

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Frank Radichel
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: Anderson

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Pat Paplow, Alex Baker, Kevin Baker, Dan Degnan, Brian Eichstadt, Brandon Paplow
Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel; Pat Paplow
Hospitality Team 1: Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice Sandhoefner
Church Cleaners: Anderson School: Wales

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Jan. 3: 10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper (Bible Class, Sunday School, Hospitality suspended)
Mon., Jan. 4: Grace School Resumes
 10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study Club (Mankato, MN)
Wed., Jan. 6: **EPIPHANY**
 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
Wed., Jan. 13: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class
Sun., Jan. 17: 11:30 am – Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings
Sat., Jan. 23: 9:00 am – Grace Work Day
Wed., Feb. 10: 7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship Begins

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 27, 2015 Sun.: 96 New Years Eve: 58

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$1,861.25	CLC:	\$890.00	
Thu. Offering:	Grace:	1,965.00	CLC:	765.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,340.00	CLC:	1,060.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+486.25	CLC:	+595.00	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$171,449.60	CLC:	\$51,540.05	
Total Budget for Year:	Grace:	173,500.00	CLC:	55,000.00	
Difference from budget (+/-)	Grace:	-2,230.40*	CLC:	-3,579.95	
GLC Other:	323.66	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	80.00
SAF Endowment:	60.00	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	0.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	330.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00

Current Balances: Parking Lot: 10,666.00 Tuition Aid: 2,622.12

* Offerings to the 2015 Grace General Budget were 1.3% within goal

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)

Phone: 763-784-8784

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Christmas 2

Date: January 3, 2016

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 119: Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand

TLH 136: Angels from the Realms of Glory

TLH 139: In His Temple Now Behold Him

Communion: TLH 308; TLH 120

In Peace and Joy I Now Depart (bulletin)

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 111, TLH p. 147

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 12 (Communion)

Psalm 96: WS, p. 26

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 63:7-9

Acts 7:51-60

Sermon: Luke 2:25-38

²⁵ And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: ²⁹ "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; ³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation ³¹ Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, ³² A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel." ³³ And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ³⁵ (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." ³⁶ Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; ³⁷ and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. ³⁸ And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. (NKJV™)

Embrace Your Savior, Prepared to Depart in Peace

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Directory:** We are again preparing for the publication of the yearly directory at Grace. Please check your contact information in the draft copy of the directory located in the narthex. Place a check mark by your entry if it is correct. If it is not, then please edit as necessary. If you wish to add email or cell numbers, please do so. Your cooperation is appreciated as we attempt to produce an accurate directory. Also, please ensure your birthday and/or anniversary information is correct.
- ◆ **2016 Cleaning:** The 2016 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **Video Tape:** If you are interested in a copy of the Christmas Eve video, please speak with Pastor, Frank Radichel, or Rick Nelson.
- ◆ **Catechism:** Catechism will resume this Wednesday, January 6. Midweek Bible Class will resume next Wednesday, January 13.
- ◆ **Eden Prairie:** The SW Metro group will now be meeting temporarily at the Eden Prairie Senior Center starting this Sunday. This was the place the group was meeting prior to their most recent location. The group is still in the process of looking for a better long-term place and has some promising things in the works. Same service time at 9AM. Senior Center: 8950 Eden Prairie Rd, Eden Prairie, MN 55347.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **ILC President Nominations:** The Board of Regents invites nominations for the office of ILC President. The current term of Prof. Steve Sippert expires June 30, 2016. All pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of the CLC are entitled to nominate a man from the ILC faculty. Please send nominations no later than midnight January 5, 2016, to: Mr. Craig Ryan; 499 Country Lane; Fulda, MN 56131; E-Mail: cryan@page1printers.com.
- ◆ **CLC Treasurer/ILC Business Manager:** 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. 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.

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!

The Lord's Supper Preparation

As a reminder, communicants are to examine themselves prior to communing. 1 Corinthians 11:27: "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup."

Prayer before the Lord's Supper:

Lord God, You invite all who are burdened with sin to come to You for rest. In the sacrament of Holy Baptism You called me to be Your child by the Holy Spirit. I now come at Your invitation to receive the holy body and blood of my Savior, Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Prepare my heart, Lord, to receive this precious meal with a repentant heart: sorry for my sins and recognizing they deserve punishment, but also rejoicing in the full forgiveness You have granted me by grace through Jesus' holy and precious blood shed for me at the cross. Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope in You, and assure me of Your blessed peace. Hear me for the sake of Jesus, my dear Savior. Amen.

