

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Frank Radichel

Ushers: Pat Paplow, Alex Baker, Kevin Baker, Dan Degnan,
Brian Eichstadt, Brandon Paplow

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

Hospitality Team 4: James & April Bomber; Rachelle
Kanneh; Heidi Nelson; Bob & Suki Vandever

Church Cleaners: Sandhoefner School: A. Baker

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

Church Cleaners: Wales School: K. Baker

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Jan. 31: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality
2:30-6:00 pm – Evangelism Seminar @ Eau Claire, WI

Mon., Feb. 1: No School – Parent/Teacher Conferences

Wed., Feb. 3: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Sun., Feb. 7: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
11:15 am – Hospitality

Mon., Feb. 8: 10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study Club @ Grace

Wed., Feb. 10: **ASH WEDNESDAY**
4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
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

GRACE

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: Epiphany 4

Date: January 31, 2016

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 12: This Day at Thy Creating Word
WS 743: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
WS 742: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
TLH 15: From All That Dwell below the Skies

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 148, TLH p. 156 f.

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)
Gloria: WS 775, st. 6

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Luke 4:20-32

Sermon: Job 38:1-11

¹ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: ² "Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? ³ Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. ⁴ "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. ⁵ Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶ To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷ When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy? ⁸ "Or who shut in the sea with doors, When it burst forth and issued from the womb; ⁹ When I made the clouds its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling band; ¹⁰ When I fixed My limit for it, And set bars and doors; ¹¹ When I said, 'This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!'" (NKJVTM)

CREATION'S GLORIOUS EPIPHANY

PART FOUR: CONFIRMS OUR FEEBLENESS BEFORE CHRIST

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Among Us:** Former Grace member, Martin Strike, has passed away. His memorial service will be held Saturday, February 6, 2 pm, at St. John's Lutheran in Okabena, MN. Visitation will be before at 12:30 pm and a fellowship luncheon afterward, both at the church. Cards may be sent to: Ron and Karen Strike; 418 Harrison St.; Round Lake, MN 56167. Jesus: "I am the resurrection and the life!"
- ◆ **Evangelism Workshop:** This is this afternoon, 2:30-6:00 pm, at Messiah in Eau Claire. The theme this year is "How You Ought to Answer Each One." A soup and chili fellowship supper will follow.
- ◆ **Midweek Lenten Services:** This year our midweek services will begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10, 7 pm. Our theme is "Probing Questions of the Passion," meditating on some of the challenging questions that were asked during our Savior's Passion. These midweek services can deepen our appreciation of the redemptive work our Savior, Jesus Christ, accomplished in our behalf.
- ◆ **Lenten Soup Suppers:** These fellowship gatherings start on Feb. 10, 6 pm, as a way for people to eat between work and worship. There is a sign-up sheet for soup, setup, and cleanup.
- ◆ **Liberia Collection:** Alvin Jask is preparing barrels of items to send to Liberia. Some items for you to consider donating:
 - Casual and light clothing for people of all ages
 - Flip flops, particularly for children
 - Shoes
 - Socks
 - Bedding
 - Razors
 - Hand tools
 - Over-the-counter pain relief and heartburn (acid reflux) helps

These items mentioned above would be used to help children who are school-aged, pastors I've had contact with, along with things we've been thinking about which are, for the most part, ministry-related. Also, does anyone have any computer equipment that may be a few years old that you have lying around or are looking to replace? Alvin could probably find a home for it, including desktops, laptops, routers, flat monitors, etc. Please contact him (ixjask@gmail.com) if you might have anything like this to send. Thanks for your thoughtfulness!
- ◆ **Tournament Band:** The 13th Annual Tournament Band will be performing at the CLC Grade School Basketball Tournament in Eau Claire, WI, on Friday, March 18. Any CLC band student in grades 5-8 is invited to play with us. Six songs are posted online—just select the music for your instrument and print. You do not have to be playing on a basketball team to play with the group. Rehearsal and performance will both happen on March 18. For music, go to <http://clclutheran.net/tourney> and click on "Band information" Send in your registration by March 11. If you have any questions, contact Laurie Lau, Eau Claire at music@thelaus.com See you there!



