

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Frank Radichel
Ushers: Larry Brandt; Nick Duehlmeier; Dale Enns; Duane Enns; Ned Sandhoefner
Counting Team 3: Brian Eichstadt; Phil Flesner; Chad Hestekin; Benno Sydow
Church Cleaners: R. & H. Nelson

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Larry Brandt; Nick Duehlmeier; Dale Enns; Duane Enns; Ned Sandhoefner
Counting Team 4: James Bomber; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust
Church Cleaners: R. & H. Nelson

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., July 10: 9:00 am – Worship Service
 10:15 am – Hospitality (Hein)
 11:00 am – Council Meeting
Sun., July 17: 9:00 am – Worship Service
 10:30 am – Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings
July 25-29: 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School
Sat., Aug. 13: 9:00 am – Grace School Work Day
Sun., Aug. 21: 3:00 pm – Immanuel Opening Worship Service
 and Prof. Paul Naumann Installation
Mon., Aug. 29: 8:00 am – Grace School Opening
Wed., Aug. 31: 4:30 pm – Catechism Begins for Public School Students

Last Week's Stats: July 3, 2016 Sun.: 64

Sun. Offering:	Grace: \$3,275.00	CLC: \$1,039.00
Weekly Need:	Grace: 3,300.00	CLC: 1,000.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace: -25.00	CLC: +39.00
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace: \$79,315.14	CLC: \$24,556.95
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace: 89,100.00	CLC: 27,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace: -9,784.86	CLC: -2,443.05
GLC Other: 350.00	Living Faith: 0.00	Tuition Aid: 25.00
SAF Endowment: 100.00	MDF: 0.00	Kinship: 115.00
ILC Student Aid: 103.00	ILC Bldg. 130.00	IIF: 0.00 CEF: 15.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot: 16,358.25	Tuition Aid: 2,268.12

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)

G R A C E

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: Pentecost 8

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: July 10, 2016

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 16: Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word
 Baptism: Claire Elizabeth Yannarely
 WS 750: See This Wonder in the Making
 CW 505: Love Is the Gracious Gift (Tune WS 752)
 TLH 464: Blest Be the Tie That Binds
 Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 25, TLH p. 128

Liturgy:

WS, p. 12 (Projected)
 Psalm 100: WS, p. 35

Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 30:9-14
 Luke 10:25-37

Sermon: Colossians 1:1-14

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ² To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are* in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; ⁵ because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as *it has* also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as *it is* also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; ⁷ as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸ who also declared to us your love in the Spirit. ⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. (NKJV™)

"Love in a Loveless World"



Summary of Actions at the 32nd Convention of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

The 32nd Convention of the Church of the Lutheran Confession was held at Immanuel Lutheran College, Eau Claire, WI on June 23-26, 2016. The theme of the Convention was "In the Footsteps of the Reformers." A full report will be forthcoming in the Convention *Proceedings* which will be published later this summer.

CLC President's Address – President Michael Eichstadt addressed the convention with "Footsteps to Follow" ...In Our Homes, In Loving Partnership with One Another, In Outreach, and In Our Stand on the Word.

Elections – President: Pastor Michael Eichstadt (re-elected); **Vice President:** Pastor Mark Bernthal (re-elected); **Moderator:** Pastor Paul Nolting (re-elected); **Secretary:** Pastor Wayne Eichstadt (re-elected); **Board of Trustees:** Mr. Neal Wietgreffe and Pastor Michael Roehl (re-elected); **Board of Regents:** Pastor Matthew Hanel and Dr. Daniel Schierenbeck; **Board of Missions:** Pastor Todd Ohlmann (re-elected) and Mr. Steve Leinberger; **Board of Education and Publications:** Teacher David Bernthal and Mr. Rick Nelson (both re-elected).

Board of Education and Publications – The Board was encouraged to expedite its exploration of an online Christian Day School. The Convention authorized the print and online publishing of *Summary of Concerning Church Fellowship* and *Popular Version of Concerning Church Fellowship* (after a title change).

Board of Regents/Immanuel Lutheran College – The Convention authorized the North Hall Dormitory Heating Project which will replace the windows and south-facing solar wall panels, remove the solar panels and pump from the roof, and install a gas-fired boiler system. The project will be financed through a loan from the Church Extension Fund (CEF) which will be included in the existing ILC Building Project (Academic Center) Loan.

