

Click here to open service web page for: 2015/02/15/

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Benno Sydow
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: P. Radichel School: K. Baker

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Benno Sydow, Gary Gunther, Larry Nelson, Jacob Rhinesmith, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter
Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Brandt Wendland
Hospitality Team 2: Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz; Jenny Kleifgen
Church Cleaners: P. Radichel School: Bruce

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

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

Mon, Feb. 16: No School at Grace

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

Sun., Feb. 22: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality

Last Week's Stats: Feb. 8, 2015 Sun.: 118 S.S.: 16 B.Cl.: 46 Wed.: 19					
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,794.24	CLC:	\$1,101.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,340.00	CLC:	1,060.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-545.76	CLC:	+41.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$16,701.87	CLC:	\$4,799.20	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	20,040.00	CLC:	6,360.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-3,338.13	CLC:	-1,560.80	
GLC Other:	325.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	200.00
SAF Endowment:	100.00	MDF:	100.00	Kinship:	125.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	+4,305.00	Tuition Aid:	+7,509.12



Grace Lutheran Church & School

460 75th Ave. NE
 Fridley, MN 55432
 Email: jphein@clclutheran.com
 Home Page: 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-8th
Church Year: Transfiguration **Date:** February 15, 2015

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

<p>Hymns: WS 719: Jesus on the Mountain Peak WS 720: Oh, Wondrous Type! Oh, Vision Fair TLH 285: How Precious Is the Book Divine TLH 48: How Blest Are They Who Hear God's Word</p> <p>Christian Day School: TLH 135 (between readings) Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.</p>	<p>Worship Prep: Psalm 148, TLH p. 156 f.</p> <p>Liturgy: TLH, p. 5 (Projected) Gloria: TLH 246:1,4</p> <p>Scripture Readings: 2 Kings 2:1-12a Mark 9:2-9</p>
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Sermon: 2 Peter 1:16-21
¹⁶For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (NKJV™)

"Our Lord's Credibility is at Stake"

CLC FINANCIAL REPORT January 2015

CLC Financial Report	Balance	Year to Date	Year to Date	FY 2015 Budget	Balance
Operating Funds	7/1/2014	Revenue	Disbursed	7 Months	1/31/2015
General Fund	0	558,927	516,672	\$527,333	42,255
ILC Operations	0	860,643	724,614	\$785,750	136,029
Total	\$0	\$1,419,570	\$1,241,286	\$1,313,083	\$178,284
Auxiliary Funds					
IIF - ILC Improvement	67,647	12,662	64,245		16,064
ILC Building	14,168	71,941	55,888		30,221
MDF - Mission Development	190,077	118,651	218,443		90,285
Kinship	59,320	36,249	49,832		45,737
CEF - Church Extension Fund	1,624,476	659,687	864,481		1,419,682
SAF - Student Aid	19,672	101,857	114,092		7,437
Reserve Account	89,769	0	0		89,769

ILC Academic Center Mortgage		
Beginning Balance:	January 1, 2010	\$1,751,804
Current Balance:	January 31, 2015	\$1,428,112
	Principal Paid to Date:	\$323,692

Comments:

- General Fund offerings in January again were very good, totaling \$109,004
- This resulted in the General Fund having a balance of \$42,255 at end of month
- ILC revenue at end of month is up because of the second semester payments
- Offerings for the ILC Academic Center were \$29,613.77. The remaining balance due is \$1,429,614. The balance in the ILC Building Fund as of January 31, 2015 is \$30,221.
- MDF expenditures for December were \$14,097 and included \$2,206 for India outreach, \$4,286 for Missionary visit to Myanmar, and \$1,500 for Africa outreach
- There were no expenditures from the IIF in January
- Thanks to our Lord for His blessings and the resources to carry out His work

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

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

◆ Midweek Lenten Services:

This year our midweek services will begin this week 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.

◆ Next Sunday:

The Sunday School children will be singing in church.
◆ **Fiction Book:** Deborah Ude, wife of ILC seminary professor John Ude and mother of Michael Ude, is currently working toward the publication of a Lutheran Christian Fiction novel. No final date has been set, but the goal is to release it in early March. Information about *Steeple in the Distance*, excerpts and background, are available.

Visit website: www.deborahude.com E-mail: deborahu9@gmail.com
Phone: 715-955-4127

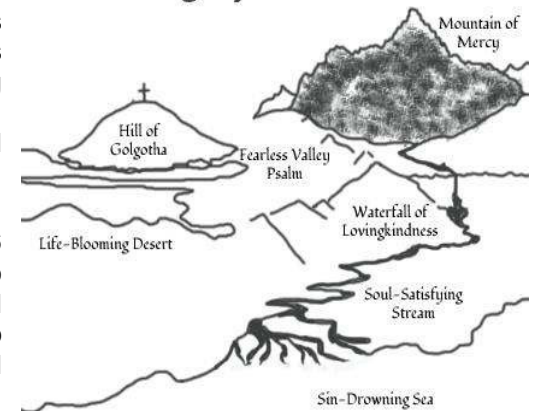
Address Deborah Ude; 507 Ingram Dr.; Eau Claire, WI 54701

- ◆ **CLC News:** Stephanie Purrington has accepted the call to teach kindergarten at Immanuel in Mankato, MN, beginning this Fall. ✠ Pastor Mark Tiefel of Bethel in Morris, MN, has received the call to Redemption in Lynnwood, WA (Seattle area). ✠ Teacher Jeffrey Karnitz of St. Stephen in Mountain View, CA (San Francisco area), has received the call to be principal and teacher at Gethsemane in Spokane Valley, WA. ✠ Pastor Michael Roehl of St. Paul in Bismarck, ND, has received the call to Resurrection in Corpus Christi, TX.

