

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Frank Radichel

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

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

Church Cleaners: Anderson

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Benno Sydow; Chad Hestekin

Church Cleaners: ?

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

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

Last Week's Stats: Aug. 23, 2015 Sun.: 82

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$1,487.00	CLC:	\$330.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,340.00	CLC:	1,060.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,853.00	CLC:	-730.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$102,014.48	CLC:	\$27,937.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	113,560.00	CLC:	36,040.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-11,545.52	CLC:	-8,103.00
GLC Other: 50.00	Living Faith: 0.00	Tuition Aid: 50.00		
SAF Endowment: 0.00	MDF: 0.00	Kinship: 0.00		
ILC Student Aid: 50.00	ILC Bldg. 150.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00	
Current Balances:	Parking Lot: 7,745.00	Tuition Aid: 2,851.12		

Grace Lutheran Church & School

*...walk in love,
as Christ also
hath loved us...*



Ephesians 5:2

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: Pentecost 14

Date: August 30, 2015

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 621: O Father, All Creating

TLH 624: O Blessed Home Where Man and Wife

LSB 860: Gracious Savior, Grant Your Blessing

(Note: Projected, to tune of TLH 442)

TLH 644: Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 128, Projected

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 466, st. 4

Scripture Readings:

Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18

John 6:60-69

Sermon: Ephesians 5:21-33

²¹... submitting to one another in the fear of God. ²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. ³⁰For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³²This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife *see* that she respects *her* husband. (NKJVTM)

Godly Marriage in an Ungodly Age

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Christian Day School Starts:** Tomorrow morning, at 8:00 am, there will be an opening service for the new school year. All members are invited to come. There are 16 children that will be attending this year: Kindergarten: Cam Nelson; 1st Grade: Gavin Flesner & Uriah Wales; 3rd Grade: Alexandra Baker, Nathan DeBoer, & Naomi Story; 4th Grade: Dayne Flesner, Jenna & Kayla Heinecke; 5th Grade: Natalie Story; 6th Grade: Cole Flesner, Daniel Hein, & Alieu Kanneh; 7th Grade: Kathleen Baker & Matthew DeBoer; 8th Grade: Patrick Baker. We pray that our students will be richly blessed through the spiritual training they will receive through the daily immersion in God's Word.
- ◆ **Catechism:** Classes for those in public school will begin this 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!
- ◆ **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. Hospitality hour will also resume following the worship service.
- ◆ **Sunday School:** Those interested in being substitute teachers may speak with Michael Ude or Pastor Hein.
- ◆ **Church Cleaning:** Volunteers are needed for the next three months.
- ◆ **Blood Drive:** Mission Festival will be Oct. 11, along with our annual blood drive. Since a person can only donate once every 56 days, Rick Nelson asks that you reserve your next donation for that Sunday.
- ◆ **Golf Outing:** The 8th Annual Snell Open benefitting the Josh Snell Memorial Scholarship Fund is set for Sat., Sept. 26, at Hidden Greens in Hastings, MN. Registration forms are by the guest book.
- ◆ **Immanuel Begins:** This past Monday the academic year began at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. During the opening service, President Sippert reminded the student body of our Savior's growth plan through God's Word. High school enrollment begins with 111 total students (24 freshmen, 25 sophomores, 29 juniors, and 33 seniors). This is a drop of 13 students from last year, mostly because the incoming freshman class is a little smaller than last year's graduating class. In the college there are 23 total students, a nice increase from last year's enrollment of 15. At this time six of these students are pursuing the teaching ministry and ten are preparing for seminary training. While seminary will begin later, six students are expected for the year. We thank the Lord for all those blood-bought souls that will be immersed in His Word during their Immanuel experience.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Peter Evensen of Rock of Ages in Grand Rapids, MI, has received the call from the CLC's Board of Missions to be a resident CLC Foreign Missionary to India. ✠ Leah Ude has returned the call to serve as preschool teacher at Redeemer in Cheyenne, WY. ✠ This past week St. John's in Clarkston, WA, opened its Christian Day School, Valley Bible Academy, with 5 students.

WE EXPECT IT OF THE WORLD—BUT THE CHURCH?

As Lutherans who still respect the Word of God as the authority in matters of faith and life, and as a citizen of the temporal nation of which we are citizens, there is sorrow at the deterioration of the nation and the churches in this country, especially the Lutheran churches who are casting their heritage away.

Ever since Eve and Adam visited with the devil and bought the lie, there has been sin in the world. The heart of man was corrupted. "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thought of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). Man can protest but cannot change the fact since the Judge has already issued His indictment. Of the Judge are spoken words that are almost incomprehensible. "And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart" (v.6).

The Lord did not make a mistake in creating man. The Lord God does not make mistakes. He did not miscalculate. He did not create a flawed humanity. Yes, He gave man free will, a will that would not have been totally free if man could not make decisions on his own. But Adam and Eve abused the gift. They listened to the devil and chose to transgress the Word of God. They were not victims. They had the ability to say no to the devil. They victimized themselves, and consequently brought sin, misery and death into the world! The Lord was grieved in His heart because of what it meant for man who had thrust overboard the life that the Creator intended for him. There is an echo of this grief in the words that Jesus spoke concerning Judas, the betrayer, "It would have been good for that man if he had not been born" (Matthew 26:24). Have some parents, perhaps had the same sorrow and grief when they see a child they have borne waste away his life and bring shame, despair, and judgment upon himself?

