

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Ryan Mueller Elder: Frank Radichel
Ushers: Larry Brandt; Nick Duehlmeier; Dale Enns; Duane Enns; Ned Sandhoefner
Counting Team 4: James Bomber; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust
Church Cleaners: R. & H. Nelson

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Larry Brandt; Nick Duehlmeier; Dale Enns; Duane Enns; Ned Sandhoefner
Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Pat Paplow; Phil Radichel
Church Cleaners: R. & H. Nelson

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., July 17: 9:00 am – Worship Service
 10:30 am – Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings
Wed., July 20: Vicar Rodebaugh Arrives for 1½ Weeks
Sun., July 24: 9:00 am – Worship Service
July 25-29: 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School
Mon., Aug. 8: 7:00 pm – Grace School Ice Cream Social
Sat., Aug. 13: 9:00 am – Grace School Work Day
Sun., Aug. 21: 3:00 pm – Immanuel Opening Worship Service
 and Prof. Paul Naumann Installation
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: July 10, 2016 Sun.: 126

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,269.50	CLC:	\$1,105.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,030.50	CLC:	+105.00	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$81,584.64	CLC:	\$25,661.95	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	92,400.00	CLC:	28,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-10,815.36	CLC:	-2,338.05	
GLC Other:	370.50	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	200.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	25.00	ILC Bldg.	120.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	16,628.25	Tuition Aid:	2,468.12	

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!

Grace Lutheran Church & School



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 Fridley, MN 55432

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Home Page: www.JustifiedByGrace.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-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 9

Date: July 17, 2016

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 1: Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty
 TLH 296: Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth
 WS 775: Thy Strong Word
 TLH 416: Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways
 Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 33, TLH p. 131

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 32 f. (Matins)
 Offering TLH 441:1-2

Scripture Reading:

Romans 11:25-32
 Acts 16:16-34

Sermon: 1 Samuel 3:1-19

¹Now the boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; *there* was no widespread revelation.²And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see,³and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down,⁴that the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!"⁵So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down.⁶Then the LORD called yet again, "Samuel!" So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." He answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."⁷(Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him.)⁸ And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy.⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel: "Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.¹²In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.¹³For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.¹⁴And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."¹⁵So Samuel lay down until morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision.¹⁶Then Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son!" He answered, "Here I am."¹⁷And he said, "What is the word that the LORD spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me. God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything from me of all the things that He said to you."¹⁸Then Samuel told him everything, and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the LORD. Let Him do what seems good to Him."¹⁹So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. (NKJV^M)

Sermon: "When the LORD Speaks, We Listen"

1. With eager willingness in a world where the Word is rare
 2. With humble hearts, declaring the whole counsel of God
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✠ **THE ANNOUNCEMENTS** ✠

- ◆ **Voters and Dorcas Guild:** Meet today shortly after worship.
- ◆ **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 8th 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.
- ◆ **Immanuel's Opening Service:** The opening worship service for Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will be on Sunday, August 21, 3 pm, at the campus fieldhouse. This will also be the installation service for Professor Paul Naumann. It is hoped that this change of time and date will help improve attendance which has diminished in recent years as many of the parents tend to leave on Sunday late afternoon. Please continue to pray for the success of Immanuel's ministry as God's enduring Word of truth is passed down to the next generation.
- ◆ **Christian Women's Retreat:** The Southeast Women's Retreat for women of the CLC will be held November 11-13, 2016, in Savannah, Georgia. While hosted by the congregations of Southeastern CLC, all are invited to join us! Last year over 30 women from across the CLC attended. The estimated cost for the retreat is between \$152 - \$360 for the weekend (depending on how many you share your room with) and includes food and lodging. More details are available in the separate Registration Form (will be soon available through your pastor). If you have any questions please contact: Amy Osborne (651-329-3662/ newyorker13@hotmail.com) or Pastor Matthew Hanel (972-733-4535/hanel95@hotmail.com). Ladies, consider some time this fall to attend the retreat in beautiful Savannah where you will be encouraged and strengthened in Christ.
- ◆ **Reformation Hymn Poetry:** The CLC Worship Committee is currently inviting church members to submit original Reformation-themed hymn poetry for potential use in our congregations. This is pursuant to the convention's directive that the committee should be "soliciting worship material from the membership of the CLC." Authors should set their work to a known hymn tune and while they may copyright their submissions, hymns should be licensed in a way so as to allow free distribution and use. Interested writers may contact Pastor David Schaller (bach_leipzig@hotmail.com) to request a submission form containing further information. The submission deadline is September 30, 2016.

- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Michael Roehl of St. Paul Lutheran in Bismarck, ND, has returned the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran in Madison Heights, MI (Detroit area). ✠ Pastor Mark Tiefel of Redemption Lutheran in Lynnwood, WA, has accepted the call to serve as vacancy pastor at Ascension Lutheran in Tacoma, WA, until the arrival of Pastor-elect Benjamin Libby in the fall. ✠ Pastor David Fuerstenau of Holy Truth Lutheran in Ketchikan, AK, has returned the call to Prince of Peace Lutheran in Hecla, SD. The congregation has now called Timothy Daub who recently completed colloquy and was added to the roster of CLC called servants. He has accepted this call. ✠ Pastor Ed Starkey of Resurrection Lutheran in Corpus Christi, TX, has received the call to Rock of Ages Lutheran in Grand Rapids, MI.

Council Meeting Notes – July 10, 2016

Meeting was called to order with prayer. June council meeting minutes were read & approved as amended. June treasurer's report was read and approved.

Pastor's Report

- Motion passed to transfer Jodi Oelfke to Living Savior Lutheran in Eden Prairie
- Motion passed to recommend to the voters to remove Karl Sieg from membership per his request. He has joined another church.
- July 25-29 will be VBS.
- Preparations are complete for the vicar this year.

Elder Report

- Motion passed to place a \$20,000 donation from Marvin Wagner in the project undesignated fund until it is determined how it will be used.

Education Report

- A white board for Ellen's classroom has been ordered.
- The school calendar and cleaning schedule are in draft mode.
- There will possibly be one new kindergarten student this fall.
- For the July voters meeting, the Sunday school superintendent and the substitute teachers need to be called.

Trustee Report

- A meeting was held with Dale Miesen to discuss security cameras. Three cameras strategically placed on the property were suggested.
- It was discussed whether to remove the bell by the garage door.
- The fence by the A/C needs repair. It was decided to remove the fence.
- Indoor church lighting was discussed. Adding a second row of lights for the alter area and updating the other lights were suggested.
- Some garbage cans were removed from the fellowship hall over the summer.
- Saver switch for energy and cost savings was discussed.

Other Business

- Constitutional changes will be discussed in the Voters meeting next week. The position of vice chairman will be removed, his duties will be on the service list.
- The president & treasurer must get to the bank to put their names on our account.

Adapted from minutes by Secretary Roger Ochsner

MORE RELEVANCE THAN THE BIBLE?

An editorial, "Reading the Bible as Humanity's Diary"^(*) quoted an atheist as saying any book in a book store would have "more relevance and wisdom for the 21st century than the Bible." Of this comment we are not surprised. In a bow to the relevancy of Scripture the editorial, from its evolutionary point of view, misses the whole point of Scripture and recognizes nothing spiritual. "We just have to read it in a new way: as humanity's diary ... The emerging Christian Church needed to establish its authority. The Bible was canonized; it became Holy Writ; the perfect word of a perfect God. It was external, unchangeable, and thus its explanatory model grew increasingly outdated ... Of course, it got much of its explanations wrong, and most of us no longer accept them as accurate ... But modern evolutionary biology has confirmed that the Good Book got its fundamental picture of human nature right. If many of us today feel a sense of longing for paradise, it is because we live in a world for which we were not really made." The writers of this editorial have written a book. The editorial confirms the premise that anyone can write a book about a subject of which he knows nothing.

More disturbing and more dangerous than the atheist and those who write about what they know nothing are those teachers within the church who deny the inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture, and who dressed in clerical garb set aside, cast out, deny, and declare Scripture outdated. The latter who identify with Christianity are more dangerous because "by good words and fair speeches they deceive the hearts of the simple"^(Romans 16:18).

The editorial comments that the Bible "was external, unchangeable, and thus its explanatory model grew increasingly outdated ... Of course, it got much of its explanations wrong, and most of us no longer accept them as accurate," are not far different, if at all, from what can be found within some of Lutheranism today.

