

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Frank Radichel

Ushers: Benno Sydow, Gary Gunther, Larry Nelson, Jeff Stifter, Bill Rust

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

Hospitality Team 1: Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice Sandhoefner

Church Cleaners: A. & B. Baker    School: Kanneh

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Benno Sydow, Gary Gunther, Larry Nelson, Jeff Stifter, Bill Rust

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

Hospitality Team 2: Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Janelle Hein; Jenny Kleifgen; Chris Lentz

Church Cleaners: Rosendahl    School: Nelson

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

**Sun., Apr. 24:** 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service  
11:15 am – Hospitality

**Wed., Apr. 27:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
7:00 pm – Confirmation Preparation

**Fri., Apr. 29:** Immanuel High School Visitors Day @ Eau Claire, WI

**April 29-30:** 7:30 pm – Immanuel Musical: Enchanted Sleeping Beauty

**Sat., Apr. 30:** 9:00 am – Work Day

**Sun., May 1:** 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 (due to Mother's Day on May 8)

**Thu., May 5:** 7:00 pm – **Ascension Day Worship**

**Fri., May 13:** Field Day (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, by Berea in Inver Grove Hts.)

**Fri., May 20:** 3:00 pm – Immanuel Class Day; 7:30 pm – Immanuel Concert

**Sat., May 21:** 10:00 am – Immanuel Graduation

**Sun., May 22:** Confirmation Sunday (Trinity Sunday)

**Thu., May 26:** 7:00 pm – Grace School Spring Program

**Fri., May 27:** 12:00 pm – School Year Dismissal

**Sun., May 29:** 9:00 am – Summer Schedule Begins (Graduation)

**Sun., June 5:** 3:00 pm – MN Delegate Conference @ Mankato, MN

**June 23-26:** CLC Convention in Eau Claire, WI

**July 25-29:** 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School

## Grace Lutheran Church & School



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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)

**School Phone:** 763-784-6340

**Church Year:** Easter 5

**Phone:** 763-784-8784

**Grades:** Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup>

**Date:** April 24, 2016

## ✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

### Hymns:

WS 764: God of Grace and God of Glory

Baptism: Raphael Jay Stifter

TLH 300: Dearest Jesus, We Are Here

WS 767: Church of God, Elect and Glorious

TLH 463, st. 1-6: For All the Saints

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

### Worship Prep:

Psalms 65, TLH p. 136

### Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 199:4

### Scripture Reading:

Acts 14:8-18

John 14:23-39

### Sermon: Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

<sup>10</sup> And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, <sup>11</sup> having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup> Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: <sup>13</sup> three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. <sup>14</sup> Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ... <sup>22</sup> But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup> The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light. (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

“Our Living Lord: The Church's Brilliance”

## ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Ascension Day Worship:** This will be Thursday, May 5, 7 pm.
- ◆ **Congratulations:** Today Raphael Jay Stifter will become a child of God through Holy Baptism! Raphael was born on April 12 to Josh and Jenny Stifter. Thanks be to the Lord for the safe delivery! But even more so, thanks be to the Lord for a new spiritual life in Christ Jesus!
- ◆ **Grace Lutheran School** staff is already beginning to plan for the 2016-17 school year. If you are interested in enrolling your child in our school, please speak to one of the teachers for an enrollment form.
- ◆ **The Branches:** "The Branches" renewal list is by the guest book. This is a quarterly publication for Christian women. Please check your name if you want to continue receiving this publication, making any corrections to the listed information. Issues are available by US mail or email. If you are not receiving "The Branches" now is the time to add your name to the list. The congregation pays for the subscription.
- ◆ **Housing Needed:** A member from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato, Michael Perez, is seeking housing. Pastor Nolting recommends him highly. Housing is also being sought for our vicar, Sam Rodebaugh. This would need some flexibility with hours and such as the ministry can be rather unpredictable. He would be here from about mid-August to about the 3rd week of September, including a week or two near the end of July. We are still working on exact dates. Location near church would be preferable, but not required. Please let Pastor know if you would be willing to help with either of these situations.
- ◆ **Porkies Youth Camp-out:** August 10-14 (Wed-Sun), 2016. For kids entering grades 8-12. Total camp fee \$85. We'll camp at the Union Bay group campsite right on Lake Superior (near Ontonagon, MI). We'll have devotions, group discussions, hiking, swimming, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, and beach football. It's okay if you've never camped. We do everything together and we'll help you learn. For more information about the trip, and how to register, pick up an information/registration form in the entryway of the church.
- ◆ **Installation Invitation:** The Installation of Pastor Wayne Eichstadt as under-shepherd of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Spokane Valley, WA. will be on Sunday, May 22, 2016, at 6:00 pm with a "finger food" supper provided by the Ladies of Gethsemane following the service. Pastor/Visitor Dave Reim will be conducting the service.
- ◆ **CLC News:** BELC Chairman, Pastor Moses Raghu from the Nellore district in India, has returned home from the hospital after having three heart valves replaced. Doctors are recommending 2-3 months bed rest. Please keep Pastor Raghu, his family, his congregation, and the pastors of the districts he oversees in your prayers! ✠ Pastor Roland Gurgel of Bethel Lutheran in Spring, TX (Houston area), has received the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran in Madison Heights, MI (Detroit Area). ✠ Pastor Neal Radichel of Luther Memorial Lutheran in Fond du Lac, WI, has returned the call to Rock of Ages Lutheran in Grand Rapids, MI.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #25 – Sacrament of the Altar 1

