

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis Elder: Frank Radichel

Ushers: Roger Ochsner; Jeremiah Boe; Bob Maki; Jack Maki; John Maki; Joel Stifter

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

Hospitality Team 2: Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Janelle Hein; Jenny Kleifgen; Chris Lentz

Church Cleaners: Gilberg School: Ecker

✠ 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 3: Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Nick & Miranda Duehlmeier; Dan & Cindy Degnan

Church Cleaners: A & B Baker School: Ecker

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun. Oct. 2: 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
11:00 am – Hospitality
12:00 pm – Council Meeting (Early Due to Mission Festival)

Oct. 4-5: Minnesota Pastoral Conference (Okabena, MN)

Wed., Oct. 5: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Sun., Oct. 9: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Mission Festival Service (w/Pastor Paul Tiefel)
11:00 am – Potluck and Blood Drive

Mon., Oct. 10: No School – Parent/Teacher Conferences

Oct. 11-14: No School – CLC Teachers Conference (Valentine, NE)

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

Sat., Oct. 29: 9:00 am – Work Day at Grace

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

Mon., Oct. 31: Reformation Day (499th Anniversary – Oct. 31, 1517)



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)

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Church Year: Pentecost 20

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: October 2, 2016

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 4: God Himself Is Present
TLH 403: Savior, Thy Dying Love
TLH 412: May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill
Communion: TLH 305
Song of Simeon (inside of bulletin, Tune TLH 15)
Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 116, TLH p. 148

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 15 (Communion)
Gloria: TLH 36:3

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 50:4-10
Mark 8:27-35

Sermon: James 2:1-5

¹ My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord of glory*, with partiality. ² For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, ³ and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," ⁴ have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom* which He promised to those who love Him? (NKJVTM)

"Playing Favorites" Just Doesn't Work

1. It's inconsistent with the Christian faith
2. It's inconsistent with the grace of God

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Mission Festival:** Mission Festival will be next Sunday, October 9, along with our annual blood drive. 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.
- ◆ **Among Us:** This week the LORD in His love and mercy brought the earthly pilgrimage of Verna Kiesz, aunt to Jane Cowan and sister to Elnora Smith, to an end. Although the doctors did not expect her to live beyond her teen years because she was born with Osteogenesis Imperfecta (brittle bones), she lived to be 91 years old. The visitation is today at Lien Funeral, 4 pm, with a Prayer Service at 7 pm. The victory service is on Monday, 10 am, at Redeemer Lutheran in Bowdle, SD.
- ◆ **Christian Women's Retreat:** The Southeast Women's Retreat will be held Nov. 11-13, 2016, in Savannah, GA. The estimated cost for the retreat is between \$152-360. Registration forms are available by the guestbook. Contact: Amy Osborne (651-329-3662/ newyorker13@hotmail.com) or Pastor Matthew Hanel (972-733-4535/hanel95@hotmail.com).
- ◆ **Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day** is November 11 beginning at 10 am in the ILC gymnasium for chapel. It will feature presentations and classroom visits until 3 pm. Come and learn more about your church's college and a continuing education with Christ. Friday evening there is also the opportunity to see the ILC fall musical: *She Loves Me*. It will be performed both Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m. A band concert will precede it Friday night at 7:00 p.m. and a variety of student musical performances on Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. Speak with your pastor about questions and attendance. Contact: Prof. John Ude, the ILC academic dean, by November 7. Office: 715-836-6631, home: 715-955-4127, e-mail john.ude@ilc.edu.
- ◆ **2017 CLC Mission Helper Trip to Nepal:** Plans are underway for the CLC Mission Helper Trip to Nepal in July. More information can be found at: www.mht.lutheranmissions.org/2017-nepal.
- ◆ **Middleton News:** After 15 years Peace Thru Christ Lutheran School at Middleton, WI (Madison area), is not operating during the 2016-2017 school year due to lack of students. We have retained Miss Claire Abbas, part-time as our pre-school coordinator to help us in trying to establish a Christian pre-school. We are following the Grace, Valentine, NE plan of opening a pre-school and then hopefully, if children are interested, re-open the day-school in the future. Please pray for this endeavor to flourish as God wills. Pastor Mark Bernthal

- ◆ **CLC/ELS/WELS Meetings:** Another meeting of representatives from the CLC, ELS, and WELS was held on August 26 at Bethany College in Mankato, MN. Discussion centered on the application of Scriptural principles to membership in organizations with religious elements (in particular, Thrivent). The role of women in society was also discussed. Since the WELS Convention will not consider the Joint Statement until next summer and the CLC Convention will not take it up again until June 2018, it was agreed to reduce the frequency of the meetings until we know the status of the Joint Statement. Another meeting has been scheduled for August 2017. CLC President, Pastor Michael Eichstadt
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Michael Roehl of St. Paul Lutheran in Bismarck, ND, has returned the call to Zion Lutheran in Lawrenceville, GA (Atlanta area). ✠ Pastor Michael Gurath of Holy Cross Lutheran in Phoenix, AZ, has returned the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran in Madison Heights, MI (Detroit area).
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work: #4 – Second Commandment**

