

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Benno Sydow

Ushers: James Bomber, Eli Wales, David Hein, Michael Ude, Ryan Oman

Counting Team 3: Brian Eichstadt; Phil Flesner; Chad Hestekin; Benno Sydow

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

Church Cleaners: Wales School: Wales

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: James Bomber, Eli Wales, David Hein, Michael Ude, Ryan Oman

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

Hospitality Team 5: Andrea Dahl; Pat & Dawn Paplow; Frank & Ann Radichel

Church Cleaners: Wales School: Wales

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

- Sun., May 15:** 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality
- Wed., May 18:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Confirmation Preparation
- Fri., May 20:** 3:00 pm – Immanuel Class Day @ Immanuel Fieldhouse
7:30 pm – Immanuel Concert @ Messiah Lutheran
- Sat., May 21:** 10:00 am – Immanuel Graduation @ Immanuel Fieldhouse
3:30-5:00 pm – Confirmation Preparation
- Sun., May 22:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Confirmation Examination
10:00 am – Worship with Confirmation (Trinity Sunday)
11:15 am – Hospitality
- Thu., May 26:** 7:00 pm – Grace School Spring Program
- Fri., May 27:** 12:00 pm – School Year Dismissal
- Sun., May 29:** Summer Schedule Begins
9:00 am – Worship Service (Graduation)
10:00 am – Hospitality (last one, honoring graduates)
- Sun., June 5:** 9:00 am – Worship Service
3:00 pm – MN Delegate Conference @ Mankato, MN
- Thu., June 9:** Spring Lake Park Parade
- June 23-26:** CLC Convention @ Eau Claire, WI
- July 25-29:** 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School

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)

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Church Year: Pentecost

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: May 15, 2016

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

Choir: Creator Spirit (at opening)
TLH 224: Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord!
TLH 504: O Spirit of the Living God
CDS: TLH 234: Holy Ghost, with Light Divine
TLH 227: Come, Holy Ghost, in Love
TLH 644: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Worship Prep:

Psalm 51b, TLH p. 135

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)
Gloria: TLH 16:4

Scripture Reading:

Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27

Sermon: Genesis 11:1-9

¹ Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. ² And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. ³ Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. ⁴ And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." ⁵ But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. ⁶ And the Lord said, "Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. ⁷ Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." ⁸ So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth. (NKJVTM)

" Truth in the Midst of Confusion and Chaos "

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Confirmation:** Confirmation will be held next Sunday, May 22. The exam will be at 9 am and the vows will be made during the 10 am worship service. This year's confirmands are Patrick Baker, Sarah Eichstadt, Victoria Kitzman, Beatrice Lentz, Jessica Maki, and Kylee Yang. May the Lord bless their preparations and their resolve as they consider the commitment they are making with the help of God.
- ◆ **Grace Lutheran School** staff is planning for the 2016-17 school year. For those interested in enrolling your child in our school, please speak to one of the teachers for an enrollment form. We encourage all our members to take advantage of this edifying educational endeavor for building the foundation of their children's faith.
- ◆ **Grace School Program:** On Thur., May 26, 7 pm, the children of our day school will be putting on their play, "Beauty and the Beast." All members and friends of Grace are invited to show support of the children's efforts and of our school. Refreshments will follow.
- ◆ **Parade:** On Thur., June 9, our school will be walking in the Spring Lake Park Tower Days Parade. All members are invited to participate to help let the community know about the treasure of our Christian school! We are hoping that all our students and parents will be able to participate in this. More details will be available soon.
- ◆ **Graduates:** Please list any member of Grace that is graduating this year (Jan-Dec 2016) on the sheet on the tract rack table. Include the school's name and the degree. Our Graduation Sunday is May 29. Patrick Baker will also graduate from Grace School that day.
- ◆ **Lutheran Spokesman:** If you no longer wish to receive it, please cross out your name. If you don't receive it and would like to, please sign up. The congregation covers the cost.
- ◆ **The Branches:** Please check your name if you want to continue receiving this publication, making any corrections to the listed information. If you are not receiving "The Branches" now is the time to add your name to the list. The congregation pays for the subscription.
- ◆ **Summer Schedule:** On Sunday, May 29, the summer schedule will begin with worship service held at 9 am. Bible Class and Sunday School will be suspended for the summer. Hospitality hour will also be suspended after honoring the graduates. If anyone wishes to host any of the Sundays in summer, they may sign up on the list located on the fellowship hall's bulletin board.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Teacher Graduate Andrew Roehl has accepted the call to teach in the lower grades at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. ✠ Pastor David Pfeiffer of Ascension Lutheran in Batavia, IL (Chicago area), has accepted the call to Holy Trinity Lutheran in West Columbia, SC. ✠ Seminary Graduate Joseph Naumann has received the call to be the Associate Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN.