Prayer after the Lord's Supper:

Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to me in this holy sacrament. Thanks and praise be to You for Your divine tenderness and love shown to me, Your child. I humbly ask you, now that I've received Your body and blood in the Sacrament, continue to fill me with the power of Your Holy Spirit. May I be led to ever embrace by faith the treasures of Your grace imparted to me, especially the forgiveness of sins and fellowship with You. Keep me in Your faith and favor that I may live in You and You may live in me. Let the love that You have shown me enable me, with a forgiven and tender heart, to love You and my neighbor. Preserve me in the true faith until everlasting life. Hear me, O Jesus, for the sake of Your dear name. Amen.

TLH 306

1. Lord Jesus Christ, Thou hast prepared
A feast for our salvation,
It is Thy body and Thy blood;
And at Thy invitation
As weary souls, with sin opprest,
We come to Thee for needed rest,
For comfort and for pardon.

4. We eat this bread and drink this cup,
Thy precious Word believing
That Thy true body and Thy blood
Our lips are here receiving.
This word remains forever true,
And there is naught Thou canst not do;
For Thou, Lord, art almighty.

7. Grant that we worthily receive
Thy Supper, Lord, our Savior,
And, truly grieving o'er our sins,
May prove by our behavior
That we are thankful for Thy grace
And day by day may run our race,
In holiness increasing.

8. For Thy consoling Supper, Lord,
Be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in every place
The world against it rages.
Grant that this Sacrament may be
A blessed comfort unto me
When living and when dying.

1 Corinthians 10:16

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

Grace Funds

GENERAL FUND: Contributions to this fund are used for budgeted expenses that normally are incurred in operating our church and Christian Day School. This includes such things as the pastor's and teacher's compensations, utilities, church operations, school supplies, pastor's mileage, etc.

TUITION FUND: Offerings are used to assist Grace students at Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, WI.

LIVING FAITH: This program offers opportunities for members to help those of the congregation who are in need of food, clothing, necessary medical supplies, etc. Your offerings to this fund serve the physical welfare of your brethren.

DORCAS GUILD FUND: This is used to support the women's group and any of its activities.

PROJECT FUND: This is for any special projects the congregation decides to do.

CLC Funds

CLC GENERAL FUND (SOMETIMES CALLED "MISSIONS"): Contributions to this fund support the General Budget of the CLC. They are used to subsidize U.S. and foreign missions and to subsidize operating expenses at Immanuel Lutheran High School and College in Eau Claire, WI.

MISSION DEVELOPMENT FUND (MDF): This fund provides support for mission projects both at home and abroad. Funds are used for such things as missionary exploratory efforts, instruction materials, self-help projects in foreign mission fields, storm relief in India and Africa, etc.

PROJECT KINSHIP: Contributions are used for the administration and support of orphanages in the foreign missions affiliated with the CLC. At times sponsorship is requested for specific orphans or seminary students in these foreign mission fields.

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND (CEF): This Fund is maintained for the purpose of providing loans to build or buy churches and/or parsonages within the CLC.

ILC BUILDING FUND: Contributions are used for the financing of any new building projects at ILC. At this time the Academic Center is being financed.


ILC IMPROVEMENT FUND (IIF): This fund has been used for various capital expenditures or special projects at ILC, including such items as remodeling, updating blacktop, furnace replacement, window replacement, painting, etc.

ILC STUDENT AID: This Fund provides scholarships, grants, and loans to students attending the high school, college, and seminary. Contributions may allow students to prepare for the preaching and teaching ministries who otherwise might be unable to attend ILC. Eventually this fund is expected to be self-supporting because of an endowment element and the repayment of student loans after graduation.


ILC STUDENT AID ENDOWMENT: This Fund accumulates in principle as donations are made with the annual investment gains funneled into the ILC Student Aid Fund.

In Peace and Joy I Now Depart


Words: Martin Luther; Music: Lane Fischer




1. In peace and joy I now de - part At
2. 'Tis Christ that did this work for me, My
3. You have to all the world shown forth Their
4. He is the Hope and sav - ing Light Of



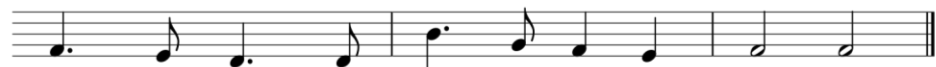
God's dis - pos - ing; For full of com - fort is my heart,
faith - ful Sa - vior, Whom You have made my eyes to see
great Sal - va - tion; And to Your king - dom calls the earth,
lands be - night - ed; By Him are they who lived in night



Soft re - pos - ing. So the Lord has pro - mised me, And
By Your fa - vor. Now I know He is my Life, My
Ev' - ry na - tion, By Your true and liv - ing Word, In
Fed and light - ed. He is Is - rael's Praise and Bliss, Their



death is but a slum - ber. So the Lord has
Help in need and dy - ing. Now I know He
ev' - ry place re - sound - ing. By Your true and
Joy, Re - ward, and Glo - ry. He is Is - rael's



pro - mised me, And death is but a slum - ber.
is my Life, My Help in need and dy - ing.
liv - ing Word, In ev' - ry place re - sound - ing.
Praise and Bliss, Their Joy, Re - ward, and Glo - ry.