- ◆ **Box Tops:** Our spring submission of Box Tops for Education is due by March 1. If you have any box tops, please try to send them to school in the next couple of weeks.
- ◆ **Nominations for ILC Professor:** The Board of Regents announces the following nominations to fill the professorship vacated by the impending retirement of Professor John Pfeiffer at the end of the 2015-16 academic year: Dwight (Frank) Gantt, Paul Naumann, David Reim, Peter Reim, Michael Roehl, David Schaller, Stephen Sydow, Paul Tiefel II, Matthew Ude, and Mark Weis. 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. Other assignments will be determined upon mutual agreement in accordance with need and corresponding ability. All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding these candidates are to be submitted no later than February 12, 2016, to: Mr. Craig Ryan; 499 Country Lane; Fulda, MN 56131; E-Mail: cryan@page1printers.com.
- ◆ **Nominations for ILC President:** The Board of Regents announces the following nominations for the office of President of Immanuel Lutheran College: Jeffrey Schierenbeck, Steven Sippert, Paul Sullivan, and John Ude. The term of this call is for two years, extending to the end of Academic Year 2018. All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding these candidates are to be submitted no later than February 12, 2016, to: Mr. Craig Ryan; 499 Country Lane; Fulda, MN 56131; E-Mail: cryan@page1printers.com.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Vance Fossum of Holy Trinity Lutheran in West Columbia, SC, has announced his intention to retire from the full-time public ministry as of July 3, 2016. The congregation has called Pastor Neal Radichel of Luther Memorial Lutheran in Fond du Lac, WI. ✠ Pastor Luke Bernthal of Grace Lutheran in Valentine, NE; St. Paul's Lutheran of White River, SD; and Peace Lutheran of Mission, SD, has received the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran in Madison Hts., MI (Detroit area).

I will lift up my eyes to the hills— From whence comes my help?
My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:1-2

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!

OH, LORD, WHY MUST I SUFFER?

*I prayed to the Lord, for my troubles to cease,
But, instead of departing, they seemed to increase.
Each day found new problems, I'd not faced before.
And so my depression just grew, more and more!*

*I begged and I pleaded, "Lord, please, let me die!
If You won't ease my pain, at least, tell me, why!"
The Lord said, "My dear child, I love you so much!
And I could have erased all those tears, with just one touch!*

*But, I wanted to teach you, to cling to My hand,
And trust me for things, you cannot understand!
I wanted to show you, that when things go wrong,
My strength, in your weakness, will make you strong!*

*You've suffered, because you were chosen to be,
A light for the lost, and a witness for Me!
As you travel the pathway, I've laid out for you,
You will meet many hearts, that are suffering, too!*

*And because you have been there, and know what they feel,
You can show them My love, and help them to heal!"
It was then, that I wept, and fell on my knees,
And gave thanks to God, for not granting my pleas!*

*For, had I not suffered, and felt such despair,
How could I have known, the extent of His care?
"Oh, Lord, make me worthy, to share your great love,
And help hurting souls, to Your Heaven above!"*

AMEN

W. Ristau

He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase
To added afflictions He addeth His mercy
To multiplied trials His multiplied peace.

When we have exhausted our store of endurance,
When our strength has failed ere day is half done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,
Our Father's full giving is only begun.

His love hath no limit, His grace hath no measure,
His power hath no boundary known unto men,
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus,
He giveth, and giveth and giveth again. Author Unknown

Monday, November 2, 2015

Romans 3:3-4 For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged."

TOTAL TRUTH

Did you know that putting sliced raw onions on your feet, slipping socks over them, and wearing them overnight will draw toxins from your body and prevent the flu? Well, not really. But it's an urban legend which has been around since the late 1800s. So many claims are made by so many people in such convincing ways that it's hard to sift through them and be certain of truth. News organizations quote "reliable sources" and double-check facts, but sometimes their stories still prove to be false. It's not surprising that people become cynical and wonder as Pilate did, "What is truth?"

What effect does that have on our faith? Could the gospel message of Jesus as Son of God and Savior from sin be just another "legend" convincingly communicated by millions over the past 2,000 years? Critics of Scripture are on a mission to prove just that. At times their arguments sound so convincing.

However, in this case there is no question about the truth. The news of salvation in Jesus comes from the most reliable source of all--the one holy God! The men who wrote the books of the Bible didn't claim credit for their words, because they were the words of God Himself. "All Scripture is God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16). Paul assured his Corinthians readers: "This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words" (1 Corinthians 2:13).

Don't be troubled by all the claims made against the reliability of Scripture. They're nothing new. During Jesus' ministry His enemies tried to discredit Him by saying He performed miracles by the power of Satan. God's Word stands forever. "What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness? Not at all! Let God be true, and every man a liar" (Romans 3:3-4).

There will always be people who deny the Word, but no one can make it untrue. No one can make sin less deadly. No one can undo the forgiveness and peace which Jesus earned for all sinners by His death on the cross.

So when you want to be sure of what is true about yourself, the world, God, salvation, and eternity, turn to the Word. Listen to the Savior speak to you with words of love and comfort. Trust Him with today, tomorrow, and your eternal future, for He promises, "No one can snatch you out of My hand!"

