中 TODAY AT GRACE 中

<u>Organist:</u> Sue Nelson <u>Elder</u>: Al Rosendahl

<u>Ushers</u>: Roger Ochsner; Jeremiah Boe; Bob Maki; Jack Maki; John Maki; Joel Stifter

<u>Counting Team 1</u>: Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Pat Paplow; Phil Radichel

Hospitality Team 1: Bye (Church Picnic)

<u>Church Cleaners</u>: F. Radichel <u>School</u>: Bluhm

中 NEXT WEEK AT GRACE 中

<u>Ushers</u>: Roger Ochsner; Jeremiah Boe; Bob Maki; Jack Maki; John Maki; Joel Stifter

<u>Counting Team 2</u>: Gary Gunther; Rick Nelson; Bill Rust; Bob Vandeveer; Clint Welker

<u>Hospitality Team 2</u>: Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Janelle Hein; Jenny Kleifgen; Chris Lentz

<u>Church Cleaners</u>: F. Radichel <u>School</u>: Bluhm

む OUR SCHEDULE む

Sun. Sept. 18: 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School

10:00 am – Worship Service

11:00 am - Church Picnic

Wed., Sept. 21: 9:00 am – CLC Coordinating Council (Eau Claire, WI)

4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Sun., Sept. 25: 8:30 am – Choir Practice 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School

10:00 am – Worship Service 11:00 am – Hospitality

Tue., Sept. 27: Grace School Field Trip (Aamodt's Apple Orchard)
Sun., Oct. 2: Council Meeting (Early Due to Mission Festival)
Oct. 4-5: Minnesota Pastoral Conference (Okabena, MN)

Sun., Oct. 9: Mission Festival (w/ Pastor Paul Tiefel)

Potluck and Blood Drive

Oct. 12-14: CLC Teachers Conference (Valentine, NE)

Sun., Oct. 16: Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

Sun., Oct. 30: 4:00 pm – MN Reformation Service (Inver Grove Hts.)

Last Week's Stats: Sept. 11	, 2016 Si	un.: 116 S.S.:	20 B.C	l.: 45 Wed.: 23
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,380.81	CLC:	\$840.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+80.81	CLC:	-160.00
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$105,329.18	CLC:	\$31,916.35
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	122,100.00	CLC:	37,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-16,770.82	CLC:	-5,083.65
GLC Other: 495.00	Living Faith	n: 0.00	Tuition A	Aid: 300.00
SAF Endowment: 0.00	MDF:	130.00	Kinship:	100.00
ILC Student Aid: 25.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lo	t: 17.925.25	Tuition A	Aid: 4.393.12

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: 763-784-8784School Phone: 763-784-6340Grades: Kindergarten-8thChurch Year: Pentecost 18Date: September 18, 2016

Hymns:

WS 786: Take My Life and Let it Be

CDS: TLH 10: This is the Day the Lord Hath Made WS 788: Lord, You Love the Cheerful Giver

TLH 430, st. 1, 4, 6-8: What is the World to Me TLH 441, st. 1-2: We Give Thee But Thine Own

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 38, TLH p. 132

Liturgy:

WS, p. 12 (Projected)

Scripture Reading:

Amos 8:4-7 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Sermon: Luke 16:1-13

¹ He also said to His disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. ² So he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.' 3"Then the steward said within himself, 'What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig: I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.' 5 "So he called every one of his master's debtors to him, and said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ And he said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' So he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' ⁷Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' So he said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' ⁸ So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light. ⁹ "And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home. ¹⁰He who *is* faithful in what is least is faithful also in much: and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. 11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches?* ¹² And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." $(NKJV^{TM})$