- ◆ **Missionary Ude Resignation:** After serving in foreign mission fields for more than eight years, Missionary Ude was led to resign his call as our full-time missionary to India and visiting missionary to several African countries. This decision was made after much prayer and months of discussion with the Board of Missions. His resignation was based on how the extensive travel and uncertain schedule required of his call would take him away from his God-given responsibilities as husband and father. Shortly after he formally announced his decision to resign to the Board of Missions, his daughter Kaylee became very ill and has since required several brain surgeries and extensive treatment in Marshfield, WI. Missionary Ude made an emergency return to the U.S. and will remain until he feels the time is appropriate for him to return to India to tie up some loose ends along with packing and shipping their belongings back home. The nature of Kaylee's medical condition will require expert medical oversight and probably more surgeries over the next few years. Missionary Ude will continue working on Board of Missions projects and correspondence and will receive salary and benefits until the end of 2016 unless he is led to accept another divine call or decides to pursue secular employment. The Board of Missions is extremely thankful to the Lord for Missionary Ude's many gifts and faithful service to the mission fields where he and his wife Vanessa have selflessly served for the sake of our Savior's kingdom. With prayers for their daughter Kaylee's health, and knowing that our God is good, gracious, and full of mercy, we are confident that He has a great plan for their family, to give them a future and a hope through our Savior's death and resurrection.
- ◆ **Myanmar Earthquake:** Please include prayers for our brothers and sisters of the Zomi Lutheran Church of Myanmar (ZLCM). A 6.9 magnitude earthquake recently hit the western regions of Myanmar where several ZLCM congregations are located. Pastor Kham reported that among the congregations of the ZLCM, three members were killed, seven were hospitalized, and five homes were severely damaged. When the HCLC-Nepal heard about the earthquake in Myanmar, Pastor Raju Bhitrakoti called and requested that some of the remaining funds from the Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund be sent to the ZLCM as soon as possible to assist them in their time of need. Money was sent from the Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund to the ZLCM this past week and no special offering will be needed at this time. In addition to the recent earthquake, there has also been recent flooding and wind storms in western Myanmar. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ of the ZLCM as they struggle to recover, continue to pray for members of the Himalayan Church of the Lutheran Confession in Nepal as they work to rebuild, and give thanks and praise to the Lord for compassionate and willing hearts that are led by our Savior's love to help our fellow Christians in times of need.

### **Last Week's Stats:** Apr. 17, 2016 Sun.: 125 S.S.: 15 B.Cl.: 49

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$4,025.10	CLC:	\$1,030.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+725.10	CLC:	+30.00	
Year-to-Date Offering:.	Grace:	\$51,513.31	CLC:	\$15,834.35	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	52,800.00	CLC:	16,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-1,286.69	CLC:	-165.65	
GLC Other:	307.20	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	75.00
SAF Endowment:	100.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	75.00
ILC Student Aid:	40.00	ILC Bldg.	220.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	13,082.00	Tuition Aid:	1,334.12

# Voters Meeting Notes

April 17, 2016

The meeting was called to order with a prayer. Roll was taken.

The January voter meeting minutes were read and approved as amended. The 1st quarter treasurer's report was read and approved.

