

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

*Organist:* Jan Davis                      *Elder:* Frank Radichel

*Ushers:* Paul Lentz; Brad Kitzman; Rick Nelson; Keith Radichel; Bob, Rob, & Matthew Vandever

*Counting Team 3:* Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Benno Sydow; Chad Hestekin

*Church Cleaners:* ?                      *School:* A. Baker

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

*Ushers:* Benno Sydow, Gary Gunther, Larry Nelson, Jacob Rhinesmith, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter

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

*Hospitality Team 4:* James & April Bomber; Rachelle Kanneh; Heidi Nelson; Bob & Suki Vandever

*Church Cleaners:* P. & J. Radichel   *School:* A. Baker

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

- Sun., Sept. 6:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
9:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
- Mon. Sept. 7:** Labor Day – No School
- Wed, Sept. 9:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
- Sun., Sept. 13:** Return to Regular Sunday Schedule  
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service  
11:15 am – Hospitality; 12:00 pm – Council Meeting
- Mon., Sept. 14:** 7:00 pm – School Open House
- Wed., Sept. 16:** CLC Coordinating Council (Eau Claire, WI)  
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class Resumes
- Sun., Sept. 20:** Grace Church Picnic
- Oct. 6-7:** Minnesota Pastoral Conference (Detroit Lakes, MN)
- Sun., Oct. 11:** Mission Festival (w/ Pastor Jim Albrecht)  
Potluck (Committee #1) and Blood Drive
- Oct. 14-16:** CLC Teachers Conference (Inver Grove Hts., MN)

<b>Last Week's Stats:</b> Aug. 30, 2015   Sun.: 98   Funeral: 85			
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,077.75	CLC: \$1,465.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,340.00	CLC: 1,060.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-262.25	CLC: +405.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$105,092.23	CLC: \$29,402.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	116,900.00	CLC: 37,100.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-11,807.77	CLC: -7,698.00
GLC Other: 300.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid: 50.00
SAF Endowment: 100.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship: 100.00
ILC Student Aid: 329.25	ILC Bldg.	400.00	IIF: 0.00   CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	7,870.00	Tuition Aid: 2,901.12

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# Grace Lutheran Church & School

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Work willingly at  
whatever you do,  
as though you were  
working for the Lord  
rather than for people.

Colossians 3:23



# Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Fridley, MN 55432



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Home Page: [www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.org](http://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-8<sup>th</sup>

Church Year: Pentecost 15

Date: September 6, 2015

## ✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

### Hymns:

TLH 566: Christ, By Heavenly Hosts Adored

TLH 400: Take My Life and Let It Be

TLH 540: With the Lord Begin Thy Task

Communion: Meditative music

TLH 309: O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

### Worship Prep:

Psalm 127, Projected

### Liturgy:

TLH, p. 15 (Communion)

Gloria: TLH 9, st. 5

### Scripture Readings:

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

### Sermon: Ephesians 4:1, 28

<sup>1</sup> I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ... <sup>28</sup> Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

Labor for What is Good

## ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Among Us:** Jane Cowan's son-in-law, Chris Enochson, was diagnosed with a brain tumor last Sunday. He was admitted to North Memorial and had successful surgery. He is already released from the hospital and is now waiting for the pathology report. ✠ As reported by email and the calling tree, Judith McCullough passed away this past Monday morning due to a heart attack. The memorial service was yesterday. Thanks to all who helped out with the various tasks!
- ◆ **Service Schedule:** Please keep in mind that the service schedule will be changing next Sunday, **September 13**. Sunday School and Bible Class will begin at 9:00 am with regular morning worship at 10:00 am. Hospitality hour will also resume following the worship service.
- ◆ **Sunday School:** Those interested in being substitute teachers may speak with Michael Ude or Pastor Hein.
- ◆ **School Open House:** Mon., Sept. 14 is our annual open house at 7:00 pm. This is an opportunity for the parents to come into the classrooms to see what is new for the year and to ask any questions that may have come up. The teachers will provide light refreshments.
- ◆ **Church Cleaning:** Volunteers are needed for the next three months.
- ◆ **Blood Drive:** Mission Festival will be Oct. 11, along with our annual blood drive. Since a person can only donate once every 56 days, Rick Nelson asks that you reserve your next donation for that Sunday.
- ◆ **Golf Outing:** The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Snell Open benefitting the Josh Snell Memorial Scholarship Fund is set for Sat., Sept. 26, at Hidden Greens in Hastings, MN. Registration forms are by the guest book.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Robert List of Gethsemane in Spokane Valley, WA, has announced his intention to retire from the public ministry. He will be serving the congregation until the Spirit provides a new shepherd. ✠ Rev. Timothy Daub, member of Gethsemane, Spokane Valley, has applied for colloquy into the ministerium of the CLC. He formerly served as a pastor in the LCMS and WELS. Any correspondence regarding Rev. Daub should be sent to Bd. of Doctrine chairman, Rev. Daniel Fleischer. ✠ The German Free Conference was held last weekend. Pastor Dave Reim, Pastor Dave Koenig, and Bd. of Missions member, Mr. Joel Krafft, represented the CLC. A report will be provided to the Coordinating Council on Sept. 16.