CLC FINANCIAL REPORT

April 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	10 Months	4/30/2016
General Fund	0	766,818	767,225	\$770,000	(407)
ILC Operations	0	1,134,107	1,064,310	\$1,113,583	69,797
Total	\$0	\$1,900,925	\$1,831,535	\$1,883,583	\$69,390
<u>Auxiliary Funds</u>					
IIF - ILC Improvement	21,975	48,390	38,157		32,208
ILC Building	16,899	123,096	124,584		15,411
MDF - Mission Development	92,551	225,947	230,301		88,197
Kinship	54,418	69,506	62,460		61,464
CEF - Church Extension Fund	1,463,337	658,496	1,108,239		1,013,594
SAF - Student Aid	(6,833)	140,128	131,263		2,032
Reserve Account	127,092	0	0		127,092

<u>ILC Academic Center Mortgage</u>		
Beginning Balance:	February 1, 2010	\$1,751,804
Current Balance:	April 30, 2016	\$1,293,071
Principal Paid to Date:		\$458,733

Comments:

- The General Fund offerings in April totaled \$56,234
- Operating account for the General Fund ended April with a small negative balance
- MDF expenditures totaled \$29,925, major items included \$9,000 for disaster relief, \$3,750 for bicycles and motorcycles, and \$13,741 to set up the mission helper trip
- IIF expenditures in April totaled \$8,379 for emergency repairs
- The CEF loaned Living Hope congregation in Appleton Wisconsin \$180,405 for the purchase of a church building

Last Week's Stats: May 8, 2016 Sun.: 99 S.S.: 16 B.Cl.: 35

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,260.00	CLC:	\$615.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,040.00	CLC:	-385.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$59,341.49	CLC:	\$17,750.35	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	62,700.00	CLC:	19,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-3,358.51	CLC:	-1,249.65	
GLC Other:	473.20	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	75.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	100.00	Kinship:	0.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	14,462.00	Tuition Aid:	1,614.12

WORSHIPING IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH

WORSHIP: An expression of reverence and respect for a deity. Ceremonies, prayers, or religious forms by which love for God is expressed. Adoration of and piety toward deity—in the Christian sense, the Triune God. Jesus defined true worship when He said, “God is a Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). True worship begins with and comes from a regenerate heart. “The Father is seeking such to worship Him” (John 4:23).

WORSHIP SERVICE: “A public or private service expressing a person’s or congregation’s reverence to the revealed Triune God; according to the Lutheran view not merely an approach to God in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving(...), but chiefly an acceptance of God’s gift of grace to man, through the means of grace(...). Worship is spiritual, but the spirit of devotion is strengthened by outward forms and ceremonies.”⁽¹⁾

Lutheran worship focuses on and revolves around the Word of God and the Sacraments (Baptism, Lord’s Supper)—the means of grace. Historically the Lutheran worship service is Trinitarian from beginning to end. Outward forms and ceremonies respectfully done enhance the worship experience. *They do not and cannot enhance the Word of God.* While John the Baptist’s words with respect to Christ—“He must increase, I must decrease” (John 3:30)—were in a different context his words aptly describe the appropriate worship attitude. Though Christian worship does not change in purpose, in various ways worship participants and leaders can enhance the experience when they joyfully and respectfully and to the best of their ability use the talents the Lord has given them. However, worship is not about the leaders; it is not about innovation; it is not an audition. It is about the Lord and His grace to us. The ideal compliment at the end of worship is not “What a beautiful worship service,” though it may very well have been. It is “What a wonderful Lord and Savior we have.”

WORSHIP COMPONENTS: Worship is in praise of the Triune God. Public worship, differentiated from private devotion and worship, consists of liturgy that magnifies our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It consists of preaching, prayer, and song. Preaching, sharing the Word, is to be the focal point of the worship service. It is the nucleus of the Lutheran liturgical service. The liturgy, cleansed as it is of Roman elements and tendencies from the time of Martin Luther, in its form and substance is unique from worship in other protestant services.

