

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Janelle Hein Elder: Al Rosendahl

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

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

Church Cleaners: R & H Nelson

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

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

Church Cleaners: Any Volunteers?

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

June 23-26: CLC Convention @ Eau Claire, WI
Sat., June 25: 3:30 pm – CLC Convention Worship Service @ Messiah
Sun., June 26: 9:00 am – Worship Service
Sun., July 3: 9:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
Sun., July 17: Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings
July 25-29: 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School
Sat., Aug. 13: 9:00 am – Grace School Work Day
Mon. Aug. 15: 7:00 pm – Grace School Parent Meeting & Ice Cream Social
Mon., Aug. 22: 10:00 am – Immanuel Opening Worship Service
Mon., Aug. 29: Grace School Opening

Last Week's Stats: June 12, 2016 Sun.: 98

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$1,884.26	CLC:	\$816.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,415.75	CLC:	-184.00	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$71,001.90	CLC:	\$21,632.95	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	79,200.00	CLC:	24,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-8,198.10	CLC:	-2,367.05	
GLC Other:	258.00	Living Faith:	2.00	Tuition Aid:	80.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	225.00	ILC Bldg.	120.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	15,741.75	Tuition Aid:	2,041.12	

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 5

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: June 19, 2016

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

WS 778: Grace Has a Thrilling Sound
 TLH 379: I Do Not Come Because My Soul
 TLH 380: Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ
 TLH 376: Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 22, TLH p. 127 f.

Liturgy:

WS, p. 12 (Projected)
 Psalm 100: WS, p. 35

Scripture Reading:

Zechariah 13:7-9
 Luke 9:18-24

Sermon: Galatians 3:15-22

¹⁵Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though *it is* only a man's covenant, yet *if it is* confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. ¹⁶Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ. ¹⁷And this I say, *that* the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. ¹⁸For if the inheritance *is* of the law, *it is* no longer of promise; but God gave *it* to Abraham by promise. ¹⁹What purpose then *does* the law *serve*? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. ²⁰Now a mediator does not *mediate* for one *only*, but God is one. ²¹*Is* the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. ²²But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. (NKJVTM)

"A Promise is a Promise. You Can't Break a Promise"

- I. God's promise is confirmed by a will and testament
- II. God's promise brings blessing, not cursing

✠ *THE ANNOUNCEMENTS* ✠

- ◆ **Blessed Father's Day:** To our Christian fathers among us! Hebrews 12:9-11: ⁹Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness. ¹¹Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
- ◆ **Convention:** This coming Thursday through next Sunday will be the CLC Convention on the Immanuel campus in Eau Claire, WI. Representatives and called servants in the CLC will meet to give guidance and make decisions in conducting the Lord's kingdom work. Pastor Hein will be attending along with delegates Benno Sydow and Dave Rust. Please speak to them about anything you may have concerns about. Pastor Fleischer will be there for the Board of Doctrine and Phil Radichel for the Board of Trustees. Phil is stepping down after many decades of serving our church body in this role. On Saturday, 3:30 pm, there will be a Convention worship service to introduce the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. This will be available through the internet at ilc.edu/tv (schedule in last week's bulletin of other sessions). With Pastor at Convention, Pastor Fleischer will be our guest speaker here at Grace next Sunday.
- ◆ **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 a coordinator for music. Please consider this labor of love and let Pastor know of your willingness.
- ◆ **Collection:** A purse is being collected for Vicar Rodebaugh. If you wish to contribute, please mark "Vicar" on your offering envelope.
- ◆ **Work Day Cancelled:** The Council has cancelled the work day for June 25. There will be opportunities for painting this summer. Please speak with the Trustees: Rick Nelson, Kevin Baker, and Pat Paplow.
- ◆ **Black Hills Family Bible Camp:** Camping in the beauty of the Black Hills, studies in the beauty of God's Word... All ages are welcome, children will need to be accompanied by a chaperon or family. There will also be many outdoor activities. The camp is July 31 through August 4. The cost (including food, campsite, and activities) is \$80 for ages 13 and up, \$45 for ages 5-12, and children 4 and under are \$10. Contact: Pastor Aaron Ude (605-393-1311/aaronude@gmail.com). Register by June 30.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Nathanael Mayhew of Grace Lutheran in Sleepy Eye and Faith Lutheran in New Ulm, MN, has returned the call to Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI.

Council Meeting Notes – June 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order with a prayer. The May council meeting minutes were read and approved. The May treasurer's report was read and approved.

Pastor's Report:

- Confirmation was held on May 22. Confirmands were Patrick Baker, Sarah Eichstadt, Victoria Kitzman, Beatrice Lentz, Jessica Maki, and Kylee Yang.
- Motion passed to recommend to the Voters to ratify the confirmands as communicant members of Grace.
- Marvin Wagner has stage four lung cancer, but he can accept visitors.
- Vicar housing will likely be provided by Nikki Best.
- Vicar will likely be here July 18-31 and August 19 - September 21.
- Liberia instruction is continuing via YouTube downloads to help the bandwidth
- Pastor Paul Tiefel of Messiah in Eau Claire will preach at our mission festival.

