

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson Elder: Dave Rust
Ushers: Benno Sydow, Gary Gunther, Larry Nelson, Jeff Stifter
Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Benno Sydow; Chad Hestekin
Hospitality Team 1: Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice Sandhoefner
Church Cleaners: B Rust/A Baker School: DeBoer

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Benno Sydow, Gary Gunther, Larry Nelson, Jeff Stifter
Counting Team 4: Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust; James Bomber
Hospitality Team 2: Bye (Mission Festival – Guild Comm. #1)
Church Cleaners: B Rust School: DeBoer

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Oct. 4: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
 11:15 am – Hospitality
 12:00 pm – Council Meeting (due to Mission Festival)
Oct. 6-7: Minnesota Pastoral Conference (Detroit Lakes, MN)
Wed., Sept. 7: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class
Sun., Oct. 11: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Mission Festival Worship Service
 11:15 am – Mission Festival Potluck (Guild Committee #1) Blood Drive
Mon., Oct. 12: NO SCHOOL – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Tue., Oct. 13: School Field Trip (Pavek Museum of Broadcasting)
Oct. 14-16: NO SCHOOL – CLC Teachers Conf. (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. 27, 2015 Sun.: 84 S.S.: 10 B.Cl.: 38 Wed.: 21

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,264.75**	CLC:	\$950.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,340.00	CLC:	1,060.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-75.25	CLC:	-110.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$114,184.58	CLC:	\$31,463.60	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	126,920.00	CLC:	40,280.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-12,735.42	CLC:	-8,816.40	
GLC Other:	285.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	40.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 2.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	8,095.00	Tuition Aid:	289.12*	

* \$2,700 recently distributed for the students attending Immanuel

** \$750 Judith McCullough Memorial

Grace Lutheran Church & School



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 Fridley, MN 55432

Email: jphein@clclutheran.com

Home Page: www.JustifiedByGrace.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635)

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Church Year: Pentecost 19

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: October 4, 2015

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 250: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
 TLH 610: And Will the Judge Descend
 TLH 400: Take My Life and Let It Be
 Communion: TLH 315
 TLH 207, st. 5-6: Like the Golden Sun Ascending
 Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 51, TLH p. 134 f.

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 12 (Communion)
 Psalm 2: WS, p. 30

Scripture Readings:

Numbers 11:16,24-29
 James 4:7-12

Sermon: Mark 9:42-50

⁴² "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— ⁴⁴ where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.' ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— ⁴⁶ where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.' ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire— ⁴⁸ where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.' ⁴⁹ "For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. ⁵⁰ Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another." (NKJVTM)

Have Salt in Yourselves

✠ *THE ANNOUNCEMENTS* ✠

- ◆ **Among Us:** On Sept. 22, 2015, Karl Sieg joined Katie Gustafson in holy matrimony. May the Lord richly bless their journey together as husband and wife as they center their lives around Christ and His Word. Their address for correspondence is 7517 Jersey Ave. N; Brooklyn Park, MN 55428. They are inviting the congregation to a wedding reception at Fourth Baptist Church on Sat., Nov. 7, 2-4 pm. Please send an RSVP email to siegkarl@gmail.com if you are able to come and let them know how many people to expect.
- ◆ **Minnesota Pastoral Conference:** Pastor will be attending this conference on Tue. and Wed. at Mt. Olive Lutheran in Detroit Lakes, MN. This is when CLC pastors from Minnesota gather for in-depth Bible study and for various topics related to the pastoral ministry. Pastor now serves as the conference chairman. He should be back in time for Catechism.
- ◆ **Mission Festival:** Next Sunday, October 11, will be our annual Mission Festival, along with our annual blood drive. 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 serve. Please bring a dish to share as there will be a potluck meal.
- ◆ **Hospitality Request:** The Elders are requesting an improvement with hospitality. They kindly ask that parents now assist their children as they go through the serving line. This is to help monitor their activity and help assist the children with regard to size of helpings.
- ◆ **Hospitality Teams:** Due to some recent transfers, we are in need of filling vacated spots on our hospitality teams. We encourage our members to consider participation in this program as over the years hospitality has become a wonderful promotion of fellowship among us. It is clear that we are more closely bonded as we have been able to take the time to visit and encourage one another in our Christian walk. Hospitality was also created as a way to greet people as they come to church, and perhaps this aspect has been somewhat lost. The Elders would encourage us to think more about this part of the program. Those willing to serve on one of the teams are asked to speak with one of the Elders (Dave Rust, Benno Sydow, or Frank Radichel). It should be noted that there is food available at church to be utilized if any teams wish. We hope that the cost of providing food isn't an obstacle to one's willingness to serve. Please consider serving in this capacity so that we can continue to grow together! 1 Peter 4:8-10: "And above all things have fervent love for one another, for 'love will cover a multitude of sins.' Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."
- ◆ **Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day:** This will be held on Fri., Nov. 13 beginning at 10 am in the ILC gymnasium for chapel. It will feature presentations and classroom visits until 3 pm. Come and learn more about your church's college and a continuing education with Christ. Speak with your pastor about questions and attendance. Please convey attendance information and any housing requests to Prof. John Ude, the ILC Academic Dean, before Nov. 11. Office: 715-836-6631, home: 715-955-4127, e-mail john.ude@ilc.edu.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #4 – Second Commandment

