

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Ryan Mueller      Elder: Benno Sydow  
Ushers: Larry Brandt, Charles Davis, Nick Duehlmeier, Dale Enns, Lynn Sandhoefner, Ned Sandhoefner  
Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Rick Nelson; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever, Clint Welker  
Hospitality Team 6: Alex & Bonnie Baker, Kevin & Tracy Baker; Phil & Rona Flesner  
Church Cleaners: Kitzman      School: Nelson

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Larry Brandt, Charles Davis, Nick Duehlmeier, Dale Enns, Lynn Sandhoefner, Ned Sandhoefner  
Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Benno Sydow; Chad Hestekin  
Hospitality Team 7: Chad & Amanda Hestekin; Ryan & Mikey Oman; Eli & Laura Wales  
Church Cleaners: Kitzman

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

**Sun., Dec. 20:** 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service  
11:15 am – Hospitality  
12:00 pm – Council Meeting  
3:00 pm – Christmas Caroling

**Wed., Dec. 23:** 12:00 pm – School Christmas Party (Gift Opening @ 2 pm)  
Grace School Dismissal for Christmas Break  
Note: Break for Catechism for Public School Students

**Thu., Dec. 24:** **CHRISTMAS EVE**  
5:30 pm – Children to arrive at Church  
6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship

**Fri., Dec. 25:** **CHRISTMAS DAY**  
10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship

**Sun., Dec. 27:** 10:00 am – Worship Service  
(Bible Class, Sunday School, Hospitality suspended)

**Thu., Dec. 31:** 7:00 pm – New Year's Eve Worship w/Lord's Supper

**Sun., Jan. 3:** 10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper  
(Bible Class, Sunday School, Hospitality suspended)

**Wed., Jan. 6:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

**Sun., Jan. 10:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service  
11:15 am – Hospitality  
12:00 pm – Council Meeting

## Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Fridley, MN 55432

Email: [jphein@clclutheran.com](mailto:jphein@clclutheran.com)

Home Page: [www.JustifiedByGrace.org](http://www.JustifiedByGrace.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-8<sup>th</sup>

**Church Year:** Advent 4

**Date:** December 20, 2015

## ✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

### Hymns:

WS 701: Prepare the Royal Highway

Baptism: Samuel William Baker

WS 751: God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

WS 702: As Angels Joyed with One Accord

WS 713: Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

### Worship Prep:

Psalms 85, TLH p. 140

### Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 58 & 62

### Scripture Reading:

Micah 5:2-5a

Hebrews 10:5-10

### Sermon: Luke 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.' <sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; <sup>6</sup> And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

### Baptism Prepares the Way for the Lord

1. By bringing about a change of history
2. By bringing about a change of heart

# ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Congratulations:** To Samuel Baker for his rebirth in Holy Baptism! May the Lord keep him in his baptismal grace through time and eternity.
- ◆ **Caroling:** Today there will be a caroling outing, the group meeting at the church at 3 pm. The hope is to sing to a few of our shut-ins and elderly members. Please let Pastor know of your involvement.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Worship:** Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 6:00 pm with our children presenting the Christmas Gospel. The theme this year is: *The Good Shepherd is Born!* The kids are asked to be here 1/2 hour prior to the service so that we can take a group picture and run through things.
- ◆ **Christmas Day Worship:** This will be on Friday at 10:00 am. Christ's birth is the reason for the season. May the love of this Child be the gift you open up your heart to on Christmas Day!
- ◆ **Video Tape:** A reminder that we are having a Christmas Eve service instead of a Christmas Eve program. Therefore, we ask that parents and friends avoid taking flash pictures and videotaping during this service so that the focus remains on the joyous message of our Savior's birth. Our Christmas Eve service will be discreetly videotaped and made available by request. If you are interested in a copy, please speak with Pastor, Frank Radichel, or Rick Nelson. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.
- ◆ **Among Us:** Lyle Trulin has returned home this week following his bypass surgery. He will begin resuming his regular activities on Monday as he is able. As mentioned, former Grace member, Marty Strike, is receiving hospice care at Slayton Golden Living in Slayton, MN. For information: [www.caringbridge.org/visit/martinstrike](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/martinstrike).
- ◆ **Catechism Break:** We will be having a two-week break for midweek Catechism students on Dec. 23 and 30.
- ◆ **Large Print Hymnals:** Due to a recent bargain, there are three copies of The Lutheran Hymnal in large print. These are by the guest book. Feel free to use these and return at the end of the worship service.
- ◆ **New ILC Tour Choir CD's:** A newly produced recording of choral music, sung by Tour Choirs of Immanuel Lutheran College, is now available. It is a 2-CD set, featuring pieces sung by various choirs from 1991 to 2015. The first CD primarily reflects the themes of Advent and Christmas, the second the themes of Lent and Easter. The cost per 2-CD set is \$16 (or two sets for \$30). Pastor has the CD's for those who already expressed interest. There are still a few more copies available.