## Pastor's Report

- Membership Matters:
  - Dylan Stifter - Removed per his request.
  - Rachel Rhinesmith - Removed for evading church discipline.
  - Bobby Vandever - Removed due to lack of contact.
  - Andy Vandever (& Remi) - Removed due to lack of contact.
  - Matt Vandever - Removed due to lack of contact.
  - Steve McCullough - Removed due to lack of contact.
  - Scott McCullough - Removed due to lack of contact.
- Seminarian Sam Rodebaugh will be our vicar for about 6 weeks this fall.
- Liberia - Received our barrels. Internet alternatives are being pursued.
- SW Metro - Called Joe Naumann as their pastor without proper orderliness. It was moved and passed to affirm that they have the right to call a pastor.

## Elder Report

- Ryan Mueller will be doing gilding on the altar.

## Education Report

- Moved and passed to have Ann Radichel teach kindergarten for the 2016-2017 school year.

## Trustee Report

- Security cameras are being addressed.
- Exterior painting is being addressed.
- Parking lot estimates range from \$20,000-\$75,000. Realistically, we are looking at about \$45,000.
- April 30 is the next work day.
- The treasurer's books have been audited. Approved.

## Other Business

- For any changes to our constitution, they must be presented in 2 voter meetings (April and July).
- The constitution review committee moved to accept revisions to Grace Lutheran Church's constitution and by-laws. The motion was seconded. Thirty-one changes were discussed individually and a few minor changes were made. The motion passed.

Adapted from minutes taken from Secretary Roger Ochsner

## TRIVIALIZING THE BIBLE—GOD'S BOOK

The Bible is the sixth most-challenged book on a list of challenged and banned books. The reasons for this are many, not the least of which is the content. Challenging the Bible for its content speaks to the ignorance and disrespect such challengers have toward the Lord God and His inspired Word.

On the other side of the ledger state legislators in Tennessee are trying to make the Bible the state book. They passed such legislation "in order to recognize its significance from a historical, economic and cultural standpoint." To his credit, the governor who professes to be a Christian vetoed the bill. He said, "My personal feeling is that this bill trivializes the Bible which I believe is a sacred book." He also did so citing constitutional grounds.<sup>(1)</sup> As the American Civil Liberties union (ACLU) also opposes the bill, though not out of respect for the Bible, we find ourselves in strange company with an organization with which we disagree on most issues.

Confessing Christians equate the Bible with Holy Scripture. In *all* subjects it addresses, it is *truth*. In His high-priestly prayer, the Lord Jesus asked the Father to sanctify His disciples through the Word, saying, "*Your Word is truth*" (John 17:17). Further, when Jesus gave the commission to go into all the world, He told the disciples to go "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to *observe all things* that I have commanded you ..." (Matthew 28: 19-20). It is doubtful those who want to make the Bible the state book, would subscribe to that instruction of our Lord.

Such legislation as is proposed, the veto of which legislators will seek to overturn, diminishes the Bible to the level of a book authored by fallible men. It fails to recognize that the Bible is different from any other book in respect to its authorship, its subject matter, and its message and purpose. It suggests the Bible is just another philosophy book, and makes it merely a book of rules and regulations. It makes of the Bible a political tool. The Bible is made a window dressing.

**Authorship:** The Bible (Scriptures: writings) does not *contain* the Word of God; that is, it is not sprinkled with the meanderings and opinions of men within which God's Word is found. It *is* the Word of God. While it has many writers it has *one Author*. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God," that is, it is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16). "Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21). The apostle Paul declared, "These things things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches ..." (1 Corinthians 2:13). Again "... when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, *the Word of God*, which also effectively works in you who believe" (1 Thessalonians 2:13). Apart from the claim that the Bible declares itself to be the Word of God—and this truth stands by itself—it is nevertheless interesting that in spite of the prideful ego of the human heart, nowhere in the Bible is there any envious claim by any writer to be the author of what he has written. The Bible is the Word of God.

**Subject matter:** The Bible is His-Story. It contains the history of which God is the Author from the creation of the world to the end of the world. It speaks to the reader of the providential care of God over all that He has created. It declares the will of God for mankind. Consequently, the two great doctrines (teachings) of the Bible are *Law* and *Gospel*. The Law tells us what to do and not to do. It shows us our sin (SOS). It shows us our condemnation for transgressing the Law (SOC). On the other hand, the Gospel shows us our Savior from sin (SOS).

The focal point of the Old and the New Testaments is the Lord Jesus Christ and eternal life. All who truly understand the message and purpose of Scripture see that the Bible is unique.