You Cannot Serve God and Mammon

- ◆ Church Picnic: Today there is the church picnic here on the church grounds following worship. A "bouncy house" is in the backyard. Hot dogs are provided. Folks may help out as needed with serving and cleanup. Please stay and enjoy the Christian fellowship!
- ◆ **Keyboard:** Ryan Mueller has donated a keyboard for use in front of the church. The old one is available to the first one who requests it.
- ◆ Mission Festival: Mission Festival will be Oct. 9, along with our annual blood drive. A person can only donate once every 56 days, so Rick Nelson asks that you reserve your next donation for that Sunday. Pastor Paul Tiefel from Eau Claire, WI, will be our guest speaker. Dorcas Guild Committee #3 will host. Please bring a dish to share as there will be a potluck meal.
- ◆ Reformation: The Minnesota Area CLC Reformation Festival will be held at 4:00 pm on October 30 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.
- ◆ Christian Women's Retreat: The Southeast Women's Retreat for women of the CLC will be held November 11-13, 2016, in Savannah, Georgia. 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. Registration forms are available by the guestbook. 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).
- ◆ Collection: A purse is being collected for Vicar Rodebaugh. If you wish to contribute, please mark "Vicar" on your offering envelope.
- ◆ Cell Phones/Smart Phones: Please remember to turn off during church so as not to interfere with the projection system and with the worship of your fellow Christians.
- ◆ Hospitality Reminder: The Elders kindly remind parents to assist their children as they go through the serving line. This is to help monitor their activity and help assist the children with regard to size of helpings.
- ♦ Sunday School Memory Work: #1 Books of the Bible

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!

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

Grace Lutheran Church

Blood Drive

Sunday, October 9th 11:00am-2:30pm

Location: 460 75th Ave NE, Fridley, MN
To sign up online, go to mbc.org/searchdrives and enter sponsor code 3861 or contact Rick Nelson at wrekwear@me.com or 651-592-7486.

DONOR REQUIREMENTS

- You must be at least 17 years of age (16 with parental permission) and eat a good meal within a four-hour period before donating.
- · You must be in good health.
- You must be free from colds and flu for 3 days.
- You must bring a photo ID with you to the drive.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Each week, 2,700 volunteer donors are needed to help supply
 blood to patients in our area hospitals.
- Blood is needed for cancer and surgery patients, burn victims, accident victims, premature infants...the list is endless.

For questions about eligibility or travel, call (651) 332-7000.

Martin Luther Comments on Luke 16:1-9

The Shaming Zeal of Worldlings: You should think: Well, if a farmer, a townsman, a merchant, a miser, this woman, and that maid are able to serve the devil with such diligence and allow no drudgery to weary them, why should I, too, not be willing to serve my Lord, whom I am to enjoy forever, in like manner? They rush about as if they were mad, yet they are merely pursuing their eternal harm and ruin. Why, then, am I, when my soul's salvation is concerned, so sluggish and sleepy that God must drag me to it by the very hair? Why, I ought to spit at myself for not even crawling to heaven while those folk rush and run to hell the way they do. But especially in the case of which the Lord speaks here do the children of the world give a fine example for the children of light. For look at a fellow of whom greed has really taken possession. You will find that his thoughts grant him rest neither day nor night; all his pondering and planning are directed to making money. If he finds a little corner in his house, he converts it into a little room in order to collect rent for it. Now he undertakes this deal, and before long he engages in that transaction, in order to determine which brings him the greater profit. In a word, he would not neglect one penny; nor does he begrudge any effort or labor when he sees money. Now we should learn to interest ourselves in the eternal with the earnestness with which a miser interests himself in money. But where do you find the Christian who does so? (What Luther Says, #5099)

CLC E-Devotion - Friday, September 16, 2016

Psalm 128:1-3 Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways. When you eat the labor of your hands, you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the very heart of your house, your children like olive plants all around your table.

LORD, GRANT ME THE BLESSING OF FAMILY HAPPINESS

In this "song of ascent" the psalmist teaches that a happy home doesn't happen by accident. It is a blessing God graciously bestows on those who are faithful to Him and who, in love for Him, their Savior, strive to walk in His ways.

