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✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Janelle Hein Elder: Benno Sydow
Ushers: Benno Sydow, Gary Gunther, Larry Nelson, Jacob Rhinesmith, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff 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: Dick School: K. Baker

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Benno Sydow, Gary Gunther, Larry Nelson, Jacob Rhinesmith, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter
Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Rick Nelson; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker
Hospitality Team 1: Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice Sandhoefner
Church Cleaners: Dick School: K. Baker

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Feb. 8: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality
 12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Wed., Feb. 11: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class (Angels)

Sun., Feb. 15: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality
 3:00-6:30 pm – Evangelism Worship @ Eau Claire, WI

Wed., Feb. 18: **ASH WEDNESDAY**
 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 6:00 pm – Lenten Soup Suppers Begin
 7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship Services Begin

Last Week's Stats: Feb. 1, 2015 Sun.: 115 S.S.: ? B.Cl.: 41 Wed.: 26			
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,205.60	CLC: \$901.60
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,340.00	CLC: 1,060.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-134.40	CLC: -158.40
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$13,907.63	CLC: \$3,698.20
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	16,700.00	CLC: 5,300.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-2,792.37	CLC: -1,601.80
GLC Other: 207.00*	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid: 160.00
SAF Endowment: 0.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship: 110.00
ILC Student Aid: 0.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00 CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	+4,105.00	Tuition Aid: +7,309.12



Grace Lutheran Church & School

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 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 5 **Date:** February 8, 2015

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:
 TLH 277: I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
 TLH 410: Jesus, Lead Thou On
 WS 756: Jesus, Lover of My Soul
 TLH 361: O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:
 Psalm 103, TLH p. 145 f.

Liturgy:
 TLH, p. 5 (Projected)
 Gloria: WS 775:6

Scripture Readings:
 Job 7:1-7
 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Sermon: Mark 1:29-39

(29) Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. (30) But Simon's wife's mother lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once. (31) So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them. (32) At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. (33) And the whole city was gathered together at the door. (34) Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him. (35) Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. (36) And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him. (37) When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." (38) But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth." (39) And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons. (NKJV)

"What Are You Looking For From Jesus?"

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Among Us:** This past Thu., Feb. 5, 1:12 pm, Eli and Laura Wales were blessed with a baby girl, Fiona Ruby. She was 19", 7 lb, 14 oz. Mom and baby are doing well, God-willing to be released from the hospital today. The plans are for the baptism to take place at next Sunday's morning worship service. We praise the Lord for this wonderful blessing for Eli and Laura.
- ◆ **Midweek Lenten Services:** This year our midweek services will begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, 7 pm. Our theme is "Gratitude for God's Geographic Grace," looking at God's promises based on features of geography used in the Bible.
- ◆ **Lenten Soup Suppers:** These start on Feb. 18, 6 pm as a way for people to eat between work and worship. There is a sign-up sheet for soup, setup, and cleanup.
- ◆ **Evangelism Workshop:** All are invited to participate in this year's Evangelism Workshop today from 3:00 to 6:30 pm at Messiah, Eau Claire. The theme this year is "Prepared to Answer!" This workshop will leave you better equipped to serve the Lord, who first served you, by being His witness. Our format will feature presentations, as well as break-out sessions for discussion and application. A soup and chili fellowship supper will follow. Come and learn – Come and share!
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Vance Fossum of Holy Trinity in West Columbia, SC, has returned the call to Resurrection in Corpus Christi, TX. ✠ Pastor David Pfeiffer of Ascension in Batavia, IL (Chicago area), has returned the call to Redemption in Lynnwood, WA (Seattle area). ✠ Teacher Sara Pfeiffer at St. Stephen in Mountain View, CA (San Francisco area), has returned the call to Gethsemane in Spokane Valley, WA. ✠ Desirae Naumann, member of the congregation, has accepted the call to teach at Valley Bible Academy - St. John's Lutheran in Clarkston, WA. ✠ Pastor Michael Gurath of Holy Cross in Phoenix, AZ, has received the call to Calvary in Marquette, MI. ✠ Teacher Candice Ohlmann of Faith in Markesan, WI, has accepted the call to serve as principal and teacher of Grace in Valentine, NE.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #16 – Second Article



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!

CLC FINANCIAL REPORT December 2014

CLC Financial Report	Balance	Year to Date	Year to Date	FY 2015 Budget	Balance
Operating Funds	7/1/2014	Revenue	Disbursed	6 Months	12/31/2014
General Fund	0	449,923	440,754	\$452,000	9,169
ILC Operations	0	670,165	623,314	\$673,500	46,851
Total	\$0	\$1,120,088	\$1,064,068	\$1,125,500	\$56,020
Auxiliary Funds					
IIF - ILC Improvement	67,647	12,021	64,245		15,423
ILC Building	14,168	42,327	47,904		8,591
MDF - Mission Development	190,077	109,437	204,346		95,168
Kinship	59,320	27,479	39,754		47,045
CEF - Church Extension Fund	1,624,476	433,736	712,214		1,345,998
SAF - Student Aid	19,672	90,303	85,397		24,578
Reserve Account	89,769	0	0		89,769

