

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Benno Sydow

Ushers: Larry Brandt, Charles Davis, Nick Duehlmeier, Dale Enns, Lynn Sandhoefner, Ned Sandhoefner

Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel; Pat Paplow

Hospitality Team 5: Andrea Dahl; Mike & Pat Dick; Pat & Dawn Paplow; Frank & Ann Radichel

Church Cleaners: Kitzman School: Nelson

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Larry Brandt, Charles Davis, Nick Duehlmeier, Dale Enns, Lynn Sandhoefner, Ned Sandhoefner

Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Rick Nelson; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever, Clint Welker

Hospitality Team 6: Bonnie & Alex Baker, Kevin & Tracy Baker, and Rona Flesner

Church Cleaners: Kitzman School: Nelson

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

- Sun., Dec. 13:** 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service  
11:15 am – Hospitality  
12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal  
3:00 pm – ILC Piano & Organ Recital
- Wed., Dec. 16:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
6:00 pm – Congregational Christmas Dinner  
7:00 pm – Candlelight Worship Service
- Fri., Dec. 18:** 4:00 pm – Missionary Evensen Commissioning @ Messiah  
7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert
- Sun., Dec. 20:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
8:45 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal  
9:00 am – Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service  
11:15 am – Hospitality  
12:00 pm – Council Meeting  
3:00 pm – Christmas Caroling
- Thu., Dec. 24:** 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship
- Fri., Dec. 25:** 10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship
- Sun., Dec. 27:** 10:00 am – Worship Service  
(Bible Class, Sunday School, Hospitality suspended)
- Thu., Dec. 31:** 7:00 pm – New Year's Eve Worship w/Lord's Supper
- Sun., Jan. 3:** 10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper  
(Bible Class, Sunday School, Hospitality suspended)

## Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE

Fridley, MN 55432

Email: [jphein@clclutheran.com](mailto:jphein@clclutheran.com)

Home Page: [www.JustifiedByGrace.org](http://www.JustifiedByGrace.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:** Advent 3

**Date:** December 13, 2015

## ✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

### Hymns:

WS 703: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers  
TLH 62: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel  
TLH 96: Oh, Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly  
TLH 97: Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

### Worship Prep:

Psalm 130, TLH p. 153

### Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)  
Gloria: TLH 58 & 62

### Scripture Reading:

Zephaniah 3:14-17  
Luke 3:7-18

### Sermon: Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. <sup>6</sup>Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup>and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

A Christian's Favorite Pastime:  
Rejoice in the Lord Always!

## ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Bible Class:** Today at 9 am Pastor intends to present pictures and video from his trip to Liberia. This may include another Sunday.
- ◆ **Among Us:** This past Tuesday Lyle Trulin had bypass surgery at the Veterans Medical Center in Minneapolis. He is still recovering at the hospital. As reported through email and the calling tree, this past Tuesday the soul of Ellen Rust was called to her eternal home. The funeral was on Friday. There will also be a second service and committal at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hidewood Township, SD, at 1 pm tomorrow. Ellen was able to meet her new great-grandson, Samuel William Baker, just prior to her death. Samuel was born on Nov. 29, 7lbs 11oz, 21 in. May he be a blessing to his parents, Bonnie and Alex! Lord willing, Samuel will be baptized this next Sunday.
- ◆ **Candlelight Worship:** This Wednesday, December 16, 7 pm, will be our annual candlelight service with hymns and Bible readings. We continue our meditations on "Jesus, Tender Shepherd, Hear Me."
- ◆ **Christmas Meal:** Please join us for a fellowship meal at 6 pm prior to the Candlelight service this Wednesday. Those attending may bring sandwiches, salads, or a dish to share. Dorcas Guild #3 is hosting.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Rehearsals:** This is the remainder of the rehearsals:
  - Sun., Dec. 13: 12-2 pm (luncheon at church and may start a bit early)
  - Sun., Dec. 20: 8:45-9:45 am (please be here at 8:45 am so that we can start promptly in order to get through everything)The last rehearsal next Sunday is the most critical as it is the dress rehearsal. The parents' help is greatly appreciated.
- ◆ **Christmas Worship:** Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 6:00 pm with our children presenting the Christmas Gospel. The theme this year is: *The Good Shepherd is Born!* The kids are asked to be here 1/2 hour prior to the service so that we can take a group picture and run through things. Christmas Day worship will be held at 10:00 am.
- ◆ **Caroling:** Next Sunday afternoon a caroling outing is planned at 2 pm. The hope is to sing to a few of our shut-ins and elderly members.
- ◆ **Catechism Break:** We will be having a two-week break for midweek Catechism students on Dec. 23 and 30.
- ◆ **Large Print Hymnals:** Due to a recent bargain, there are three copies of The Lutheran Hymnal in large print. These are by the guest book. Feel free to use these and return at the end of the worship service.
- ◆ **2016 Cleaning:** The 2016 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **Invitation:** The Commissioning of CLC Foreign Missionary Peter Evensen will take place at 4:00 pm on Fri., Dec. 18 (prior to the ILC Christmas Concert) at Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI
- ◆ **ILC Christmas Concert:** Immanuel's Christmas concert this year will be held on Fri., Dec. 18, 7:30 pm, at Eau Claire. Due to a lack of interest, the bus for this year is cancelled.
- ◆ **ILC Recital:** The ILC Piano/Organ Recital is today at 3:00 pm.

