

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Marueen Ochsner      Elder: Frank Radichel

Ushers: Paul Lentz; Brad Kitzman; Rick Nelson; Keith Radichel; Bob Vandeveer

Counting Team 4: James Bomber; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust

Hospitality Team 6: Alex & Bonnie Baker, Kevin & Tracy Baker; Phil & Rona Flesner

Church Cleaners: P & J Radichel      School: Holmberg

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Paul Lentz; Brad Kitzman; Rick Nelson; Keith Radichel; Bob Vandeveer

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

Hospitality Team 7: Jan Davis, Chad & Amanda Hestekin; Ryan & Mikey Oman; Eli & Laura Wales

Church Cleaners: P & J Radichel      School: Holmberg

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

**Sun., Nov. 6:** 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School (Immanuel Presentation)  
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper  
11:00 am – Hospitality

**Wed., Nov. 9:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

**Fri., Nov. 11:** Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day

**Nov. 11 & 12:** 7:00 pm – Concert and ILC Musical, "She Loves Me"

**Nov. 12:** Pastor's Return from Liberia

**Sun., Nov. 13:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School  
10:00 am – Worship Service  
11:00 am – Hospitality

**Wed., Nov. 23:** 7:00 pm – Thanksgiving Worship Service

*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)*

# GRACE

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## Grace Lutheran Church & School

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... we will tell  
to the coming  
**GENERATION**  
the glorious  
deeds of  
**the LORD ...**

Psalm 78:4

## Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Home Page: [www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.org](http://www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.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:** Christian Education      **Date:** November 6, 2016

## ✠ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

**Worship Preparation:** ..... *Psalm 119, Part II, TLH p. 149*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 629: Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds*

**Liturgy:** ..... *TLH, p. 15 ff. (Also available on laminated sheet in pew)*

**Introit** (followed by *Gloria Patri, The Kyrie*): ..... *TLH, pp. 16-17*

P: Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me.  
**C: Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord.**  
P: From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets ...  
**C: The name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore.**  
P: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts up the needy from the ash heap;  
**C: Surely God is my help, the one who sustains me. Glory be to God!**

**Gloria in Excelsis:** ..... *TLH 9, st. 5*

New graces ever gaining From this our day of rest,  
We reach the rest remaining To spirits of the blest.  
To Holy Ghost be praises, To Father, and to Son;  
The Church her voice upraises To Thee, blest Three in One.

**First Reading:** ..... *Psalm 78:1-8*

We are to tell the next generation about the wonderful works of God.

**Gradual:**

P: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;  
**C: His greatness no one can fathom.**  
P: I will meditate on Your wonderful works,  
**C: And I will proclaim Your great deeds.**  
P: Alleluia. Alleluia. Now faith is being sure of what we hope for ...  
**C: And certain of what we do not see. Alleluia.**

**Second Reading:** ..... *Luke 12:22-31*

Instead of the worries of the world, our focus is to be on the kingdom of God.

**Confession of Faith:** ..... *Nicene Creed, TLH p. 22*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 450: Soldiers of Christ, Arise*

**Sermon:** ..... *Ephesians 6:10-18*

<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; <sup>18</sup> praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

## Equipping Our Children with the Full Armor of God

**Offertory:** ..... *TLH p. 22 f.*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 332, st. 1-4: Arm These Soldiers, Mighty Lord*

**Offering & Prayer:**

**Liturgy for the Lord's Supper:** ..... *TLH p. 24 ff.*

**Distribution:** ..... *TLH 463: For All the Saints*

**Note:** In obedience to God's Word, and out of concern for the welfare of souls (1 Corinthians 11:29), and finally that we may honestly express the unity of faith and hope that binds us, we ask that only such as have identified with Grace through public confession of faith or another CLC congregation, approach the altar at the usher's direction.

**Nunc Dimittis, Prayer, Benediction:** ..... *TLH 29 ff.*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 332, st. 5-6: Arm These Soldiers, Mighty Lord*

## ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Education Sunday:** Thanks to Professor Paul Sullivan for sharing the Word of God today, emphasizing the importance of Christian education in our kingdom work. He serves on the faculty at Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary. We also thank David Hein and Zack Sipfert for participating in Bible Class, giving information about Immanuel from a student's perspective. Pastor Hein will be returning from his Liberia trip next Saturday evening. Janelle and a couple of kids will still be around in case you need to call the church (763-784-8784) or need to get in. If pastoral help is needed, please call!
- ◆ **Poinsettias:** There is a signup sheet for Christmas Poinsettias by the guest book at the church entry. If anyone would like to purchase a plant for church, please indicate it by signing your name and plant information on the sheet. For questions, please contact Jackie Radichel.
- ◆ **Liberia (From the Elders):** Pastor Hein is in Liberia from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12. The intent is to focus on training 5 pastors who have a heightened interest in the truth of God's Word. There will be other sessions with other interested pastors and lay people. He requests your prayers for the success of his trip. The Liberia Fund will help support part of the trip.
- ◆ **Immanuel Lutheran Musical:** The fall musical for Immanuel Lutheran, "She Loves Me," will be performed both on Nov. 11 and 12, 7:30 pm, at the campus fieldhouse. A band concert will precede it Friday night at 7 pm and a variety of student musical performances on Saturday night at 7 pm. The play has a similar plot-line as the movies "Shop Around the Corner" or "You've Got Mail."
- ◆ **Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day** is Nov. 11 beginning at 10 am in the ILC gymnasium for chapel. It will feature presentations and classroom visits until 3 pm. Come and learn more about your church's college and a continuing education with Christ. Speak with your pastor about questions and attendance. Contact Prof. John Ude by Nov. 7. Office: 715-836-6631, home: 715-955-4127, e-mail [john.ude@ilc.edu](mailto:john.ude@ilc.edu).
- ◆ **2017 CLC Mission Helper Trip:** Plans are underway for the CLC Mission Helper Trip to Nepal in July. More information can be found at: [www.mht.lutheranmissions.org/2017-nepal](http://www.mht.lutheranmissions.org/2017-nepal).
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #8 – Sixth Commandment

*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!*

## WHAT WAS (IS) THE REFORMATION ALL ABOUT?

The Church had been called "the born hand-maid of the Pope." In 1517 the 5<sup>th</sup> Lateran Council asked for "a universal reformation, and thorough, from the head to the feet." Prior to and following the Council various reforms had been tried. Two-hundred years later a Roman church historian, Johann Doellinger (1799-1870), who rejected the immaculate conception of Mary, and the papal claim of infallibility, wrote, "The last hopes of a reformation were carried to the grave." Cardinal Bellarmine (1542-1621) said, "Religion was almost dead." Pope Leo X quashed the call for reformation. A German preacher, Johannes Geiler, who died 7 years before 1517 had said, "Since Pope, kaiser, king, and bishop will not reform, God will send one that must do it." <sup>(1)</sup>

Geiler's "prediction" came to pass 7 months after the close of the aforementioned Lateran Council. The Lord emboldened a troubled monk to post 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg. With the posting of the theses by Martin Luther on October 31, 1517 the firestorm that changed the church and the world was initiated.

One-hundred years before, the Council of Constance (1414-1418) had condemned Jan Hus who had sought to reform the church. It also declared that a council of bishops had authority above that of a pope. This was reiterated at the Council of Basel (1431-1445). The 5<sup>th</sup> Lateran Council reversed this judgment. In response, Luther said, "A simple laymen armed with Scripture is to be believed above a pope or a council without it. As for the pope's decretal on indulgences I say that neither the Church nor the pope can establish articles of faith. These must come from Scripture. For the sake of Scripture, we should reject pope and councils." <sup>(2)</sup>

As heirs of the Reformation, we cherish and revere the memory of Luther and all the evangelical stalwarts of the Reformation, who risked life and limb in their witness to the Word of God and the foundational teaching of Scripture—salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus, *alone*. (We unashamedly also remember with gratitude our more recent forbears—parents, faithful pastors, teachers, and professors—who stood upon the shoulders of the Reformation confessors).

However, it has frequently been said that we should not dwell in the past. We should not make so much of the fathers. Against this assertion we quote Scripture: "Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the Word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct" (Hebrews 13:7). In August, 1948, preaching at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary service of the now defunct synodical conference, Norman Madson said, "Yes, we hear ever so often, even within our Synodical Conference: 'Let us forget the fathers and get back to Scripture,' Again that may sound pious and praiseworthy. But what if Scripture, to which they appeal, has something to say about those fathers who have spoken unto us the word of God. Can we then do as we please about what they have spoken?" <sup>(3)</sup> The Reformation confessors were men like we, sinners whose hope was in the mercy of God manifest in the

person and redemptive work of Jesus. For that reason, they adamantly refused to sacrifice a word of God. No, we cannot, dare not, and will not idolize them, nor give to them the glory that belongs to our Lord alone. But neither can we forget them whose stalwart confession of faith is the faith we hold!

While there had been other reformation efforts before Luther, the one the Lord brought to pass through him had the most far reaching consequences. It touched the cultural, social, political, and educational life of Germany and Europe. Its effect still resonates. But what do we as heirs of Luther celebrate today? What was the Reformation all about?