Last Week's Stats: Jan. 24, 2016 Sun.: 103 S.S.: 15 B.Cl.: 42 Wed.: 18

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,492.27	CLC:	\$780.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-807.73	CLC:	-220.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$10,779.20	CLC:	\$3,230.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	13,200.00	CLC:	4,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-2,420.80	CLC:	-550.00
GLC Other: 83.40	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	105.00
SAF Endowment: 0.00	MDF:	90.00	Kinship:	150.00
ILC Student Aid: 0.00	ILC Bldg.	140.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	10,966.00	Tuition Aid:	3,052.12

WHEN WRONG IS RIGHT

Frequently they who defend evil and perversion characterize Christ-believers as being “on the wrong side of history.” This characterization has arisen again in connection with the denial of the right of Christians to exercise their faith in the face of the continual push to validate and defend homosexuality. The same characterization has been used to defend murder of the unborn in the name of rights, and compromise of faith and morals in the name of love. Unfortunately we even hear it among those who profess to be Christians as in, “It is out of date to believe that we have to be married” before engaging in the privileges God has reserved for husband and wife.

The standard of right and wrong in matters of faith and morals is Holy Scripture, not subjective opinion. Deniers of the Lord God and of His Word determine right and wrong by the subjective standard of their imagination and fleshly desires. Without Scripture as the source of truth they lack a moral compass. Without faith in Christ they lack the power to do that which is right, being under domination of the unregenerate flesh. It is a sad state of affairs, furthermore, when perversion and sin become law approved by apostate leaders of the church and by politicians whose moral values are all too frequently determined by the popular whim, political winds, and fashion of the moment.

If because we “obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29), we are judged by the evil world to be on the wrong side of history, we shall take that judgment against us as a compliment. The God of Scripture is holy, just, merciful, and good, so the reality is that *if we stand upon Scripture* and respect the Lord God of our salvation *we will always be on the wrong side of history*. What Paul said in the context of preaching the Gospel, speaks to our point. “For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ” (Galatians 1:10). Jesus said, “He who is not with Me is against Me...” (Matthew 12:30).

The prophet Isaiah, prophesying in Jerusalem, confronted the same issue. During a time of external and internal decay manifested by gross idolatry and desecration of the temple, the Lord spoke through Him:

“Woe to those who draw sin along with cords of deceit, and wickedness as with cart ropes, Woe to those who draw sin along with cords of deceit, and wickedness as with cart ropes, to those who say, ‘Let God hurry, let him hasten his work so we may see it. Let it approach, let the plan of the Holy One of Israel come, so we may know it.’ Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight. Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine and champions at mixing drinks, who acquit the guilty for a bribe, but deny justice to the innocent. Therefore, as tongues of fire lick up straw and as dry grass sinks down in the flames, so their roots will decay and their flowers blow away like dust; for they have rejected the law of the LORD Almighty and spurned the word of the Holy One of Israel. Therefore the LORD’s anger burns against his people; his hand is raised and he strikes them down. The mountains shake, and the dead bodies are like refuse in the streets. Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised” (Isaiah 5:18-25).

Note that these words are spoken “against His people.” The prophet Jeremiah, after Isaiah, also prophesied in a period when “the kingdom of Judah was rushing

headlong to its own destruction”⁽²⁾. The Lord said to Jeremiah, “Therefore you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not obey you. You shall also call to them, but they will not answer you. So you shall say to them, ‘This is a nation that does not obey the voice of the Lord their God nor receive correction. Truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth’” (Jeremiah 7:28-29).

In view of what the prophets wrote to Judah, God’s people, what shall be *our* response? First for our many sins, let *us look at ourselves in the mirror, and daily repent*. Secondly, for the false Christians, and the heathen who oppose God and His Word, and who abuse His people, a prayer that they will repent and escape the judgment to come and be saved—that is the appropriate response.

He who has ears to hear, let him hear what Paul wrote, “For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God” (Romans 8:6-9). The apostle who was writing the Word of God to Christians in Rome went on, “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His” (Romans 8:9). A few verses later he writes “Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live” (Romans 8:12-13). In the 12th chapter he writes, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of you mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2). In verse 9 of the same chapter he reminds us to “abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”

He who has ears to hear, and a new heart that responds to God’s will does not find it difficult to accept that the right and safe conclusion is to stand on the side of God even if it means being on “the wrong side of history.” With God is life; with the world is death. This is our answer to the question, “When is being wrong, right?”

We do not speak as those who have no sin. To speak so would be the grossest and most dangerous self-deception. “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8). We speak as those who by the grace of God have been made alive in Christ, and who have been delivered from slavery to sin (Romans 6:4). We speak as those who believe that we stand in daily need of forgiveness because of our flesh, and who according to the new man rejoice in the comfort of our Lord Who tells us, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). We speak as those who lament the unbelief (impenitence) that is destroying souls, and the rejection of the Lord God that is inviting judgment upon those who walk in the path of unrighteousness. We speak as those who must daily pray for faith and strength to stand with Him.

To His children the Heavenly Father says, “Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn away from it and pass on. For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; and their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines brighter unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness. They do not know what makes them stumble.” (Proverbs 4:14-19)

1) New International Version (NIV)
2) Old Testament Introduction, CPH, 1925