Why was this psalm included in the Songs of Ascents collection? Perhaps it was recognized that the Jewish pilgrims (who were just getting established in the land) needed the comfort this psalm offers. Did they wish to enjoy the blessing of a happy home in the land of Canaan? Did husbands and wives desire the blessing of marital joy? Let them not follow the example of their stubborn, unbelieving forefathers who forsook the Lord. Let them remember Him, serve Him faithfully, and walk cheerfully in the way of His commandments. As they did this He would enable them to enjoy the blessing of family happiness.

The Lord continues to bestow this blessing on Christians today. Where the crown of the home is godliness, where the place of honor is set apart in the heart for Jesus, where He is invited in on a daily basis to be the honored Guest, He gladly consents to tarry with His blessing. And there is happiness.

4. O happy home where Thou art not forgotten When joy is overflowing, full, and free!
O happy home where every wounded spirit Is brought, O great Physician, unto Thee,
Until at last, when earthly toil is ended,
All meet Thee in the blessed home above,
From whence Thou camest, where Thou hast ascended,
Thine everlasting home of peace and love! TLH 626:4

"NATIONAL BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY"(1)

"Back to Church Sunday is a campaign strategically designed to help churches reach out and invite everyone to try church again. This powerful movement encourages church attendance by inspiring and empowering church members to invite their neighbors, friends and loved ones to a special Sunday service designed just for them." We were not aware that there is such a Sunday. Apparently it is held every year. It appears to be a disjointed ecumenical endeavor. It was difficult to determine a specific sponsor. We found countless websites and invitations of churches encouraging and inviting people to get back to church.

Part of the program is to encourage members of churches to be actively involved in inviting strayed members, non-church members, and disengaged members back to church, to find peace, hope, forgiveness, togetherness, fellowship and fulfillment. Good intent, but utilizing extra-biblical means and lacking in message. We found many protestant and holiness churches, as well as programs to lure people back to church. It seems that it is targeted for this time of the year as school starts and summer vacationers from church are home. There are programs to invite and get people back to church. There are strategies. There are enticements. There are promises. We found a unique one on line:

"What a great way to invite people to church! Our pastor first shared this video on Facebook after I saw it, I found myself cracking up :-). There are many people who think that church is boring, irrelevant, and will add no value to your life. But of course, we know that nothing could be farther from the truth. That's why I like this video. It's a fun and creative way to show others that church is cool. It also can be used as an outreach tool." We did not view the video.

We certainly acknowledge that as far as synodical mission programs are concerned, they cannot and should not be administered haphazardly. A congregation in its individual effort to reach out to its community will encourage, educate, and guide its members in reaching out to and addressing non-members. It may provide for its members, especially for those who are a bit shy or uncomfortable, solid Biblical material to hand out. Perhaps even some training. And surely it will include information about the congregation, its educational program, service time, location, etc. The foundation of its program, however, will respect the purpose for which it exists, namely to proclaim the Word of God, the blessed gospel of salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus.

Its concern for the welfare of people will include the whole person. However, its concern begins with concern for the welfare of the soul. Thus again, the foundation of its invitation and its out-reach is the message—not about Christ, but of Christ Who invites, "Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28), "casting all your care upon [the Lord] for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

We have heard people speak about "soup, soap, and salvation." In other words, do what you have to do to get people into the church, and then one can share what the church's message is really about. The Church Growth Movement promotes business marketing strategies. It promotes the idea about being

seeker-friendly, that is sensitive to what people are looking for or need. Soup and soap may be what people are seeking, and as our Lord has had compassion upon us, we will want to reflect compassion to others (Galatians 6:10), but as a mission program, approach, or as a ploy to reenergize worship it is backwards. Our invitation begins with the message of salvation. As necessity or opportunity arises the soup and soap follow. Not as a program of the church or even a personal approach, but simply in response to door-knockers, ministerial experience has been that the soup first approach satisfied the seeker, who once the stomach was full never availed him/herself of the salvation food—the gospel.

