

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson Elder: Benno Sydow
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

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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 5: Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick; Frank & Ann Radichel
Church Cleaners: Sydow School: K. Baker

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Sept. 13: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality; 12:00 pm – Council Meeting
 3:00 pm – MN Delegate Conference (Inver Grove Hts., MN)
Mon., Sept. 14: 7:00 pm – School Open House
Wed., Sept. 16: CLC Coordinating Council (Eau Claire, WI)
 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class Resumes
Sun., Sept. 20: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – 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)

Last Week's Stats: Sept. 13, 2015 Sun.: 100

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|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| Sun. Offering: | Grace: | \$3,498.80 | CLC: | \$806.60 | |
| Weekly Need: | Grace: | 3,340.00 | CLC: | 1,060.00 | |
| -Under / +Over: | Grace: | +158.80 | CLC: | -253.40 | |
| Year-to-Date Offering:: | Grace: | \$108,591.03 | CLC: | \$30,208.60 | |
| Year-to-Date Need: | Grace: | 120,240.00 | CLC: | 38,160.00 | |
| Year-to-Date (+/-) | Grace: | -11,648.97 | CLC: | -7,951.40 | |
| GLC Other: | 20.00* | Living Faith: | 0.00 | Tuition Aid: | 45.00 |
| SAF Endowment: | 0.00 | MDF: | 120.00 | Kinship: | 50.00 |
| ILC Student Aid: | 20.00 | ILC Bldg. | 140.00 | IIF: 0.00 | CEF: 0.00 |
| Current Balances: | Parking Lot: | 7,870.00 | Tuition Aid: | 2,946.12 | |

* Judith McCullough Memorial - \$20

Grace Lutheran Church & School

WE ^{HAVE} **TREASURE**
^{THIS}
IN **JARS** *of* **CLAY**
 TO SHOW **ALL-SURPASSING POWER**
 THAT THIS
IS FROM [GOD] AND NOT FROM US
WE ARE HARD PRESSED ON EVERY SIDE
BUT NOT CRUSHED
PERPLEXED ^{BUT} NOT **IN DESPAIR**
PERSECUTED ^{BUT} NOT
ABANDONED
2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-9 **STRUCK DOWN** ^{BUT} NOT
DESTROYED

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: Pentecost 16

Date: September 13, 2015

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 628: Shepherd of Tender Youth

TLH 485: Lord Jesus, Who art Come

TLH 493: Thou Who the Night in Prayer Didst Spend

WS 780: Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give

Installation of S.S. Teachers (after Lord's Prayer)

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 126, TLH p. 153

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 12 (Projected)

Psalm 84: WS, p. 38

Scripture Readings:

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Mark 2:23-28

Sermon: 2 Corinthians 4:1-12

¹ Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. ² But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. ³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. ⁸ We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— ¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. ¹¹ For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So then death is working in us, but life in you. (NKJV^M)

As Ministers, We Do Not Lose Heart!

1. In an age where some are blinded to the Gospel
2. As earthen vessels holding a precious treasure
3. By boldly proclaiming the truth of God's Word

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Among Us:** Mary Hallauer, sister to Jan Davis and aunt to Laura Wales, has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer and will begin chemo treatment. Mary is a member at Bethel in Morris, MN, and is daughter to Pastor Elton and Doris Hallauer. May our Savior tend to His children.
- ◆ **Sunday School Teachers:** This year's S.S. teachers are: Age 4-K: Emily Hein; 1st-3rd: Mikey Oman; 4th-5th: Karl Sieg; 6th-8th: Michael Ude. May the teachers and students be richly blessed around the Word: "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:11
- ◆ **School Open House:** Tomorrow at 7 pm is our annual open house. 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.
- ◆ **Midweek Bible Class:** This Wednesday at 7 pm the midweek Bible class will resume. Come and learn from God's Word!
- ◆ **Church Picnic:** Next Sunday, September 20, there will be a church picnic here on the church grounds following our regular church service. Grilled meat will be provided. Members are asked to bring a dish to share, including things like salads, chips, and/or desserts. Folks may help out as needed with serving and cleanup.
- ◆ **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 8th 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.
- ◆ **Immanuel Engineering Design:** Over the years many of our Immanuel graduates have gone on to successful engineering careers, also using their God-given skills while serving in our congregations. This year Prof. Jeff Schierenbeck is volunteering to teach a new informal high school class called, "Making - An Introduction to Engineering Design." It will meet one period per week for one semester. The class will involve learning 2D and 3D CAD, CNC production and 3D printing, and microcontroller programming with Arduino. The semester will culminate in student design/build projects which utilize the skills and tools learned about during the semester. The class will be offered in a 'flipped' format in which the students will watch 30-40 minutes of instructional video online followed by a classroom project based on the skills taught in the video. We thank the Lord for providing this opportunity for the students!
- ◆ **CLC News:** The Coordinating Council will meet this week to discuss the business of the CLC. Please keep this in your prayers!

