

Click here to open service web page for:2015/01/04/

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Brandt Wendland

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

Counting Team 4: Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner

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

Church Cleaners: Kirkham

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Paul Lentz, Brad Kitzman, Rick Nelson, Keith Radichel, Bob Vandever, Bobby Vandever, Matt Vandever

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

Hospitality Team 2: Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz; Jenny Kleifgen

Church Cleaners: Kirkham School: Wales

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Jan. 4: 10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
11:15 am – Hospitality

Mon., Jan. 5: School Resumes

Tue., Jan. 6: Epiphany

Wed., Jan. 7: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

Sun., Jan. 11: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class

10:00 am – Worship Service

11:15 am – Hospitality

12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Wed., Jan. 15: 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class Resumes

Sun., Jan. 18: 11:30 am – Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings

Wed., Feb. 18: 7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship Begins

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 28, 2014 Sun.: 98 New Year Eve: 55

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,304.95	CLC:	\$1,425.00
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	1,505.00	CLC	920.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,200.00	CLC:	1,040.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+609.95	CLC:	+1,305.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$170,077.74	CLC:	\$54,665.15
Total Budget for Year:	Grace:	167,000.00	CLC:	54,000.00
Year-End (+/-)	Grace:	+3,077.74	CLC:	+665.15
GLC Other: 1,162.75*	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	620.00
SAF Endowment: 0.00	MDF:	100.00	Kinship:	100.00
ILC Student Aid: 30.00	ILC Bldg.	265.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	+3,025.00	Tuition Aid:	+6,469.12
* \$25 Maynard Hammond Memorial				

Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE

Fridley, MN 55432

Email: jphein@clclutheran.com

Home Page: www.CLCCGraceLutheranChurch.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



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

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Church Year: Christmas 2

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: January 4, 2015

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 89: To Thee My Heart I Offer

TLH 107: We Christians May Rejoice Today

TLH 127: As With Gladness Men of Old

Communion: TLH 120; TLH 123

TLH 97: Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 148, TLH p. 156 f.

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 15 (Communion)

Gloria: TLH 102:3-4

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 60:1-6

Hebrews 2:10-18

Sermon: John 7:40-53

(40) Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." (41) Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? (42) "Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" (43) So there was a division among the people because of Him. (44) Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. (45) Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" (46) The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" (47) Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? (48) "Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? (49) "But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." (50) Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, (51) "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?" (52) They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee." (53) And everyone went to his own house. (NKJVTM)

Have You Been Fooled?

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **2015 Cleaning:** The 2015 cleaning sign-up list is posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **Directory:** We are again preparing for the publication of the yearly directory at Grace. Please check your contact information in the draft copy of the directory located in the narthex. Place a check mark by your entry if it is correct. If it is not, then please edit as necessary. If you wish to add email or cell numbers, please do so. Your cooperation is appreciated as we attempt to produce an accurate directory.
- ◆ **Eden Prairie:** There is now a new location for our Southwest Metro services in Eden Prairie! The first service at this new location is today at 9 am. The address is 8080 Eden Road, Eden Prairie, MN (right below the water tower at 494 & Flying Cloud Dr.). The room is on the back side of the building, so you enter off of Singletree Lane and park in the Brunswick Zone XL bowling alley parking lot. There are steps going up to a patio on that (west) side of the building and the meeting room is just off the patio.
 - ⇒ From the east: take 494 west to Flying Cloud Dr (exit 11A). Go left (south) on Flying Cloud Dr about half a mile to a right (west) onto Singletree Lane. Go past Eden Road and turn right into the parking lot for Brunswick Zone XL bowling alley.
 - ⇒ From the west: take 212 east to Prairie Center Dr. Go right (southeast) on Prairie Center Dr about half a mile to a left (east) onto Singletree Lane. Go about a quarter mile and turn left into the parking lot for Brunswick Zone XL bowling alley.
- ◆ **Immanuel Positions:** Immanuel is hiring a new dormitory supervisor for our female students and a new food services manager/head cook. To apply, please contact ILC President Steven Sippert (steve.sippert@ilc.edu / 715.836.6620) prior to January 11, 2015.
- ◆ **CLC Mission Helper Trip to East Africa:** The application deadline is quickly approaching. If you are interested in participating, please apply no later than January 5, 2015. You can find information and apply online at: www.mht.lutheranmissions.org/.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Frank Gantt of St. Luke's in Lemmon, SD, has received the call to Resurrection in Corpus Christi, TX. He is also still considering the call to Calvary in Marquette, MI.
- ◆ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.

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!

Grace Funds

GENERAL FUND: Contributions to this fund are used for budgeted expenses that normally are incurred in operating our church and Christian Day School. This includes such things as the pastor's and teacher's compensations, utilities, church operations, school supplies, pastor's mileage, etc.

TUITION FUND: Offerings are used to assist Grace students at Immanuel Lutheran High School and College.

LIVING FAITH: This program offers opportunities to members to help those of the congregation who are in need of food, clothing, necessary medical supplies, etc. Your offerings to this fund serve the physical welfare of your brethren.

PROJECT FUND: This is for any special projects the congregation decides to do.

CLC Funds

CLC GENERAL FUND (SOMETIMES CALLED "MISSIONS"): Contributions to this fund support the General Budget of the CLC. They are used to subsidize U.S. and foreign missions and to subsidize operating expenses at Immanuel Lutheran High School and College in Eau Claire, WI.

MISSION DEVELOPMENT FUND (MDF): This fund provides support for mission projects both at home and abroad. Funds are used for such things as missionary exploratory efforts, instruction materials, self-help projects in foreign mission fields, storm relief in India and Africa, etc.