Every Christian congregation and faithful pastor struggles with the reality that some members of the congregation seldom attend worship, or take advantage of the sacrament. That is a pastoral or shepherding issue that weighs heavily upon a faithful pastor, as well as a source of concern to other members. It does call for introspection of both pastor and congregation. But a call for a "National Back to Church Sunday" is no answer. At best, programs of which we found many on line are a feel-good activity. "At least we are doing something."

First of all, a Christian congregation and its pastor ought not need a special Sunday to energize concern for those who regularly miss worship. This is part and parcel of pastoral prayer and work, and congregation prayer and activity on an on-going basis. Paul wrote to the Galatians, "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1). Neglecting worship and the sacrament is sin, just as surely as boasting of one's attendance is sin. Those who appreciate the Lord's blessing, the gospel of grace and salvation in Christ, are to encourage the straying brethren, "considering yourself lest you also be tempted" to such profligacy.

The pastor's call includes shepherding, and seeking the lost and erring and missing. However, it is the responsibility of each member to encourage and admonish in love the friend, and the family member, who *neglect* the assembling of themselves together (Hebrews 10:25) around the Word and Sacrament. Fellowship around the Word, and in congregational activities is a beautiful manifestation of the Spirit at work, and can perhaps be more effectively encouraged by members, than the pastor.

But what should be the "enticement" to return to worship in the case of straying members, or in inviting non-members. Obviously the means dare not be bait and switch tactics, or psychological tricks. It should not be adopting business marketing strategies. It should not be empty promises such as one of our contacts had been told by someone else (not by us), "If you go to church, all your troubles would end."

Love and concern for the brethren (as well as for non-members) that stands ready to help in need, surely can be a contributing factor to energizing the straying. But such sanctified exercise of faith is not a program or a strategy. It is a daily, living, reflection of the love of Christ, that witnesses to the word of the Lord which says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). This is far more effective than a national back to church day that makes a congregation feel good if a few more people show up.

The "enticement" is the Word of God, the gospel. Salvation preaching involves appropriate application of the law of God to show the sinners need. It is essential that the spokesman of the Lord proclaim Scripture so that people understand what sin and its consequences are. We all need the reminder that sin offends God, that unrepented sin condemns before God. The cause of all unrest in the world is sin. There is no appreciation of the depth of God's love to those who will not repent of sin, but who delight in sin. On the other hand, to the troubled heart there is no comfort apart from the gospel, and the message of forgiveness of sins through Christ Jesus. There is no peace of heart, and no hope of relief without the gospel. There is no light at the end of the tunnel in this confused and fallen world apart from the gospel light which assures the believer that the Lord has prepared for us a home in heaven where there is no sin, no hatred, no hunger, no tears, no death. There is no strength to bear the trials and affliction of life except in Christ who says, "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Corinthians 12:9). The Lord said to Israel whom He led out of Egypt, "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagle's wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people. For all the earth is Mine" (Exodus 19:4-5).

Our enticement is the grace and love of God the Father. And the invitation is not, "Come and try it," but "Come and see." We need no "National Back to Church Day." Here is our invitation ⁽²⁾ and encouragement to faithful worship and to the rich blessings of the Word of God:

We believe and desire to confess by word and deed before the Triune God and all mankind these truths together with all other truths of Holy Scripture as set forth also in the Lutheran confessional statements as found in the Book of Concord (1580 AD).

We earnestly desire to share the rich blessings of Christ and extend a welcome to: ALL who are in distress of mind and heart because of their guilt and condemnation in the sight of Almighty God and who seek the pardon and comfort that only the Gospel of Jesus Christ can give;

ALL who are bewildered by the confusion of many voices offering the theories of human wisdom in the name of religion and who desire to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, Whom God raised from the dead;

ALL who, though members of Christian churches, have come to recognize that their churches have departed from the truth of Holy Scripture and therefore "ask for the old paths where the good way is ..." (Jeremiah 6:16);

ALL who have strayed from the faith and desire to be restored to the Shepherd and Overseer of their souls (cf. 1 Peter 2:25).

