

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Ryan Mueller      Elder: Al Rosendahl  
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

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Roger Ochsner; Jeremiah Boe; Bob Maki; Jack Maki; John Maki; Joel Stifter  
Counting Team 4: James Bomber; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust  
Hospitality Team 7: Jan Davis; Chad & Amanda Hestekin; Ryan & Mikey Oman; Eli & Laura Wales  
Church Cleaners: Vandever      School: Baker

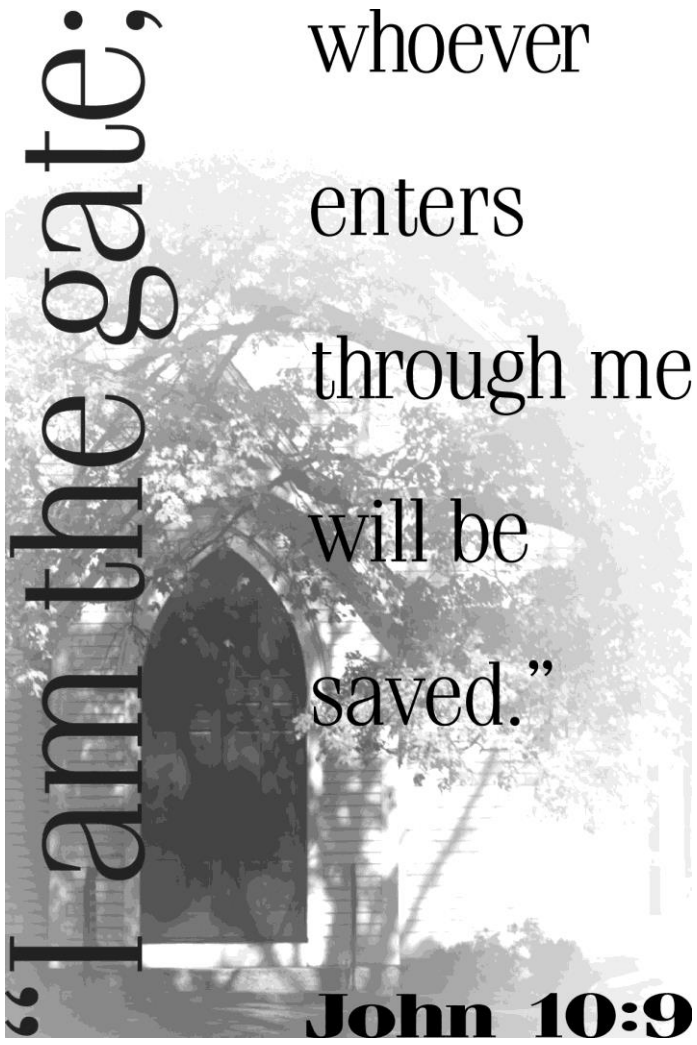
✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

**Sun., Sept. 4:** 9:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord’s Supper  
**Mon. Sept. 5:** Labor Day – No School  
**Wed., Sept. 7:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
**Thu., Sept. 8:** 8:30 am – Lilac Trimming  
**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  
**Mon. Sept. 12:** 11:00 am – Hospitality; 12:00 pm – Council Meeting  
 10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study (Mankato, MN)  
 7:00 pm – School Open House  
**Wed., Sept. 14:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
 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)  
**Sun., Oct. 30:** 4:00 pm – MN Reformation Service (Inver Grove Hts.)

**Last Week’s Stats:** Aug. 28, 2016    Sun.: 89    School Opening: 45

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,442.50	CLC:	\$1,305.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+142.50	CLC:	+305.00
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$98,196.15	CLC:	\$30,319.15
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	115,500.00	CLC:	35,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-17,303.85	CLC:	-4,680.85
GLC Other:	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	300.00
SAF Endowment: 100.00	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	200.00
ILC Student Aid: 95.00	ILC Bldg.	270.00	IIF: 25.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	17,610.25	Tuition Aid:	3,743.12

Grace Lutheran  
Church & School



I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.”  
**John 10:9**

# 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.JustifiedByGrace.org](http://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-8<sup>th</sup>

Church Year: Pentecost 16

Date: September 4, 2016

## ✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

### Hymns:

WS 767: Church of God, Elect and Glorious

TLH 355: Thou Art the Way; to Thee Alone

TLH 379: I do Not Come Because My Soul

Distribution: TLH 305: Soul Adorn Thyself

TLH 309: O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

### Worship Prep:

Psalm 19, TLH p. 126

### Liturgy:

TLH, p. 15 (Communion)