- ◆ **New ILC Tour Choir CD's:** A newly produced recording of choral music, sung by Tour Choirs of Immanuel Lutheran College, is scheduled to be available the week of December 14. It is a 2-CD set, featuring pieces sung by various choirs from 1991 to 2015. The first CD primarily reflects the themes of Advent and Christmas, the second the themes of Lent and Easter. The cost per 2-CD set is \$16 (or two sets for \$30). The sets will be available through the ILC Bookhouse or at the Christmas concert (December 18 at Messiah, Eau Claire). For those interested in Pastor getting copies at the concert, please indicate such on the sign-up sheet by the guest book.
- ◆ **Candidates for Immanuel Professor Call:** The Board of Regents for Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary invites "all pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession" (CLC Constitution) to nominate an individual or individuals to fill the vacancy which will be created on the Immanuel faculty by the retirement of Professor John Pfeiffer at the end of the 2015-16 academic year. The individual would teach at the high school (potentially), college, and seminary levels with an emphasis on courses in Hebrew (college) and Old Testament theology (seminary) and also in other theological disciplines. With the duties including teaching God's Word to adult males, the person is to be a male (1 Tim. 2:12). The position would, God-willing, commence with the 2016-17 academic year. Those submitting nominations are encouraged to include information regarding their nominee's educational background and teaching and/or professional experience, also indicating how the person might help our school in supervising extracurricular activities or serving in administrative positions. Please send your nominations postmarked or e-mailed no later than January 20, 2016, to: Mr. Craig Ryan, Secretary; ILC Board of Regents; 499 Country Lane; Fulda, MN 56131 (email: cryan@page1printers.com).
- ◆ **2016 Mission Helper Trip to India:** Applications are currently being accepted until January 8, 2016. More information and an online application can be found at: [www.mht.lutheranmissions.org/2016-india](http://www.mht.lutheranmissions.org/2016-india)
- ◆ **Prayers for India:** Massive flooding along the coastal regions of south-east India has caused the death of several hundred people and nearly 2 million have lost their homes. Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ of the BELC are among those who have lost homes, businesses, crops, food, and church buildings. Because of the lower than usual balance in the Mission Development Fund (MDF) the CLC Board of Missions has only been able to provide minimal financial assistance at this time. Please pray for the Lord's continued protection and provision for those who are suffering in India. And pray that He provides wisdom and resources to those who are working to assist the many who are in need.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Walter Schaller of Mount Zion Lutheran in Madison Heights, MI (Detroit area), has announced his intent to retire from the public ministry but plans to serve the congregation until the Spirit provides a new shepherd. The congregation has called Pastor Mark Weis of Church of the Lutheran Confession in North Port, FL.
- ◆ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.

## ADVENT (II)

We speak the obvious. Being a Christian, a Christ believer, is a blessing. It is a blessing because of the privilege we have been granted by none less than the eternal living God Who by His Spirit has called us to faith. It is a blessing compared to the emptiness of those whose god is a god of their imagination, or a god of wood and stone. It is a blessing because of the future that lies before us through faith in Christ Jesus, true God and true Man, whose birth we celebrate each Christmas, and in whom our future is secure. It is a blessing as compared to the future of those whose hope dies with them. Thank the Lord for His unspeakable Gift!