Missions – Funding for the annual gifts of rice (June) and money (Christmas) to the pastors of the BELC (India) was previously eliminated from the budget. At the recommendation of the Board of Missions, the funding was restored at a reduced rate through the Mission Development Fund (MDF). The Convention supported the Board of Mission's restructuring of one full-time foreign missionary position so that it is now a full-time visiting missionary position with residence in the United States.

Doctrine – By resolution, the "Joint Statement Regarding the Termination of Fellowship" was read and discussed on the Convention floor for the purpose of clarification and direction for future study. Following discussion, the Convention **directed the Board of Doctrine** to prepare an evaluation of the 2015 Joint Statement for discussion at the Fall district pastoral conferences and the 2017 CLC General Pastoral Conference. The **Convention directed the 2017 General Pastoral Conference** to make a recommendation to the 2018 CLC Convention on how to proceed regarding the Joint Statement and that a report of the Pastoral Conference's study shall be made available to the membership of the CLC without delay following the conference. The Convention also **allowed the inter-synod meetings to continue** for the purpose of exploring in greater depth other matters of doctrine and practice which preclude possible fellowship with the WELS and ELS.

Constitution – The proposed changes to Article X-B of the CLC Constitution which revise the time-table for publishing proposed constitution changes was adopted. The proposal to change the number of congregational delegates to Convention from two to four was not adopted.

Finance -- The Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) budget was adopted:

Education and Publications	\$ 10,000
Trustees	\$ 95,000
Missions	\$ 315,000
<u>Regents</u>	<u>\$ 480,000</u>
General Fund Budget	\$ 900,000
+ ILC Revenue	\$ 821,500
Total FY17 Spending Plan	\$1,721,500

It was **resolved** to increase the base salary for ILC faculty and staff and foreign missionaries by \$1000/month to offset the loss of provided health insurance. It was **resolved** to increase retirement contributions from \$130/month to \$150/month in FY17 and to \$170/month in FY18.

Membership: Teacher Matthew Kranz, Pastor-Elect Benjamin Libby, Pastor Joseph Naumann, Teacher-elect Andrew Roehl, and Pastor Robert Sauers were accepted as voting members of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. *Living Savior* Lutheran Church of Eden Prairie, MN was accepted as a member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. The dissolution of *Mount Olive* Lutheran Church of Lamar, CO was acknowledged with regret.

Conference Visitors -- The Convention ratified the Conference Visitors as elected by their respective conferences: **Great Lakes:** Pastor Michael Wilke; **Minnesota:** Pastor David Schierenbeck; **Pacific Coast:** Pastor David Reim; **West Central:** Pastor Michael Roehl; **Southeastern:** Pastor-Emeritus Vance Fossum.

Appointments were approved for Periodical Editors: Pastor Paul Naumann (*Lutheran Spokesman*), Pastor Wayne Eichstadt (*Journal of Theology*), Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer (*Ministry by Mail*); and Pastor Glenn Oster (CLC Webmaster). A full list of appointments will be published in the Convention *Proceedings*.

Memorials: The ILC Student Aid Fund "Partners in Ministry" Program was authorized with the initial guidelines as proposed. No changes were made in the Convention equalization process nor in pastors' voting rights. Convention voting rights were not granted to CLC Board members who are not called servants or their congregation's delegates.

In Memoriam – Pastor John Klatt conducted the memorial service. The following servants of the church were taken home to the Lord during the past two years: Pastor Arvid Gullerud, Mr. James Gullerud, Mrs. Martha Gullerud, Professor John Lau, Mr. Don Ohlmann, Pastor Keith Olmanson, Pastor Scott Schiermeister, Mrs. Olaila Schulz.

Convention – A new process for nomination and providing biographical information for elections was approved. The Convention Communion Service offering was designated to the MDF. **The dates for Convention 2018 are June 21-24 on the ILC Campus.**

