

✠ 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 5: **Bye (Picnic)**
Church Cleaners: **Sydow** 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 6: **Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith**
Church Cleaners: **Sydow** School: **K. Baker**

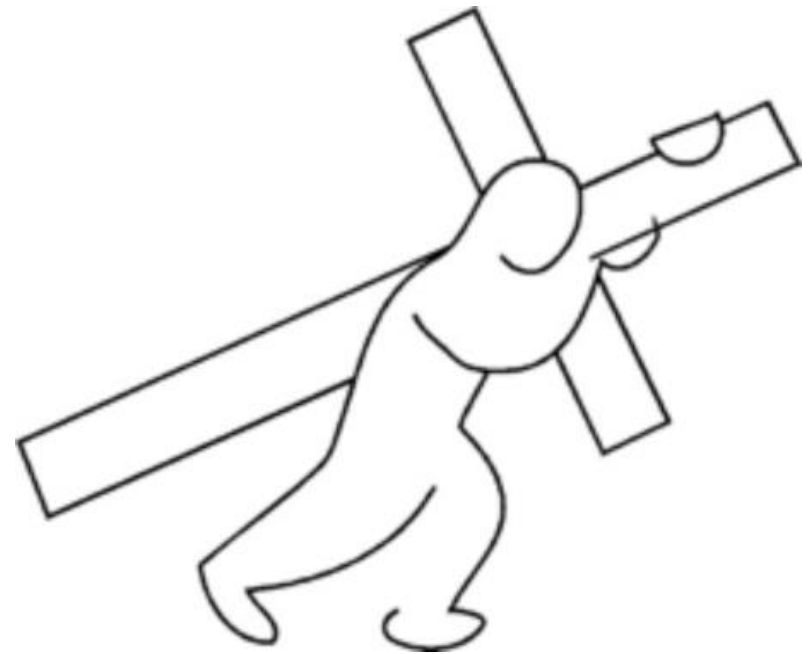
✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Sept. 20: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Grace Church Picnic
Mon., Sept. 21: 9:30 am – Elders Meeting
Wed., Sept. 23: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class
Sun., Sept. 27: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality
Sun., Oct. 4: Council Meeting (due to Mission Festival on Oct. 11)
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)
Sun., Oct. 18: Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings
Sat., Oct. 24: 9:00 am – Grace Work Day

Last Week's Stats: Sept. 13, 2015 Sun.: 107 B.Cl.: 46 Wed.: 17

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,586.20	CLC:	\$530.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,340.00	CLC:	1,060.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-753.80	CLC:	-530.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$111,177.23	CLC:	\$30,738.60	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	123,580.00	CLC:	39,220.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-12,402.77	CLC:	-8,481.40	
GLC Other:	77.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	0.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	125.00	ILC Bldg.	120.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	7,870.00	Tuition Aid:	2,946.12	

Grace Lutheran Church & School



Whoever desires to come after Me,
 let him deny himself,
 and take up his cross,
 and follow Me.

Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432



Email: jphain@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 17

Date: September 20, 2015

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 270: Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult

CDS: TLH 360: Oh, for a Thousand Tongues

TLH 421: Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke

TLH 423: Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

LSB 861: Christ Be My Leader

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 116, TLH p. 148

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 32 f. (Matins)

Psalm 84: WS, p. 38

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 50:4-10

James 2:1-13

Sermon: Mark 8:27-35

²⁷Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi; and on the road He asked His disciples, saying to them, "Who do men say that I am?" ²⁸So they answered, "John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ." ³⁰Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him. ³¹And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. ³³But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." ³⁴When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ³⁵For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. (NKJVTM)

As Disciples, Follow Jesus!