An important element of Lutheran worship is music and hymns. Reverential music and sound hymns enhance the worship service. Martin Luther called music “an outstanding gift of God and next to theology.”⁽²⁾ He was chiefly responsible for introducing hymn singing into the service. Sound hymns of biblical substance are a means of singing the Gospel into the heart of children and adults alike. Further, if you have a good hymnal in your home you have a good prayer book. Worshipers do well to read and think upon the hymns before the worship service.

Hymns of substance are a means of inculcating the Word and spreading the Gospel. At the time of the Reformation one Catholic leader commented that Luther’s hymns were more effective than his teaching. People “sang” their faith. Children are blessed through instruction and singing when they are exposed to,

and learn and sing hymns that are substantive, devotional, meaningful, and of sound doctrinal content. It is to the detriment of the children and to the church at large if learning sound substantive, biblical hymns are no longer part of a curriculum in our Lutheran schools. And even more so when the present day “Contemporary Christian Music” is promoted in society and in church circles.

WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP: “Where the true obedience of faith toward God is to be found, there everything one’s calling requires to be done is a holy and God-pleasing act of worship”⁽³⁾ A life of faith manifest by one’s trust and conduct in life is basically an act of worship. While the Christian’s sanctified life in principle is worship of the Lord in that it glorifies the Lord (1 Corinthians 10:31), worship fellowship is most commonly exercised in a group setting. Truly confessional fellowship of a group or a congregation is the worship of hearts and minds united in faith in the Triune God. It is the joint worship of confessors who hold a single commitment to the Word. They believe the same thing; they pray to the Triune God; they confess the truth in unity of heart and mind; they hope the same thing. They raise united hearts and voices to the God of their salvation. With such worship God is well pleased.

Christians in a confessional Lutheran church rightly expect their pastors and teachers to speak the truth, God’s truth, and nothing but God’s truth as it is recorded in His revealed Word. They further expect the teaching and preaching of all service leaders, and liturgies, songs, and forms, to conform to the Word of God. They fully expect that when they leave for home they will be able to say, “We have been with Jesus today.”

How blessed are all who love the habitation of God’s house within which is heard the truth, and the precious Gospel of salvation. They are lifted in spirit when they in word and song have heard the Lord speak so that they can say, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity” (Psalm 133:1).

“Give unto the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” (Psalm 29:2). There is no more beautiful worship than that of children of God gathered together lifting up united hearts and voices to their Father in Christ Jesus. There is no more beautiful fellowship than worship in the spirit of unity evident by one word, one faith, one hope.

Unity expressed in worship of like-minded brethren is like fragrant anointing oil, and refreshing waters. David speaks of such unity of kindred hearts and minds:

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity!
It is like the precious oil upon the head,
Running down on the beard,
The beard of Aaron,
Running down on the edge of his garments.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
Descending upon the mountains of Zion;
For there the Lord commanded the blessing—
Life forevermore” (Psalm 133).

1) *The Concordia Cyclopedia* (1927) Concordia Publishing House (CPH), St. Louis, MO, p.825

2) *What Luther Says*, CPH Vol. II p. 979, para. 3090,

3) *What Luther Says*, CPH Vol. III. p.1547, para. 5028,

WORSHIPING IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH

WORSHIP: An expression of reverence and respect for a deity. Ceremonies, prayers, or religious forms by which love for God is expressed. Adoration of and piety toward deity—in the Christian sense, the Triune God. Jesus defined true worship when He said, “God is a Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). True worship begins with and comes from a regenerate heart. “The Father is seeking such to worship Him” (John 4:23).