Board of Elders Report:

- Motion passed to have a collection for the vicar from now until he leaves.
- As yet, no requests for transfer to Living Savior of Eden Prairie.

Board of Education Report:

- Spring Lake Park parade participation used about 2/3's of the 350 fliers
- Looking to get a white board for Ellen's classroom.

Board of Trustees Report:

- A 'Church Visitor Only' sign has been added at the entry to the parking lot.
- New quotes received from our garbage hauler provide about 25% discount.
- Landscape phase one is complete, but another 60 feet is planned.
- A new wider vacuum cleaner has been purchased.
- Work day on June 25 is cancelled due to conflicts such as the CLC convention.
- A fellowship floor cleaning instruction has been generated and will be added to the handbook.
- Parking lot weeding is being done.
- Trustees asked for advice on the security cameras. Discussion followed and suggestions were made. There is no budget for this project. Yard lights are awaiting input from Xcel.

Other Business:

- The treasurer reported that the signers for the bank accounts need updating. Motion passed to update the signers to the president, treasurer, and Brian Bergstrom (if he agrees).
- The Spokesman subscription total for the congregation is 62.
- The chairman reported on the status of Living Savior congregation of Eden Prairie. Discussion followed. No action was taken.
- Pastor Daniel Fleischer will be guest preacher on convention Sunday and on July 3. He will also cover for Pastor Hein's August vacation.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 11:44.

Adapted from minutes submitted by Phil Radichel, secretary pro tem

CLC FINANCIAL REPORT

May 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	11 Months	5/31/2016
General Fund	0	832,123	844,379	\$847,000	(12,256)
ILC Operations	0	1,222,316	1,173,230	\$1,224,942	49,086
Total	\$0	\$2,054,439	\$2,017,609	\$2,071,942	\$36,830
<u>Auxiliary Funds</u>					
IIF - ILC Improvement	21,975	48,771	44,156		26,590
ILC Building	16,899	126,918	132,568		11,249
MDF - Mission Development	92,551	232,080	247,736		76,895
Kinship	54,418	75,942	78,123		52,237
CEF - Church Extension Fund	1,463,337	726,243	1,136,930		1,052,650
SAF - Student Aid	(6,833)	153,197	141,141		5,223
Reserve Account	127,092	0	0		127,092

<u>ILC Academic Center Mortgage</u>		
Beginning Balance:	February 1, 2010	\$1,751,804
Current Balance:	May 31, 2016	\$1,289,397
	Principal Paid to Date:	\$462,407

Comments:

- The General Fund offerings in May totaled \$65,304
- Operating account for the General Fund ended May with a \$12,256 deficit
- ILC operations spent \$20,710 more than received but still has a \$49,086 balance
- MDF expenditures totaled \$17,435, major items included \$3,500 for disaster relief, \$3,816 for foreign exploratory work, \$4,400 for church buildings, and \$3,080 for bibles and Christian literature.
- IIF expenditures in April totaled \$6,000 for professorage repairs

Dr. James A. Sydow, CLC Treasurer

Philip E. Radichel, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

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!

POST-CHRISTIAN CULTURE

By definition the Christian age began with the birth of Christ. It was the time during which the universal creeds were accepted within Christianity. The three creeds based upon and drawn from the Holy Scriptures, the divinely inspired Word of God, are the Apostolic (Apostles') Creed, as well as the Nicene and Athanasian Creeds. While these three statements of faith based squarely on Biblical teaching are still accepted and confessed by Christ-believers they receive little more than mere lip-service within much of Christendom today. This is to be expected in an age in which Holy Scripture from which they are drawn and of which they are a confession is denied and twisted to satisfy political correctness as well as the whims and fancies of sin-blinded reason. This is occurring also within some churches that likely will give lip service to the Reformation in its 500th anniversary year in 2017.

Faithful confessors of Christ hold that the Lord God is Triune, and hold and teach with Scripture that man, lost and condemned by his sin and unbelief, is saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ *alone* (Ephesians 2:8). Without quoting all the passages, we hold and declare that one cannot read the Holy Scriptures honestly without coming to the conclusion that there is no eternal salvation without or apart from faith in Him Who died for the sins of the world, rose again from the dead, and thereby reconciled the estranged sinner to the Father in heaven. To arrive at any other conclusion is a consequence of unbelief. Scripture is clear.

God's love is inclusive. He wants all to be saved. For that reason Jesus died for the sins of the world. But eternal life in heaven (salvation), in that it is through faith in Christ alone, is exclusive. "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" (1 John 5:11-12). Since unbelief is the product of Satan and reason, it cannot bridge this gap.