ILC Academic Center Mortgage		
Beginning Balance:	January 1, 2010	\$1,751,804
Current Balance:	December 31, 2014	\$1,431,325
	Principal Paid to Date:	\$320,479

Comments:

- General Fund offerings in December were very good, totaling \$101,054
- This resulted in the General Fund having a balance of \$9,169 at end of month
- ILC budget at end of month remains positive and is (\$50,186) underspent to date
- Offerings for the ILC Academic Center were \$14,186 which helped the balance improve to \$8,591
- MDF expenditures for December were \$36,324 and included \$11,917 for India rice land purchase, \$6,120 for Myanmar outreach, and 7,012 for mission helper travel
- There were no expenditures from the IIF in December
- CEF promissory note indebtedness is reduced by about \$371,314 year-to-date

Dr. James A. Sydow, CLC Treasurer
Philip E. Radichel, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

WAS CHRIST A JEW OR A CHRISTIAN?

Was Christ a Jew or a Christian? A search online finds many lengthy responses, many of which are contradictory.

Some answer with “Jesus was a Jew ...” Jesus indeed was addressed as Rabbi. In John 4:22 He said to the Samaritan woman “... We know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.” However, Jesus nowhere *specifically calls Himself* a Jew, and the Bible nowhere *specifically* calls Him a Jew. Moreover, even Jewish sources acknowledge controversy and debate over who is a Jew. Some define the term in an ancestral sense, some in a religious sense, and still some in a political sense. Little is to be gained by engaging in such a debate.

Consequently as relates to Jesus we have no interest in the question beyond the fact that it is out there. We have the same lack of interest in this subject as we do about the color of Jesus, such a question generated by pictures of a black Jesus. By whose definition He was or was not a Jew, and what color He was, is not material to His person or work, or to our salvation. It is *not* important in this context to engage in a discussion of what He was. It is important **to know and believe WHO HE WAS.**

Concerning His lineage, we need no more description of His lineage than what Scripture says of Him. From Scripture we know that the incarnate Christ as it was prophesied was of the tribe of Judah. Miraculously “conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the virgin Mary,” He was of David’s royal line according to the flesh. We know the purpose for which the Son of God came down from heaven and was born into the world as true Man. We believe the Old Testament prophecies of His person and work.

The question of whether or not Jesus was a Jew (what kind of Jew He was) is one of the subtle diversions of Satan by which he tries to engage one in trivialities to steer one away from the real understanding of Jesus’ person and mission. We believe that Jesus Christ, our Lord, is “true God begotten of the Father from eternity and also true Man born of the virgin Mary (2nd Article of the Creed)” Who came into world as “The Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29)! Thus saith the Lord!

To the end that He would accomplish His purpose, and the Father’s will, He humbled Himself and lived under the Law fulfilling all the requirements of the Law including the ceremonial Law. He kept the Sabbath, and the Passover and showed Himself to be the substance of the shadow. “So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ” (Colossians 2:16-17). What is important is that Jesus, one with the Father and the Spirit in the Godhead, “became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14), and in His incarnation fulfilled His Father’s will. Equally important to our salvation is the reality that Jesus was born of the descendants of Abraham as promised by the Father and that as the incarnate Son of God He completed and fulfilled every requirement demanded of Him as our Substitute (Isaiah 53). He Who had no sin took our sins upon Himself, and received our earned wages.

They get lost in the weeds and worse who spend time debating whether Jesus was a Jew or how to define Him in terms of Jewishness, but who reject or forget that Jesus was the Son of God!

So was Jesus a Christian? Apart from the reference to Jesus, the question itself also bogs one down in a quagmire since among Christians there is no definitive or unified understanding of what exactly defines a Christian.

What is *our* answer to who or what is a Christian? A Christian is one who believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who took human form and flesh. He is true God, and true Man having been conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the virgin Mary. He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, where after God “highly exalted Him” (Philippians 2:8-11). He suffered the punishment and died the death we deserved and rose again to restore life. In and through Him we have forgiveness of sins. Jesus, the incarnate Son of God, reconciled the world unto the Father, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe in Him. A Christian believes that he is saved by grace through faith in Christ, without works (Ephesians 2:8).

None of what we have just stated describes Christ. No Old Testament name nor New Testament appellation addresses Him as “Christian.” Jesus knew Who He was; He did not believe in Himself as that term is used to describe the faith of a Christian. Christ is the substance and embodiment of what believers trust in. He is the foundation of our faith and hope as Scripture says, “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Furthermore, the name Christian came into existence in Antioch. “And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11:26). This was not a compliment, but a term of ridicule spoken by the heathen against the followers of Christ. Though offered in ridicule, it was a fit name for Christ-believers. We embrace it in its real essence.

Christianity consists of faith in Christ, not in one’s own moral conduct. Christ did not need salvation. He *brought* salvation. Martin Luther in the three articles of the Creed, with special emphasis on the 2nd, defines the Christian faith. Christianity is and a Christian believes that Christ “has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness...” (2nd Article of the Creed). This is most certainly true!

Therefore, in answer to the question “Was Christ a Christian?” we say, “No.” We confess with the apostle who in answer to the question of who Jesus was said, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16)! “As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12). All who *believe on the name* of the Son of God and Son of Mary are His children, and “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21, Romans 10:13)—Jew or Gentile. Thus saith the Lord!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 2/2015