A diary is a book in which one keeps a daily record of events and experiences. The 66 books (Genesis-Revelation) though physically penned by holy men of God, is not authored by those who wrote them. The eternal *God is the Author* of the Scriptures. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God [is God-breathed]"^(2 Timothy 3:16), and "Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"^(2 Peter 1:21). The Bible did not become Holy Writ. It was from its origin, and it is "the perfect word of a perfect God," or to put it another way: "The Bible *does not contain* the Word of God; *it is* the Word of God."

Man is not the primary subject of the Bible. One could take man out of the Bible and it would still be the Bible. Take God out of the Bible and it is no longer the Bible. *The Bible is the revelation of God and His love for and interaction with mankind whom He created.* The sin of man distorted the relationship between the Creator God and created man. Sin robbed fallen mankind of the peace, quiet, and perfection of paradise. After the fall, sinful man had a future only of sorrow, pain, and death. The Bible is the message of God's intervention because He Who created man to live did not want man to die eternally. But as life God intended for man was not possible without intervention, He promised to send the Savior into the world^(Genesis 3:15). The central theme of the Bible is the salvation of mankind, the restoration of fallen mankind to a relationship with God the Father Who through the suffering, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus reconciled man unto Himself.

But why did the eternal God create man? He would not have had to do so. As children of God through faith in Christ Jesus we need not engage in idle speculation. It is sufficient for us to know what He did, and to believe that what He did was done because in His grace He chose to. Nevertheless, as children of God we are told concerning our purpose: "Everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him"^(Isaiah 43:7). We are created to live to the glory of God. It is that plain and simple.

We live to the glory of God when we live according to His will. He revealed His will in the Ten Commandments. Yet since the fall it is not possible for fallen mankind to keep the commandments, perform the will of God, or glorify Him. Fallen man left to his own devices lives in opposition to God "because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be"^(Romans 8:7). Yet God by His Spirit called man out of unbelief by the power of the gospel. Christ is the life of the gospel; He makes the gospel what it is, "the power of God unto salvation"^(Romans 1:16) to as many as believe. While the law condemns, the believer in Christ is assured, "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit"^(Romans 8:1). All who are alive in Christ "are *His workmanship*, created in Christ Jesus for *good works*, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them"^(Romans 1:10).

Scripture is profitable "for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every *good work*"^(2 Timothy 3:16-17). The Word of God which is "a lamp unto my feet, and a light to my path"^(Psalm 119:105), is the power unto the sanctified life. The life of sanctification which is a fruit of faith is the life that glorifies the Lord God. Such a life in and of Christ with which the Father is well-pleased is acceptable unto God and fulfills the purpose for which He placed us on the earth until the time that He calls us out of life here to LIFE in heaven. By the grace of God you are saved^(Ephesians 2:8).

Paul wrote to the Romans concerning the existence and reality of God: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.' For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, *so that they are without excuse ...*"^(Romans 1:16-20). How can we improve on the proof that the Lord Himself has left concerning Himself? How do we prove that the Bible is more than a book written by men, that it is more than a diary of humanity, that it is the very Word of the only God that is? We can't. What proof can be brought to convince the atheist, the doubter, the skeptic, the individual who wants physical, material, or even scientific proof? There is no proof that we can bring to those who choose only to believe what they choose to believe. So then how shall we approach Bible skeptics, or others who have doubts? We approach them with the Word of God itself. The only thing that can turn the unbeliever from his unbelief to confident and saving faith in Christ is the very Word of God Himself.

There is a discipline known as apologetics. It is the discipline of defending a position (often religious) through the systematic use of information. Early Christian apologists defended their faith against critics and recommended their faith to outsiders. It is still an important discipline. Whatever the benefit of such a discipline is, ultimately it is only the Word of God that convinces the heart and saves the soul. What Jesus said and did is recorded in the Scriptures. God's book was "written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name"^(John 20:31).

There is no book more relevant in the world than the Bible through which is learned the Word of God which brings salvation. Period! We can do no better than to invite the skeptic as Philip invited skeptical Nathanael who wondered what good could come out of Nazareth. Philip said to him, "Come and see"^(John 1:46).

^{*)} St. Paul Pioneer-Press, July 1, 2016