

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: **Sue Nelson** Elder: **Benno Sydow**
Ushers: **Brian Eichstadt; Alex Baker; Kevin Baker; Dan Degnan; Brandon Paplow; Pat Paplow**
Counting Team 2: **Gary Gunther; Rick Nelson; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker**
Church Cleaners: **Fleischer**

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: **Brian Eichstadt; Alex Baker; Kevin Baker; Dan Degnan; Brandon Paplow; Pat Paplow**
Counting Team 3: **Brian Eichstadt; Phil Flesner; Chad Hestekin; Benno Sydow**
Church Cleaners: **Vandever** School: **Baker**

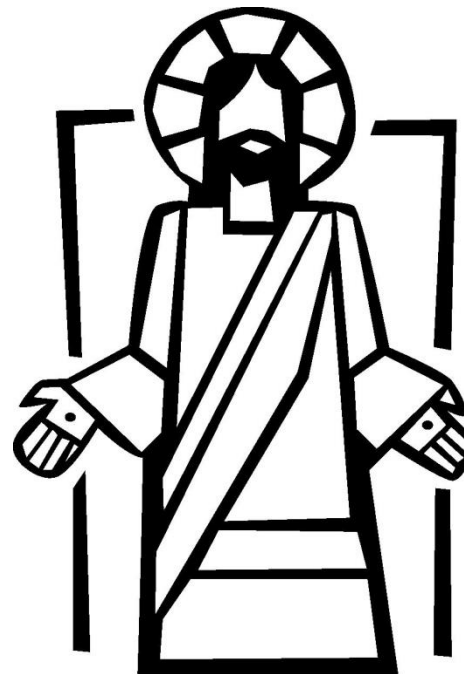
✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Aug. 28: 9:00 am – Worship Service
Mon., Aug. 29: 8:00 am – Grace School Opening
Wed., Aug. 31: 4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism Begins for Public School Students
Sun., Sept. 4: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
Mon. Sept. 5: Labor Day – No School
Sun. Sept. 11: Return to Regular Sunday Schedule
 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:00 am – Hospitality Begins
 12:00 pm – Council Meeting
Mon. Sept. 12: 10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study (Mankato, MN)
 7:00 pm – School Open House
Wed., Sept. 14: 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class Resumes
Sun., Sept. 18: Grace Church Picnic
Wed., Sept. 21: CLC Coordinating Council (Eau Claire, WI)
Oct. 4-5: Minnesota Pastoral Conference (Okabena, MN)
Sun., Oct. 9: Mission Festival (w/ Pastor Paul Tiefel/Potluck/Blood Drive)
Oct. 12-14: CLC Teachers Conference (Valentine, NE)

Last Week's Stats: Aug. 21, 2016 Sun.: 59

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$1,375.31	CLC:	\$280.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,924.69	CLC:	-720.00	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$94,753.65	CLC:	\$29,014.15	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	112,200.00	CLC:	34,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-17,446.35	CLC:	-4,985.85	
GLC Other:	25.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	100.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	0.00
ILC Student Aid:	20.00	ILC Bldg.	0.00	IIF:	0.00
				CEF:	0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	17,580.25	Tuition Aid:	3,443.12

Grace Lutheran Church & School



I HAVE LOVED
 YOU WITH AN
 EVERLASTING
Love....

J E R E M I A H 3 1 : 3

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)

Phone: 763-784-8784

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 15

Date: August 28, 2016

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

WS 743: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
TLH 349:1-4,6: Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me
CW 505: Love Is the Gracious Gift (Tune WS 752)
Shine, Jesus, Shine

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 119 I, TLH p. 149

Liturgy:

WS, p. 12 (Projected)
Psalm 45: WS, p. 32

Scripture Reading:

Proverbs 25:6-7
Luke 14:1,7-14

Sermon: Hebrews 13:1-8

¹Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so *doing* some have unwittingly entertained angels. ³Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also. ⁴Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. ⁵Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" ⁷Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of *their* conduct. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (NKJVTM)

"Love that Endures Forever"

1. From an Enduring Savior

2. For an Enduring Savior

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

◆ **Christian Day School Starts:** Tomorrow morning, at 8:00 am, there will be an opening service for the new school year. All members are invited to come. There are 20 children that will be attending this year (* non-member): Kindergarten: C. Ecker*, E. LaDue*, L. Nelson, Z. Wales, Z. Middleton*; 1st Grade: C. Nelson, R. Oman; 2nd Grade: C. Bluhm*, B. Ecker*, G. Flesner, U. Wales; 4th Grade: A. Baker, L. Ecker*; 5th Grade: D. Flesner, L. Pearson*; 6th Grade: A. Holmberg*; 7th Grade: C. Flesner, D. Hein, A. Kanneh; 8th Grade: K. Baker. We pray that our students will be richly blessed through the spiritual training they will receive through the daily immersion in God's Word.



