

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis Elder: Al Rosendahl

Ushers: David Stifter, Scott Baker, Chad Hestekin, Al Rosendahl, Lyle Trulin

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

Church Cleaners: Sydow

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: David Stifter, Scott Baker, Chad Hestekin, Al Rosendahl, Lyle Trulin

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

Church Cleaners: Any Volunteers?

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., June 12: 9:00 am – Worship Service
 10:15 am – Yannarely Baby Shower
 11:00 am – Council Meeting

Sun., June 19: 9:00 am – Worship Service

June 23-26: CLC Convention @ Eau Claire, WI

Sat., June 25: 9:00 am – Work Day
 3:30 pm – CLC Convention Worship Service @ Messiah
 Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings

Sun., July 17: 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School

Mon., Aug. 22: 10:00 am – Immanuel Opening Worship Service

Mon., Aug. 29: Grace School Opening

Last Week's Stats: June 5, 2016 Sun.: 89

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,660.90	CLC:	\$686.60	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-639.10	CLC:	-313.40	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$69,117.64	CLC:	\$20,816.95	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	75,900.00	CLC:	23,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-6,782.36	CLC:	-2,183.05	
GLC Other:	345.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	120.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	75.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	130.00	ILC Bldg.	140.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	15,486.75	Tuition Aid:	1,961.12	

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 2:8-9)

G R A C E

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 4

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: June 12, 2016

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 392: Blest Is the Man, Forever Blest
 TLH 323: With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh
 TLH 375: If Thy Beloved Son, O God
 TLH 346, st. 1, 5-6: Jesus! And Shall It Ever Be
 Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 32, TLH p. 130 f.

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)
 Gloria: TLH 246:1,4

Scripture Reading:

Galatians 2:11-21
 Luke 7:36-50

Sermon: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:10, 13-15

²⁶When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. ²⁷And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord. ¹Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: "There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. ³But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." ⁵So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! ⁶And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity." ⁷Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! ⁹Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. ¹⁰Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' ... ¹³So David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' And Nathan said to David, 'The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. ¹⁴However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.' ¹⁵Then Nathan departed to his house. And the Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill. (NKJVTM)

"Guilt No Longer Can Distress Me"

✠ *THE ANNOUNCEMENTS* ✠

- ◆ **Baby Shower:** A baby shower will be held for Sarah Yannarely (nee Stifter) today after church in the fellowship hall.
- ◆ **Among Us:** This past Wednesday Marvin Wagner learned from his doctor that his lung cancer is already stage four. He said that Marvin likely only has a few weeks to live. Marvin will be receiving hospice care at his home. He requests the prayers of his brothers and sisters in Christ. Also, this past Thursday morning Renata Ochsner, Roger's mother, passed away in Aberdeen, SD, from heart and pneumonia issues. Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."
- ◆ **Parade:** Thanks to all who helped in promoting the school!
- ◆ **CLC Convention Online:** General sessions of the CLC Convention (June 23-26) and essays will be streamed live at <http://www.ilc.edu/tv>. Starting times of these sessions are scheduled as follows:
 - Thursday, June 23:
 - ◆ 10:00 a.m. Opening Session
 - ◆ 7:00 p.m. Essay
 - Friday, June 24
 - ◆ 9:00 a.m. Session
 - ◆ 1:00 p.m. Essay followed by Session
 - ◆ 7:00 p.m. Status Report on WELS-ELS-CLC Discussions
 - Saturday, June 25
 - ◆ 9:00 a.m. Session
 - ◆ 1:00 p.m. Session
 - ◆ 7:00 p.m. Session
 - Sunday, June 26
 - ◆ 9:00 a.m. Session
 - ◆ 1:00 p.m. Memorial Service followed by Session
- ◆ **Vacation Bible School:** On July 25-29, 9:00-11:30 am, we will be having our VBS. This includes children age 4 years, to children going into 8th grade. Please register your children on the sheet by the guest book. We still need coordinators for crafts and music. Please consider this labor of love and let Pastor know of your willingness.
- ◆ **Professorage Update:** Volunteer help is still being sought after Convention. Projects include: new windows & siding, new carpeting/flooring, updating kitchen, painting inside, and fencing in the back yard. Those who are able to help with any of these projects, please contact Pastor Paul Tiefel (715-829-2000/tiefels@hotmail.com).
- ◆ **CLC News:** Collette Krause has accepted the one-year call to be pre-school teacher/coordinator at Trinity Lutheran in Watertown, SD.
✠ Pastor Rick Grams of Prince of Peace Lutheran in Hecla, SD, has announced his retirement from the pastoral ministry, effective June 30.

CLC E-DEVOTION – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2016

John 18:20 Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing."

TRANSPARENCY

A lot has been said recently about government classification and how much information is given to American citizens. There have even been times when people broke the law by leaking information, treason by definition, and yet were looked at by many as patriots. We all know how much news has been generated by Hillary Clinton's email scandal. As our society trends more toward transparency, we're sure to see more things like this happen.

