

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson      Elder: Frank Radichel

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

Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Rick Nelson; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever, Clint Welker

Church Cleaners: R. & H. Nelson

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Larry Brandt; Nick Duehlmeier; Dale Enns; Duane Enns; Ned Sandhoefner

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

Church Cleaners: R. & H. Nelson

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

**Sun., July 3:** 9:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper

**Sun., July 10:** 9:00 am – Worship Service  
10:15 am – Hospitality (Hein)  
11:00 am – Council Meeting

**Sun., July 17:** 9:00 am – Worship Service  
10:30 am – 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. 22:** 10:00 am – Immanuel Opening Worship Service

**Mon., Aug. 29:** 8:00 am – Grace School Opening

**Wed., Aug. 31:** 4:30 pm – Catechism Begins for Public School Students

**Last Week's Stats:** June 26, 2016    Sun.: 98

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,341.23	CLC:	\$1,010.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-958.77	CLC:	+10.00
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$73,698.91	CLC:	\$23,517.95
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	85,800.00	CLC:	26,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-9,759.86	CLC:	-2,482.05
GLC Other: 240.00	Living Faith:	4.00	Tuition Aid:	102.00
SAF Endowment: 200.00	MDF:	65.00	Kinship:	180.00
ILC Student Aid: 0.00	ILC Bldg.	70.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	16,113.25	Tuition Aid:	2,243.12

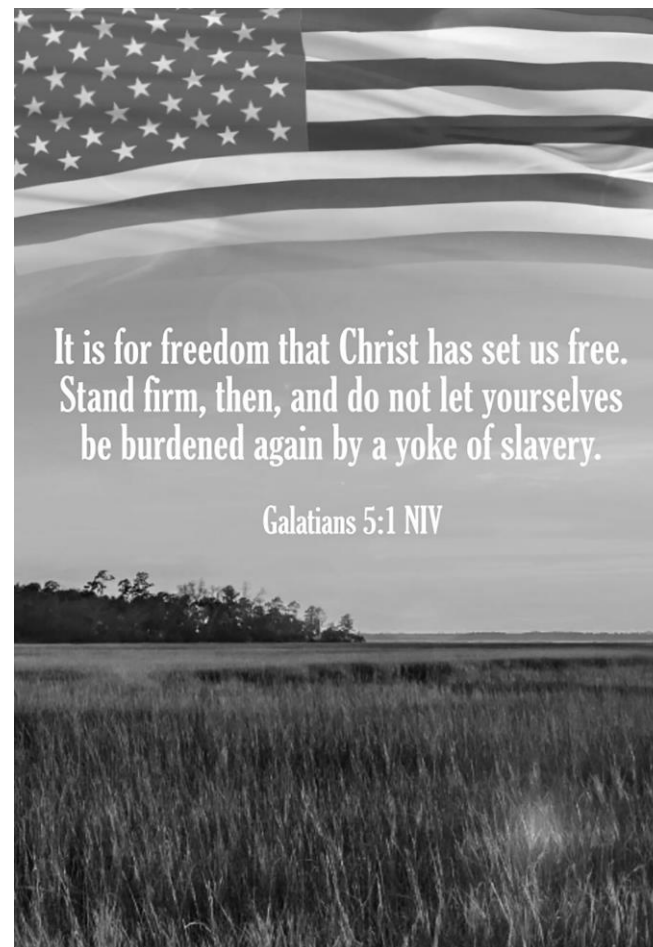
*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

# G R A C E

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## *Grace Lutheran Church & School*

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# Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE

Fridley, MN 55432

Email: [jphein@clclutheran.com](mailto:jphein@clclutheran.com)

Home Page: [www.FridleyLutheran.org](http://www.FridleyLutheran.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-8<sup>th</sup>

Church Year: Pentecost 7

Date: July 3, 2016

## ✠ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

**Worship Preparation:** ..... *Psalm 66, TLH p. 136 f.*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 22: Lord, When We Bend Before Thy Throne*

**Liturgy:** ..... *TLH, p. 15 ff. (Also available on laminated sheet in pew)*

**Introit** (followed by *Gloria Patri, The Kyrie*): ..... *TLH, pp. 16-17*

P: O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you;

**C: My soul thirsts for You, my body longs for You.**

P: Because Your love is better than life, my lips will glorify You.