◆ **Catechism:** Catechism classes for those not enrolled in the Christian Day School will begin this Wed., Aug. 31, 4:30-6:15 pm. This is for those in 6th through 8th grade. Please pray that the Lord will richly bless the instruction of our youth!

◆ **Service Schedule:** Please remember that the service schedule will be changing on Sept. 11. Sunday School and Bible Class will begin at 9:00 am with regular morning worship at 10:00 am.

◆ **Sunday School:** We are looking for one teacher plus substitutes. If you are interested, please let Superintendent Michael Ude know.

◆ **Collection:** A purse is being collected for Vicar Rodebaugh. If you wish to contribute, please mark "Vicar" on your offering envelope.

◆ **Immanuel Begins:** This past Monday the academic year began at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. During the opening service, President Sippert shared a fitting message about running our life-long faith journey with endurance. High school enrollment begins with 109 total students (30 freshmen, 26 sophomores, 24 juniors, and 29 seniors). We rejoice that this enrollment matches the number of full-time students we had last year and is an increase of five students from what was anticipated. In the college there are 20 total students, five of these are taking courses online. At this time nine students are pursuing the teaching ministry and six are preparing for seminary training. While seminary will begin later, five students are expected for the year. We thank the Lord for all those blood-bought souls that will be immersed in His Word during their Immanuel experience.



◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Luke Bernthal of Grace Lutheran in Valentine, NE, Peace Lutheran in Mission, and St. Paul's Lutheran in White River, SD, has returned the call to Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI. ✠ Pastor Joel Fleischer of Berea Lutheran in Sioux Falls, SD, has returned the call to Rock of Ages Lutheran in Grand Rapids, MI.

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!

**CLC FINANCIAL REPORT
July 2016**

<i>CLC Financial Report</i>	<i>Balance</i>	<i>Year to Date</i>	<i>Year to Date</i>	<i>FY 2017 Budget</i>	<i>Balance</i>
Operating Funds	7/1/2016	Revenue	Disbursed	1 Month	7/31/2016
General Fund	0	60,917	82,925	\$75,000	(22,008)
ILC Operations	0	46,033	84,348	\$108,458	(38,314)
Total	\$0	\$106,950	\$167,272	\$183,458	(\$60,322)
Auxiliary Funds					
IIF - ILC Improvement	15,928	385	6,838		9,475
ILC Building	12,683	42,863	7,984		47,562
MDF - Mission Development	46,243	4,315	6,925		43,633
Kinship	56,626	6,513	12,530		50,609
CEF - Church Extension Fund	1,291,661	60,038	18,369		1,333,330
SAF - Student Aid	10,103	7,488	3,758		13,833
Reserve Account	119,697	26,415	-		146,111

ILC Academic Center Mortgage			
Beginning Balance:	February 1, 2010		\$1,751,804
Current Balance:	July 31, 2016		\$1,282,012
	Principal Paid to Date:		\$469,792

Comments on the first month of the new fiscal year:

- The General Fund offerings were \$60,917 which was \$14,083 short of budget
- General Fund expenditures were over budget because of larger than normal Missions expenditures
- July ILC operations receipts are normally low pending the start of the fall semester
- MDF expenditures included \$4,216 for foreign Exploratory/Outreach
- IIF expenditures included \$6,838 for professorage repairs
- A \$40,000 special gift was received for the ILC Building account
- The Reserve Account incorrectly reported a disbursement of \$7,395 at the end of June to cover an FY16 deficit. The \$26,415 receipt is a corrected result of the FY16 year-end totals.

James E. Sandeen, CLC Treasurer
Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

CHANGE OR DIE?

The only foundation and source of the Christian faith is the Bible, the inspired Word of God! *Biblical* Christianity is Christ-centered. The cardinal doctrine of Scripture is justification of the sinner through faith in the vicarious atonement of our Lord. The message of Scripture is salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone. The Spirit of God works faith in and through the Word of God. The confirmation of the trust worthiness of Scripture is the resurrection of the Lord Jesus from the dead. Christianity is in praise of the Triune God: the Father Who sent His Son, the Son Who has redeemed us, and the Holy Spirit Who creates faith in Christ.



By contrast, religion in the United States is characterized by a diversity of religious beliefs and practices, one of which is identified as Christian. However, the word “Christian” means different things to different people--a far cry from the reason the apostles were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26). In their case it identified them as disciples of Jesus Christ.

For example, online we found someone’s understanding of the word Christian: “We accept as Christian any individual or group who *devoutly, thoughtfully, seriously, and prayerfully regards themselves to be Christian. That is, they honestly believe themselves to be attempting to follow the teachings of Yeshua of Nazareth (a.k.a. Jesus Christ) as they interpret those teachings to be*” (Emph. ours).⁽¹⁾ One can hardly think of anything emptier of substance, or of hope, than to believe that one is whatever he thinks himself to be!