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Baptism:** Congratulations to Sarah and Andy Yannarely for the birth of their daughter, Claire Elizabeth, on July 1. She was 7 lb., 4 oz., 19 ½ inches long. We thank the Lord that mom and daughter are healthy! We also thank Him for Claire's rebirth through Holy Baptism today!
- ◆ **Vacation Bible School:** On July 25-29, 9:00-11:30 am, we will be having our VBS. This includes children age 4 years through 8th grade. Please register your children on the sheet by the guest book.
- ◆ **Immanuel's Opening Service:** The opening worship service for Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will be on Sunday, August 21, 3 pm, at the campus fieldhouse. This will also be the installation service for Professor Paul Naumann. It is hoped that this change of time and date will help improve attendance which has diminished in recent years as many of the parents tend to leave on Sunday late afternoon. Please continue to pray for the success of Immanuel's ministry as God's enduring Word of truth is passed down to the next generation.
- ◆ **CLC Mission Helpers to India:** Nine Mission Helpers will depart on an afternoon flight from Chicago on Monday (7/11) on their way to Chennai, India where they will be met by Missionary Peter Evensen. These ten individuals will divide into two teams as they spend the next three weeks proclaiming the simple Gospel message to approx. 2000 children at CLCI and BELC congregations. Pastoral training classes will also be taught among more than 100 pastors and seminary students of the CLCI and BELC. You can follow the progress of the trip at: 2016clcmhtindia.blogspot.com. Prayers are much appreciated.
- ◆ **Collection:** A purse is being collected for Vicar Rodebaugh. If you wish to contribute, please mark "Vicar" on your offering envelope.



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!

STAND FOR SOMETHING

For children of God who respect the Lord and His Word and who care about this country, it is difficult to accept the direction in which it is going—the loss of morals, the promotion of immorality, the loss of sovereignty, the emergence of the nanny state with the corresponding loss of rights to manage our own lives, the loss of the distinctive culture that has marked this country as special, and the growing animosity toward Christianity, though we know from Scripture that the latter will occur in the last days.

Citizens who respect the principles which the flag of the United States symbolized, frequently wonder just what it is that the United States stands for anymore, the social and political spinners notwithstanding. Recently with sad resignation someone said the heretofore unthinkable: "I am embarrassed to stand for the United States."

Unless there is the will and courage on the part of citizens and politicians to stand up and be heard and to act (within the law), there is little that can be done to change the slide, particularly as there is an apparent intent on the part of many to continue and even promote the course they have set. Inasmuch as a change of course begins with repentance, the hope for change is even bleaker as the deterioration is ultimately a consequence of having turned from the Lord.

Nevertheless, for faithful confessors of Christ *there is an issue of greater concern*. It is the direction of the church which through lack of respect for the holy Word of God, and the Lord God himself, is letting the world into the church. Though it is true that the churches are under social and political pressure to adapt their teaching to the world's mentality, that is no excuse for capitulation to the philosophy of the world or for compromises within the church that are undermining the foundation of faith. As we unapologetically stand for the faith once delivered to the saints, our concern is particularly Lutheran churches which are departing from the sound teaching of Scripture in the name of becoming more inclusive, more intent on "growing" the church than speaking the truth, and adapting themselves to the opinions of the world. The spinners cover their tracks by saying that the church has to be more loving, more embracing, more in tune with the needs of people. This mentality is promoted at the expense of faithfulness to the Lord. And we ask, "What speaks more to the needs of the people than the acknowledgment of sin, the call to repentance, and the message of eternal salvation through faith in the Redeemer and Savior, Jesus Christ?"

The Holy Christian Church, the Body of Christ consisting of all who have been called out of unbelief to faith in Christ Jesus, will prevail. No heterodox preacher, no heterodox church, no politician, not Satan himself can destroy the Body of Christ. Our Lord Jesus Christ said, "The gates of hell shall not prevail" against the Church (Matthew 16:18). Those who steadfastly believe in the Lord Jesus and confess His name, may lose their life, but shall find new life, eternal life in heaven. And as has happened through the course of history the Lord, in spite of the endless efforts of the evil one and his minions, has preserved a remnant in the world. He will continue to do so until time ends when the Church militant will become the Church victorious.

In the meantime, He has given the Church the responsibility to preach the gospel into all the world, the glorious gospel of salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. It was that the gospel should be preached in its fullness without admixture of false teaching that the Lord raised up Martin Luther. Not without personal struggle or opposition Luther carried on the work of the Reformation set in motion by the Lord. Those who identified with the teachings of Scripture set forth by Martin Luther became known as Lutherans.