It makes us think of our confession. As a Christian it's relatively easy to confess your faith on Sunday mornings. There's no pressure against it. But are we as open about it in public, at work, or among friends or neighbors? We can take a lesson from the way Jesus conducted His ministry -- He taught openly and said nothing in secret. Everyone who encountered Jesus had an opportunity to see what He stood for. Could the same be said about you? If you told those who didn't know it yet that you were a Christian, would they be surprised? What parts of your life would betray what is in your heart? Could it be the way you speak? Could it be your patience level with close ones? Could it be your knowledge about what the Bible really says?

To be a Christian means there must be a certain amount of transparency in your life. You can't say one thing and act differently. Thank the Lord that we have a Savior to blot out our rampant guiltiness in this regard. We see Him clearly for who He is and what He has done for us, for the Scriptures testify of it. Praise be to God!

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 Bible pricks the pride of man. Salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, is the foundation of the Gospel. The natural tendency of the corrupt human heart is to believe that if there is a heaven at all, one has to contribute personal works and merits to get there. The Bible teaches that there is indeed a heaven, the home of God's elect, and that the attainment of heaven is through faith in Jesus Who has removed the punishment for our sin by bearing it in His own body on the cross, dying, and rising again from the dead. We are saved without any merit or worthiness in us! Ephesians 2:8 says the penitent sinner is saved by grace through faith without works.

But now let us ask some hard questions. We object to banning the Bible from the public square? How often do we read it? Study it? How faithfully do we come to the house of the Lord to hear it and grow through the Spirit? If we object to banning the Bible why would we fail to hear it faithfully?

We object to banning the Bible? But do we believe it all, or do we interpret it to fit our agenda, believing what we choose to believe, and rejecting the hard sayings? Do we accept it all or do we prefer to believe what we choose to believe while changing or denying those things that strike us as politically incorrect in our allegedly more enlightened generation?

Assuming Lutheran Churches would object to banning the Bible, do they still accept "that the supreme and absolute authority of God's Word in determining all questions of doctrine and of duty, is a fundamental principle of the Reformation ...?"⁽²⁾ The lack of evidence of such commitment to the Word and to the principles of the Reformation is not even arguable in many churches today. Any objection to banning the Bible by those who change it to suit their own purpose, their own agenda, or satisfy their own idea of what it should say is hypocrisy!

The chief purpose of the Bible, the inspired Word of God, is to set forth the Messiah. Remove Christ from the Bible and it is just another book. Six months before his death Martin Luther said, "Men are to study and search in it (Scripture) and to learn that He, *He*, Mary's Son, is the One who is able to give eternal life to all who come to Him and believe on Him. Therefore he who would correctly and profitably read Scripture should see to it that he finds Christ in it; then he finds eternal life without fail ..."⁽³⁾

The apostle John wrote, "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5: 11-13).

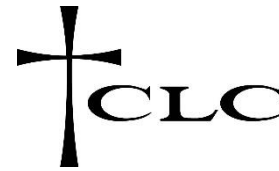
To ban the Bible is to cast away the map that shows one the way Home. We pray for those who have the Bible and change it to fit their own whim and fancy and who through distortion of God's holy Word "by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple" (Romans 16:18). We pray for their repentance and that they will return to the Truth.

Men may ban the Bible. They cannot ban or steal the gift of salvation from the trusting heart that holds to the Word. Thanks be to God. (D. Fleischer, 4/2016)

1) Various on-line sources April 11, 1916

2) C.P. Krauth, *The Conservative Reformation and its Theology*, Augsburg Pub House, Minneapolis. MN, p.14

3. *What Luther Says* Vol I, p. 69, para.206 Concordia Pub House, St Louis, MO



Convention Preparation — The Short Version—

June 23-26, 2016

The Prospectus for the upcoming Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) Convention contains a great deal of information—information that is well worth reading. The Convention floor committees will review all of this information and provide comment and counsel to the officers, committees, and boards.

The following is a "punch list" of the business items that the Convention will be considering. You may find this summary helpful for conveying your thoughts to Grace's Convention delegates (Benno Sydow & Dave Rust) and as a prayer list.

ELECTIONS: Convention will elect officers for the CLC (President, Vice President, Moderator, Secretary). Convention will also elect laymen and called servants to each of the Boards: Education and Publications, Missions, Regents, and Trustees. The Convention will also review recommendations from the Elections Process Improvement Committee.

RATIFICATIONS: The Convention will be asked to receive a new congregation into the Church of the Lutheran Confession (*Living Savior*, Eden Prairie, MN) and to ratify the Conference Visitors' elections by their respective conferences, as well as a variety of appointments by the president and officers of the church body (editors, committees, etc.).

DOCTRINE: The Convention will have an opportunity to react to the "Joint Statement Regarding the Termination of Fellowship."

The **BOARD OF REGENTS** for Immanuel Lutheran College is recommending a \$100 increase in tuition and \$100 increase in Room and Board and not increase salaries in the upcoming fiscal year.