Without reference to any particular religion, a majority of Americans report that religion plays a very important role in their lives. While church membership in Christian churches is declining, many of the allegedly religious gravitate to so called mega-churches which are basically feel-good gatherings, without any particular theological or confessional position. They are *Bible-lite* in substance. Their platform is basically come as you are, believe what you choose to believe, feel good about yourself. Jesus wants you to be happy and successful. *Because they do not want to offend anyone, they are light on preaching of sin, or of repentance, if they preach sin and repentance at all. They seek to recapture fleeing church members, and give estranged former church goers a sense of being part of something. It is a movement devoid of basic Biblical doctrine of sin and grace.*

The sad reality is that even within many mainline churches that claim the Christian name there is not common acceptance of Scripture or of what constitutes true biblical Christianity. *Perhaps that is one reason why church membership is declining.* They lack a clear, definitive declaration of Biblical Christianity as confessed in the Apostolic Creed: "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth ... I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord ... I believe in the Holy Spirit ..."

Another phenomenon is the Church Growth Movement (CGM). It is a movement within evangelical Christianity that is making serious inroads into the Lutheran Church. The Gospel in word and sacrament—*the means of grace*—is diminished in the quest for numbers. It promotes methods to grow churches based on business marketing strategies.

The ecumenical mega-church and Church Growth Movement are efforts toward trying to rekindle and maintain interest in religion without particular regard for doctrinal integrity. One ecumenical movement holds conferences with the ominous name of *Change or Die*.⁽²⁾ According to its online announcement "The Conference is a safe place for assembling people and building relationships from across the Lutheran denominations." The intent of this movement is to encourage and facilitate changes in ministerial approach and congregational activity to keep people involved in church life, as well as to attract others into the church. "Change or Die" suggests exactly what its name implies.

There are many reasons for decline of church membership. Of the many reasons one is indicative of a change in attitude toward the Word and faith. Many youths go off to college and become absorbed by the modern culture. People who are weary of traditional worship forms (liturgy) and substantive sacred music seek out more "in tune" churches. In some cases, people believe that the doctrinal stance of their church is too strict and exclusive. Some feel the church is not community-minded enough. Some are of the mind that their church is not doing enough to reach out to other cultures, minorities, etc. In response, efforts are made to make the church more culturally friendly (mega-churches, Church Growth Movement), quite a task in today's multicultural milieu. Not much time left for preaching and instructing in the Scriptures!

The Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) has many small congregations. There are individual Lutheran *congregations* of other bodies that have more members than the CLC has in the whole church body. Through the life of the CLC (since 1960) membership has been mostly static, and in fact has declined. Congregations become small and some dissolve for various reasons. Understandable reasons might be lack of financial stability

(brought on by loss of members); rural congregations have members move away. And we should not bury our heads in the sand as though we are immune to some of the other less noble causes for declining membership.

While declining numbers are a concern, and are a matter for prayer, from the beginning of the CLC when people of conscience found it necessary to leave former fellowships, detractors said it would eventually die. Not only is the CLC still here, but the Lord has blessed many through its Gospel ministry.

While individual churches or even a church body may disappear, the CHURCH which is the body of Christ will not. Concern about dwindling membership ought not be driven by size considerations. Being chiefly concerned about numbers can lead to loss of focus. The appropriate concern among us ought always be that people are nourished with the pure Word of God, and with the message they need for eternal salvation. The latter concern keeps a fellowship focused on purpose as defined by the Lord Who has assigned to His Body the responsibility to proclaim the Gospel of salvation and to teach all that He has given us in Scripture. Mission work is not counting people in the pew. Mission work is faithfully proclaiming the Gospel through which *the Spirit adds to the Church such as are being saved* (Acts 2:47). Mission work is sharing the Gospel outside the walls of the church building—on the street, on the playground, at work, in social settings as the Lord opens doors. One joy at Judgment Day will be standing with someone before the throne of God with whom one shared the Gospel. The size of a church in this context is immaterial.

That a church or church body is large, has a reputation, and is active, is not necessarily indicative of a "living" church. Numbers, reputation, and activity can be a delusion if they are covering rot (false teaching) on the inside! To the church at Sardis the Lord wrote: *I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead*" (Revelation 3:1).

What makes the church a living church, irrespective of size, is the faithful use of the means of grace, and the faithful preaching of Law (sin) and Gospel (grace). Such preaching delights the Lord! In a world that despises the Lord and His Word, this may not keep church doors open. However, the antidote to declining numbers is not in dumbing down worship, offering theological pablum, or compromising biblical principles.

1) Religious Tolerance.com--Ontario Consultants on Religious Tolerance

2) Siebert Lutheran Foundation, Milwaukee, WI