**Message and purpose:** It is difficult to separate message and purpose. These speak to the very definite reason for which God gave and preserves His Word to us.

When God created mankind, He intended only the best for him, a life of bliss and joy forever. By sin man lost what God intended. But because the Lord God is good and gracious, He desired to save guilty mankind from the death he brought on himself. He promised the Savior from sin Who would destroy the power of the devil (Genesis 3:15) and restore life and immortality. This Jesus did by His perfect life as well as by the death He endured in our place. But death could not hold Him. He rose from the dead and restored to us the life in heaven that God intended for man before the fall. This speaks to the purpose of Scripture: "From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15). And again: "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have eternal life in His name" (John 20:31). Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). This is *not* a social gospel reference. The abundant life is that which Christ-believers shall enjoy in heaven.

While we live on the earth, and await the deliverance to glory, it is the will of God that we serve Him. It is our duty "to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."<sup>(2)</sup> Since this is not possible of ourselves in the flesh, Jesus prayed for His disciples and for us that the Father would sanctify His own by the truth (John 17:17). He has left us with His Word as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. (Psalm 119:105). This speaks again to the purpose of Scripture which is inspired by God. It "is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

It is God's will that His name be glorified in the world. This is the will of the regenerate whom God has delivered from death and the power of the devil. God's people do not envy the Lord the glory to which He is entitled. He has redeemed us that we "may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity."<sup>(3)</sup> All this He has done for us "that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever" (1 Peter 4:11). In the Lord's Prayer we gladly confess, "For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen."

This is quite a different understanding of the Bible than those who see it as just another book among many, albeit better than any other. It is quite different than a book recognized for "its significance from a historical, economic and cultural standpoint." The Bible, the Word of God, is not a political handbook!

We pray that government at whatever level will keep its hands off "God's book" and not use it for political ends. At the same time we pray that those in position of authority will, as need we all, read the book and be persuaded by the Spirit to believe what it teaches. We pray that they will confess their sin, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and live their lives and exercise their authority to the glory of the Lord God. Finally we pray that all who profess love for Scripture will read it and respect the Lord and His Word. We pray that the ultimate purpose of Scripture will be accomplished in their life that they through "the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

"How precious is the book divine, By inspiration given!  
Bright as a lamp, its doctrines shine to guide our souls to heaven.  
This lamp though all the tedious night of life shall guide our way  
Till we behold the clearer light of an eternal day."<sup>(4)</sup>

1) *Newsmax*, on line April 15, 2016  
2) *Small Catechism*, Martin Luther, 1<sup>st</sup> Article  
3) *Small Catechism*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Article  
4) *The Lutheran Hymnal*. 285, sts. 1,6

## CLC FINANCIAL REPORT March 2016

<i>CLC Financial Report</i>	Balance	Year to Date	Year to Date	FY 2016 Budget	Balance
<u>Operating Funds</u>	7/1/2015	Revenue	Disbursed	9 Months	3/31/2016
General Fund	0	710,584	696,933	\$693,000	13,651
ILC Operations	0	1,050,377	954,560	\$1,002,225	95,817
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,760,961</b>	<b>\$1,651,493</b>	<b>\$1,695,225</b>	<b>\$109,469</b>
<u>Auxiliary Funds</u>					
IIF - ILC Improvement	21,975	48,143	29,777		40,341
ILC Building	16,899	120,737	116,600		21,036
MDF - Mission Development	92,551	195,764	200,376		87,939
Kinship	54,418	63,541	61,031		56,928
CEF - Church Extension Fund	1,463,337	570,392	864,465		1,169,263
SAF - Student Aid	(6,833)	130,866	118,630		5,403
Reserve Account	127,092	0	0		127,092

<u>ILC Academic Center Mortgage</u>		
Beginning Balance:	February 1, 2010	\$1,751,804
Current Balance:	March 31, 2016	\$1,296,733
Principal Paid to Date:		\$455,071

**Comments:**

- The General Fund offerings in March totaled \$88,518
- Operating accounts General Fund and ILC ended March with positive balances
- MDF expenditures totaled \$16,916, major items included \$9,000 for disaster relief and \$4,416 for foreign missions outreach
- There were no IIF expenditures in March
- Year-to-date the CEF has paid off more than \$200,000 promissory notes reducing the note balance held against the fund to \$2,068,690
- The ILC Building has paid \$69,850 against the mortgage principal this fiscal year

Dr. James A. Sydow, CLC Treasurer  
Philip E. Radichel, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees