

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: **Ryan Mueller** Elder: **Frank Radichel**
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**

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: **Pat Paplow, Alex Baker, Kevin Baker, Dan Degnan, Brian Eichstadt, Brandon Paplow**
Counting Team 2: **Gary Gunther; Rick Nelson; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever, Clint Welker**
Hospitality Team 2: **Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Janelle Hein; Jenny Kleifgen; Chris Lentz**
Church Cleaners: **Oman** School: **Wales**

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Jan. 10: 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: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality
 11:30 am – Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings
Sat., Jan. 23: 9:00 am – Grace Work Day
Wed., Feb. 10: 6:00 pm – Lenten Soup Suppers Begin
 7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship Services Begin
Mar. 17-19: CLC Grade School Basketball Tourney @ Eau Claire

Last Week's Stats: Jan. 3, 2016 Sun.: 94

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$1,983.75	CLC:	\$530.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,060.00*	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,316.25	CLC:	-530.00	
GLC Other:	25.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	0.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	40.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00

Current Balances: Parking Lot: 10,691.00 Tuition Aid: 2,622.12

*Based on 2015 Figure. Voters have yet to determine 2016 amount.

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: Epiphany 1

Date: January 10, 2016

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 9: O Day of Rest and Gladness
 TLH 385:1-4,10: Now I Have Found the Firm Foundation
 TLH 41: Wondrous King All Glorious
 TLH 546:1-2,4: How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 45, TLH p. 133

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 32 f. (Matins)
 Offering TLH 441:1-2

Scripture Reading:

Acts 10:34-38
 Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon: **Isaiah 42:5-8**

⁵Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it: ⁶"I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, ⁷To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house. ⁸I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images. (NKJVTM)

CREATION'S GLORIOUS EPIPHANY

PART ONE: CONFIRMS OUR SALVATION IN CHRIST

✠ 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.
- ◆ **School UPC Collections:** Please deposit required proofs of purchase in specific containers for each one in the fellowship hall. Do not mix them together. This saves time for getting them ready for redemption. For Campbell's submissions the UPC code must be included with the point value indication. You can also submit the entire label.
- ◆ **From the Choir Director:** While a choir practice was scheduled for January 17, the practices will actually start on January 24 instead. It will be just the women so we should be able to get the piece learned quickly for Ash Wednesday on Feb 10.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Gillette, WY:** Satellite services in Gillette, WY, are being sponsored by Good Shepherd Lutheran of Rapid City, SD. These will be held at 5 pm on the first and third Sunday of the month at Brooks Hall, 211 S Brooks Ave, Gillette, WY 82716. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Aaron Ude (605-646-2463/aaronude@gmail.com).
- ◆ **Evangelism Workshop:** All are invited to participate in this year's workshop on Sun., Jan. 31, 2:30-6:00 pm at Messiah in Eau Claire. The theme this year is "How You Ought to Answer Each One." This is based on Colossians 4:6, "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." Questions come your way when people know you are a practicing Christian. Will you know what to say? This workshop will leave you better equipped to serve the Lord, who first served you, by being His witness. Our format will feature presentations, as well as break-out sessions for discussion and application. A soup and chili fellowship supper will follow. Come and learn – Come and share!

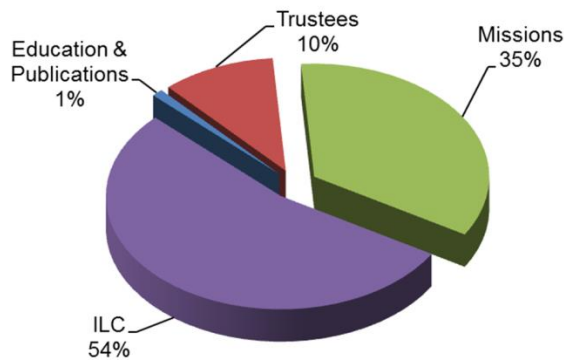
Welcome to our guests and visitors. We appreciate the opportunity to share God's Word with you today. Please come again! Those interested in learning more about the Scriptures and our doctrinal position, please speak with Pastor Hein. He would be delighted to visit with you!

