

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Janelle Hein Elder: Frank Radichel

Ushers: Rick Nelson; Keith Radichel; David Stifter; Joel Stifter; Bob Vandever

Counting Team 3: Brian Eichstadt; Duane Enns; Dan Degnan; Benno Sydow

Hospitality Team 1: Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz

Church Cleaners: Sydow School: Whelan

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Rick Nelson; Keith Radichel; David Stifter; Joel Stifter; Bob Vandever

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

Church Cleaners: Sydow School: Whelan

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Feb. 17 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 6)
 11:00 am – Hospitality
 3:30 pm – Installation of Pastor Starkey @ Red Wing, MN

Mon., Feb. 18: President's Day – No School
 10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study Club (Mankato, MN)

Wed., Feb. 20: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Sun., Feb. 24: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 7)

Wed., Mar. 6: ASH WEDNESDAY – Midweek Lenten Worship Begins

March 8-10: CLC Grade School Basketball Tourney @ Immanuel

March 8-13: Grace School Spring Break

Last Week's Stats: Feb. 10 Sun.: 93 S.S.: 15 B.Cl.: 29 Wed.: 18			
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,171*	CLC: \$495
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,000	CLC: 1,000
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,829	CLC: -505
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$23,264**	CLC: \$5,199
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	24,000	CLC: 6,000
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-736	CLC: -801
GLC Other: 351	Living Faith: 0	Tuition Aid: 120	
SAF Endowment: 0	MDF: 150	Kinship: 10	
ILC Student Aid: 0	ILC Bldg. 100	IIF: 0 CEF: 0	

Current Balances: Tuition Aid: \$4,188
 * Includes \$0 in school tuition ** Includes \$200 year-to-date school tuition

Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE
 Fridley, MN 55432

Email: john.p.hein@gmail.com

Home Page: www.FridleyLutheran.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: Epiphany 6 **Date:** February 17, 2019

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

<p>Hymns: TLH 26, st. 1-4: Praise the Almighty, My Soul TLH 369: All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall TLH 381: I Know My Faith is Founded TLH 391: Blessed Are the Sons of God</p> <p>Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.</p>	<p>Worship Prep: Psalm 1, TLH p. 123</p> <p>Liturgy: WS, p. 1 (Projected) Psalm 23: WS, p. 36</p> <p>Scripture Readings: 1 Cor. 15:12, 16-20 Luke 6:17-26</p>
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Sermon: Jeremiah 17:5-8

⁵ Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the LORD. ⁶ For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, In a salt land which is not inhabited. ⁷ "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD. ⁸ For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit. (NKJVTM)

What Kind of Trust Do You Have?

- 1. Cursed are those who trust in human strength**
- 2. Blessed are those who trust in the LORD's strength**

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

◆ **Midweek Lenten Services:** Our midweek services will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6, 7 pm. The theme of our series is "Mementos of Our Savior's Passion." When the Second World War ended, American servicemen and women came home victorious, bringing back mementos of the war. There was another war of far greater importance in which we have mementos. These items in themselves were of no great value, but played a role in Jesus' passion. We will be considering how they tie in with what He did for us. These midweek services can deepen our appreciation of the redemptive work our Savior, Jesus Christ, accomplished in our behalf.



- ◆ **Lenten Soup Suppers:** These gatherings are a way for people to eat between work and our Midweek Lenten worship services. There is a sign-up sheet posted in the Fellowship Hall for those who are willing to provide soup and do setup and cleanup. There are still openings!
- ◆ **Installation:** Pastor Starkey will be installed at Our Redeemer's Lutheran in Red Wing, MN, today at 3:30 pm, with a meal to follow.
- ◆ **Bridal Shower:** A bridal shower will be held for Emily Hein on Sat., March 2, 11 am, in the fellowship hall. Please RSVP to Heidi Nelson. Additional details are on the invitation on the narthex bulletin board.
- ◆ **ILC After-Banquet Party:** The ILHS Parent Committee is preparing for this year's After Banquet party which will be held May 4, 2019. They are looking for a variety of donations to help with this effort. Please see the posted letter (in the entry/on the bulletin board/etc) for further details. Questions can be directed to Joanna Gamble via email - joannagamble@hotmail.com or phone/text 651-253-3050.
- ◆ **Update on our Visiting Missionary:** Missionary Ohlmann has been gone for a month visiting our brethren in Tanzania, Zambia and Myanmar. From there he will be traveling to Nepal where he will spend a week or more. His almost two-month visitation will conclude with a visit to Bangladesh where he and Board of Missions Chairman, Joel Krafft, will meet with a promising contact we have been corresponding with for several years. You can follow his work and travels on his blog: <https://missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com/2019/>.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN, has the call to serve at Bethel Lutheran in Morris, MN. ✠ Teacher Paul Tiefel III of Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, has returned the call to St. John's Lutheran in Okabena, MN. He has now received the call to Faith Lutheran of Markesan, WI.