1. Deny yourself
2. Take up your cross

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ♦ **Church Picnic:** Please join us in Christian fellowship as today there will be a church picnic here on the church grounds following our regular church service. Grilled meat will be provided. Folks may help out as needed with serving and cleanup.
- ♦ **Among Us:** Richard Cowan was hospitalized at Mercy in Coon Rapids on Friday for a lung embolism. He is receiving treatment as the doctors have also noted an apparent growth on his pancreas. Also, as reported, Jane Cowan's son-in-law, Chris Enochson, was diagnosed with a brain tumor. It has been diagnosed as Medulloblastoma, rare in adults. The course of treatment will be radiation with chemo for 5 days/week over 6 weeks.
- ♦ **Mission Festival:** Mission Festival will be Oct. 11, along with our annual blood drive. A person can only donate once every 56 days, so Rick Nelson asks that you reserve your next donation for that Sunday. Pastor Jim Albrecht from Okabena, MN, will be our guest speaker. Dorcas Guild Committee #1 will host. Please bring a dish to share as there will be a potluck meal.
- ♦ **Cell Phones/Smart Phones:** Please remember to turn off during church so as not to interfere with the projection system and with the worship of your fellow Christians.
- ♦ **2016 CLC Convention:** The 2016 CLC Convention next summer in Eau Claire, WI, will be held over a weekend. The dates are Thurs., June 23, through Sun., June 26 (3:00 p.m. Closing). The Convention Communion service will also serve to begin our CLC's celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The service will be held Saturday afternoon with a time tentatively set for 3:30 p.m. The hope is that CLC members within driving distance will be able to join the convention delegates for this worship opportunity. It is also planned to have the service available by Saturday evening on the web, so that CLC congregations may use it Sunday morning for their worship, if they so wish, in view of the fact that their pastors will be at the Convention.
- ♦ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #1 – Books of the Bible

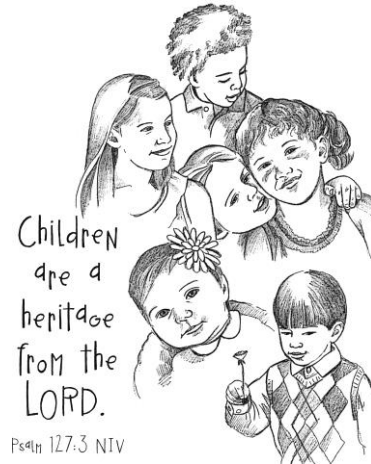
Welcome to our guests and visitors. We appreciate the opportunity to share God's Word with you today. Please come again! Those interested in learning more about the Scriptures and our doctrinal position, please speak with Pastor Hein. He would be delighted to visit with you!

CLC E-Devotion – September 16, 2015

Luke 18:16 “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

LET THE CHILDREN DECIDE?

Some parents express the view: “I don’t think it’s a good idea to teach children about religion when they’re young. Why not let them grow up and decide for themselves what to believe.” They don’t realize this makes as much sense as a dad taking his 5-year-old son to the grocery store and saying: “Son, you decide what to put in the grocery cart.” What would the little tyke do? Of course, he’d make a beeline for the candy aisle.



Parents who love their children will endeavor to help them make wise choices on what to eat. They do this because they care about their children. They want them to grow up with healthy bodies. So also in matters of faith, loving parents will seek prayerfully to provide nourishing spiritual food for their children in the true Word of God, because they know this will help their children develop a strong faith and enable them to ward off deadly viruses with which Satan and the godless world would love to infect them.

The Christian training of children is an awesome responsibility. Who is equal to the task, one might ask? What comfort it is for parents to know that success in raising their children for the Lord does not depend on their own expertise but on the power of the Word they plant in their children’s hearts. As they give themselves to this task they may rest assured: Jesus, the faithful Shepherd of His lambs, will bless our faithful efforts.

Dear Lord, give us eyes to see our children as precious gifts from Your hand. Teach us to love our children aright so that we labor diligently to train them up in Your ways, that they may glorify You in their lives here and live with You in heaven. Amen.

LIFE HAS NO REWIND

Recently on an electronic billboard was an exhortation to drivers to drive soberly – don’t drink and drive. The bottom line said: “Life has no rewind.” If one drives while drunk and kills himself or others that is the end. Life is over. Don’t drink and drive!

Consider this statement in the context of the spiritual. Our life, for however many years the Lord in His determinate wisdom chooses to give us, is a time of grace. It has been so since the sin of Adam and Eve plunged mankind into sin and death. The Lord told them in clear and unmistakable words “You shall surely die” (Genesis 2:17) if they disobeyed His command. When at the behest of the devil they disobeyed the Lord and ate of what they should not eat, they died. They were *spiritually dead*. That death was immediate. They had separated themselves from God and lived in fear of God (Genesis 3:8). They were now subject to *temporal death*. What God had not intended when He created man was now their lot. They would die. Had sin not been introduced into the world, there would be no cemeteries! Inasmuch as spiritual death estranged them from the Lord God, man was destined for *eternal death*. By reason of sin mankind is subject to *everlasting* estrangement from God. In hell there is no hope, no rewind. Only torment!