*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!*

There will be nothing or no one in heaven who defiles it. Only they who believe and trust in the atonement of Jesus, and who believe that they are cleansed through the blood of Jesus will be there. They will sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 8:11).

**So how do we get to heaven?** Scripture is clear. But the way to heaven is misrepresented by many because to believe it means that man must acknowledge he is a sinner, and swallow his pride. Neither of these is easy for fallen man. Briefly review what Scripture says, bearing in mind that this is the Lord God Himself speaking.

In Titus 3 we read: “But when the *kindness and the love of God* our Savior toward man appeared, **not by works of righteousness** which we have done, but *according to His mercy* He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, Whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been *justified by His grace* we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (Titus 3: 4-7). The way of salvation is clearly spoken by Paul, “For by *grace you have been saved through faith*, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, **not of works**, lest anyone should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9). Our heavenly Father *justified us “freely by His grace* through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:24), upon which follows “that a man is *justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law*” (Romans 3:28).

To what end did He justify us? That through faith in Christ and His atoning work, we might be with the Lord in heaven.

Any suggestion or teaching that the sinner is saved by his own works in part or in whole is a rejection of the words of Christ on the cross. Jesus said, “It is finished” (John 19:30). If Jesus finished what was necessary for our salvation satisfying the demands of the law in every respect, then what more is there to do? To say that more needs to be done either says Jesus was a failure (not possible) or a liar (blasphemy)! The resurrection of Jesus from the dead was the stamp of approval, and the seal of the Father that Jesus has indeed completely and satisfactorily accomplished our salvation! We are saved not by anything in us, but by the merit of Christ whose righteousness is attributed to us by grace and appropriated through faith.

The Holy Spirit is an essential person in the appropriation by faith of the salvation that Jesus won. Without the Holy Spirit we could not believe. Scripture is clear. “But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and *by the Spirit of our God*” (1 Corinthians 6:11).

All believers in Christ shall be in heaven with God and the holy angels by the grace, love, mercy, and goodness of the Triune God—the Father Who sent his Son, the Son Who died and rose again, and the Spirit Who brought us to faith. “**Thanks be to God Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**” (1 Corinthians 15:57). Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer (5/2015)

## From CLC President, Pastor Michael Eichstadt

**Intersynodical talks:** Representatives from the CLC, WELS, and ELS had a third meeting on August 21, this time in Mankato, MN, at Bethany College. Another meeting is planned for November 13 at the WELS headquarters in Waukesha, WI. A joint “press release” is copied below:

### Progress in doctrinal discussions

*On August 21 representatives of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC), the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) met in Mankato, Minnesota for their third round of doctrinal discussions. It is a joy to report that the nine participants agreed to a revision of the 1990 document entitled “Joint Statement Regarding the Termination of Fellowship.” This document will now be sent to the CLC Board of Doctrine, the ELS Doctrine Committee, and the WELS Commission on Inter-Church Relations for their consideration.*

*Agreement on this document does not imply full agreement on all the controverted matters. There still are a number of significant issues to discuss, and another meeting has been scheduled for November 13. But this agreement is a good first step in overcoming the differences between our synods.*

*Presumably the “Joint Statement” will be made public in the future, but at this point the appropriate committees from each synod are reviewing the document without public distribution. Prayers are welcomed that God will continue to guide this process for good.*

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The three synod presidents agreed to the above release. I have heard concerns that it is premature, too optimistic, and gives the impression that fellowship is imminent. Please don't read more into the statement than what is there. There are two main points to remember.

First, after many hours of frank and careful discussion, the three committees did come to agreement on a “joint statement” regarding the termination of fellowship from heterodox bodies. As the statement indicates, it is certainly reason for joy when the Spirit works genuine agreement on the truths of the Word.

The second point, however, which needs to be kept in mind is that the joint statement is a very preliminary step. It has not been reviewed by our Bd. of Doctrine or the other corresponding doctrine committees of the WELS and ELS. Also, there are other “significant issues,” such as membership in Thrivent and similar organizations, which need to be discussed and resolved before there can be any consideration of fellowship.