- ◆ **2016 Cleaning:** The 2016 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **Candidates for Immanuel Professor Call:** The Board of Regents for Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary invites "all pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession" (CLC Constitution) to nominate an individual or individuals to fill the vacancy which will be created on the Immanuel faculty by the retirement of Professor John Pfeiffer at the end of the 2015-16 academic year. The individual would teach at the high school (potentially), college, and seminary levels with an emphasis on courses in Hebrew (college) and Old Testament theology (seminary) and also in other theological disciplines. With the duties including teaching God's Word to adult males, the person is to be a male (1 Tim. 2:12). The position would, God-willing, commence with the 2016-17 academic year. Those submitting nominations are encouraged to include information regarding their nominee's educational background and teaching and/or professional experience, also indicating how the person might help our school in supervising extracurricular activities or serving in administrative positions. Please send your nominations postmarked or e-mailed no later than January 20, 2016, to: Mr. Craig Ryan, Secretary; ILC Board of Regents; 499 Country Lane; Fulda, MN 56131 (email: [cryan@page1printers.com](mailto:cryan@page1printers.com)).
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Mark Weis of Church of the Lutheran Confession in North Port, FL, has returned the call to Mount Zion Lutheran in Madison Heights, MI (Detroit area). ✠ Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN, has received the call to Gethsemane Lutheran in Spokane Valley, WA. ✠ Pastor Roland Gurgel has reported that Bethel Lutheran of Spring, TX (Houston area) is selling its property in a downsizing relocation. Please keep them in your prayers during this transition. ✠ Pastor Emeritus Arvid G.W. Gullerud was welcomed into the glory of heaven on Friday. Memorial Service arrangements are pending.
- ◆ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.

**Last Week's Stats:** Dec. 13, 2015 Sun.: 123 S.S.: 16 B.Cl.: 54 Wed.: 91

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,830.00	CLC:	\$3,050.00
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	750.00	CLC:	600.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,340.00	CLC:	1,060.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+240.00	CLC:	+2,590.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$154,097.39	CLC:	\$45,840.05
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	167,000.00	CLC:	53,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-12,902.61	CLC:	-7,159.95
GLC Other: 2,755.91*	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	75.00
SAF Endowment: 0.00	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid: 0.00	ILC Bldg.	250.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	9,361.00	Tuition Aid:	1,517.12
* \$1,000 Linda Wagner Memorial; \$195 Ellen Rust Memorial				

## CLC FINANCIAL REPORT

November 2015

Please note that the combined General Fund and ILC Operations funds are now in deficit for the fiscal year. These Operating Funds are the primary support for the CLC to complete the planned work for the year.

<i>CLC Financial Report</i>	Balance	Year to Date	Year to Date	FY 2016 Budget	Balance
<u>Operating Funds</u>	7/1/2015	Revenue	Disbursed	5 Months	11/30/2015
General Fund	0	330,450	394,969	\$385,000	(64,519)
ILC Operations	0	557,781	500,799	\$556,792	56,982
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$888,231</b>	<b>\$895,768</b>	<b>\$941,792</b>	<b>(\$7,537)</b>
<u>Auxiliary Funds</u>					
IIF - ILC Improvement	21,975	37,099	16,860		42,214
ILC Building	16,899	37,458	46,347		8,009
MDF - Mission Development	92,551	103,811	118,354		78,008
Kinship	54,418	24,402	36,831		41,989
CEF - Church Extension Fund	1,463,337	324,020	762,646		1,024,711
SAF - Student Aid	(6,833)	86,208	64,226		15,149
Reserve Account	127,092	0	0		127,092

<u>ILC Academic Center Mortgage</u>		
Beginning Balance:	January 1, 2010	\$1,751,804
Current Balance:	November 30, 2015	\$1,349,323
	Principal Paid to Date:	\$402,481

Comments:

