

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Janelle Hein Elder: Benno Sydow
Ushers: Benno Sydow, Gary Gunther, Larry Nelson, Jeff Stifter, Bill Rust

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

Hospitality Team 2: Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Janelle Hein; Jenny Kleifgen; Chris Lentz

Church Cleaners: Rosendahl School: Nelson

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: James Bomber, Eli Wales, David Hein, Michael Ude, Ryan Oman

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

Hospitality Team 3: Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Nick & Miranda Duehlmeier; Dan & Cindy Degnan

Church Cleaners: Rosendahl School: Nelson

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., May 1: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
11:15 am – Hospitality
12:00 pm – Council Meeting (due to Mother's Day on May 8)

Wed., May 4: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Confirmation Preparation

Thu., May 5: 7:00 pm – Ascension Day Worship

Sun., May 8: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality

Fri., May 13: Field Day (5th-8th grade, by Berea in Inver Grove Hts.)

Fri., May 20: 3:00 pm – Immanuel Class Day @ Immanuel Fieldhouse
7:30 pm – Immanuel Concert @ Messiah Lutheran

Sat., May 21: 10:00 am – Immanuel Graduation @ Immanuel Fieldhouse

Sun., May 22: 9:00 am – Confirmation Examination
10:00 am – Worship with Confirmation (Trinity Sunday)

Thu., May 26: 7:00 pm – Grace School Spring Program

Fri., May 27: 12:00 pm – School Year Dismissal

Sun., May 29: 9:00 am – Summer Schedule Begins (Graduation)

Sun., June 5: 3:00 pm – MN Delegate Conference @ Mankato, MN

June 23-26: CLC Convention @ Eau Claire, WI

July 25-29: 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School

Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432

Email: jphein@clclutheran.com

Home Page: www.JustifiedByGrace.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635)

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Church Year: Easter 6

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: May 1, 2016

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

WS 757: Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning
WS 736: At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
LSB 336: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
Communion: TLH 305: Soul Adorn Thyself
WS 732, st. 3-4: Now All the Vault of Heaven
Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 8, TLH p. 124

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 12 (Communion)
Psalm 96: WS, p. 26

Scripture Reading:

Acts 16:6-10
John 17:20-26

Sermon: Revelation 22:12-17, 20

¹² "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." ¹⁴ Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵ But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. ¹⁶ "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." ¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. ... ²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (NKJVTM)

"Our Living Lord: The Church's Expectation"

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Ascension Worship This Thursday:** 40 days after Jesus' resurrection He ascended into heaven visibly from His disciples. Knowing that He was now seated at the right hand of the Father in full glory and ruling over all things, they worshipped Him with great joy. Our opportunity to worship Him is this Thursday, May 5, 7 pm.
- ◆ **Among Us:** This past Thursday Norma Rust had surgery related to breast cancer. The surgery was successful and she was able to return home safely the same day.
- ◆ **Work Day:** Yesterday a good-sized crew helped out with clearing lilacs from the fence and doing general yard work around the church. It was great to see a lot of children who were able to observe and experience firsthand how it takes a team to keep things up at the church and to interact with their church family. Thank you to all who participated and contributed to the work effort.
- ◆ **Private Communion:** Please be aware that private communion is always available by request to those communicants who desire it any time during the month. If any of our communicants are unable to attend a communion service or would appreciate the special assurance the Sacrament gives, you may speak with the Pastor about private communion.
- ◆ **Grace Lutheran School** staff is already beginning to plan for the 2016-17 school year. If you are interested in enrolling your child in our school, please speak to one of the teachers for an enrollment form.
- ◆ **School Program:** On Thu., May 26, 7 pm, the children of our day school will be putting on their play, "Beauty and the Beast." All members and friends of Grace are invited to show support of the children's efforts and of our school. Refreshments will follow.
- ◆ **Graduates:** Please list any member of Grace that is graduating this year (Jan-Dec 2016) on the sheet on the tract rack table. Include the school's name and the degree. Our Graduation Sunday is May 29. Patrick Baker will also graduate from Grace School that day.
- ◆ **Lutheran Spokesman:** The Lutheran Spokesman is a publication by the CLC which is dedicated to sharing rich, devotional messages for our spiritual edification. Those who currently receive the publication are listed on a sheet by the guestbook. If you no longer wish to receive it, please cross out your name. If you don't receive it and would like to, please sign up. The congregation covers the cost.
- ◆ **The Branches:** "The Branches" renewal list is by the guest book. This is a quarterly publication for Christian women. Please check your name if you want to continue receiving this publication, making any corrections to the listed information. Issues are available by US mail or email. If you are not receiving "The Branches" now is the time to add your name to the list. The congregation pays for the subscription.