**C: I will praise You as long as I live, and in Your name I will lift up my hands.**

P: My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods;

**C: With singing lips my mouth will praise You. Glory be to God!**

**Gloria in Excelsis:** ..... *TLH 570, st. 1, 8*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Praise, oh, praise our God and King,<br>Hymns of adoration sing;<br>For His mercies still endure,<br>Ever faithful, ever sure. | 8. Glory to our bounteous King,<br>Glory let creation sing;<br>Glory to the Father, Son,<br>And the Spirit, Three in One! |
|---|---|

**First Reading:** ..... *Ezekiel 2:1-5*

Whether it listens or not, the world should be confronted with the Word so that it is without excuse.

### Gradual:

P: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

**C: His greatness no one can fathom.**

P: I will meditate on Your wonderful works,

**C: And I will proclaim Your great deeds.**

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. This is My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit,

**C: Showing yourselves to be My disciples. Alleluia.**

**Gospel Reading:** ..... *2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

The Lord permits us to be humbled so that we may learn that our strength is in Him.

**Confession of Faith:** ..... *Nicene Creed, TLH p. 22*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 374: Grace! 'Tis a Charming Sound*

**Sermon:** ..... *Matthew 19:16-26*

<sup>16</sup> Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" <sup>17</sup> So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." <sup>18</sup> He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' <sup>19</sup> 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" <sup>20</sup> The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." <sup>22</sup> But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. <sup>23</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>24</sup> And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." <sup>25</sup> When His disciples heard *it*, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" <sup>26</sup> But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

## The Tragedy of a "Good" Man Lost

**Offertory:** ..... *TLH p. 22 f.*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 358: Lamb of God, We Fall before Thee*

**Offering & Prayer:**

**Liturgy for the Lord's Supper:** ..... *TLH p. 24 ff.*

**Distribution:** ..... *Meditative Music*

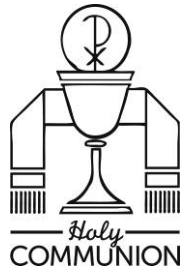
**Note:** In obedience to God's Word, and out of concern for the welfare of souls (1 Corinthians 11:29), and finally that we may honestly express the unity of faith and hope that binds us, we ask that only such as have identified with Grace through public confession of faith or another CLC congregation, approach the altar at the usher's direction.