Last Week's Stats: Sept. 25, 2016			
	Sun.: 112	S.S.: 13	B.Cl.: 43
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,635.50	CLC: \$1,605.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC: 1,000.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+335.50	CLC: +605.00
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$111,838.45	CLC: \$34,076.35
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	128,700.00	CLC: 39,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-16,861.55	CLC: -4,923.65
GLC Other:	338.50	Living Faith:	0.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	0.00
ILC Student Aid:	210.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	18,125.25
		Tuition Aid:	4,771.12

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING: "Song of Simeon" [Tune TLH 15]

**"Lord, let Your servant now depart,
With peace and joy within my heart.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
According to Your Holy Word,
I've seen salvation from the Lord!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
The Promised One has come for all,
For Gentiles and for Israel,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Light to lighten all the blind,
God's glory for the heart and mind."
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**



CLC Coordinating Council Devotion

In this home stretch of another Presidential campaign, there is likely more anxiety among us than in any other election cycle in recent memory. Nationwide, the unfavorable ratings of both candidates are at unheard of levels. Accusations of dishonesty and ineptitude are flung from both sides. Meanwhile, our country's problems are many and real solutions are elusive. Where does that leave us as individual believers and as a body of confessional Lutherans in the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)? Should we distance ourselves from the fray and try to stay above the controversies or should we be political activists and stage protests?

We do well, first of all, to remember that events are not totally out of control. Almighty God is still in charge of all history. He laughs at the feeble attempts of kings and nations to oppose His will (Psalm 2). He will always direct the flow of time and events for the eternal wellbeing of His Church.

The Lord's rule is carried out in two different ways, sometimes referred to as God's right and left hands. His right hand is His rule of grace exercised through the gospel in the hearts of believers wherever they are. His left hand rule is the control He maintains by force of law through earthly governments which He Himself establishes. "There is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God" (Romans 13:1 NIV).

As individuals, we are citizens of two kingdoms, the earthly and the spiritual. So in our personal lives Jesus' words have direct application: "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's" (Matthew 22:21 NIV). But as a group of believers, a church, we have a more focused purpose. Part of the legacy we have received from the Reformation is a clear recognition that the work of the church is in the spiritual realm and not in the earthly affairs entrusted to government. That truth stands in opposition to the view of the Roman Catholic Church that the Church should wield both temporal and spiritual authority and to the teaching of Calvin who believed that religious reform did not just mean preaching the truth of the Word but imposing it upon society.

As individuals, we have active roles in both kingdoms, but as a church we are not to interfere with the God-given role of government. We as the CLC are not to tell people how to vote. We are not going to campaign for a particular political party. We have one overriding directive: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15 NIV).

This does not mean we should be unconcerned for the temporal authorities God has placed over us. We are not to meddle, lobby, complain, or protest as a church. But we are to continually pray. To young Pastor Timothy living under the corrupt rule of Emperor Nero, Paul wrote: "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4 NIV).

In praying for wise and faithful rulers, for the defense of our country, and in giving thanks for the freedoms and protections we have, we are in a way also praying for the spread of Christ's spiritual kingdom rule. When we are able to live in peace and security, we have countless opportunities to witness to the truth that God's love extends to all and that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was the all-sufficient ransom to free a world of sinners from the grip of Satan and Hell.

We in the CLC have been exceptionally blessed by the Lord! He has poured out His overflowing grace upon us in the message of Christ crucified. He has given us a government which allows us to live in peace as God's children and to freely worship Him and to preach and teach in Jesus' name without hindrance. May the political twists and turns of the season not unduly distress or distract us from the blessed, exciting, life-giving commission the Lord has entrusted to us. Instead, let's keep praying and serving Him who is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Pastor Michael Eichstadt / CLC President's Report / CLC Coordinating Council September 2016

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Our Lord Jesus in the temple read from the prophet Isaiah. It was a prophecy of Himself: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord” (Luke 4:18-19).

When the eyes of the blind are opened by the power of the Spirit they recognize their sin and their lost condition. This is the function of the law of God. When they see their sin and lost condition they become aware of the need for the Savior from sin. They recognize that this Savior is found in no one else but in the Lord Jesus, the divine Son of God Who became Man and lived among us. Without sin, deceit, guile in Himself, He bore the sins of the world and was dealt the wages of sin which is death (Romans 6:23). As the gospel is preached, to those who will listen is given insight to see Jesus as the light of the world. Their spiritual ears are opened to *hear* the voice of the Good Shepherd. They hear His voice and follow it. They rejoice in the Savior who says of those who see Him and listen to 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; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand” (John 10:28-29). With their spiritual sight healed they, though they may still be physically blind, look forward to the day when with their creation perfection restored they shall see the Lord and live with Him in heaven. All physically sighted or blind whose spiritual eyes have been opened have the precious promise, “Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, *for we shall see Him as He is*” (1 John 3:2). He has promised, “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).

Though we have compassion for those whose physical eye sight is impaired and gone, it is not the same as the pity we should feel for those who though they have physical sight, are spiritually blind. To die physically blind, but with faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is life. To die with physical sight, but spiritually blind is eternal death. Truly, however foolish it sounds to the sighted who are spiritually blind, it is nevertheless true of the physically blind whose spiritual eyes are opened by the Spirit and whose faith is anchored in Jesus. “Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see” (Luke 10:23), for you shall see God.