Naturally, these meetings hold great interest not only for us as pastors, but for all of us in the CLC. In our own minds and in talking with our members, it is important not to jump to conclusions one way or the other. Restored fellowship is not by any means a foregone conclusion nor is a doctrinal impasse inevitable at this point. What we can be sure of is that when the Word is studied as God's truth and used as the basis for discussion, the Spirit will bestow His blessings in the way of His choosing. "My word ... will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Is. 55:11). That, I believe, is reason for optimism regardless of the final outcome.

### **Immanuel Vicar Program:**

As part of their pastoral training, those enrolled in our Immanuel Lutheran Seminary participate in the vicar program. In order to get practical experience in being a pastor, each of these men is assigned to a CLC congregation under the mentoring of a pastor. They will observe and participate in the normal activities of the ministry, e.g., preaching, Catechism, Bible Class, visits, devotions, instruction classes, etc. This program is vital to our church body as it imparts valuable experience to those who will, Lord willing, be serving our various congregations in the future. Please pray for our seminary program, for the young men who are willing to undertake this priceless vocation, and that the Lord would send forth willing and prepared workers into His harvest. This year our seminarians are serving as vicars in the following congregations:

- ⇒ Tom Naumann - St. John's, Okabena, MN (Middler, 2<sup>nd</sup> year in seminary)
- ⇒ Sam Rodebaugh - Luther Memorial, Fond du Lac, WI (Middler)
- ⇒ Stefan Sonnenfeld - Our Redeemer's, Red Wing, MN (Middler)
- ⇒ Ben Libby - St. John's, Clarkston, WA (Senior, Last year in seminary)
- ⇒ Joe Naumann - Berea, Inver Grove Hts., MN (Senior)

### **How Essential Did Luther Consider Catechism Instruction?**

From Touchstone Magazine: Martin Luther's prescription for pastors and preachers (including himself) who neglect the catechetical training of their congregation was characteristically colorful and coarse: "we deserve not only to be given no food to eat, but also to have the dogs set upon us and to be pelted with horse manure." ... Luther's zeal for the catechetical instruction of the Church is unmistakable. Those (especially pastors) who are ignorant of the basics of the catechism, or who despise it through negligence, thought Luther, "should not be numbered among Christians." They are "lazy bellies and presumptuous spirits," completely unskilled and incompetent teachers "who live like simple cattle and irrational pigs." Conclusion: "Shame on you forever!"

### **WHO WILL BE IN HEAVEN? HOW DO WE GET THERE?**

As we consider eternity—heaven—the two questions posed in the heading are elementary to believers who accept Scripture and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet we need to remind ourselves of the answers because Satan daily seeks to mislead us about who will be there, and daily seeks to confuse us as to how heaven is attained. Though there is speculation about where heaven is, there is no speculation about the who and how that we are addressing.

None of us—no person—deserves to be in heaven. As sin separated mankind from God on the earth, so man is separated from God in eternity. Every person born of woman, except for Jesus Christ, deserves the rejection slip: "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness" (Matthew 7:23). The holy God was serious when He said, "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23a). Yet we are speaking of heaven. The fact of the existence of heaven and the blessings of heaven are so deep as to defy our understanding. In regard to our two questions, however, the only thing that surpasses our understanding is how the Father in heaven could be so kind, gracious, and forgiving that He would save such a wretch as I.

As we look into the Word of God no interpretation is needed to understand the answer to the question, "Who will be in heaven?"

**So who will be in heaven eternally with the Lord God and with the holy angels?** Disciples (followers) of the Lord Jesus Christ will be in heaven. Before His ascension Jesus told the disciples that He was ascending to prepare a place for them in heaven. He told them that when He comes again He would take them to be with Him where He is (John 14). He confirmed this promise in His prayer in John 17 in which prayer He spoke of all believers in Him. "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am." Through the apostle John the Lord said, "These things have I written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life ..." (1 John: 13). But how can it be that sinners on the earth will be in heaven with the Lord?

It is possible because "... you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:11). So the question is answered about who is in heaven, not apart from faith, but (by the Spirit of our God) through faith in Christ through whose blood we have redemption. Believers in Christ, that is all whose names are written in the Book of Life, will be in heaven. Those in heaven are they who have "come out of great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14). Alive through faith in Christ, we have the blessed assurance recorded by the Spirit through Paul: "When Christ Who is our life appears then you also will appear with Him in glory" (Colossians 3:4). In heaven will be the children of God who now confess with the apostle John, "... we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2). David was confident of this. "As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I wake in Your likeness" (Psalm 17:15).