it is not Lutheran!” Any who claim to be Lutheran but deny Scripture, lie! Lutheran is not as Lutheran does and says. Lutheran is as Lutheran *respects* Scripture and *teaches* it as the inspired and inerrant source of truth, and without qualification holds the historic Lutheran Confessions as a faithful witness to Scripture truth.

Given the history that preceded our existence, in the present we need to look at the past, and learn the lessons it teaches us, lest we succumb to the same errors from which we fled.

THE FUTURE: Only the Lord God knows what the future holds for us as individuals or as a confessional church. However, as deadly as self-deception is the idea, consciously or unconsciously, that suggests it can never happen to us what has happened to a broad span of Lutherans today.

In what seems a contradiction, as things stay the same they are also changing quickly in many ways. In a certain sense we are conflicted as to how the church in the world should react, and to what extent we can participate in the changing scene. We need not mire ourselves in the mud as if we dare not adopt anything new as to how the church acts and presents itself to the world. Just as certainly, we need not feel compelled to adopt whatever is new for fear we will be left behind. The latter more than the former has gotten the church into the mess it is today! We need to let the world know the message we have. We also need to remember that it is not the “sales pitch” that draws people to the Lord, but the message—the Gospel—which through the power of the Spirit draws people to the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to the God of their salvation. To preach the Gospel through which the Spirit brings people into the kingdom of God and confirms those in it who are already under the rule of Christ is finally our only reason for existence. The Church of our Lord Jesus Christ does

not consist of pew sitters. It consists of believers in Christ. To the accomplishment of the latter the preaching of Law and Gospel is the essential and only manner through which the Lord brings to pass His will as expressed in Paul’s letter to Timothy, “God will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4).

We do not know what the future holds for the Church of the Lutheran Confession. We leave that to the Lord. We do know what the future holds for the Church which is the Body of Christ, the sum total of believers in Christ.

With all the changes that occur one thing is sure. The Word of the Lord is as unchangeable as the Lord Himself. Furthermore, He still binds us to preach the Word faithfully in a world in which it is not fashionable. He has promised through the prophet Isaiah to bless the preaching of the Gospel ... His Word does not fail to produce fruit (Isaiah 55:11). Whatever programs, enticements, and suggestions of reason are thought necessary to draw people into the kingdom, it is still true, “If they do not hear Moses and the prophets (God’s Word), neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead” (Luke 16:31).

Anniversary bids us to look forward with confidence to the future as we hold fast the faithful Word. Regardless of what the future holds we know that there is a future for all who believe that “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). As we preach the Gospel that God has reconciled the world unto Himself in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18), we are engaging in that which the Lord has asked us to do.

It has been a hallmark of our confession over the years that the Lord wants only His Word to be taught in the Church. Only His Word establishes what is to be believed for life and salvation. If what is taught is not of God, souls are harmed because false doctrine undermines the confidence of salvation! As confessors of our Lord, we conclude that the acknowledgment of the anniversary of the Church of the Lutheran Confession is significant only if we remain committed in principle and practice to teaching and preaching only what is given to us in the inspired Scriptures, through which the Spirit of God will accomplish for us and in us what is good and pleasing unto the Lord. Only then can we be confident of the future that the Lord of the Church will bring to fruition in glory!

Fifty-Five years of grace is reason for thanksgiving to our Lord. That we may celebrate fifty-six years with meaning, or however more the Lord is pleased to grant us we pray:

Grant that we Thy Word may cherish
And its purity retain.
Lord, unless Thou art the Builder,
All our labor is in vain.
Keep us from all pride and boasting,
Vanity and foolish trust,
Knowing that our work without Thee
Soon will crumble into dust. TLH 640:3



Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 8/2015