CLC E-Devotion – July 23, 2015

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

OUR DIVINE MANAGER

The manager of a certain major league team had a rule that no one could steal a base unless given the steal sign. One of his players felt he could judge for himself when it was a good time to steal. So one game he decided to steal without a sign. After getting on first base he easily stole second. He smiled, smugly feeling that he had shown his manager a thing or two. But later the manager took the player aside and explained why he hadn't given the steal sign. First, the next batter was his best power hitter. When the player stole second that left first base open, so the other team walked the power hitter intentionally, taking the bat out of the home run hitter's hands. Second, the following batter hadn't been strong against that pitcher, so the manager had to send up a pitch hitter to drive in the men on base. This left the team short of bench strength for later on in the game when they really needed it. The player who stole second thought he knew best, but he ended up costing his team the game. He was a star player, but his pride made him a liability to the team. It turned out the manager understood much better what moves to make in order to give his team the best chance to win.

Do you want to be a person God can put to good use in His kingdom? That can only happen if we are willing to bow before God's will in all things, trusting that our Father knows best and carefully listening to the signals he gives us from His Word.

At the cross we are washed of the sins of pride and selfishness. At the cross we are empowered to crucify our own self-will so that it is synchronized with that of our Savior-God! So God's will and our will beat as one.

Jesus set aside any thought for Himself to make sure your sin debt was canceled once and for all -- to make sure you could have eternal life. In thankfulness, will you not follow the game plan he has laid out for your life in the Bible? May the Lord melt your heart and mine with Jesus' love, moving us to be His glad and useful servants! AMEN!

TRUST THE WORD—NOT FEELING!

We live in a “touchy-feely” society that places emphasis on thoughts and emotions. Individuals desire to share their emotional experiences with others and have others share theirs. Beware! Frequently emotions (feelings) lack substance. Emotions can be rubbed raw. Emotions wane. Relationships or friendships built on no more than emotional attachment are built on sand and are subject to change.

We were recently reminded of the fallacy of this mentality as it relates to one's spiritual life. Bible Class at church and a mini-devotion on the Immanuel Lutheran College web site addressed the subject recently.

The Lord created us with the capacity to be emotional. Happiness is an emotion. We can be emotional at the wedding of a young couple, perhaps even weep at a wedding as well as at the birth of a child. Sadness is an emotion, as are fear and sorrow. We express sorrow at the death of a loved one. Lawyers frequently appeal to the emotion of jurors to win a case. It would indeed be a cold world if humans did not have feelings or have the capacity to be emotional. There is a place for emotion in our faith-life. We have an emotional response to a sermon that has particularly touched a chord in our heart, or when we hear a choral rendition of a Gospel hymn. Emotion is not sin.

How can we not feel a sense of emotion when we have been assured in the words of absolution that our sins are forgiven, particularly if we have felt the burden of a particular sin that has weighed heavily upon us. It is difficult to think of Peter being without emotion when Jesus looked upon him. We expect there was some emotional adrenalin that made Peter run to the empty tomb. Thomas surely felt emotion when he saw the risen Lord. We may feel emotion when we hear children make their confession of faith at confirmation, or when a new member joins our church family. Emotion in our faith-life is not sin. But here is where *caution is also in place*.