- The General Fund deficit is (\$64,519) at the end of November
- General Fund offerings are \$54,550, less than budget year-to-date
- General Fund spending was \$9,969 over budget year-to-date
- ILC balance is positive \$56,982 because of fall registration payments
- September MDF expenditures totaled \$18,637, major items included \$10,277 for disaster relief, and \$6,120 for outreach in Africa and India
- IIF spent \$12,200 for repair and upgrade of the internet and telephone systems
- A bequest of \$58,329 has been received divided between the MDF, IIF and the endowment for the preacher and teacher tuition aid

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

## CLC E-Devotion – Thursday, December 3, 2015

Matthew 3:1-2 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

### A BROKEN RECORD

Those who are over 40 are familiar with the expression, “He sounds like a broken record.” A broken record refers to a sound recording on a vinyl disc that has a scratch on it. Because it has a scratch, it keeps repeating the same words over and over again. The expression, “He sounds like a broken record,” refers to someone who keeps telling you the same things over and over again.

Maybe your pastor sounds like a broken record. Every time you go to church, he keeps telling you the same things. He keeps reminding you of your sin and about the eternal punishment your sin deserves. He constantly warns you to get ready for the second coming of the Son of God. Sunday after Sunday he tells you how Jesus lived a perfect life for you and how He made full payment for all your sins on the cross. He’s forever telling you that salvation is God’s free gift to you. He tells you to trust God’s Word because all of its promises are sure. He keeps insisting that everything the Bible says is 100% true, no matter what the world says to the contrary.

Your pastor is probably like John the Baptist, who kept telling everyone to repent of their sins and trust the Savior to forgive them. Are you tired of hearing these things? I pray not. In fact, thank God if you have a pastor who stays on message, on God’s message of sin and grace, on God’s message centered in the birth, death, and resurrection of His own Son for all people. And pray for your pastor. Pray that he keeps preaching like John the Baptist. Pray that he sounds like a broken record, always telling you how much Jesus loves you, and what He did to save you.

Dear God, give us pastors who preach the truth no matter what.

### The following is the nomination slate for 2016:

- President: Eli Wales
- Vice President: Roger Ochsner, Ryan Oman
- Secretary: Fred Dauer, Roger Ochsner
- Treasurer: Phil Radichel, Al Rosendahl
- Elder: Phil Radichel, Al Rosendahl
- Education: Phil Flesner, Pat Paplow
- Trustee: Phil Flesner, Pat Paplow

## **BE COMFORTED – ISAIAH 40:10-11**

Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand,  
And His arm shall rule for Him;  
Behold, His reward is with Him,  
And His work before Him.

He will feed His flock like a shepherd;  
He will gather the lambs with His arm,  
And carry them in His bosom,  
And gently lead those who are with young.

The words of the evangelist of the Old Testament are heard every Advent season. The 40<sup>th</sup> chapter begins with the Lord's commission to Isaiah, "Comfort, yes, comfort My people." These words are a clear prophecy of the forerunner of Jesus, John the Baptist. John recognized these words as applying to his role and his message. He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness; Make straight the way of the Lord" (John 1:23). John's preparatory work for the Savior's appearance was a call to repentance. John further testified that Jesus was the "Son of God," the Lamb of God Who would take away the sins of the world. John's words lose their real sense and meaning, as well as their effect, unless recognition of personal sin and heartfelt repentance precedes.

Sins, inherited and committed, separated man from the Lord God. The prophet said, "Your iniquities have separated you from your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you ... (Isaiah 59:2). John's message was that the Greater One who would come would destroy the wall of separation and reconcile the sinner to God. This is the *underlying and real* comfort of which the prophet was speaking when he wrote, "Comfort, yes, comfort My people," and which John spoke.

In the world in which we live we must endure trial, affliction, threat, intimidation, and frustration such as we observe in these evil days. In reality what is happening around us today is not any different than what has always been in the world since the entrance of sin. Our world is not any more immoral than it has always been. Violence is certainly nothing new since Cain murdered Abel. Apostasy from the faith is the same. Every sin under the sun is as old as sin! Perhaps the only thing we can say with certainty is that we are living in the midst of it, and it is practiced with a certain boldness before unseen. Of the latter we are not even sure. One change of which we are sure is that social media (TV, internet) has broadcast it more widely, making sin and evil attractive to many.