If the Word, and the love of the Heavenly Father does not draw hearts to hear the Word, and the love of Christ does not draw them to receive the sacrament as the seal of His love toward them, they will not be drawn. Finally, of what value is a "National Back to Church Day" if it draws people who when they get there hear preachers of whom the Lord says, "they shall not profit this people at all" (Jeremiah 23:32).

- 1) September 18, 2016
- 2) CLC Statement of Faith and Purpose

Council Minute Notes - September 11, 2016

The meeting was called to order with a prayer. Roll was taken. The July council meeting minutes were read and approved (no August meeting). The August treasurer's report was read and approved.

Pastor's Report

- Claire Yannarely was baptized on 7/10/2016
- Marvin Wagner passed away 7/19/2016, funeral on 7/23/2016
- Motion passed to transfer Rich and Shauna Rhinesmith to Living Faith in Eden Prairie per their request. Children Jacob and Annie are considered adults and were not transferred. Awaiting their request.
- VBS averaged 35 students with 18 non-members.
- Sunday School: Emily Hein (PS-K); Mikey Oman (1-3); Jan Davis (4-6); Mike Ude (7-8)
- Liberia: Lessons are taking place on YouTube. Alvin will be leaving Sept. 26. Pastor may be visiting them again in November or later.
- Vicar Sam Rodebaugh's last day at Grace will be Sept 21.
- Ryan Mueller will be donating a new keyboard to Grace. A note is to be put in the bulletin that the old keyboard is available for the taking.

Elder Report

- The 2017 calendar was distributed. Some changes have been made to the calendar for 2017. The April voter meeting has been moved out 1 week because of Easter and there will be no New Years Eve service, but will be held on that Sunday morning, Dec 31. Recommended to the voters.
- The church picnic will be held next Sunday, Sept 18, with a potluck at church.
- Mission Festival and blood drive will be Oct 9.
- Karl Friedrichs, a lawyer, was consulted regarding having a blood drive at church. As long as it is tied into our service, we should not encounter any issues with public concerns.
- Ryan Mueller was thanked for the work he has done to gild the altar in gold.

Education Report

- School cleaning went well on Aug 13.
- School started on Aug 29 with 20 students.
- With Ann Radichel retiring at the end of the year, discussion has begun about what to do with Kindergarten in the future.

Trustee Report

- Lilac cleanup is progressing. Thanks to all who help.
- Changes to the lighting in the church are still being worked on.
- Saver switch for energy and cost savings is in place for the A/C.
- Fire extinguishers need to be inspected.

Old Business

- Changing of the length of term for the current chairman, secretary, and treasurer to accommodate the new Constitution were discussed.
 It was determined that the following was approved at the July voter meeting:
 - Chairman will be elected in 2019. Moved and passed to extend the term of the current Chairman up to and including 2018.
 - Secretary will be elected in 2020. Moved and passed to extend the term of the current Secretary up to and including 2019.
 - Treasurer will be elected in 2021. Moved and passed to extend the term of the current Treasurer up to and including 2018.
 There must be an election in 2019 to fill the position for 2019 and 2020.
- Motion passed to recommend to the voters to elect a new treasurer in 2018, which then falls into the new 3-year cycle.
- Budget sheets were handed out.

New Business

- A statement in Article VI of the church Constitution is vague. It appears to state that the Pastor is the principal of the day school. Wording was changed to clarify the intent of the statement:
 - Original = The duty of the Board of Education, in conjunction with the Pastor (Principal for Christian Day School), shall be to ...
 - Revised = The duty of the Board of Education, in conjunction with the Pastor and/or Principal(s), shall be to ...
- Motion passed to recommend this change to the voters.
- Medical insurance premiums increased more than \$71 starting in August.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 1:00.

Adapted from minutes from Secretary Roger Ochsner

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