The Lutheran Church is not synonymous with the Holy Christian Church, as if everyone who calls himself Lutheran is thereby in the Church, or that no one but a Lutheran is a member of the Body of Christ. *Faith in Christ, the Son of God and Savior* makes a member of the Holy Christian Church. It is the *confession* of faith in Christ and of His Word that identifies one as a Lutheran in the world. The heart and core of Lutheran message is the word of the apostle who said, and this spoke directly to the difference between what Luther taught and Rome taught: “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). Luther’s insistence was on faith *alone* for salvation (Romans 1:17). A theme of the Reformation was that the Word and nothing but the Word was to be taught in the church. Nothing but the whole counsel of God is to prevail within the Lutheran Church as a reflection of the Savior’s commission to “teach them all things that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20). In keeping with this, Luther said, “Luther himself has no desire to be Lutheran except insofar as he teaches the Holy Scripture in purity.”⁽¹⁾

After the death of Luther in 1546 open fissure within Lutheranism threatened to tear the church apart. Through prayer, struggle, study of Scripture and steadfastness to the Word faithful Lutherans ultimately produced and signed the *Formula of Concord* (1577). Of the *Formula* it is said, “It settled the controversies by rendering a clear and correct decision on all doctrinal questions involved. It unified our Church when she was threatened with hopeless division, anarchy, and utter ruin ... It infused her with confidence, self-consciousness, conviction, a clear knowledge of her own position over against the errors of other churches and sects, and last, but not least, with a most remarkable vitality. Wherever and whenever, in the course of time the *Formula of Concord* was ignored, despised, rejected, the Lutheran Church fell an easy prey to unionism and sectarianism; but whenever and wherever the *Formula* was held in high esteem, Lutheranism flourished, and its enemies were confounded.”⁽²⁾ Charles Porterfield Krauth (1823-1883), a leading and respected Lutheran theologian in America in his time said, “But for the *Formula of Concord* it may be questioned whether Protestantism could have been saved to the world.”⁽³⁾

Today Lutheranism in general, and in our country specifically, is in the condition described above. “Wherever and whenever, in the course of time the *Formula of Concord* was ignored, despised, rejected, the Lutheran Church fell an easy prey to unionism and sectarianism ...” Except that we know who we are as Lutherans it is

almost an embarrassment to be called a Lutheran today because the perception of what Lutheranism is to a great extent today is dictated by those who no longer stand on Scripture or the Lutheran confessions. Ours is a small voice. But the condition within the church does not call for lamentation or resignation, but calls for steadfastness and boldness. *The gospel will prevail, but whether it will prevail in our church and in our country depends upon faithful Lutherans standing up.* We do not need reformers. We need faithful Lutherans—faithful to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions—to be true children of the Reformation. We need confessors with the boldness of those who signed *the Formula of Concord*, who said:

“From this our explanation, friends and enemies, and therefore every one, may clearly infer that we have no intention of yielding aught of the eternal, immutable truth of God for the sake of temporal peace, tranquility, and unity (which, moreover, is not in our power to do). Nor would such peace and unity, since it is devised against the truth and for its suppression, have any permanency. Still less are we inclined to adorn and conceal a corruption of the pure doctrine and manifest, condemned errors. But we entertain heartfelt pleasure and love for, and are on our part sincerely inclined and anxious to advance, that unity according to our utmost power, by which His glory remains to God uninjured, nothing of the divine truth of the Holy Gospel is surrendered, no room is given to the least error, poor sinners are brought to true, genuine repentance, raised up by faith, confirmed in new obedience, and thus justified and eternally saved alone through the sole merit of Christ.” They also said, “Since now, in the sight of God and of all Christendom [the entire Church of Christ], we wish to testify to those now living and those who shall come after us that this declaration herewith presented concerning all the controverted articles aforementioned and explained, and no other, is our faith, doctrine, and confession, in which we are also willing, by God’s grace, to appear with intrepid hearts before the judgment-seat of Jesus Christ, and give an account of it; and that we will neither privately nor publicly speak or write anything contrary to it, but, by the help of God’s grace, intend to abide thereby: therefore, after mature deliberation, we have, in God’s fear and with the invocation of His name, attached our signatures with our own hands.”

Jude tells us: “But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken to you by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lust” (Jude 17-18). Therefore, “Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love” (1 Corinthians 16:13).

If it is not Scripture, it is not Lutheran! “Lord, for Jesus sake, and the welfare of our souls, and those who are in darkness, help us be faithful Christians, and true Lutherans. Amen.”

1) *What Luther Says*, CPH St. Louis, MO Vol. II, p.858, para.2679

2) *Concordia Triglotta*, CPH St. Louis, 1921 Historical Introduction, p. 254