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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Fridley, MN 55432



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Home Page: www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.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: Pentecost 22

Date: October 20, 2013

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 447: Fight the Good Fight with All Thy Might

TLH 410: Jesus, Lead Thou On

TLH 434: O God of Jacob, by Whose Hand

TLH 54: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Worship Prep:

Psalm 121, TLH p. 152

Scripture Readings:

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8a

Sermon: Genesis 32:22-30

(22) And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. (23) He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had. (24) Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. (25) Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. (26) And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" (27) So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." (28) And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." (29) Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there. (30) And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." (NKJV™)

"WRESTLING WITH GOD"

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Voters & Dorcas Guild:** Please remember our meetings today!
- ◆ **Blood Drive Results:** Whole blood drawn 19 units, Double Red Cell drawn 2 units, and total units for drive was 23. Because blood can be broken down into 3 components Plasma, Platelets and Red Blood Cells the 19 whole blood and 4 double red cell units collected at the Grace Lutheran Church blood drive can be used to save 69 lives.
- ◆ **Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day:** Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day is Nov. 15 beginning at 10:05 am in the ILC Fieldhouse for chapel. It will feature presentations and classroom visits until 2:50 p.m. Come and learn more about your church's college and a continuing education with Christ. We will attempt to provide lodging, if needed, Thursday or Friday nights for those attending College Visitor's Day and these visitors will be our guests at meals. The ILC fall play will be performed both Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm with a band concert at 7:00 p.m. Speak with your pastor about questions and attendance, or contact Prof. John Ude, the ILC academic dean, before Nov. 12 (715-836-6631, john.ude@ilc.edu).
- ◆ **From India This Week:** Dearly beloved in Christ, Greetings in the name of our Lord. I hope you know about the arrival of Cyclone storm to Andhra coastal area. Here is a brief summary of cyclone storm effect. We do have some congregations at Vishakhapatnam, East, West Godavari and Krishna districts who have suffered with heavy rains due to cyclonic storm. We do not know the complete details yet. Still the cyclone remained as deep depression and moved northwards. The storm would move north-northeastwards during next 6-12 hours and weaken gradually into a depression. Due to the effect of this severe cyclone, we have been suffering heavy rainfall at many villages where our CLCI prayer sheds have located above four districts. Still we are going to have heavy to very heavy falls in next 36 hours. Also we have heard that there will be winds with speed of 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph during next 6 hours and would gradually decrease thereafter. We have postponed Rev. Starkey visiting schedule to CLCI. Please pray for us. Thank you. Pastor Jyothi Benjamin
- ◆ **Invitation:** Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Saginaw, MI, announces the Celebration of Pastor Michael Wilke's 25 Years of Service to the LORD in the Pastoral Ministry. A Special Service with Guest Pastor Walter Schaller is being planned for Nov. 3, 10 am, Food & Fellowship to follow the service. We would like to invite all to share in this joyous Worship Service. If you are able to attend please RSVP to Steve Leinberger at EauClaireAir@juno.com. If you are unable to join us and would like to send a letter of acknowledgment, prayers or encouragement, please send to the above e-mail.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Rick Grams has returned the call to Rock of Ages in Grand Rapids, MI. ✠ Pastor Nathanael Mayhew, who also serves as a Part-Time Visiting Missionary to Tanzania, will be making his annual visitation at the end of October. If you would like to read about the trip and learn more about the work in Tanzania, you can follow or subscribe to his online journal at: <http://nmayhew.blogspot.com/>.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #7 – Fifth Commandment.

THE COST OF EDUCATION:

When we think of the cost of education in the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) through maintenance of Christian Day Schools, or at Immanuel Lutheran High School, College and Seminary (ILC), our thoughts no doubt gravitate to the bottom line of the financial report.

Given that reality we were excited to see the report of the Coordinating Council. For example, we read that a Public Ministry Endowment that benefits college and seminary students who are preparing for the public ministry has a balance of \$470,000. This fall a distribution of \$13,500 was made, benefiting each of the public ministry students by an additional \$750.

We also read that members of the CLC were moved to contribute generously to the Student Aid Fund (SAF). The SAF has been blessed with generous special offerings both to the SAF Endowments and the regular SAF. These gifts allow distribution of financial assistance to many families who strongly desire the blessing of Christian education for their children at Immanuel High School and College.

In addition, it is heartening to read of Congregation Student Aid Programs: This Academic year 36 High School and 7 college students are receiving grants from their home congregations. Young people of nine congregations are the beneficiaries of \$90,000 contributed by their congregations in support of their Christian education at Immanuel Lutheran High School and College.

In addition to the above awards there were also 58 work study awards totaling \$61,000. These work study awards are funded by the ILC operating budget.