Illustrations of the Foundational Nature of Divine Creation

- 1) Divine creation is a foundation for the doctrine of Law.
Romans 2:14-15: for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, ...
- 2) Divine creation is a foundation for all that the Bible teaches us about death.
1 Corinthians 15:22: For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.
- 3) Righteousness and salvation on the earth are a result of God's creative activity.
Isaiah 45:8: Rain down, you heavens, from above, And let the skies pour down righteousness; Let the earth open, let them bring forth salvation, And let righteousness spring up together. I, the LORD, have created it.
- 4) The Holy Christian Church and our own faith in Christ are the result of God's creative activity through the Gospel.
Isaiah 43:1: But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine."
- 5) Even our good works are the result of God's creative activity.
Ephesians 2:10: For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
- 6) All that the Bible teaches about marriage and sex is based on the fact of divine creation.
Genesis 2:22-24: Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
- 7) Divine creation reveals the evil nature of murder and abortion.
Genesis 9:6: Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.
- 8) The clear proclamation of divine creation is vital in doing mission work in our day.
Acts 14:15-17: [Where Paul is preaching to Gentiles who were not aware of the doctrine of creation] "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

Budget:	Current FY16	Proposed FY17
• ILC	\$1,336,300	\$1,375,500
• CLC Missions	312,000	330,000
• Ed & Publications	10,000	10,000
• Old Retirement	75,116	72,000
• Debt Service/Admin	31,884	28,000
Total:	\$1,765,300	\$1,815,500
Student Revenue:	(841,300)	(865,500)
General Fund Offerings Needed:	\$924,000	\$950,000

Breakdown of General Fund Offerings as proposed for the next fiscal year. The Trustees 10% includes the Old retirement and the Debt Service/Admin.



General Fund CBP for FY16 and Proposed for FY17:

- **Congregation estimate/budget for current year FY16**
 - Estimate Totaled \$882,000
 - Budget set at \$924,000 based on past years offerings exceeding the estimate
- **General Fund Proposed budget for FY17**
 - Proposed is \$950,000
 - Increase is \$68,000 over last year estimate
 - The increase is 7.7% over the last estimate
 - The increase is 2.8% over the current budget

Please give the proposals prayerful consideration and keep in mind that without a substantial increase in offerings it will not be possible to maintain the present program.

CHRIST- THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF YOUR FAITH

Bible students are acquainted with the incident recorded in Matthew 14 in which the storm-tossed disciples saw Jesus walking on the stormy sea. They thought they had seen a ghost, but Jesus immediately spoke to them saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27). The apostle Peter, whether he was more doubtful than the others, or just bold enough to say what was on the mind of all the others said, “Lord, if it is You command me to come to You on the water. When Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus” (29). While we do not know how far Peter went before he became distracted, we do know that while he kept his eyes on the Lord he walked on the water. We also know the cost of his distraction. As Peter “saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid.” He began to sink.

We are often warned about distracted driving. Frequently we see the consequences for people who are. Many of them die, or cause death to others. There is a lesson to take to heart. Pay attention to what is going on. Pay attention to what you are doing. Attentive driving should be your first priority behind the wheel. We were reminded recently of this when we read of a man who was not paying attention to first things first. He was looking at his cell phone while he was walking. Many of us have done it. This particular individual walked over a cliff and plunged to his death! From the two examples intelligent human beings can understand the practical implications of being distracted.

Our concern is the distractions in our spiritual walk. When Peter, *at the invitation of the Lord*, kept his eyes on the Savior, he did what is not otherwise humanly possible. He walked on water (to stifle the scoffers ... liquid, not ice). When he became distracted by the waves and took his eyes off the Savior, He began to sink. More out of fear than faith he cried out, “Lord, Save me” (30)! Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him (31).

Peter experienced the meaning of the word recorded in Psalm 98: “Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things; *His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory*” (Psalm 98:1). While the sense of these words is more than just one incident in the life of a disciple, nevertheless it fits the case and it speaks to us. “Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed ... with the saving strength of His right hand” (Psalm 20:15).

In the personal life of each of His children the Lord has answered prayer—whether of fear or faith—and rescued us from some disaster, from some circumstance beyond our control. He has delivered us from dangerous (or foolish) consequential circumstances of our own doing. There have been even more times that He has saved and delivered us from circumstances of which we were not even aware. There have been times in our personal confessional life, as well as in the life of the Church, when the Lord has called us to action, and upon answering His call we have begun to waver. He has been there to hear our call for help, and has delivered us and brought His will to pass

As children of God we will continue to face many challenges as evil forces combine with our sinful flesh to tempt from the faith. The day might not be too distant that as Christ-believers our livelihood if not our life may be endangered

CLC GENERAL FUND COOPERATIVE BUDGET PLAN Proposal for the FISCAL YEAR 2017

by storming evil forces. By virtue of citizenship in this country, Christian or not, people may face very difficult times from betrayers within our own country to evil men from the outside. The advantage that children of God have over those who have no respect for the Lord is that we can pray, "Lord, save us."