Jesus told Nicodemus “That which is born of the flesh is flesh ...” (John 3:6). The Creator cannot be blamed for man’s sin. When justifiers of sin and perversion say that God “made them” that way, they are spouting blasphemy of the first magnitude. Sin was not part of the original nature of humans. Sin is not a learned or acquired trait. Since the fall, sin is an integral, inherited trait. For those who do not believe it, we simply ask, “At which age did you sit your child down and teach him or her to do that which is wrong, evil, and wicked?” The truth is that as children inherit physical traits of their parents, they also inherit the fallen moral nature of their parents, namely sin! The Augsburg Confession says, “Since the fall of Adam, all men begotten in the natural way are born with sin, that is, without fear of God, without trust in God, with concupiscence [lust]; and this disease, or vice of origin, is truly sin, even now condemning and bringing eternal wrath upon those not born again through Baptism and the Holy Ghost.”⁽¹⁾ Scripture says, “All have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). The consequence is dire. “Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 15:50).

Isaiah says “All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, because the breath of the Lord

blows upon it ..." (40:6). Peter reiterates it in his first epistle. Some flowers live longer than others, but ultimately all flowers (except the plastic ones) die! Since the fall into sin, some people live longer than others, but eventually every human dies. So it has been, and so it will ever be.

God pronounced judgment upon the sinner—death. God is not a liar. God says what He means and means what He says. God is true to Himself and to His word. Sin and the sinner had to be punished or God would lose all integrity! Yet God is not vindictive. He is compassionate, not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). But how could He be true to His word and still be compassionate to fallen man?

He promised a Savior. It was His Son. Upon Jesus Christ, God the Father laid the sins of us all. The Father made Jesus "Who knew no sin to be sin for us" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Paul's inspired word from God is reiteration of what the prophet said. On God's Son was "laid the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).

[The Father] spoke to His beloved Son:
'Tis time to have compassion.
Then go, bright Jewel of My crown,
And bring to man salvation;
From sin and sorrow set him free,
Slay bitter death for him that he
May live with Thee forever (2)

Punishment was meted out. To Jesus. Someone died: Jesus. The Father "did not spare His own Son but delivered Him up for us all" (Romans 8:32). Jesus died as our Substitute (Isaiah 53)! When He accomplished His Father's will for us He said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). The Father affirmed the completed redemption when He raised Jesus from the dead. Now all who by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit believe on Christ are saved. Not by works we have done, not by personal merit, not by any contribution in whole or in part are we saved. We are saved by grace through faith ... alone (Ephesians 2:8)!

End of the story? Not quite. It is the beginning! "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:2-3). When the time is come in the Father's determination, Jesus Himself will welcome to heaven *every believer in Christ*, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world ..." (Matthew 26:34).

If we might engage in a bit of speculation, we like to believe that the response to the question of the elder in heaven (Revelation 7:13) will echo in the ears of all those who on the earth blasphemed the Lord and ridiculed and despised His children: "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14). The time of grace will have ended when God's children enter into glory. No rewind.

Therefore to those who now in faith possess the inheritance we say: *Don't blow it—the time of grace!* Be on guard lest indifference, neglect, and the love of this world rob you of your inheritance. Daily walk the path of repentance. Use the time of grace wisely, or as Scripture puts it, redeem the time for the days are evil (Ephesians 5:16). Satan continues to prowl the earth seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8). Your Lord encourages you, "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown" (Revelation 3:11). In faith, nourished by the Gospel, listen to Jesus. Of those who hear His voice He says, "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My Father's hand" (John 10:28).

When looked at from the spiritual perspective — from the heavenly — it is true that there is no rewind of life. In heaven it is a *new* life, for the former things will have passed away!

On the other hand, while there is no rewind of life on earth in the flesh for anyone, for the ungodly and unbelieving, there *will be* a rewind. The time of grace will have ended, but for them the anguish, the pain, and all that is worst about this life in the flesh will be rewound. But the rewound existence will be interminably worse than all the evil that they caused and the pain and misery they experienced on this earth — without end. Therefore to such let the word go out: Repent! The Lord died for you too. Don't waste it!

In a world and society that is rapidly unwinding, child of God be thankful and sing:

To me He spake: Hold fast to Me,
I am Thy Rock and Castle;
Thy Ransom I Myself will be,
For thee I strive and wrestle;
For I am with thee, I am Thine,
And evermore thou shalt be mine:
The Foe shall not divide us. (3)

1) Concordia Triglotta, Art. II, page 43

2) The Lutheran Hymnal, 387: 5

3) The Lutheran Hymnal, 387: 7