Surely we thank the Lord who gives our members an appreciation of the Christian education of their children, as well as for others in the congregation and in the church body. We thank the Lord for the sanctified judgment through which they give according to their means to support the life and soul education of youth, each one precious to the Lord.

The reality is that education costs at whatever school young people attend. The cost in the public system is not as noticeable (though it is there) because schools are financed through tax levies. This gives the false impression that by comparison to education at ILC, children in the public system get a free education.

It would be an interesting study to determine how much education at ILC costs as compared to the education of “stay at home” children who eat, use electricity and other utilities and amenities in the home. In addition stay at home children also pay various fees at school.

We have heard parents who said that to send children to ILC means they pay double for education. Since they support the public schools with their taxes they are going to use them. In response we counter, “We also pay taxes for jails and prisons, but we have no intention of using them.”

There are obviously other factors that play a part in determining whether to have a Christian Day School at home, or whether or not to send children to ILC. But in as much as perhaps the biggest factor is finances, we offer food for serious thought and prayer.

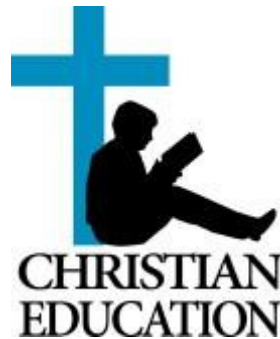
We need not beat the lamentation drum about the quality of education in the public system. That issue is recognized even by society. We simply add that to a great degree the quality of education children receive and what benefit is derived from what there is, is directly proportional to the interest and participation that parents contribute by personal involvement.

Apart from the educational aspect, an issue for concerned parents, and especially Christian parents, is the fact that schools are more and more becoming “social engineering” laboratories rather than educational institutions. While they are already “religious” in as much as they promote the humanist philosophy that has no room for the divine, we do not want government schools engaged in promoting religion of different theological persuasions. *For both of these reasons Immanuel deserves our attention and consideration.*

But there is something stifling in the personal growth of students who in the public school environment are not allowed to confess their faith in Jesus, and in the Word of God, without being told to be quiet. If they object to abortion, homosexuality, and any behavior not consistent with God’s Word, they are in danger of being disciplined.

Emanating largely from Washington, a curriculum is being promoted in the government schools to which many educators and parents across the country are objecting. One source maintained that it is heavy on environmentalist philosophy. We can be sure that there is no room for the Creator God, or the providential God in such a curriculum. To learn more of the federal curriculum, look on line at **COMMON CORE**.

We have in hand a program being established in a local school in Minnesota. We were told it will also come before the legislature for consideration. Freshman students in the particular school have a mobile application which they can use to report “bully-type” incidents 24/7. Once an incident is reported on the spot, school officials submit a report and investigate. The app indicates where in school the alleged incident happened. A report format asks whether the alleged incident was verbal, relational, or physical. There is no definition of what bullying is. It could be laughing at someone, teasing, or even witnessing your faith to someone who objects.



Obviously as Christians we do not condone bullying. As Christians we have the means to address the issue. It starts with the application of Scripture—sin and grace. But under the above practice one is guilty until proven innocent. Students anonymously can snitch on each other without clear definition of what constitutes the bullying. The accused has no recourse to confront the accuser. This is what is occurring in the government system.

One critic said, “Teachers and staff will become thought police and value mediators, shifting their disciplinary focus from correcting inappropriate behavior to remediating students’ belief systems” (Walter Hudson). Another testified concerning a bill before the legislature, “It would use the machinery of state education to compel children to adopt politically correct attitudes on subjects like sexuality, ‘gender identity’ and alternative family structures. The bill would apply, not only to public schools, but to private schools as well” (Katherine Kersten).

We bring this simply to suggest that the cost of education is much higher if our children are made basically wards of the state. We cannot stop the bird from flying overhead. We can stop it from making a nest in our hair. At very least we can try to stop the nesting by becoming active citizens in our society.

More importantly, we can provide at home, in church, and in school the Word of God which will serve as a defense mechanism against the evil that is around us. We can provide them with an environment in which while teaching them from the Word as they come to maturity they acquire the ability to discern right from wrong. We can train them up in the Word so that they have the strength to say no to sin, and yes to Christ. We can provide the environment in which they are able to focus on the love of God in Christ and direct their focus to the inheritance which Jesus has laid up for them in heaven. We can share with them the love of God in Christ, so that from it they are nurtured to love their neighbor, even as God loves them. And yes, being of flesh and blood they will sin; but being trained in the word they can grow, appreciate their baptism, and penitently come before their Savior to find forgiveness of their sin, and be renewed in the desire to walk in the newness of life to the glory of the Father. *Immanuel provides such an environment*, helping the parents carry out their responsibility

We have a responsibility as parents and as a body of believers to provide in home, church, and school an environment in which “speaking the truth in love, [our children] may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ...” (Ephesians 4:15).