**Nunc Dimittis, Prayer, Benediction:** ..... *TLH 29 ff.*

**Hymn:** ..... *Tune "America the Beautiful" (See Insert)*

## ✠ *THE ANNOUNCEMENTS* ✠

- ◆ **Lord's Supper:** Just as a reminder, communicants are to examine themselves prior to communing. 1 Corinthians 11:27: "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup." Our hymnal has a few helps for this. Please see the prayers listed on pages 118-119 for before and after receiving the sacrament. There is also the wonderful preparation found in the Catechism with Luther's Christian Questions. This is something that could be read in the morning or even on the way to church. Hymns 304 to 316 can also serve as helpful preparation prayers, in particular Hymn 310.
- ◆ **Thanks** to guest speaker, Rev. Daniel Fleischer, for sharing the Word today. Pastor Hein and Janelle are in Madison, WI, to attend the baptism of their new granddaughter. Please call Pastor on his cell phone (612-408-1635) if you need him.
- ◆ **Vacation Bible School:** On July 25-29, 9:00-11:30 am, we will be having our VBS. This includes children age 4 years through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Please register your children on the sheet by the guest book.
- ◆ **Collection:** A purse is being collected for Vicar Rodebaugh. If you wish to contribute, please mark "Vicar" on your offering envelope.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor David Fuerstenau of Holy Truth Lutheran in Ketchikan, AK, has received the call to Prince of Peace Lutheran in Hecla, SD. Pastor James Naumann of Our Savior's Lutheran, in Jamestown, ND, will serve as vacancy pastor. ✠ Pastor Michael Roehl of St. Paul Lutheran in Bismarck, ND, has received the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran in Madison Heights, MI (Detroit area). ✠ Pastor Caleb Schaller, associate pastor at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, has received the call to Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI. ✠ Pastor Bruce Naumann of Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, has received the call from the CLC Board of Missions to serve as full-time visiting missionary, with duties to include work among our various overseas mission fields as well as here in the U.S. ✠ Pastor George Dummann of Salem Lutheran in Eagle Lake, MN, has returned the call to Rock of Ages Lutheran in Grand Rapids, MI. ✠ Teacher Paul Tiefel III at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, has received the call to serve as principal/teacher at St. Stephen Lutheran in Mountain View, CA (San Francisco area). ✠ Rev. Timothy Daub, a member of Gethsemane in Spokane Valley, WA, has successfully completed the second phase of colloquy and has been added to the CLC roster of called servants.



## America the Beautiful

1. O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain;  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea.
2. O Lord of hosts, our prayers ascend,  
Send forth Your Gospel true  
To lead our nation's citizens  
To trust and honor You.  
Lord Jesus Christ, true Son of God,  
Oh hear our earnest plea:  
To every heart Your grace impart  
To make them truly free!

Text, vs. 1: Katherine Lee Bates, 1859-1929; vs. 2: Anonymous  
Music: Samuel A. Ward, 1848-1903

## CITIZEN ALERT

A citizen is a person who lives in a particular place or who legally belongs to a country and has the rights and protection of that country. As a Christian citizen of the city, state and country in which one lives, a Christian is concerned about the condition and welfare of the state and nation. Therefore he prays for his home, and those in authority. He prays for peace and civility and safety of the nation. He prays for the spiritual welfare of its citizens that they will turn to the Lord and walk in His ways. He will as much as lies within him contribute to the welfare of his home. However, the traditional and constitutional manner of becoming a citizen of this country is severely threatened as the legal and constitutional requirements for citizenship in our country now appear to be applied selectively, if not a thing of the past.

While Christ-believers are citizens of a temporal nation they are also citizens of another country spoken of in Scripture. It is "a better, that is, a heavenly country" where "God is not ashamed to be called their God for He has prepared a city for them" (Hebrews 11:16). Paul speaks of it in two places. "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God ..." (Ephesians 2:19). "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself" (Philippians 3:20-21). Citizens of heaven are all who believe in the Lord Jesus Who paid for our sins, redeemed us by His blood, and reconciled us unto the Father. The pass to heaven is faith, itself a gift of the Holy Spirit. The gracious Lord wants all to be saved and be with Him in the better country, but there are no paths to heaven other than through the divinely

appointed way which is through faith in Christ Jesus. There are no “illegals” in the better country that the Heavenly Father has prepared for those who believe in Him.

The better country is what it is by virtue of the fact that it is where God is--better because all the wickedness, pain, affliction, sickness and whatever fouls our life here is past, gone, forgotten <sup>(Revelation 7: 21)</sup>. Living in this world we cannot fathom the richness of life in heaven. But we wait for that country of which it is said “there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life” <sup>(Revelation 21:27)</sup>.

When Christians lament the state of the world and the nation, it is not a lack of trust in the Lord and His love. It is not doubting His resolve or ability to preserve His people. Christians still believe in the worst of times “that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” <sup>(Romans 8:28)</sup>. The Old Testament and the New Testament are full of examples of how the Lord preserved and delivered His children from the evil that engulfed the nations and countries and threatened His Church.