PEACE BE UNTO YOU

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27). Our Savior spoke to His disciples in a stressful time, a time which would become even more stressful for them.

The Lord knows that we live in a stressful time in this anti-christian world and in a post-christian society. Heathen zealots promote their religion by the sword. There is no reason to believe (or even hope) that peace on earth is possible, much less probable. Wars and rumors of wars are all about us--if not between nations, between races and cultures, and on the streets of our cities. In our nation the incessant and slanderous political wars test the patience of citizens. Apostasy in the church is rampant. Hearts are troubled. Many are afraid.

Yet in the midst of this unstable and quaking world Jesus says, “Peace be unto you.” It is the same peace that was spoken by the angels to the shepherds on the night of Jesus’ birth. “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men” (Luke 2:14).

The majority of people in the world fail to understand the real purpose of Jesus’ birth and life because they will not face the reality of sin and its temporal and eternal consequence. They reject Jesus, and the gift of forgiveness and eternal life. Consequently they *do not understand* the peace of which the angels and Jesus spoke, neither can they. Consequently, they question the truth of Scripture because, in their minds, Jesus has not delivered the peace they seek. In fact, daily it seems further out of reach. War, hatred, and evil continue unabated. Where is the promised peace, they ask. The ungodly of the world will never see or know the peace they desire much less the peace that is in Christ.

Christ-believers believe the Word and promise of God the Father “who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us ...” (Ephesians 2:4). But even we have difficulty understanding the love and mercy of God which is the generator of the peace of which the angels spoke. Our inability to understand is *from a different perspective!* We ask, “How can the holy, righteous God Who is love, nevertheless love such wretches as we? How can He be so merciful to us who were born in sin, who even in our best state still sin daily? How can God love *me*? Such love is beyond my understanding.” We don’t have to understand it. We need only to believe it.

The peace announced by the angelic choir is the peace of heart which is the consequence of sins forgiven, reconciliation with the Father, and eternal life in heaven. This is the peace which under-girds our hope in this life, and softens the fears of affliction, evil, and hatred that surround us in this life.

Our peace is a consequence of our faith relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul wrote, “even when we were dead in trespasses, [God] 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 2:5-8). Consequently the apostle wrote to the Philippians, “The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and *the peace of God which passes all understanding, will guard and keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 4: 6-7).

The *peace* of which the Savior spoke is *not of the world*; it is *not understood by the world*. It will never be understood by the world that lives in rejection of the Lord Jesus. As difficult as it is for believers to grasp its fullness, we have a sense of it now as the prophet wrote: “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation” (Isaiah 12:2). Even in the midst of the evil and raucous noise of the world in which we live we can live in quietness as the *peace of God which passes all understanding, guards and keeps* our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. We can be at peace because our sins are forgiven in Christ, and heaven is our home.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). In his devotion from the same verse Norman Madson wrote:

The fifth and final name is “*Prince of Peace!*”
And what a wealth of meaning lies not here!
The peace He came to bring all burdened souls
Is not a makeshift earthly armistice in carnal wars--
Ah’ no, ‘tis *peace eternal*, made twixt God and man,
A peace which brings surcease from every ill,
A peace surpassing far all human ken--
The angel promised peace “Peace—good will to men!” *

In heaven the ultimate peace of which the angels sang, and which Jesus pronounced will come to full fruition. Simeon caught the sense as he said, “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word. For my eyes have seen your salvation” (Luke 2:29-30). Now we see with dim eyes beclouded with tears; shortly we shall see with 20/20 vision. Now we possess the peace which passes all understanding. Then we shall know the peace that has no ending. The peace here beyond understanding will be in heaven, the peace fully grasped.

Jesus told His disciples, “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me” (John 14:1). Till we arrive in heaven we will sing the song sung in Judah--God “will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed in You, because he trusts in You” (Isaiah 26:3). “Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27). Peace be unto you from Christ to all who are in Christ!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2015

* Madson, Norman A, *Evening Bells at Bethany*, from chapel devotion at Bethany Lutheran College, Christmastime, 1946.