The cost of neglecting that responsibility is too high!

Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 10/9/2013

Where God Does His Work for You and in You

“If God were to bid you pick up a straw or strip a feather, and with it command, order, and promise that through this act you should have forgiveness of all your sins, grace, and everlasting life, should you not accept that with great pleasure and gratitude, love it, praise it, and esteem that straw or feather a higher and holier possession than heaven and earth? For however insignificant the straw or feather is, by it you get so precious a gift as neither heaven nor earth, nor all the angels, can give you. Why are we such shameful folk that we do not esteem the water of Baptism, the bread and wine which is Christ’s body and blood, the spoken Word, and the laying on of hands for the forgiveness of sins to be as precious and sacred a thing as we would hold such a straw or feather to be? For in these things, as we see and hear, God Himself wills to work, and they are to be His water, Word, hand, bread and wine, whereby it is His will to sanctify and save us in Christ, who has obtained this salvation for us and sent His Holy Spirit from the Father to apply this to us. On the other hand, even though you were to go on a pilgrimage in heavy armor to the shrine of St. James, or let yourself be killed by the severe life of the Carthusians, Franciscans, or Dominicans in order to be saved, and God had not commanded or instituted this, what good would it do you? He doesn’t know of these things, but the devil and you have devised them, like the special sacraments and the orders of priests. Even though you were able to carry heaven and earth on your shoulders in order to be saved, it would be labor lost, while he who picked up the straw (if God commanded it) would do more than you, even if you could carry ten worlds.” (St. L. XV1:2296.)

What Luther Says. No. 3942. Also Pieper’s Dogmatics, III: 140f. and 268.

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!

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Larry Nelson

Ushers: Roger Ochsner, Jeremiah Boe, Mike Dick, Arnold Gehrls, Bob Maki, John Maki, Joel Stifter

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

Hospitality Team 6: Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt & Teresa Wendland

Church Cleaners: Sydow/Dahl School: None

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Roger Ochsner, Jeremiah Boe, Mike Dick, Arnold Gehrls, Bob Maki, John Maki, Joel Stifter

Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker; Mark Wales

Hospitality Team 1: Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice Sandhoefner

Church Cleaners: Sydow/Dahl School: Broder

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Oct. 20: 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality
 11:30 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

Wed., Oct. 23: 4:30 pm – Catechism
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Sat., Oct. 26: 9:00 am – Grace Work Day

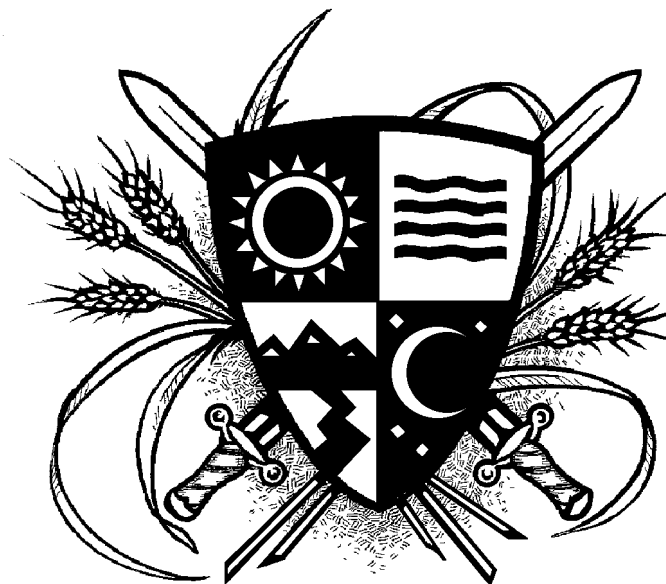
Sun., Oct. 27: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality
 3:00 pm – Reformation Worship @ Messiah, Eau Claire, WI

Last Week's Stats: Oct. 13, 2013 Sun.: 143 S.S.: ? B.Cl.: 73 Wed.: 22

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,160.60	CLC:	\$1,780.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,000.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+160.60	CLC:	+820.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$122,227.61	CLC:	\$40,443.75	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	123,000.00	CLC:	39,360.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-772.39	CLC:	+1,083.75	
GLC Other:	310.00*	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	400.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	75.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	160.00	ILC Bldg.	80.00	IIF: 10.00	CEF: 0.00

* \$100 Fire Alarm

Grace Lutheran Church & School



**THE LORD IS
THE STRENGTH
OF HIS PEOPLE.**

PSALM 28:8