The **BOARD OF MISSIONS** has decided to restructure one of the full-time missionary positions. The Convention will have the opportunity to react to that change.

The **BOARD OF TRUSTEES** is asking the Convention to review their budgeting process, increase the congregations' retirement contributions, and review our approach to health insurance and code salary.

BUDGET: Convention will set the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) Budget for the church body (July 1, 2016 – June 31, 2017).

The **STANDING CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE** has provided two Constitution revisions as directed by the 2014 Convention. One revision makes it easier to change the Constitution, the other changes the number of each congregation's Convention delegates from two to four. The Convention will decide whether to make these changes or not.

MEMORIALS: Five memorials have been submitted to the Convention. A memorial is a vehicle by which individuals or groups of individuals can bring business to the Convention. All of the other business comes via committees, boards, officers, etc. The subject matter of this year's memorials is: 1) the Joint Statement Regarding the Termination of Fellowship, 2) CLC Retirement Contributions, 3) Initiation of an ILC Student Aid Fund "Partners in Ministry" program, and 4) two memorials dealing with Convention delegates and voting rights. The Convention will respond to the memorials by either adopting all or parts of what the memorials suggest, taking different action, or taking no action at all.

WATCH CONVENTION FROM HOME: You can watch the Convention online by going to www.ilc.edu/tv. All of the general sessions will be broadcast, but **scheduled non-business events of interest are:**

- Opening Devotions (Thurs. 10:00 a.m., Fri, Sat, Sun. 9:00 a.m.)
- Essays (Thurs. 7:00 p.m. / Fri. 1:00 p.m.)
- Status report on WELS-ELS-CLC Discussions—Q & A (Fri. 7:00 p.m.)
- Memorial Service (Sun. 1:00 p.m.)

The Convention Communion Service (Saturday, 3:30 p.m.) will be posted to www.eauclairemessiah.com following the service.

Why does any of this matter to me?



The Convention work can, admittedly, be tedious and uninteresting at times. Nevertheless, this is the way by which we join with our fellow Christians in the Church of the Lutheran Confession to prayerfully approach our joint work in God's Kingdom. This is our work in service to God. This is how our "mission" offerings are used. Not all can attend Convention, but all can pray. Your prayers for the work of the Gospel in our church body are important—not only at Convention time, but always.

BANNED—THE BIBLE?

According to the American Library Association, "To some Americans, the Holy Bible is too controversial to sit on public libraries' shelves."⁽¹⁾ The Bible is number 6 among books most often challenged and called to be banned in public schools and public libraries. Beside the concern about the violation of church and state issues, a reason advanced "at times" for the banning is "the sex and violence it contains." In terms of indicating the direction of the fallen world in general, and our deteriorating society specifically, it is interesting to read that in our allegedly Christian country more complaints were heard concerning the presence of the Bible, than the Koran. Recently a child was disciplined for *privately reading* his Bible in school.

Other books also have been challenged or banned because of the immorality they promote, and some for the political views they espouse. Some push for the banishment of the Bible as a retaliation for the banning of books with explicitly immoral content. However, if the comment is to be believed, it appears that the biggest reason for banning the Bible in the schools is the church/state issue. To ban it from libraries is of course a red herring, unless the libraries promote the content of the Bible.

Those who reference the "sex and violence" in the Bible betray their ignorance of the Bible. Yes, there are sordid accounts in the Bible. But unlike the literature of our day, the Bible does not report lurid details in order to titillate, entice and corrupt. The Bible reports the human condition. The Bible does not whitewash the sinful heart, or the evil that flows from the corrupt heart. Before the flood we are told: "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). The consequence was that God destroyed the wicked in the flood, sparing only Noah and his family. But the flood did not eradicate sin which lurks in the heart ... (Genesis 9:20-22). "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies" (Matthew 15:19).

In a pluralistic society, and in a nation of many religious persuasions we do not advocate *teaching* the Bible in government schools. Christians and heathen obviously have nothing in common spiritually. Even all Christians do not believe or teach the same from Scripture. Indeed we would object. Among other reasons, one is simple fairness. If one religion is taught, all should be taught. The *teaching* of specific religious tenets belongs in the home, in the church, and in what we call church-schools. The government should stay out of it. At the same time, no arm of the government should ban the *private reading* of the Bible or the *private exercise* of conscience. That a Bible would be banned in a library says all that needs to be said about those who object to the Bible.

The Bible makes no pretense of being politically correct. Unbelievers fear the Bible. In some countries there are legal restrictions on distribution of the Bible. In Muslim countries Bibles are restricted if not banned. They do not grant the same freedom that theoretically we have in this country though here the Bible and exercise of the Christian faith are being attacked. The Bible is challenged because it declares the Lord God of heaven as the Creator of the universe. It is banned because the Triune God says, "There is no other God but one" (1 Corinthians 8:4), and "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve" (Matthew 4:10). The Bible makes man uncomfortable because it exposes sin and pronounces judgment against sin and those who walk in sin and die in unbelief.