- ◆ **Housing Needed:** Housing is still being sought for a member from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato, Michael Perez. Housing is also being sought for our vicar, Sam Rodebaugh from about mid-August to about the 3rd week of September, including a week or two near the end of July. Please let Pastor know if you would be willing to help.
- ◆ **Installation Invitation:** The Installation of Pastor Wayne Eichstadt as under-shepherd of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Spokane Valley, WA. will be on Sunday, May 22, 2016, at 6:00 pm with a "finger food" supper provided by the Ladies of Gethsemane following the service. Pastor/Visitor Dave Reim will be conducting the service.
- ◆ **Colorado Springs:** Last Sunday St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran of Lakewood, CO, hosted the first of what we hope will be many worship services in Colorado Springs. Attendance at this initial service was sixteen, including 11 CLC members from the Springs area and 5 St. Paul members from the Denver area. We plan to meet for worship in Colorado Springs from now on a monthly basis. The next service is scheduled for Sunday, May 22, at 2:30 pm. We are meeting in a rented chapel of the First United Methodist Church near downtown Colorado Springs (address: 420 N. Nevada Ave). Contact Pastor Tom Schuetze (303-428-5524/tschuetze@centurylink.net).
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Michael Schierenbeck has resigned his call to Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI, and from the public ministry for reasons of health. ✠ Graduate Benjamin Libby has accepted the pastoral call to Ascension Lutheran in Tacoma, WA. ✠ Graduate Joseph Naumann has returned the pastoral call to Living Savior Lutheran in Eden Prairie, MN. ✠ Graduate Andrew Roehl has been called to teach in the lower grades at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. Teacher Naomi Oster has resigned this call. ✠ Teacher Neil Bernthal of Immanuel Lutheran in Winter Haven, FL, has declined the call to Gethsemane Lutheran in Spokane Valley, WA. ✠ After more than a year of efforts, Pastor Doug Priestap has been cleared by the Depart. of Homeland Security for immigration to the U. S., in order that he may take up his work of shepherding Grace, Live Oak, FL. ✠ The soul of Mrs. Edung Effiong Ekong Essien went to be with the Lord and her earthly body was laid to rest on April 9. She was the widow of the late Pastor E.E. Essien, who was leader in the NCLC for some time.
- ◆ **Vacation Bible School:** This is scheduled for July 25-29.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #26 – Sacrament of the Altar 2 & 3

Last Week's Stats: Apr. 24, 2016 Sun.: 102 S.S.: 11 B.CI.: 43

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,147.47	CLC:	\$550.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,152.53	CLC:	-450.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$53,660.78	CLC:	\$16,384.35	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	56,100.00	CLC:	17,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-2,439.22	CLC:	-615.65	
GLC Other:	550.20	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	75.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	13,632.00	Tuition Aid:	1,409.12

GRACE PARKING LOT FUND

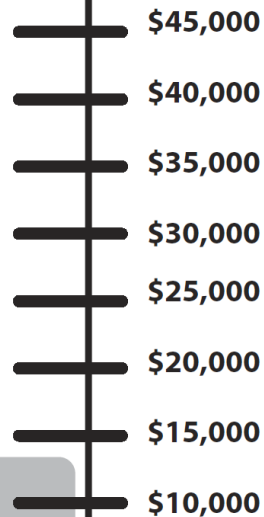


The original parking lot was installed on Wednesday, June 27, 1984 by H.L. Johnson Companies at a cost of \$10,100.

OUR GOAL
\$50,000

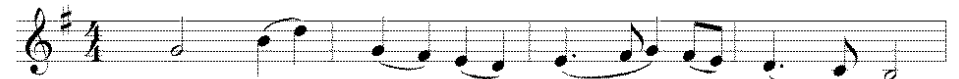
\$13,082.00*

On October 19, 2014 the Grace Lutheran Church Voter's assembly passed a motion to set up a "parking lot fund". Since then over \$13,000 has been raised. In April of 2016 quotes were gathered and a goal of \$50,000 was established. If you wish to contribute directly to this fund please check the "project" line on your offerings envelope and write in "parking lot".

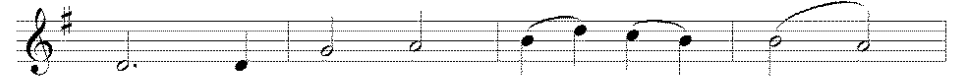


* AS OF 4/17/2016

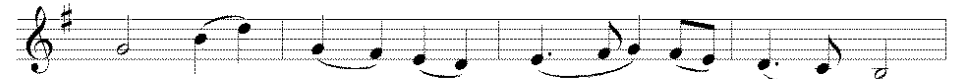
Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



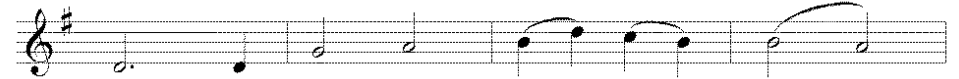
1. Lo! - He comes with clouds de- scend - ing,
 2. Ev - 'ry eye shall now be- hold Him
 3. Those dear to - kens of His Pas - sion
 4. Yea, A - men, let all a - dore Thee,



Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
 Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty,
 Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,
 High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;



Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 Those who rid - i - culed and sold Him,
 Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Ev - 'ry knee shall bow be - fore Thee;



Swell the tri - umph of His train:
 Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
 To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
 Come and take Thy peo - ple home!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
 With what won - der with what won - der with what won - der,
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Christ re - veals His end - less reign.
 Shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

CHRISTIAN ORIGINALISTS

With respect to the Constitution of the United States some justices of the Supreme Court are called “Originalists.” They believe the constitution is to be interpreted and applied as it was originally written to the extent it can be determined. However, it is not a simple thing to determine what the founding fathers meant in every case. Though originalists respect the Constitution and seek to understand and apply it in its original sense, there are frequently differences of opinion as to the original intent. That is not surprising.