CLC E-Devotion – September 17, 2014

Hebrews 6:1-2 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

BEYOND THE BASICS

In school, as we grow in our knowledge and understanding, we move beyond the basic things we learned in the elementary grades and study more advanced things. In a similar way, as we become more mature in our understanding of spiritual things, we spend time studying the greater depth and details of the Scriptures.

The writer to the Hebrews chided his readers for lack of progress in their Christian education. For as long as they had been Christians, they might have been able to grasp some deeper teachings of the Bible (such as the comparison between Jesus and Melchizedek), but instead they had failed to move past the basic things.

There can be different reasons that we have trouble moving "beyond the basics" in our Christian education. Sometimes we get distracted by other things and don't take the time to grow in the Lord. Sometimes we don't put ourselves in good positions for growth, staying away from church or Bible studies. Other people think that the Bible is just too difficult for them, so they do not try to mine its deeper riches.

Now this is not to say that the basic truths of Christianity are unimportant or ought to be left behind in favor of other teachings, but the writer here encourages us never to stop our studies and our growth in God's word.

Having learned the basic things such as the death of Christ on the cross for the full payment of our sins, and baptism which cleanses us of guilt and brings us into God's family of believers, and the resurrection of our bodies at the Last Day, the Scriptures lead us into ever deeper understanding of the wondrous love, mercy, and might of our God. Each time we learn something more "advanced" from the Bible, our faith in the simple, fundamental truths is built up too. May our Christian education never stop!

PERMISSION GRANTED—BY WHOM?

The pope has come to America. The church of Rome has twisted Jesus' words in Matthew. Upon the sterling confession of Peter concerning the person of Christ, Jesus said, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). Upon those words the pope has claimed to be the vicar (substitute) of Christ on earth. He has taken to himself authority that, in his mind and that of Catholics who have bought the goods, belongs to none other.

From this false claim has arisen the Catholic doctrine of papal infallibility. "We teach and define that it is a dogma Divinely revealed that the Roman pontiff when he speaks *ex cathedra*, that is when in discharge of the office of pastor and doctor of all Christians, by virtue of his supreme Apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine regarding faith or morals to be held by the universal Church, by the Divine assistance promised to him in Blessed Peter, is possessed of that infallibility with which the Divine Redeemer willed that his Church should be endowed in defining doctrine regarding faith or morals, and that therefore such definitions of the Roman pontiff are of themselves and not from the consent of the Church irreformable. So then, should anyone, which God forbid, have the temerity to reject this definition of ours: let him be anathema." ⁽¹⁾

This doctrine is the center point of Roman theology. If the doctrine of papal infallibility fell the Catholic Church would fail to be Catholic. Martin Luther in his early years bought into this claim. He said, "So great was the authority of the pope in my eyes that I thought it a crime worthy of eternal damnation to disagree with him ..." ⁽²⁾ Luther's view of the pope changed. In 1520 he said: "The pope is the enemy of God, the persecutor of Christendom, and the true Antichrist." ⁽³⁾