The sorrow and grief of the Creator moved Him to action. There was (and remains) only one escape from the judgment man brought on himself. The Father determined to send the Savior from sin, the Deliverer from judgment. The span of man's life on earth would now be numbered, but for those who believe on the sin-bearing Savior who bore the judgment man deserved there was assurance of the life that God intended when He created man, life in a new heaven and a new earth (Isaiah 65:17-18, Revelation 21) which the grieving but merciful Father will give to all His children at the time of His choosing.

In the meantime He has commissioned His Church, His body, to proclaim His Word to the world. Honesty and obedience to the will of God means that the Church will proclaim the Law to the uncovering of sin, as well as the warning of judgment to come. It will joyfully seize the privilege to proclaim the Gospel of forgiveness in and through the Lord Jesus Christ, that those who acknowledge their sin might enter the life to come.

Yet as it ever has been, so it is today. The constituents of this world choose to reject the Lord's Word; they choose to listen to the devil, and pursue the lusts of the flesh, and the imagination of their own heart. They have evidence of God's being and His power all about them in the creation. They have evidence of His mercy in the sun that shines. They have no excuse. Rejecting also the Word, they continue to be enamored with the godlessness of evolutionary teaching which feeds the perception that there is no God. The call of the Gospel goes out, but they close their ears until God finally gives them up to their own devices and their own pursuits (Romans 1:20 ff.). As the Word of God falls on deaf ears, the slide into oblivion and to the abyss of evil and ultimately judgment accelerates.

The decline into evil is a consequence of rejecting the Word of God, the call to repentance, and the spurning of the Savior's love. We are sorry, but the truth is the truth. They "receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it a pleasure to carouse in the day time" (2 Peter 2:13). This is said of false teachers who mislead, and finally also those who love wickedness. The whole chapter of 2nd Peter is a wakeup call to the church in the world. "But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed" (2 Peter 2:2). Now again is an echo. "For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them" (2 Peter 2:21).

We live in an age in which even the church, has put its stamp on the evil and immorality that is of the devil. As many find support in the church for their sins they also are bold to mock the faithful who are still willing to call sin what it is.

God has not changed in His person, His expectations, His demands or His desire to save the sinner. God's Word has not changed. What changed? In the Old Testament the Lord established a covenant with Israel and, as it were, built a wall around them. But when Israel wearied of its special relationship with the Lord and flirted with the world, the wall crumbled. Yet for the sake of His promise of a Savior the Lord preserved for Himself a remnant. He will do so in our age also, not because of merit on our part, but because He is good and gracious.

He will preserve a remnant even while we are living a repeat. The world has entered into the church as one writer put it. Dr. Laurence White, in a straight-forward and compelling essay titled, *The World in the Church (2006)* wrote, "... Most American churches—again, including many Lutheran churches—have chosen to blend and bend, adapting to current cultural trends in hope of statistical growth and institutional success. Across denominational lines, the churches 'of what is happening now' are engaged in a desperate dash for relevance ... The Church, the Bride of Christ, has entered into a bigamous marriage with worldly culture." It is not because the world forced its way into the church. Unfortunately the opposite is true. Because of a lack of respect for the Word of God, the world has been *invited* into the church.

In today's confusion church doctrine is no longer important, especially such doctrine that may offend people. The law is of little consequence in their preaching, and without the law the gospel message is diminished. The vacuum is filled by environmental, feminist, homosexual, transgender, abortion, and politically correct "theology," all in the context of "Jesus loves you." In the context of John 17:14-18, Dr. White wrote, "Scripture has made it clear that it is impossible for the world and the Church to exist harmoniously. If they manage to do so at any given point in history, it is, no doubt, safe to assume that one of the two has abandoned and betrayed its essential nature. Either the Church has become more worldly or the world has become more churchly."

The Word of God has been committed to vessels of clay such as we with the assurance that the Spirit of God will uphold and bless the proclamation of his Word through our feeble efforts. We further have the assurance that by the power of the Spirit the Lord will protect his Church so that the gates of hell will not destroy it. The Holy Christian Church will exist until the end of time and be translated into glory at the Lord's gracious call. However, whether a confessional church called "Lutheran" will prevail depends on whether Lutherans will faithfully preach the Word and stand by their principled confessions drawn from Scripture and set forth in the *Book of Concord* of 1580. We speak to ourselves! The moment that we forget that the Church on earth is the Church militant is the day that we will go the way of those who have invited the world into their church. The day that we think that we have to become like others and mimic them to stay relevant is the day that we should give up any pretense and indeed go away! If we worship and practice like those around us who have lost respect for the Word of God, we will become them.

We may not like to admit it, and we may bridle at the suggestion, but by the very nature of our own flesh, and by the nature of the world in which we live, the camel is standing outside our tent waiting to get his nose in. He may not enter through blatant false teaching (God forbid) but through subtle suggestions that we have to compete with the churches around us and adopt some of their programs and practices to attract people or keep our own. Some Lutheran preachers who left their former fellowship because of its heterodoxy told this writer a few weeks ago (2015), "You really are old fashioned" as we visited briefly. They did not say that critically, but with some nostalgia for what they had lost.

Scripture tells us, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2). Only by the power of the Word that transforms the heart and mind is the will of God performed. If the Word is lost, who wins? We pray that we will always appreciate what a gift we have from the Lord in His faithful Word, and in His grace and love shown to us every day. We pray to Him to give us the will and the strength to stand on the wall and guard the moat, lest the enemy capitalize on confessional indifference, or sneak in while the watchmen sleep. Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 4/2015