WORSHIP SERVICE: “A public or private service expressing a person’s or congregation’s reverence to the revealed Triune God; according to the Lutheran view not merely an approach to God in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving(...), but chiefly an acceptance of God’s gift of grace to man, through the means of grace(...). Worship is spiritual, but the spirit of devotion is strengthened by outward forms and ceremonies.”⁽¹⁾

Lutheran worship focuses on and revolves around the Word of God and the Sacraments (Baptism, Lord’s Supper)—the means of grace. Historically the Lutheran worship service is Trinitarian from beginning to end. Outward forms and ceremonies respectfully done enhance the worship experience. *They do not and cannot enhance the Word of God.* While John the Baptist’s words with respect to Christ—“He must increase, I must decrease” (John 3:30)—were in a different context his words aptly describe the appropriate worship attitude. Though Christian worship does not change in purpose, in various ways worship participants and leaders can enhance the experience when they joyfully and respectfully and to the best of their ability use the talents the Lord has given them. However, worship is not about the leaders; it is not about innovation; it is not an audition. It is about the Lord and His grace to us. The ideal compliment at the end of worship is not “What a beautiful worship service,” though it may very well have been. It is “What a wonderful Lord and Savior we have.”

WORSHIP COMPONENTS: Worship is in praise of the Triune God. Public worship, differentiated from private devotion and worship, consists of liturgy that magnifies our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It consists of preaching, prayer, and song. Preaching, sharing the Word, is to be the focal point of the worship service. It is the nucleus of the Lutheran liturgical service. The liturgy, cleansed as it is of Roman elements and tendencies from the time of Martin Luther, in its form and substance is unique from worship in other protestant services.

An important element of Lutheran worship is music and hymns. Reverential music and sound hymns enhance the worship service. Martin Luther called music “an outstanding gift of God and next to theology.”⁽²⁾ He was chiefly responsible for introducing hymn singing into the service. Sound hymns of biblical substance are a means of singing the Gospel into the heart of children and adults alike. Further, if you have a good hymnal in your home you have a good prayer book. Worshipers do well to read and think upon the hymns before the worship service.

Hymns of substance are a means of inculcating the Word and spreading the Gospel. At the time of the Reformation one Catholic leader commented that Luther’s hymns were more effective than his teaching. People “sang” their faith. Children are blessed through instruction and singing when they are exposed to,

and learn and sing hymns that are substantive, devotional, meaningful, and of sound doctrinal content. It is to the detriment of the children and to the church at large if learning sound substantive, biblical hymns are no longer part of a curriculum in our Lutheran schools. And even more so when the present day “Contemporary Christian Music” is promoted in society and in church circles.

WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP: “Where the true obedience of faith toward God is to be found, there everything one’s calling requires to be done is a holy and God-pleasing act of worship”⁽³⁾ A life of faith manifest by one’s trust and conduct in life is basically an act of worship. While the Christian’s sanctified life in principle is worship of the Lord in that it glorifies the Lord (1 Corinthians 10:31), worship fellowship is most commonly exercised in a group setting. Truly confessional fellowship of a group or a congregation is the worship of hearts and minds united in faith in the Triune God. It is the joint worship of confessors who hold a single commitment to the Word. They believe the same thing; they pray to the Triune God; they confess the truth in unity of heart and mind; they hope the same thing. They raise united hearts and voices to the God of their salvation. With such worship God is well pleased.

Christians in a confessional Lutheran church rightly expect their pastors and teachers to speak the truth, God’s truth, and nothing but God’s truth as it is recorded in His revealed Word. They further expect the teaching and preaching of all service leaders, and liturgies, songs, and forms, to conform to the Word of God. They fully expect that when they leave for home they will be able to say, “We have been with Jesus today.”

How blessed are all who love the habitation of God’s house within which is heard the truth, and the precious Gospel of salvation. They are lifted in spirit when they in word and song have heard the Lord speak so that they can say, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity” (Psalm 133:1).

“Give unto the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” (Psalm 29:2). There is no more beautiful worship than that of children of God gathered together lifting up united hearts and voices to their Father in Christ Jesus. There is no more beautiful fellowship than worship in the spirit of unity evident by one word, one faith, one hope.

Unity expressed in worship of like-minded brethren is like fragrant anointing oil, and refreshing waters. David speaks of such unity of kindred hearts and minds:

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity!
It is like the precious oil upon the head,
Running down on the beard,
The beard of Aaron,
Running down on the edge of his garments.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
Descending upon the mountains of Zion;
For there the Lord commanded the blessing—
Life forevermore” (Psalm 133).

1) *The Concordia Cyclopedia* (1927) Concordia Publishing House (CPH), St. Louis, MO, p.825

2) *What Luther Says*, CPH Vol. II p. 979, para. 3090,

3) *What Luther Says*, CPH Vol. III. p.1547, para. 5028,