As evidence of our post-christian culture we need only to look at the state of evangelical Christianity in America. The word "evangel" means "gospel." It is the root word of evangelical. Evangelical has to do with preaching the gospel of Christ. An evangelical church theoretically is one that emphasizes the teachings and authority of Holy Scriptures with the gospel (good news) of Christ at its core. The truly evangelical Christian church proclaims that salvation is a gift of God in Christ Jesus, and that it becomes the sinners own as he or she is brought to faith in Christ. Conversion from unbelief to faith in Christ as well as eternal salvation itself are gifts of God without contribution by the individual. The Spirit of God creates faith through the gospel. The apostle Paul wrote: "... but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:7-8).

Inasmuch as much of evangelical Christianity today has lost respect for the veracity and authority of Scripture, it has fallen prey to indifference, neglect, and political correctness. It proclaims another gospel. It is arguable whether Christianity fell prey to the above, or whether the above were the cause. But the reality is that our age, the post-Christian age, is dominated by secularism, humanism, atheism, and heathenism.

For what any poll is worth what follows nevertheless confirms the nature of the post-Christian age. The Barna group reports what evangelicals in this country believe, or don't believe. One of the definitions of an Evangelical by the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) is "Evangelicals are a vibrant and diverse group, including believers found in many churches, denominations and nations. Our community brings together Reformed, Holiness, Anabaptist, Pentecostal, Charismatic and other traditions." Whatever the similarities between evangelicals according to the NAE definition and the historic understanding of the word evangelical with respect to the Lutheran Church, that definition delineates the difference between the two. Evangelicals as an identified group are also more into social reform efforts. Because of the baggage that the term has taken on in the last decades, many Lutheran churches no longer use evangelical in their name, though by nature a faithful Lutheran Church of the Reformation heritage is truly evangelical.

Speaking of the evangelical movement Barna reported:

- 19% are living with a partner outside of marriage.
- 37% do not believe the Bible to be totally accurate.
- 45% do not believe that Jesus was sinless.
- 52% do not believe Satan is real.
- 57% do not believe that Jesus is the only way to eternal life despite the fact that He said so.
- 57% believe that good works play a part in gaining eternal life.

Further evidence comes from the page of the Minnesota Council of Churches: "In response to a time when the forces of division abound, Minnesotans of many faith traditions--Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims--unite for a multi-faith prayer service. They pray for respect for the many ways that citizens of the state profess their religious beliefs." *Minnesota Council of Churches--Respectful Communities*

The Council which includes representatives from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is making available lawn signs that say "Blessed Ramadan." Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, and is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting (abstaining from food, drink, sexual relations) dawn to dusk to commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to Muhammad according to Islamic belief. This annual observance is regarded as one of the Five Pillars of Islam. The month lasts 29–30 days based

on the visual sightings of the crescent moon, according to numerous biographical accounts compiled in the hadiths. The Arabic Ḥadīth ("News" or "Story"), also spelled Hadīṯ, is a record of the traditions or sayings of the self-proclaimed Prophet Muhammad.

Lack of respect by evangelicals as well as by Christians for absolute Truth (Holy Scripture) is a mark of the post-Christian age. Truth is supposedly relative; that is, truth is whatever any individual or religious fellowship thinks it is, or whatever makes one feel good.

Confessors of Christ respect the *right* of people in society to believe what they choose to believe. They respect the right of others to practice whatever religion they choose. However, faithful Christians whose faith and teaching is based solely and alone on what the Bible teaches *cannot respect religions or doctrines thereof which deny, reject, or teach anything contrary to the divinely inspired Word of God.* According to the Bible, two *diametrically opposed* doctrines cannot both be correct. If one chooses to deny or reject any Bible doctrine confessed by the Christ-believer, that is his right. On the other hand, the Christ-believer has the expectation that *he* will be granted the right to confess and teach what the Bible teaches, even though *what* he confesses and teaches is not respected. In this regard we expect no more or less from others than that which we grant to others! Our mode of trying to convince others of the truth of what we teach and believe is not threat, force, intimidation, or compromise. Our only means of trying to win hearts is the honest proclamation of the entire counsel of the Word of God, with the prayer that the Holy Spirit will change hearts by the power of the gospel.

We live and worship in a fallen world destined for judgment. While we know that the doctrine of Christ and His Church will be challenged and vilified in this post-Christian age, there is another reality. Jesus said that the gates of hell will not prevail against the Church (Matthew 16:18). He also said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Word will by no means pass away" (Matthew 24:35). Even if the Christian Church has to go underground, the message of the gospel (the heart of God's revealed Word) will prevail. Come what may, the Lord *will* take His children, the sheep of His flock, safely home. "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one" (John 10:27-30).

O little flock, fear not the foe who madly seeks your overthrow;
Dread not his rage and power.
What though your courage sometimes faints,
His seeming triumph o'er God's saints lasts but a little hour.

(The Lutheran Hymnal 263 st 1)
Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 6/2016