As children of God who long for heaven we care about the country in which we live while we wait. We are concerned about the outgrowth of wickedness, corruption, and evil that destroys or is destroying the moral fabric of the nation. We care about the waiting room in which our children and generations after us will exist while they are waiting for the better country. We are not unlike the prophets of old who lamented the ungodliness that enveloped Israel, and against which they were sent to testify. This country is drowning in a swamp of immorality and evil, recognized by all except those who love sin and promote evil as evidence of their rejection of the Lord.

Christians who care about their nation and about souls queued up in the death march to hell with Satan at the head, cannot remain silent. The weapons against evil and the devil are not arms and violence. The weapon is the Word of God, the sword of the Spirit, and the armor is the shield of faith <sup>(Ephesians 6)</sup>. The soldiers are those who respect the Lord, and bow to His Word. “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled” <sup>(2 Corinthians 10)</sup>. *We cannot be silent.*

We cannot be silent. We should expect that our Christian witness *in word and personal life* will create the same reaction of which the prophet Amos spoke. Amos was sent to stem the tide of evil and iniquity that threatened Israel and eventually led to its demise. Expect it! *“They hate the reprover in the gates and detest him who speaks the truth”* <sup>(Amos 5:10—KJV)</sup>.

Simultaneous to our warnings and calls to repentance, as Christians we have the responsibility to look after our own life and what we support and do — our attitude, speech, and behavior — lest we contribute to the deterioration through hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is worthy of its own reproof from the Lord Who is Truth.

This world is one of contradictions. There are those who love the Lord, and those who hate Him, those who listen to Him and those who are deaf to Him, those who confess Him and those who deny Him, those who love evil, and those who love good, as well as those who cannot tell the difference.

Isaiah wrote, “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil ... Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight” <sup>(Isaiah 5:20,21)</sup>. There are those who deny the Lord, love evil, and are interested only in what serves their base desires

and pursuits. They do not acknowledge history which shows how Old Testament Israel, and ancient empires such as Rome and Persia were brought to nothing (interestingly the Muslims contributed to the end of the latter two). Ultimately it was the judgment of God precisely because of the attitudes and same kind of evil and corruption now enveloping this nation from the top down. Godlessness is the ruination of nations, and of souls who die in impenitence. “Do not be deceived; God is not mocked for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” <sup>(Galatians 6:7)</sup>. The Lord in His patience would have spared Sodom and Gomorrah had He found 10 God-fearing souls. He found 4 (and Lot’s wife died in the flight) <sup>(Genesis 19:16)</sup>. Lot’s sons-in-law died because to them he “seemed to be joking” <sup>(Genesis 19:14)</sup> when he warned them of the judgment to come. Noah and his family (8 souls) entered the ark and escaped the flood. In His own heart how many has the Lord determined He must find before He drops the hammer on the world? Yet unbelievers today still *think God is joking*. If they care at all, they misread the Lord’s patience.

Peter wrote: “Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.’ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” <sup>(2 Peter 3:1-7)</sup>.

The warning flags are flying, and are visible to those who believe the Word of the Lord. However, when the Lord does come there will be no announcement. He will come as a thief in the night <sup>(2 Peter 3:10)</sup>. “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” <sup>(Matthew 24:44)</sup>.

When it happens what will be catastrophic for the ungodly and unbelieving will be a time of deliverance and joy for all who are waiting for the fullness of their citizenship in heaven — the better country.

Beloved of the Lord, do not in doubt misread the patience of your Heavenly Father. Do not think the Lord is blind to evil in the world. Do not despair as though He has forgotten you, or is unmindful of the conditions in which you live in this world. As surely as the Lord Jesus has redeemed you by His blood and prepared for you a place in heaven <sup>(John 14)</sup>, so surely will you as fellow citizens with the saints in glory, be recipients of the full benefits of citizenship in heaven. The path toward the better country may be painful, frequently discouraging, and sometimes fraught with danger. But the Lord Jesus Christ Who has reconciled you to the Father knows the moment when He will bring to pass the promise that sustains His waiting children:

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world ...’” <sup>(Matthew 25:31-34)</sup>. “And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words” <sup>(1 Thessalonians 4:17-18)</sup>.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 5/2016