◆ Sunday School Memory Work: #17 – 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!

Gratitude for God's Geographic Grace



BEGGARS

Ash Wednesday is upon us again. It introduces us to the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday dates back to the 8th century. An abbot Aelfric (955-1020) wrote, "We read in the books both in the Old Law and in the New that the men who repented of their sins bestrewed themselves with ashes and clothed their bodies with sackcloth. Now let us do this little at the beginning of our Lent that we strew ashes upon our heads to signify that we ought to repent of our sins during the Lenten fast."

Pouring of ashes on one's body (and dressing in sackcloth), dates back to the Old Testament. Job, rebuked by God, confessed, "Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6). There are other references to such a practice in the Old Testament, e.g. Esther 4:1,3, Daniel 9:3. In the New Testament, Jesus speaking to Chorazin and Bethsaida said, "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes" (Matthew 11:21).

Historically, many Christians followed the practice of placing ashes in the form of a cross upon their forehead. Today the placement of ashes on the forehead is practiced by some Lutherans, the Catholic Church, and others within Christendom. To such practice there is surely no objection surely, provided people understand the significance of it—penitent sorrow over sin, and an acknowledgement of the consequence of sin which is death. Man was created of the dust of the earth, and in death returns to dust (Genesis 3:19).

Ashes or no ashes, the tax collector in the temple manifested true repentance when "standing afar off, [he] would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast saying 'God be merciful to me, a sinner'" (Luke 18:13).

As a day of penitence Ash Wednesday introduces us to the season of Lent. The season of Lent has taken on some baggage. Some people choose to engage in a fast during Lent. If they choose to do so that is fine. However if a fast is done in an effort of self-righteousness to assuage the Lord God, it is of no value, and is indeed sinful! Some choose to give up some habit, good or bad (If it is a bad habit should it not be given up completely?) for Lent. Fine. But if such self-denial is practiced as an expression of self-righteousness, a means to wring a reward from God's hands, or with a "holier than thou attitude" toward those who choose not to give up something for Lent, it is useless and is sin.

The Lord God is not impressed by the outward expression of holiness or appearance of holiness. He looks on the heart. The expression that delights the Lord is the heart-felt confession, "For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight..." (Psalm 51:4). The tax collector expressed true repentance in that he confessed his sin, and expressed faith and confidence in the grace of God—"Be merciful to me." David followed his confession in v. 4 with the confidence of faith, "A broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise" (Psalm 51:17).

Among us, the Lenten season is a time set apart to meditate upon what our Lord of His good and gracious will and His deep love for us has done to remove from us the burden of our sin, and sense of guilt that we feel because we have sinned against Him and His holiness. Lenten meditations are in reality not anything more than what we hear each

Sunday in a faithful Law/Gospel sermon. Lent does however focus our attention in a more intense fashion upon the cost of our sin! The wages of sin is death. The Lenten meditations impress upon us that *Jesus received (was paid) what we earned!* Before the court of divine justice He suffered the punishment we deserved, the forsakenness we should have endured, and died the death that was rightfully ours. We gather in Lenten services with penitent and thankful hearts. We gather to "remember His death" and our release from death through His sacrifice in our place.

We remember Martin Luther's confident expression at his death. His friend Justus Jonas asked him on his death bed: "Reverend Father, are you willing to die in the name of the Christ and the doctrine which you have preached?" In a loud voice he responded, "Yes." In this final confession of faith in Christ he died. What is not as well known is that after his death, in his pocket, we are told, was found a note that included this statement, "We are all beggars; it is true." In society being a beggar is looked down upon. Respectable people are not comfortable begging. But in the spiritual sense, there is no shame in being a beggar. In fact it is only beggars who say, "Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling" who shall know the joy of being filled.

We are beggars because there is no act or deed of ours which can save us. We are saved only through the blood of Christ and through the righteousness of Christ which is ours through faith. We are saved by the grace of Him who never turns the beggar away! Remember the tax collector? Jesus said, "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified..." (Luke 18:14)

So come each Lenten season, and to each Lenten service. Contemplate how Jesus Who was rich became poor, that we who were poor—beggars—might be made rich (2 Corinthians 8:9). The wealth that He freely and richly has placed into our beggar's bag is the forgiveness of sins, and as beggar Luther said, "Where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation." Come and "Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Come in the confidence of the Lord's promise that "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Only those who are so deluded to think they have no sin, or who do not feel the burden of their sin, can be deaf to such a promise—a promise confirmed to us at the cross upon which our dear Savior died!

Following 6 weeks of the Lenten season we will bask in the warmth and light of Christ's resurrection from the dead. If we will be honest, we will acknowledge that if we let the Lenten season pass us by without contemplation and meditation upon Jesus' suffering and death, then the celebration of Easter is empty. If Christ did not die, He did not rise. But He did die for us and in our place. He also rose from the dead. The penitent and believing heart sits as a beggar below the cross, and rejoices in the richness of life at the empty tomb. The two go together. Neither is complete without the other!

With repentant hearts and with faith in God's grace in Christ we pray with the hymn writer:

Oh, that near the cross abiding, We may to the Savior cleave,
Naught with Him our hearts dividing, All for him content to leave!

Lord, in loving contemplation Fix our hearts and eyes on Thee
Till we taste Thy full salvation And Thy unveiled glory see. TLH 155: 4,5

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 2/2015

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