When it comes to the substance of our faith, and to the confidence of salvation, we will want to lay aside emotion which can be as fickle as the wind. We look to Christ and to his Word. So what do you desire when you come to church? A sermon and hymns that edify you unto salvation? Or are you looking for an emotional jag that makes you feel good? The *purpose* of preaching is to edify unto growth of faith and confidence of salvation. If the Gospel message of forgiveness and life in Christ, as well as the words of a substantive hymn create emotion fine and good, but the hearer is blessed

who goes away from the service comforted in heart and mind through the message of God's love, and strengthened for the life outside the church walls. He is anchored for life and salvation by the Word, not by the resultant emotion and feeling! "The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63).

Therefore in our Lutheran worship the substance of the sermon as well as the music sets forth the Word of God. Hearers in the worship service will thank the pastor at the end of the service for the Word, not the temporary good feeling they may have had. If the result of the service is simply that everyone goes away with nothing more than an emotional high, it has been a waste. One person in my experience mentioned that in her former "touchy-feely" fellowship she felt a high during the service, but when she walked out the door "it was like the air went out of the balloon." The hope that we have as an anchor of the soul is God's word and promise rooted in Christ Jesus, not the good feeling of the moment.

Because emotions and feeling change they cannot be trusted. In this connection C. S. Lewis said, "Though our feeling come and go, God's love for us does not." Surely as a fruit of our faith we will love God, but our *confidence of salvation* does not and cannot depend on how much we love God or even how good we *feel* that God loves us.

Our confidence of salvation (faith) lies in the fact that God loved us, and still loves us, and always has loved us. That love was manifest in His sending the Lord Jesus Christ to bear our sins in His body, die in our place on the cross, and rise again for our justification! "All the promises of God in Him (Christ) are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God ..." (2 Corinthians 1:20). The Psalmist said, "Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance" (Psalm 42:5) And where are the promises of God found, and through what does He speak to you? His Word! The confidence is not a personal feeling, but a foundational word from God, who says of faith, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17).

Hear now Luther:

The question now arises, 'If Christ has taken away death and our sins by his resurrection and has justified us, why do we then still feel death and sin within us? For our sins torment us still, we are stung by our conscience, and this evil conscience creates the fear of hell.'

To this I reply, I have often said before that feeling and faith are two different things. It is the nature of faith not to feel, to lay aside reason and close the eyes, to submit absolutely to the Word, and follow it in life and death. Feeling, however, does not extend beyond that which may be apprehended by reason and the senses, which may be heard, seen, felt, and known by the outward senses. For this cause, feeling is opposed to faith, and faith is opposed to feeling.

Therefore, the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews writes of faith, "Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen." For if we would see Christ visibly in heaven, like the visible sun, we would not need to believe it. But since Christ died for our sins and was raised for our justification, we cannot see it or feel it, neither can we comprehend it with our reason. Therefore, we must disregard our feeling and accept only the Word, write it into our heart, and cling to it, even though it seems as if my sins were not taken from me, and even though I still feel them within me.

Our feelings must not be considered, but [rather] we must constantly insist that death, sin, and hell have been conquered, [even though] I feel that I am still under the power of death, sin, and hell. For ... in spite of all our feelings, we accept the Word, and ... unite our hearts and consciences more and more to Christ.

Thus faith leads us quietly, contrary to all feeling and comprehension of reason, through sin, through death, and through hell. Then we shall see salvation before our eyes, and then we shall know perfectly what we have believed, namely, that death and all sorrow have been conquered.

(Hendrickson Publishers: Through the Year with Martin Luther, 356-357:12-13)

The Word of God creates faith. The Word of God creates emotion. But take away the Word and there is no faith. Therefore "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16), for the Word of God, "it is spirit and it is life" (John 6:63). Whatever moments the dying thief had on the cross before he died, it was not a good feeling that saved him, but faith in Christ and in His promise, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43).

So then, trust not your emotions or your feelings. Even our faith is sometimes stronger, sometimes weaker. Therefore don't trust your faith. Christ and His Word never change! Therefore trust in **Christ** and His **Word**. *That is the faith that saves.*

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 4/2015