The claim of Rome concerning the pope is wrong on several counts. Unless Catholics consider only themselves Christians, he is not the shepherd and teacher of all Christians. The idea that he is preserved from error when speaking in matters of faith and morals when speaking from the throne is arrogant, as well as a manner of controlling the "sheep." Popes have contradicted each other. Further, the pope makes claim of apostolic succession. In Roman theology, apostolic succession is the uninterrupted transmission of spiritual authority from the apostles through successive popes and bishops. Other religions, e. g. Mormons, make the same claim. Whoever lays claim to apostolic succession errs!

The authority to administer the Keys, to speak the gospel, administer the sacraments, and pronounce forgiveness, is not the exclusive right of any individual or of the clergy. The Keys--the authority to forgive and retain sins, as well as the means of grace which is the gospel in word and sacrament--were given to the Church, the sum total of believers in the Lord Jesus.

Recently the pope who is also a political leader in the world has delivered himself of statements on the economy, poverty, and climate change, as well as abortion. He has the ears of politicians who make a point to solicit his views. By the nature of the authority he claims, the pope's right to political opinions on such subjects, to many, lends weight to his political statements. Inasmuch, however, as he has no word from God relative to his political opinions, his opinions bear no more weight than those of anyone else. Further, the worth of any theological or moral judgments he makes are subject to the judgment of Holy Scripture!

This year, 2015, is a Year of Jubilee in the Catholic Church. The papal announcement of the Jubilee Years said: "This Holy Year will begin on this coming Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will end on November 20, 2016, the Sunday dedicated to Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – and living face of the Father's mercy. I entrust the organization of this Jubilee to the Pontifical Council for Promotion of the New Evangelization, that [the dicastery] [divisions of the papal curia] might animate it as a new stage in the journey of the Church on its mission to bring to every person the Gospel of mercy.

Further: "I am convinced that the whole Church will find in this Jubilee the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which all of us are called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time. From this moment, we entrust this Holy Year to the Mother of Mercy, that she might turn her gaze upon us and watch over our journey." ⁽⁴⁾

The pope also said, "For this reason too, I have decided, notwithstanding anything to the contrary, to concede to all priests for the Jubilee Year the discretion to absolve of the sin of abortion those who have procured it and who, with contrite heart, seek forgiveness for it. May priests fulfill this great task by expressing words of genuine welcome combined with a reflection that explains the gravity of the sin committed, besides indicating a path of authentic conversion by which to obtain the true and generous forgiveness of the Father who renews all with his presence." ⁽⁵⁾

Specifically, the priests are allowed to forgive the punishment for the sin of abortion.

The issue here is not the sin itself, but that the priests do not have the authority to forgive the punishment without express authority of the pope. This is contrary to the Word of God which grants to the Holy Christian Church the authority to forgive sins and comfort souls who have repented of their sin.

Note further the reference to Mary. Rome views and describes her as a mediatrix and a helper. Scripture says that there is one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. ^(1 Timothy 2:5) It is the Lord who forgives sins. He has transmitted the authority to forgive sins in His behalf to the Church, the body of Christ. The pastor forgives sins in the stead and by the command of the Lord Jesus Christ ^(John 20:23). But this authority is not restricted to the pastor. Any Christian who is in possession of the gospel has the authority to forgive sins. The very gospel which we speak is the message of forgiveness in and through Christ. The gospel which we speak declares reconciliation with God for all who have sinned ^(2 Corinthians 5:18-21).

Inasmuch as we are commissioned by the Lord Himself to proclaim the gospel ^(Matthew 28:18-20), we need no permission from any human authority to proclaim forgiveness and salvation to the comfort of every penitent sinner.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 9/2015

1) Denziger §1839 *Catholic Encyclopedia*: Ex Cathedra

2) *What Luther Says*. St. Louis: Concordia, Vol II, p. 1061, para. 3379

3) *What Luther Says*. St. Louis: Concordia, Vol I, p. 29, para. 83

4-5) Catholic Websites