It is easy to become emotional about Luther and others whom we revere, particularly when we speak of their commitment even to the point of loss of life. However, the Reformation was and is not about Martin Luther. We do injustice to him and other faithful confessors since then, if we make *more of them than of the doctrine* they faithfully proclaimed.

Neither was the Reformation about preserving, our “beloved church.” The Reformation of 1517 was *about the Word of God!* It emphasized the Word above the church, church tradition, and papal or any other human authority in the church. It was about the preservation of the Gospel among us. The Reformation was about doctrine, and what was to be preached to the joy and edifying of God’s people. It was about the word of salvation, the gift of eternal life, and in praise of our Savior. When we think of the Reformation we think about *Scripture alone, Grace alone, Faith alone.*

It was about the proclamation of the righteousness of Christ. Before he understood the righteousness of God correctly, Luther lived with guilt and in fear, for he knew the righteousness of God only as that by which God condemns or judges the sinner. He commented, “Who can love Him if He wants to deal with sinners according to righteousness? *Therefore, remember* that the righteousness of God is that by which we are justified, or the gift of the forgiveness of sins. This righteousness in God is pleasant. Because it makes of God, not a righteous Judge but a forgiving Father, who wants to use His righteousness, not to judge but to justify and absolve sinners.”<sup>(4)</sup> He came to understand that the righteousness of God was not something that God demanded of sinners, but something which by grace He imputed to sinners for the sake of Christ. The righteousness of God is the cause of our salvation.

**The Word of God** proclaims the righteousness of God in which the troubled sinner finds comfort and eternal hope. It is by *grace* that we have received it, and through *faith* alone that we possess it. The *gospel*, the conveyor of God’s righteousness to us, is “the *power of God* unto salvation for everyone who believes...for *in it the righteousness of God* is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith’” (Romans 1:16-17). This gospel was not new. But it was rediscovered at the time of the Reformation. We reiterate: The *Reformation* was not about men, but *about the Word of God!* Luther himself said, “People are not to believe me, the church, the fathers, the

apostles, or even an angel from heaven if we teach anything contrary to the Word of God. *But the Word of the Lord should stand forever.*”<sup>(5)</sup> Of all his work then, perhaps his foremost contribution was the translation of the Scriptures. He said on one occasion, “I am not asking anyone to believe me, but I am asking men to believe the plain words of God.”<sup>(6)</sup>

This Reformation season, and in contemplation of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, we will hear much about Luther and his compatriots, and rightly so. However, unless our delight is in the Word of God, and our commitment is to proclaim the Word of God in its truth and in its purity, and unless we faithfully reflect it both in doctrine and in practice, any Reformation celebration will be nothing more than sounding brass and a clamoring cymbal. It will be empty and hollow. The cardinal doctrine of justification by grace through faith in Christ *alone* was the foundation of Luther’s theology. If Luther could come back he would remind us: “If you believe that Luther’s *doctrine* is evangelical and the pope’s unevangelical, you must not flatly disown Luther, otherwise you also disown his *doctrine*, which you admittedly recognize as the *doctrine of Christ*” and also, “Luther himself has no desire to be Lutheran except insofar as he teaches the Holy Scriptures in purity.”<sup>(7)</sup>

Before the turn of the last century C.P. Krauth<sup>(1823-1883)</sup> wrote, “If we maintain the pure Word inflexibly at every cost, over against the arrogance of Rome and of the weak pretentiousness of Rationalism, we shall conquer both through the Word; but to compromise on a single point, is to lose all, and be lost.”<sup>(8)</sup> To Krauth’s comment we would also in our time include pseudo-Lutheranism which claims the name Lutheran but has lost the content and substance of the Reformation, and no longer is committed to the Word and doctrine for which the Reformers steadfastly contended.

“If what is taught is not the Word of God, it is not Scripture. If it is not Scripture, it is not Lutheran.”

God’s Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever;  
To spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way, in death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant while worlds endure, we keep its teachings pure  
Throughout all generations.<sup>(9)</sup>

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 7/2016

1) *Concordia Cyclopedia* 1927 CPH, St. Louis, MO p. 637

2) Bainton, Roland, *Here I Stand*, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 117

3) Madson, Norman A., *Preaching to Preachers*, Augsburg Pub House 1953, p. 203

4) *What Luther Says*, Vol. III CPH, p. 1225. para, 3904

5) *Ibid* Vol. III, p. 1479, para. 4779

6) *Ibid* Vol. III, p. 1368, para. 4412

7) *Ibid* Vol. II, p. 858, para. 2679

8) Krauth, C. P., *The Conservative Reformation and its Theology*, Augsburg Pub House, Mpls, 1953, p. 21

9) *The Lutheran Hymnal*, CPH, 1941, Hymn 283