It wasn't always so. Born into the world according to the flesh, we were lost and condemned. Born into the world of flesh and blood, we were of those who were fearful of God. We were powerless to correct what was amiss, for conceived and born in sin (Psalm 51:5) we were like a man caught in quicksand--the more he struggles the deeper he sinks. With Martin Luther, we had to confess of our condition "Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay, death brooded darkly o'er me. Sin was my torment night and day, in sin my mother bore me; Yea deep and deeper still I fell, life had become a living hell, so firmly sin possessed me." The torment of sin is only increased by the realization that my own good works avail nothing; it is fatal for anyone who thinks that he can by personal work or merit redeem himself--and oh, how many are caught in that death trap. That *was* our condition. But thanks be to God. He beheld our wretched state, and resolved in His gracious heart to rescue us. And so we are at the doorstep of Christmas, ready to celebrate the birth of God's Son, "Who was made sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21)-

Anyone who will not face the fact of sin in his life is able neither to understand Christmas nor the blessing of the miraculous birth in Bethlehem. Christmas is more than being enthralled by pious sentiment, or being emotional at the picture of an innocent looking child as Christmas cards depict Him. It is more than wishful thinking for the elusive temporal peace on earth

As important as the birth of Jesus is, for without it nothing else would follow, the Biblical focus is not only Bethlehem, but also Calvary. Mary herself put things in perspective when she said in the *Magnificat*, "My spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior" (Luke 2:47)- Christmas is more than an artist's depiction of a tender, beautiful baby. From our perspective in time we also see an anguished, thorn encircled brow. We understand Christmas if we are ready to say, "The Christ Who was born for me is the Christ who died for me!" This is the blessing of Jesus' birth and what gives the Christian a peaceful and joyful heart. Our life is not one of empty dreams or morbid hopelessness, but of a confident future purchased by Him Who says, "My innocence shall bear thy sin, so art thou blest forever."

Through the harsh realities of life in this anti-Christian world, and when confronted with personal setbacks of whatever form or circumstance, the Lord guides all things for the good of His children who believe in the cleansing blood of the Bethlehem Child. While our eyes are blurry with tears and our hearts frequently overcome with sorrow, faith sees the glory of God and the smiling face of the Father in the face of Jesus Christ. This is exciting. This is a blessing. To God alone be glory. Amen.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2015

<b>Last Week's Stats:</b> Dec. 6, 2015				Sun.: 122	S.S.: 19	B.Cl.: 60	Wed.: 52
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,691.25	CLC:	\$786.60			
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	803.68	CLC:	250.00			
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,340.00	CLC:	1,060.00			
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+1,154.93	CLC:	-23.40			
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$150,517.39	CLC:	\$42,190.05			
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	163,660.00	CLC:	51,940.00			
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-13,142.61	CLC:	-9,749.95			
GLC Other:	382.75	Living Faith:	50.00	Tuition Aid:	100.00		
SAF Endowment:	20.00	MDF:	195.00	Kinship:	50.00		
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	140.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00		
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	8,961.00	Tuition Aid:	1,442.12		

**The following is the nomination slate for 2016:**

- President: Eli Wales
- Vice President: Roger Ochsner, Ryan Oman
- Secretary: Fred Dauer, Roger Ochsner
- Treasurer: Phil Radichel, Al Rosendahl
- Elder: Phil Radichel, Al Rosendahl
- Education: Phil Flesner, Pat Paplow
- Trustee: Phil Flesner, Pat Paplow

### From CLC President, Pastor Michael Eichstadt

Note: This is in reaction to the CLC Trustees' report that the current offerings for the CLC trail budgeted needs by about \$65,000.

**Budget shortfall:** You will soon receive the monthly financial update from the Bd. of Trustees. Offerings for the past several months have been at historic lows, resulting in a serious deficit. Please pass along the information to your flocks. It is also an opportunity to remind one another of how truly wealthy we are, especially in the treasures of forgiveness and peace, but in material things too; and that, along with our prayers, praise, and hymns, our offerings are a means the Lord provides us to express our joy in the Word-made-flesh and our confidence in His continued provision of daily bread. We have received so much, both materially and spiritually! May faith respond in generous gratitude. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that thought he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).