◆ **Update on India:** With the recent cancellation of our Missionary's visa to India and his inability to return, the Board of Missions is reassigning our Resident Missionary to West Africa. He will be based in Togo for the majority of the year and will work with our brethren in Togo, Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He will continue to serve as our liaison with our Indian brethren for now. Due to some of the increased scrutiny and problems we and our Indian brethren have had in the last year, the Board of Missions has also made the decision to relocate this year's Mission Helper Trip from India to East Africa. This was done out of concern for the Mission Helpers, but also our Indian brethren who may be investigated because of the presence of so many foreigners. The Board of Missions is working on a plan to send two CLC pastors to India for a three week visitation this summer. In addition, our Traveling Missionary plans to make a visit to India later this year. Please remember our Indian brethren in your prayers as they continue to proclaim His truth in a hostile environment! (Note: Missionary Evensen confirmed recently that he is still considering the call to be pastor at Resurrection Lutheran in Corpus Christi, TX).

◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #16 – Second Article (Part 1)

Council Meeting Notes – February 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order with prayer. Jan. Council meeting minutes read and approved. Jan. Treasurer's report presented and approved.

Pastor's Report

- Lent starts Wed., Mar. 6. Pulpit rotation in place with current & retired Pastors.
- Pastor Hein will be in Eau Claire to meet with the Regents on Wed., Feb. 20. Coverage will be necessary for catechism and Bible class.

Board of Elders Report

- Reimbursement of mileage for retired Pastors during Lent was discussed.
- A discussion of possible uses of the removed church pews was held.
- The Treasurer will sign Pastor's expense reports to satisfy IRS regulations.
- The policy for background checks is being addressed.

Board of Education Report

- Paperwork is being submitted to participate in the Spring Lake Park parade.
- Tuition Aid will be paid to ILC this month.

Board of Trustees Report

- Two more estimates will be obtained to look at the sewer line problem.
- The Treasurer's books must be audited.

Other Business

- Wells Fargo is requiring that we have a resolution in our minutes specifying key executives at Grace. They have names from many years ago that must be corrected. Also, there is an issue with Grace being in an inactive status, which must be addressed. Phil and Benno will pursue these items.

Adapted from Minutes Submitted by Secretary Roger Ochsner

2019 ILC Tour Choir Itinerary



Sunday, March 3	Millston, WI Trinity Lutheran Church W6634 Railroad Street	10:00 am
Saturday, March 9	Watertown, SD Trinity Lutheran Church 1800 E. Kemp Avenue	7:00 pm
Sunday, March 10	Rapid City, SD Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 4709 Apres Vous Court	7:00 pm
Monday, March 11	Cheyenne, WY Redeemer Lutheran Church 1906 Garrett Street	7:00 pm
Tuesday, March 12	Loveland, CO Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 620 E. 50th Street	7:00 pm
Wednesday, March 13	Lakewood, CO St. Paul Lutheran Church 2470 Wadsworth Boulevard	7:00 pm
Thursday, March 14	Valentine, NE Grace Lutheran Church 810 W 3rd Street	7:00 pm
Friday, March 15	Okabena, MN St. John's Lutheran Church 100 East Market Street	7:00 pm
Saturday, March 16	Red Wing, MN Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church 1534 West Avenue	3:00 pm
Sunday, March 17	Inver Grove Heights, MN Berea Lutheran Church 9308 Rich Valley Boulevard	9:00 am
Sunday, March 24	Eau Claire, WI Messiah Lutheran Church 2015 N. Hastings Way	6:30 pm

On the Sinner's Quest for Relevancy

Written by Pastor Chad Sebyt for The Witness, 2/13/2019

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. Romans 12:3

The interchangeable terms of relevancy and relevance are defined as a "relation to the matter at hand." In other words, for something to have relevancy it must relate to a certain matter being discussed or dealt with. If you were to ask me about my shoe size it would be irrelevant for me to discuss with you my prescription glasses. These two terms may also be defined as "having practical and especially social applicability." In a world full of cell phones and smart phones, the telegraph has become pretty irrelevant. It is no longer practically or socially applicable to today's communication.