*Forgiveness of sins and life and salvation*, the gift of God to us in Christ, is the *underlying and sound foundation* of every other good thing that we enjoy in this life, many of which we take for granted. Without the Christ of Bethlehem, the Sacrificial Lamb of the cross, the resurrection of the Lord of Life, and the promises of the Heavenly Father, our present life would indeed be a living hell. Without faith in the Savior Who reconciled us to the Father, believers in Christ would be counted among those who are described as ones "whose end is destruction" (Philippians 3:19) and whose way "is the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12). They are those who in their unbelief weep as ones "who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

As it is, for Christ-believers life on earth is difficult. Fear and dread overtakes many, and are far removed from none, as we witness the crime on our streets and the threats and actions of those who would destroy our faith as well as our life, in the name of religion no less.

The words of the prophet who directs our attention to the Lord who has reconciled us to God and prepared for us the perfect peace and rest of heaven, resonate also for us in the face of temporal evil and enemies. Our future in heaven is assured in and through Christ. That warfare is over. Our iniquities are pardoned. Be comforted! Be comforted also through the assurance that He who has given you a future, will accompany and embrace you as you await that future.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer (12/2015)

### **BAPTISM 4 (From Luther's Catechism)**

#### **What is the meaning of this baptism with water?**

*It means that the old Adam in us should be drowned by daily contrition and repentance and die with all sins and evil desires. It also means that a new Man should daily appear and arise, who lives eternally before God in righteousness and purity.*



**BAPTIZED  
UNTO THE  
LORD**

#### **Where is this written?**

*Saint Paul says in the sixth chapter of Romans, "Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*

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## **UNDERSTANDING OUR FAITH: TEACHING OUR CHILDREN TO APPRECIATE CHRISTMAS**

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The latest report that was heard on the Christmas shopping activity is that to the surprise of many it was up. The post-Thanksgiving shopping in this year of 2000 surpassed what the merchants expected. Reports are that toy sales are up. This means that many children will have a “good” Christmas. We hope so.

The promotion of Christmas according to the world’s standard, the standard by which many people judge what is a “good” Christmas is quite easy. One does not have to teach children in this regard. They absorb the ads on TV. They listen to the tales of Santa Claus. They make their Christmas lists. They walk through the toy stores and the malls. They absorb Christmas by osmosis. Sadly, that is the most that many children know about Christmas, or at least the most they remember. Well-meaning adults who ask, “Did you have a good Christmas,” reinforce this when they ask, “What did Santa Claus bring you?”



We look at Christmas in a different manner. We start from the premise that there would be no Christmas, no “Christ-festival” if there had been no Christ. The world, while giving lip service to Christ, in fact uses the birth of Christ to serve its own purpose. The achieved result is that the blessing of Christmas is lost, because the Christ of Christmas has been diminished.

The real meaning of Christmas is not absorbed. It is found in Scripture. It is taught!

“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:15). “I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also” (1:3-5).

It falls primarily upon the parents to teach their children. This responsibility secondarily belongs to the church as assistant to the parents in looking after the spiritual welfare of children. Children need to have a

clear understanding of sin. Without sin and its condemnation there would have been no need for Jesus to come into the flesh. The instruction of children will include the teaching of Old Testament prophecy, namely that in the Old Testament the Heavenly Father prophesied through the prophets about Jesus Christ. Children are to be taught who Jesus is. He is true God become Man to be our Savior. That is the meaning of the name, Jesus. They need to know that life on earth is passing, and that the real life is in heaven. Jesus is the only way to heaven, as Scripture clearly teaches. Children need to be taught of the love of God, and how the epitome of this love was the sending of Jesus Christ into the world so that when toys are broken, clothes are outgrown, games are over, and life on earth is past and gone, trusting in Jesus they may enter into life everlasting.



All the trappings and giving of Christmas will come home to haunt those parents who have not taught their children what Christmas really is. What will be the response of parents to those children who naturally like to ask why? What will they say when on judgment day the child asks, “Why did you not teach us what Christmas was really about? Why did you not lead us to Jesus, and teach us the Gospel?”

The Gospel and the message of Christmas, “Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,” is not absorbed. It is taught. The Word confirms what is taught from the Word. Therefore let your Christmas be first of all built around the Word. Then it will be a good Christmas. Without the Word, a good Christmas is not the best.

Written by Pastor Daniel Fleischer (12/3/2000)

### **BAPTISM 2 (From Luther’s Catechism)**

#### **What are the benefits of baptism?**

*Baptism works the forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe, as the words and promises of God declare.*



#### **What are these words and promises of God?**

*Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”*