

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Benno Sydow

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

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

Church Cleaners: Kitzman

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

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

Church Cleaners: Kitzman

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Dec. 27: 10:00 am – Worship Service
(Bible Class, Sunday School, Hospitality suspended)

Thu., Dec. 31: 7:00 pm – New Years Eve Worship w/Lord's Supper

Sun., Jan. 3: 10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
(Bible Class, Sunday School, Hospitality suspended)

Wed., Jan. 6: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

Sun., Jan. 10: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality
12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Sun., Jan. 17: 11:30 am – Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings

Sat., Jan. 23: 9:00 am – Grace Work Day

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 20, 2015 Sun.: 118 Christmas Eve: 166 Day: 78

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$9,870.96	CLC:	\$3,445.00	
Thu. Offering:	Grace:	1,300.00	CLC:	500.00	
Fri. Offering:	Grace:	2,355.00	CLC:	100.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,340.00	CLC:	1,060.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+10,185.96	CLC:	+2,985.00	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$167,623.35	CLC:	\$49,885.05	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	170,340.00	CLC:	54,060.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-2,716.65	CLC:	-4,174.95	
Total Budget for Year:	Grace:	173,500.00	CLC:	55,000.00	
Difference from budget (+/-)	Grace:	-5,876.65	CLC:	-5,114.95	
GLC Other:	3,440.85*	Living Faith:	17.50	Tuition Aid:	1,025.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	15.00	Kinship:	300.00
ILC Student Aid:	77.00	ILC Bldg.	120.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00

Current Balances: Parking Lot: 10,611.00 Tuition Aid: 2,542.12

* \$407.50 Ellen Rust Memorial

From the Elders: All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.

Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE

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)

Phone: 763-784-8784

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Christmas 1

Date: December 27, 2015

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 108: We Sing, Immanuel, Thy Praise

TLH 89: To Thee My Heart I Offer

TLH 81: O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is

LSB 364: Away in a Manger

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 148, TLH p. 156 f.

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 106, st. 4,7

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 17:1-17

Galatians 4:4-7

Sermon: Revelation 22:12-20

¹²And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. ¹⁴Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. ¹⁶"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." ¹⁷And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. ¹⁸For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. ²⁰He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (NKJVTM)

Jesus, Tender Shepherd, Hear Me:
Come Quickly!

GRACE

Our God has manifest His **grace**
To people far and wide.
It is found in every place,
On earth where people bide.

If it were not for His rich **grace**,
The earth'd be void and bare
Of anything in any place
We need for food and care.

Surely, it was alone by **grace**
He put man on the earth.
But sin defiled the perfect place,
Man's home had lost its worth.

By gross abuse of God's pure **grace**
Man lost more than his home.
In sin he feared to see the face
When God came to that home.

God could have then forgotten **grace**
And washed His hands of man.
But not desiring the sinner's death,
He devised a perfect plan.

It is a plan so rich in **grace**,
It's far beyond our ken.
He chose instead to show a face
That smiles upon all men.

In Bethlehem we see that **grace**
That God had planned in love,
We see it in the blessed face
Of Jesus from above.

He came to give us hope, by **grace**.
As Mary's son, and God's.
He daily shows us now the face
Of the most gracious God.

The Child expressed the Father's **grace**
As kindly He declared,
"I will bear what man deserves.
To save him from despair."

He manifested forth God's **grace**
By dying on the cross.
He came to save the human race
Restoring what man lost.

Through faith in Christ, and God's good **grace**,
All who believe have hope.
We now may live with smiling face,
As with this life we cope.

So now we thank God for His **grace**
And yearn with bated breath
For that most treasured heavenly place,
Forever free from death.

O send, dear Father, in Your **grace**,
The Spirit from above.
That we may in your warm embrace
Forever know Your love--

Until You come, O Lord, in **grace**
And take us to our rest,
The life in heaven before Your face,
The home of all the blest!

*"God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by **grace** you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His **grace** in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 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 2:4-8).*

✠ *THE ANNOUNCEMENTS* ✠

- ◆ **Gratitude:** Each passing year at Grace is a treasure as the Word of our Lord's grace shepherds our souls. I humbly stand in awe at what the Lord accomplishes through His mighty power in Word and Sacrament. My family and I are truly thankful for the generosity of the members of Grace in sharing their prayers, cards, gifts, and encouragement this Christmas season. We pray that the Lord Himself will continue to shepherd us along the path He has before us in 2016. – Pastor Hein
- ◆ **New Years Eve:** On New Years Eve we will be having a 7 pm worship service with the Lord's Supper. Afterward the congregation is invited to a party in the fellowship hall. Please bring an appetizer to share along with any of your favorite games.
- ◆ **Video Tape:** If you are interested in a copy of the Christmas Eve video, please speak with Pastor, Frank Radichel, or Rick Nelson.
- ◆ **Catechism Break:** Catechism will resume on January 6.
- ◆ **New ILC Tour Choir CD's:** Copies remain of the new recording of choral music sung by Tour Choirs of Immanuel Lutheran College. 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 (two sets for \$30). Those interested may speak with Pastor.
- ◆ **Christmas Flowers:** All members who purchased flowers for the altar may take them home.
- ◆ **2016 Cleaning:** The 2016 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **CLC Treasurer/ILC Business Manager:** In July of 2016, Dr. James Sydow will be retiring after serving 13 years as the CLC Treasurer/ILC Business Manager. We thank him for his faithful service! An individual is being sought to serve in this business management position. This position has broad responsibility to oversee the day-to-day financial affairs of the CLC, ILC, and to oversee the staff in the General Business Office. The duties include managing all cash receipts and disbursements and reporting for all accounts and funds of the CLC and ILC to the responsible boards of the CLC. Strong interpersonal skills are necessary as the job requires substantial interaction with ILC students and parents, other synod members, and those outside the synod with whom we do business. Those interested are encouraged to contact Tom Lentz for a full job description and application (tdlentz@chartermi.net/507-625-9390). The deadline for applications is February 1, 2016.
- ◆ **CLC News:** The Gullerud family is tentatively planning a memorial service for Pastor Emeritus Arvid Gullerud for the latter part of March at Gethsemane, Spokane Valley, WA. Correspondence may be addressed to: Mrs. Eleanore Gullerud; Good Samaritan Village; 17121 E. 8th Ave., Apt. 12; Spokane Valley, WA 99016.



LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEW YEAR WITH CONFIDENCE

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2015

The LORD has been mindful of us: He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron. He will bless those who fear the LORD, both small and great (Psalm 115:12-13).

It is thought that this Psalm was set in the time shortly after the return from the Babylonian captivity where the people had witnessed the prevalence of idols and idol worship. They had seen the futility of idol worship in contrast to the trust in the living God. They had experienced the faithfulness of the living God. Mockers ridiculed Israel's faith in the Lord. Israel appealed to God to vindicate His love and care for them. "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to your name give glory" (Psalm 115:1).

As we leave 2015, we thank God Who has helped us hitherto with His surpassing favor. We enter the New Year as we did the old--with all the uncertainties of the unknown future. Nevertheless, in 2015 we experienced many joys and pleasures. Still, that our lives might be balanced, God permitted trials and tests to come, and on occasion He may have sent us a test as He did to Paul who wrote, "And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure" (2 Corinthians 12:7). The gracious Lord has a way of keeping us humble, and redirecting our thoughts lest we become filled with ourselves, or become forgetful of Him from whom comes down every good and perfect gift for body and soul. Yet He never gives us more than He will help us bear, if we will fear and trust in Him. That is a reason for thanksgiving, also for confidence as we enter the New Year. As the Psalmist said, "The Lord has been mindful of us ..."

When we think of the uncertainty of the future and the trying experiences which may challenge our faith in the New Year we could be tempted to join those whose life *without God* is hopeless. They scan the newspapers for the opinions and prophecies of experts in world affairs, in economy, and science. They live in fear of the unknown. Yes, some turn to God, but in the confusion of today's religious world their god is whoever or whatever they imagine it to be. But the gods of man's imagination are nothing more or less than idols who "have mouths but do not speak; eyes they have, but do not see; they have ears, but they do not hear; nor is there any breath in their mouths. Those who make them are like them, so is everyone who trusts in them" (Psalm 135:16-18; cf also Isaiah 44).

As people of flesh we have some of the same fears, but we have an advantage! As children of God through faith in Jesus, we can call upon the *living* God Who is, "Our Father Who art in heaven."

We thank Him for His Word for it is through the Word that we know His love manifest in the person of Jesus, our Savior. So the Christian in every detail of life will seek out the comfort of the Father Who through the Word assures us daily of the forgiveness of our sins. In that selfsame Word we learn that the covenant of God's peace will not pass away. It is the anchor of our soul when the inevitable trials and afflictions come. God's Word--that divine Word of Truth--does not promise us a life without sorrow. It does not promise freedom from affliction in this life. *It does tell us*, "The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you ..." (Isaiah 54:10)

Our loving God has mercifully placed a curtain to veil the future from us. But the entrance into the New Year is not a leap into the dark for the child of God to whom Christ is the Light. Christ is the Light whose brightness shines through the darkness. Christ is the light shining behind every dark cloud though at the moment we cannot see Him. Christ is the Shepherd whose calming voice speaks to us as a mother speaks to her child in the midst of the stormy night. He is the Shepherd whose staff steers us through the uncertainties of each new day. Blessed are they who love the Light, listen to the voice, and follow His path.

Each day, and each new year we stand at a fork in the road. If we hear assurances of God's gracious oversight and care with skeptical hearts, we will sink into the hopeless morass of the world. If we hear but do not listen, the promises of the Lord will last no longer than the next difficulty we face. On the other hand, if we in faith receive the Father's promises as expressions of His incomprehensible love we can face the future with hope. Whatever veil He places over the future as relates to the coming year of our sojourn our ultimate future is not veiled. We know that we, unworthy as we are, have been given the promise of an inheritance in heaven through the Lord Jesus Christ. For this purpose Jesus came into the world, and died upon the cross. For this purpose we have been redeemed with His most precious blood that we might have life with Him in heaven. Faith sees the light of that future life through the shadows of this present life, and believes that the Father in heaven will not forget us for whom His only begotten Son shed His blood and sacrificed His life. Whate'er betide, disciples of the Lord Jesus can in view of God's faithfulness in the past, in view of the promise of His Word, and in anticipation of His ultimate deliverance walk confidently into the New Year. *The LORD has been mindful*

of us: He will bless us. Whatever the path upon which we are led in the New Year it leads home to heaven and our Father.

Until we are with the Lord in glory, we rest in the shadow of this promise: "The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them" (Psalm 34:7).

I said to the man
At the gate of the year:
"What light canst thou lend
To those entering here?
I never have traveled
This pathway before;
Thy help and thy counsel
I humbly implore.
How can I discover
What lieth ahead,
That I may walk safely
Wherever I tread?"
The man at the gate,
Turning kindly to me,
Spoke words of assurance
That answered my plea:
"The way that seems dark
Can be cheerfully trod
By putting Thy trust
In the guidance of God.
He goeth before thee,
He knoweth the way;
Just follow His counsel
From day unto day." (*)

* Czamanske, W. M. from *The Lutheran Witness*, January 14, 1958

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