Since the fall into sin there have been many individuals who have been obsessed with the quest for relevancy. They desire that they themselves have a "practical and especially social applicability." They want themselves to be pertinent to whatever matter is at hand. Of course, our first parents, Adam and Eve, fell into this trap when they believed Satan's lie that they would "become like God" if they ate of the forbidden fruit.

In the early 1800s a fourteen year old boy living in the state of New York defected from his parents' Christian church. He claimed to have been visited by God who told him that all Christian denominations were wrong. Seven years later at the age of 21 this same individual claimed to have received a direct revelation from an angel named Moroni. The boy's name was Joseph Smith and so began the Mormon church. Yes, this anti-Christian church was begun as a result of a teenager's quest for relevancy.

In the late 1800s an eighteen year old boy, who had previously fallen away from his Christian parents' teachings, became interested in Jesus' second coming. He began to promote the view that Jesus' second coming would be spiritual rather than physical. Over a period of several years he and some friends would write much on his own ideas. They would even go on to publish a periodical known as Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence. The teenager's name was Charles Taze Russell, founder and first president of the Jehovah's Witnesses - another anti-Christian organization born out of a teen boy's thirst for relevancy.

In modern times Satan still sows much discord among God's people with the temptation of relevancy. Sinful man still desires to "become like God," and Satan is ready and willing to suggest that we ought to think more highly of ourselves. He enjoys prey of any and all ages, but he is especially concerned with the younger generation. And that makes sense, for if you can mold the thoughts and heart of a person when they are young, they're more likely to continue into that mold throughout their adult lives as well.

The world too is interested in molding the youth for their own devious purposes, and they do so under the disguise of assisting the younger generation in their quest for relevancy. This fact can be observed with all of the "targeting" of today's youth. Politicians and celebrities "rock out the vote" among the younger generation, assuming they can pocket their votes simply by appearing "cool." Sexual deviants and predators target the young and impressionable, warping their young minds into thinking that ungodly sexual ideas and practices are acceptable and okay. Even gangs succeed in acquiring their new young members by making them feel a relevant part of the group. Sinners of every age, but especially the young, need to be aware of such tactics that play on Satan's lie of the need for self-relevancy.

As dangerous as the sinner's quest for relevancy in secular matters is, it is even more so when it is transferred to things of the church. Often, a Christian will lament, "How can I be more relevant in the church?" In reality that is a wrong-headed question suggested by the world and Satan himself. The truth of the matter is that a quest for relevancy in the church can and often is a very dangerous thing for both the individual and the church itself. In fact, more often than not, the one who asks such a question really means "How can I make the church more relevant to me?" And such individuals seek to do just that by attempting to affect such things as music, worship styles, Bible studies, Bible camps, and so forth not for the good of the church, but rather for their own personal tastes and agendas.

Consider again the passage which is the basis for our meditation: "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith."

(Romans 12:3) What happens when one seeks relevancy within the church? The apostle Paul points out that such an individual is no longer thinking "soberly" - literally "saving thoughts." Such an individual has already begun to seek his own glory rather than God's glory. In fact, as we have seen, the sinner who seeks his own relevancy will create false teachings and put stumbling blocks in the way of a person learning the truth about his Savior. An individual seeking relevancy in the church overlooks the fact that "God has dealt to each one a measure of faith." He is looking to build himself up at the expense of the household of faith. Such an individual needs to be directed to his error and then to his Savior.

Consider Jesus. If anyone ever had a claim on self-relevancy, it was He. And yet, what did He do? He emptied Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. In doing so, Christ became relevant for the whole world, for it was His death that freed us all from sin's curse. And through baptism, the Holy Spirit gives the Christian relevancy in this world. For everyone who has been baptized into Christ has put on Christ.

Consider Jesus' words: "I am the vine. You are the branches." "You are the light of the world." "You are the salt of the earth." Christ makes the Christian relevant because He has an important work for us to do, namely the spreading of His saving Gospel to lost sinners. If you are in Christ, He has made you relevant to this world because the light of truth you now have in Christ Jesus, the world so desperately needs to hear. Focusing on this truth will turn any self-seeking question of "How can I be relevant in the church?" into a proper, God-seeking question of "Lord, what will You have me do?"

"God has dealt to each one a measure of faith." The question to ask is "How can I use that measure of faith to make Jesus relevant in the lives of others?" After all, what could be more relevant in the life of sinners than Jesus Christ and Him crucified? Realizing that our relevancy rests in Christ and not in ourselves will cause us to echo the words of John the Baptist: "I must decrease, but He must increase." Dear Jesus, decrease my thoughts about myself; increase Your kingdom. Amen.

Written by Rev. Chad Seybt, 2/2019