We do not know what a new year or the next day will bring. But this we know ... the Lord is *Immanuel, God with us*. As the disciples did not initially recognize Jesus, we may not always recognize the reality of His presence. But He is with us! He says to us, "It is I; do not be afraid." He calms the fears of those who trust in Him, and invites us to come to Him daily for respite and relief.

While we cannot see the Lord with our physical eyes, nor hear the sound of His voice, we see Him and we hear Him in His Word. The Lord has told us in His Word that in this world of sin there will be trial and heartache. There will be internal fighting and fears. There will be pain and sorrow, suffering and loss. In such circumstances He invites us to call on Him. He promises to hear us. He promises that His grace is sufficient to carry us through whatever evil we must

GO (2 Corinthians 12:9)

But we see our existence in another light than simply the here and now. If the Lord chooses to deliver us from ills of this life we will thank Him. But as we see our existence from the perspective of eternity, we know that as He fulfilled His promise of sending the Savior, so He will fulfill His promise to us. With Job we know that Christ rose again from the dead. We confess that on the last day He will "raise up me and all the dead and give unto me and all believers in Christ eternal life." It was this assurance of faith that moved Paul to express a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better (Philippians 1:23). Such faith drives the devil crazy. He can take our life, but he cannot rob us of our LIFE in glory. Death for the Christian is not punishment; it is relief! *The Christ-believer cannot lose!*

Therefore when you are troubled and burdened keep your focus. Do not be distracted by the pleasures and treasures of this life. Do not depart from the paths of righteousness upon which the Lord has set your feet. Do not be distracted by the promises and deceit of men who promise you a better life here, as they promise "peace, peace," when there is no peace. Such distractions can lead people, as it were, over the cliff to their death. "Set your mind on things above, not on things of the earth" (Colossians 3:2). As the Lord said through the prophet, "Seek Me and live" (Amos 5:4). Through Isaiah He said, "Look to Me and be saved ..." (Isaiah 45:22). Look to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of your faith (Hebrews 12:2). Stay the course. You know where you are going. By the grace of God you will arrive there as you focus on Jesus, your Savior.

We may walk with faltering steps as a child taking its first steps. As the child teeters and wobbles to mother or father whose arms are outstretched to receive it, and to keep it from falling, so we, though we stumble, are blessed as we focus day by day on Jesus, our Redeemer and Savior. He has and will keep us from falling as He did Peter whom He led to the safety of the boat, after which He calmed the storm. Look neither to the left nor to the right but look and listen to Him who says, "For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, 'Fear not', I will help you" (Isaiah 41:13). Always—and most certainly when we leave this world. (Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 1/2016)

Each year the Boards of the CLC prepare budget proposals for the next fiscal year. The proposed budget is submitted to the congregations for their review and with a request for an estimate of offerings from the congregation to help set the budget. The following information is a brief summary of the proposed budget with comparisons to the current operating budget.

General Fund includes the support for:

- Immanuel Lutheran College
- CLC Mission Program
- Education and Publications
- CLC Administration and Retirement Benefits

The General Fund does **not** support:

- Immanuel Lutheran College Improvement Fund
- Mission Development Fund
- Student Aid Fund
- Church Extension Fund

Key changes in the FY 2017 Budget Proposal are:

- Salary increases for missionaries, ILC professors and ILC staff
- CLC base code salary increase of \$91/mo to \$2,365/mo
 - Includes \$75/mo base plus a \$16/mo cost of living
- Increases in foreign and US mission support and missionary travel expenses

The proposal includes the following costs for ILC students:

- College Tuition increase from \$5,200 to \$5,300 – 1.92%
- Seminary Tuition \$3,600 – no increase
- High School Tuition \$3,600 – no increase
- Room and Board \$3,400 – no increase

Most of the student costs have not been increased because of concern that the High School cost is limiting the potential enrollment.