Opposed to originalists are those who believe the Constitution should be viewed as a “living document” with no fixed meaning. While there is some tension within the camp of the originalists, there is little if any tension among those who see the Constitution as a “living document.” They are comfortable interpreting it as they choose or desire. They believe it should change or bend with the times to fit personal whims, political correctness, or the changing customs of the time. The Constitution thus becomes a political pawn. Neither is that surprising.

Today we find similar differences in the churches with respect to Scripture interpretation. For example, division exists within Lutheranism between originalists, and those who see the Scriptures as a living document.

Originalists believe the Holy Scriptures are the living Word of the Lord God. “For the Word of God is *living and powerful*, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12). The Word of God is not a dead letter, but alive and effective as Jesus said, “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing, the words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63). Further, Jesus is the living Word. “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ...” (John 1:1,14).

That the Word is a living Word, does **not mean** that it is subject to change with the times or circumstances of the moment. God’s Word is as set and as sure and certain as God himself. His analysis of the human condition under sin does not change. He has never changed His definition of what constitutes sin. His condemnation of sin and unbelief is sure and certain in every generation. His solution to the sin problem and His desire to save the sinner does not change. The Savior promised, born, dead, and risen again is unchangeable. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). God’s Word that promises life to all who believe in Jesus Christ and His atonement is solid, unchangeable, and forever. Finally, the will of God for our life, and the exhortation to and definition of sanctified living remains the same.

On the other hand, if Scripture is seen as subject to human determination of what is God’s Word and what is not, God is made a liar. Scripture is the source of all that the Lord God speaks to us. To deny any part of it, calls into question everything else that man claims to believe of it, including the message of salvation! To those who deny any part of Scripture, or who interpret it to fit their subjective opinion of what is and is not the inspired Word, a question is in place: “If you do not believe the whole Bible is God’s Word and that it means exactly what it says for all time, who decides definitively what is and what is not? The same God who claims authorship of what you deny, is the Author of the salvation message. How do you know that you are saved?” They who interpret the Word to fit their own understanding or desire, or who select which word of God to believe or not believe, and who teach others to do the same are false prophets, and do not profit God’s people at all (Jeremiah 23:32).

But that is where the church in the world is today. We are not speaking of heathen but of those who deny any part of the Word of God within Christendom, including Lutheran churches which hitherto have confessed the Word, but now are bowing before, if not leading the way to, the altar of compromise.

Originalists believe that God said what He meant and meant what He said with respect to what He recorded in Scripture. Whereas constitutional originalists have a difficult time knowing for sure what the founding fathers had in mind, and therefore may vary among themselves in their interpretation, Bible originalists do not have that difficulty. This is not because they are wiser than others, or have better interpretive ability than others. It is because they believe that *God is His own interpreter*. Scripture interprets itself.

Honest and faithful interpretation of Scripture begins with an appreciation that the Scripture is divinely inspired. It is the Word of God. It acknowledges that only by the power of the Spirit of God can a faithful interpretation be given. The honest and faithful interpretation is a restatement of what Scripture actually says and teaches, and not what the interpreter wants it to say. In restating Scripture truth, the interpreter keeps in mind the context, and recognizes that any interpretation of a difficult passage contrary to a clear passage of Scripture is wrong. The Lord God does not contradict himself. The purpose of Biblical interpretation is not to prove the Bible correct to the satisfaction of reason, nor is it to make Scripture square with human opinion or to fit the times. The purpose is to learn and set forth what our God teaches for our life in time and eternity.

Faithful Christians study Scripture to grow in understanding and by the power of the Spirit follow where it leads. That is different from those who look at the world, or the trends within the fallen world and then search Scripture to find a passage that will validate the trend, or reinterpret Scripture if they don’t. Honest Bible students do not believe they are wiser than God, or wiser than the prophets and apostles. They do not believe that in matters of theology or morals, the Lord changes His teaching to accommodate the corrupt mind of the fallen heart. They do not believe that the life of the Church depends on adopting means and customs and philosophies that appeal to society. Nor do they believe the ministry of the Church is fulfilled faithfully by satisfying itching ears.

The originalist approach to Scripture is simple. The Bible is God’s Word. The Word of our Father has one intended meaning. It teaches us concerning Him, His work and will for us for time and for eternity. The faithful student studies to see what God says. We reject any study or interpretation of Scripture that has as its end to look for what one thinks it should say, wants it to say, or hopes it says. We reject any interpretation that does not accept what the divine Author said and meant to say for so long as the world shall stand. “To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8:20).

“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever” (Isaiah 40:8). “These [words] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, and that believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:31). As words have meaning so does the Word of God. “Thus says the Lord: ‘Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls’” (Jeremiah 6:16). To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, Who was, is, and ever shall be, be praise and honor forever and ever.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 4/2016