Gloria: TLH 36:3

### Scripture Reading:

Philemon 1, 10-21

Luke 13:22-30

### Sermon: Isaiah 66:18-24

<sup>18</sup> "For I know their works and their thoughts. It shall be that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory. <sup>19</sup> I will set a sign among them; and those among them who escape I will send to the nations: to Tarshish and Pul and Lud, who draw the bow, and Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. <sup>20</sup> Then they shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the Lord out of all nations, on horses and in chariots and in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem," says the Lord, "as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> And I will also take some of them for priests and Levites," says the Lord. <sup>22</sup> "For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me," says the Lord, "So shall your descendants and your name remain. <sup>23</sup> And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the Lord. <sup>24</sup> "And they shall go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh." (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

"Measure the Width of God's Welcome"

1. Narrow is the Entrance

2. Wide is the Invitation

## ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Sunday School Importance:** Sunday School serves to bring God's Word to the minds and hearts of the youth among us. The objectives of our Sunday School program are to provide children with the necessary background of Bible history, to educate children by directing them to their Savior, and to develop a Christian world-view that looks to Scripture with confidence for every area of life. As there has recently been a downtrend in Sunday School attendance, it has become noticeable during Catechism instruction that the children's comprehension of God's Word has weakened. On the other hand, those children who learn the Bible accounts at home and at Sunday School demonstrate a good handle on the teachings of Scripture. As this program is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen your child's faith and equip him/her for the future, attendance for all children is vital.

*"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it." - Proverbs 22:6*

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Coat Rack Items:** Several coats and other items have been left hanging on the coat rack. If they are yours, please take them with you. Anything left in two weeks will be discarded or donated.
- ◆ **Lilacs:** Some may have noticed the improvements with the lilacs. There's more work to be done. There will be a group coming on Thurs., Sept. 8, starting about 8:30 am to prune some more. Come if you're able! The grass can be wet so dress appropriately. Bring gloves.
- ◆ **Collection:** A purse is being collected for Vicar Rodebaugh. If you wish to contribute, please mark "Vicar" on your offering envelope.
- ◆ **Reformation:** The Minnesota Area CLC Reformation Festival will be held at 4:00 pm on October 31 at Berea Lutheran Church in Inver Grove Heights, MN. The theme will be "The Lutheran Confessions: A Great Reformation Blessing." A fellowship luncheon will be served following the service. Everyone from the area is invited to join us.
- ◆ **Installation:** The installation/ordination service for Pastor-elect Ben Libby (Ascension Lutheran in Tacoma, WA) will be on Sunday, September 11 at 5:30 pm. The congregation is also planning a supper following the service. Pastors and members of sister-CLC congregations are invited to attend. Please email Pastor Tiefel at [marktiefel@hotmail.com](mailto:marktiefel@hotmail.com) if you plan to come.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer of Trinity Lutheran in Spokane, WA, has received the call to Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI.

## CLC E-Devotion – Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ephesians 4:11-12 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

### **CHURCH IS EDIFYING, NOT ENTERTAINING**

There's been a lot of discussion in recent years about worship styles and settings in church and how they can attract the younger people. Contemporary services have sprung up in many churches, even Lutheran ones, with the intention of incorporating modern styles for teens and adolescents. In our high-tech, digital age culture, the traditional liturgical service is viewed by many as outdated, too slow, and not as entertaining as a faster-paced contemporary service.

I don't think anyone disagrees that all churches want the attention of their hearers, especially the young members. And all churches want to proclaim the message of Christ in a relevant and lively way. But what's interesting is that God Himself never once mentions entertainment and pace as a way to accomplish these goals. Rather, God speaks more about edification, a word largely lost on our modern culture. Edification means the building up of something. In the case of these verses, Paul mentions the edification of Christ's body, the building up of the church.

The Holy Spirit tells us that this is the main reason God wants us to hold church services with pastors and teachers. God wants us to grow together in His grace, to be built up in His name to His eternal praise and glory. The purpose of church is not to go our separate ways because we come from different generations and backgrounds. We are not to seek our own edification at the expense of others just because we want the style a certain way. Church is not about personal entertainment, and if we say it is, then we are greatly discrediting the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word. For where the Word is present, so is God at work in hearts.

We don't need to think that modern styles are what make a service relevant. God has seen to the question of relevancy already, for there is no greater nor pressing message than Christ crucified for sinners. No amount of modern colors, worship formats, techniques, music, or attire can replace the importance of our Savior's shed blood on our behalf. God doesn't mandate the specific form of our worship, but let us take heed that we do whatever we do to His glory and for the edifying of others, not for our own entertainment.

## NO INFILTRATORS IN HEAVEN

Many reading this no doubt have ancestors who immigrated to America. The history of immigration to this country via Ellis Island is interesting history. Nevertheless, one of the burning issues in the country today is the subject of immigration. The issue is not immigration as such, but entrance into this country through illegal means, deceptive practices, or by just plain walking in across our borders. Historically it was expected that immigrants would assimilate into the American culture and life. While that is the ideal, it is no longer the expectation. This is contributing in many ways to a changing face and culture of America.

How different it is in the future home for all who die in the faith, looking for a better homeland, and who desire “a better, that is, a heavenly country.” It is the country in which “God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them” (Hebrews 11: 13-16).

It is the Heavenly Father's earnest desire that all who live on the earth be saved and enjoy the heavenly country. There is room for all.

The Lord God has established the way for “spiritual immigrants” to enter heaven. John 3:16 tells us that whoever believes in the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved. In the same chapter we read, “He that believes on the Son of God has everlasting life...” Jesus said of those who believe in Him, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow Me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish ...” (John 10:27-28).

The Apostle Paul wrote: “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, Who gave Himself a ransom for all...” (1 Timothy 2:1-6). Scripture further tells us that God so loved the world for that He sent the Savior into the world (John 3:16) to die for all. It further tells us that through the merit of Christ Jesus, God has reconciled all people unto Himself (2 Corinthians 5:19).

Since no one is born into the world with knowledge of or with faith in Christ, and since all people born into the world are born under the curse of sin which is death, the Father also provided the means to learn of Jesus, as well as to believe in Him. He left us with witness to His love in His Holy Word, the word of the gospel. The gospel in word and sacrament is the means of grace which brings salvation to all who believe in the person of Christ, the work of Christ, and the redemption that He effected for us by His

death and resurrection. It is through the power of the Spirit of God Who works through the gospel that sinners are *saved* from the due reward of their sinful deeds. The Spirit calls us “not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began” (2 Timothy 1:9). As He calls each of us to faith in Christ, He makes us part of the Church to which is committed “the word of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:19) which is the gospel. “Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ” to carry the message to the world. God pleads through us to the lost, “be reconciled to God,” in other words, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.

Jesus tells us, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). Peter spoke the word of the Lord in Acts when he said, “Nor is there salvation in any other for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

No one will enter heaven because he is religious. Paul said to the Athenians: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious” (Acts 17:22) and then he proceeded to tell them of the true God apart from whom there is no salvation. No one is saved by good works. Paul wrote: “For by *grace* you have been saved *through faith*, and that not of yourselves; it is the *gift of God, not of works...*” (Ephesians 2:8-9). Only through the merit of the Lord Jesus is the sinner saved from the consequences of his sin, and the condemnation of the law which tells us, “the soul that sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:20).

In Revelation John tells us what he saw before the throne of God. It was a mixed bag of nationalities, races, and tongues. “After these things I looked” says John, “and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb’” (Revelation 7:9-10). Many different people who had one thing in common were before the throne--they all were clothed in robes washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:14). They were saved through *faith* in the Lord Jesus.

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, “*All the nations* shall be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats” (Matthew 25:32). He will say to those on the left hand, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41). Their lack of service to the Lord testified against them. Though they tried to cover themselves in the same mantle as the righteous, and no matter how pious they may have been, or claimed to have been, they lacked faith. “Without faith, it is

impossible to please God. For he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). Luther said, “Faith alone saves, but faith that saves is never alone.” On one hand, faith is not alone but bears fruit that proves the faith. On the other hand, there can be no fruit pleasing to God where there is no faith.

In Revelation we read of heaven, “But 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” (Revelation 21:27). How then shall anyone enter heaven since “there is none that does good, no, not one” (Romans 3:12). Furthermore, Scripture says “But we are all like an unclean thing and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...” (Isaiah 64:6). However good the deeds of men in their own eyes, and however much they may contribute to society deeds are not a ticket to heaven. How shall anyone be saved since we all are infected with sin? Scripture gives the answer.

“And such were some of you, but you are *washed*, but you were *sanctified*, but you were *justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God*” (1 Corinthians 6:11). The saved have nothing of which to boast except in the love and grace of God. “We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His *grace*” (Ephesians 1:7).

Jesus spoke a parable concerning a wedding feast. We all do well to take heed. “But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth’” (Matthew 22:11-13).

Faith is knowledge, assent (belief), and trust in Jesus. That is the faith that saves. Such as know, believe, and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, shall enjoy the blessed rest and peace of the better country. The Lord Who cannot lie has promised!

Unbelief condemns and excludes from the eternal feast in heaven. There will be no interlopers, no deceivers, no one of any sort who somehow sneaked into the heavenly country. They who are there will be *only* those “who have come out of great tribulation and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Revelation 7:14). Only those who came in the appointed way—through faith in Christ Jesus.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 8/2016