PROJECT KINSHIP: Contributions are used for the administration and support of orphanages in the foreign missions affiliated with the CLC. At times sponsorship is requested for specific orphans or seminary students in these foreign mission fields.

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND (CEF): This Fund is maintained for the purpose of providing loans to build or buy churches and/or parsonages within the CLC.

ILC BUILDING FUND: Contributions are used for the financing of any new building projects at ILC. At this time the Academic Center is being financed.

ILC IMPROVEMENT FUND (IIF): This fund has been used for various capital expenditures or special projects at ILC, including such items as remodeling, updating blacktop, furnace replacement, window replacement, painting, etc.

ILC STUDENT AID: This Fund provides scholarships, grants, and loans to students attending the high school, college, and seminary. Contributions may allow students to prepare for the preaching and teaching ministries who otherwise might be unable to attend ILC. Eventually this fund is expected to be self-supporting because of an endowment element and the repayment of student loans after graduation.

ILC STUDENT AID ENDOWMENT: This Fund accumulates in principle as donations are made with the annual investment gains funneled into the ILC Student Aid Fund.

THE BEST YEAR IN HISTORY

The *Telegraph*, a newspaper from England closed 2014 with the headline: “Goodbye to one of the best years in history. It might not feel like it, but we are safer, richer and healthier than at any time on record. 2014 has probably been the best year in history.”

It speculates: “Our lives now are more peaceful than at any time known to the human species. Archaeologists believe that 15 per cent of early mankind met a violent death, a ratio not even matched by the last two world wars. It claims there is more peace, and with peace, prosperity.”

It also quotes a source which asserts “Global life expectancy now stands at a new high of 71.5 years, up six years since 1990. In India, life expectancy is up seven years for men, and 10 for women. It’s rising faster in the impoverished east of Africa than anywhere else on the planet. In Rwanda and Ethiopia, life expectancy has risen by 15 years.” It makes an interesting observation: “Africans certainly do know it’s Christmas – a Nigerian child is almost twice as likely to mark the occasion by attending church than a British one.” That perhaps says more about Britain (The United States?) than it does about Africa. The World Bank’s rate of extreme poverty (those living on less than \$1.25 a day) has more than halved since 1990.”

It makes reference to what it calls “problems of success.” “Prosperity does bring new problems; obesity, the resulting diabetes and the costs of far longer (and better) end-of-life care.” It does point to other factors that in its judgment make the past year the best of all. In fairness it also recognizes that there are still negative factors which must be addressed.

It is certainly appropriate to look back on the past year--the marriage of a son or daughter, the birth of a child, return to the work force or health, the pleasant vacation with family, and so on. There are things common to Christ-believers and non-believers that give each reason to look back with fond memories on something. Whether or not the past year was one of the best in history (rather presumptuous it would seem), what ranks at the top of the list for Christ-believers is the faithfulness of God the Father, the love of Christ for us, the sanctifying power of the Spirit. Whatever else we can think of as a reason to give thanks (and even if we think we have none which actually is a ludicrous suggestion), we were blessed with the privilege to gather regularly with fellow believers around Word and Sacrament to worship the God of our salvation. By that reckoning, it has been a good year in spite of everything that has gone on in this world.

We could make a case that it was the worst of years. That would be as presumptuous as the opposite claim. We have seen the continuation or perhaps the acceleration of the deterioration of our culture and the morals of our nation. Wrong is called right, and right is called wrong. We have witnessed apostasy from the faith on one hand, and while not new, the

bold ascendancy of cruel heathenism (radical Islam) on the other. We have witnessed lack of respect for one another as well as for authority. What is it again that makes the passing year the one of the best in the history of the world?

Mingled with the good things which we recounted above, each of us has in one way or another suffered set-back, loss, or trouble. These negatives are indicative of the corruption of the human heart because everything contrary to good health and welfare is a consequence of sin. Life lived in the present world is a far cry from the intended “real” world of perfection which the Lord God created. Suffering under the burden of sin, given the nature of our flesh we tend to forget that even the things we count as uncomfortable can and do serve God’s purpose. For the ungodly He uses the afflictions of the present time as a wake-up call. That is the function of the law. For the Christ-believer the afflictions of the present day serve to refocus our attention and hope upon Christ, and give us a fervent desire to be released from this life, to be blessed with the life in the eternal home in which the things that grieve us here are passed away! It is true as God is true: “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). We do not suggest this truth is easy to appreciate in the midst of the pain and suffering of the moment, but in due time we will understand if we do not faint. May God give us always an extra measure of His Spirit to believe that above the clouds the sun is shining (if ever you have flown above them in an airplane). And so the SON Who knows our pain having borne it in His own body will bear us through the evil days!

So until history is forgotten in the eternal now of heaven, what has been, is, and will be the best year in the history of the world? *The best year was the year of Jesus’ birth. The best year was the year of Jesus’ death, His resurrection, His ascension!* This may seem to be “pious hokiness” to many. But the reality is that Jesus was born, suffered, died, rose again, and ascended in real space-time history! In real space-time history He accomplished His Father’s will, and won for us salvation and release from all that afflicts us now.

Every year in Christ is a good year, and will be surpassed only by the invitation which each Christ-believer will hear when time is no more: “Come ye blessed of My Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 25:34). Then will be brought to pass the Savior’s promise, “... where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:3). The best ever—not for a year in history—but forever in eternity, with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:17)!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2014

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