Thank the Lord for the miracle of faith-sight.

This was written at the request of Alvin Jask. Alvin is a member of Grace in Fridley. He is blind and recent surgery in Minneapolis did not restore his sight, but alleviated the problem a bit. Alvin is originally from Liberia, and is returning there tomorrow for a time. He is intensively trying to start a CLC church in Liberia as well as a school. His zeal for spreading the gospel among his people is contagious. Some of you may have met him at our recent convention. Please remember him in your prayers for the Lord's protection in his absence, as well as for the work he is doing in his home country, where by the way he was at one time a spokesman for the Liberian National Police. – Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 9/2016

THAT WE MIGHT SEE

“Then great multitudes came to him, having with them the lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others, and they laid them down at Jesus’ feet, and He healed them” (Matthew 15:30).

“Then the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them” (Matthew 21:14).

There are two kinds of blindness and deafness in the world. Both are a consequence of sin. While these and other maladies in individual cases may be the consequence of some human activity or an accident, Scripture does not attribute these to something one has done. When Jesus saw a man blind from birth, His disciples asked Him, “Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus responded, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned ...” (John 9:3). Nevertheless, blindness and deafness are a consequence of sin — sin that came into the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed the Lord and listened to Satan (Genesis 3). Whatever unpleasantness afflicts us in this world is a consequence of sin. Whereas God’s original creation was good and perfect in every regard, when sin came it defiled the creation. Inasmuch as it defiled also the flesh, everyone born into the world, except for the Lord Jesus, is afflicted with sin from birth (original sin), and in life suffers the consequences of sin.

At the moment we are addressing the matter of blindness and deafness. In truth all people, bar none, are born spiritually blind and deaf, dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1), and are incapable of loving or serving God, for the carnal mind is enmity against God (Romans 8:7). Sinful man in rebellion against God cannot make a decision for God. Adam and Eve did not seek out God after the fall. In *fear they hid* from God in the Garden of Eden after they had sinned (Genesis 3:8).

Both of the conditions are serious — physically in one case, and eternally in the other. Physical blindness and deafness affects the quality of life while we live in time. Spiritual blindness and deafness affects our physical existence as well as our *eternal* well-being. Both conditions potentially can be reversed, however. One is addressed from a medical perspective utilizing the blessings of medical science. In this area, medical doctors are the immediate functionaries. The other is addressed from a spiritual perspective through the application of the Word of God through which the Holy Spirit works upon what is basically a heart problem.

While Jesus came into the world to save sinners from eternal damnation, and thus bore the sins of the world in His own body, paid the penalty of our sin by dying on the cross, rose again to restore life, and reconciled us to God the Father, the passages at the beginning show His concern for the whole person. They brought the lame, blind, mute, and maimed to Him and He healed them. Blind Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus, begging His mercy. Upon Jesus' inquiry, Bartimaeus said, "That I may receive my sight" (Mark 10:51). Jesus healed the blind man at the pool of Siloam (John 9:11). The Lord is a Lord and God of compassion. He fed the 5,000, and then the 4,000. Jesus healed the man sick of the palsy. Interesting that before He healed him of his palsy, Jesus assured the man of the forgiveness of sins. "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you" (Matthew 9:2).

When His children call upon Him for healing, for physical sight, and hearing, our Lord hears our prayers. A number of things come into play: the glory of God and our need. In Matthew 15, after He had done His healing miracles we read: "And they *glorified* the God of Israel" (Matthew 15:31). At the raising of Lazarus, Jesus said to Martha, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God" (John 11:40). Again this is evidence of Jesus' concern for the whole person. Healings, restoring of sight, served to the benefit of the sufferer, but also for those who witnessed the miracle. The witnesses had physical evidence of the love and compassion of the Lord, and they *glorified* Him. By the power of the Spirit many were drawn to Him. The Lord invites His children to lay all their care and needs upon Him. And so we do, saying as the leper, "Lord, *if you are willing*, You can make me clean" (Matthew 8:2). Jesus healed Him. In our praying for ourselves or others in times of illness (blindness, deafness) we pray that the Lord will

bless the efforts of the medical profession as they minister to our need. As children of God we may pray that the Lord will graciously undo the consequences visited upon us by the introduction of sin into the world. When addressing Him for physical necessities, we pray, as we do in the Lord's Prayer, "*Thy will be done.*"

The good and gracious will of God is always done for our good, and always addresses the circumstances as He sees fit. Perhaps the classic evidence is the manner in which He responded to the apostle Paul who had prayed three times for relief from the thorn in the flesh, whatever it was. The Lord told him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). God in His grace helps the child of God to bear his infirmities, as Paul testified, "Therefore I most gladly will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

In this regard, we will also thankfully acknowledge that the Lord has done innumerable things for us before we have even asked Him. He has done things for us before the need arose, or we recognized the need. "It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear" (Isaiah 65:24). In sickness and in health, in time of joy and affliction, the Lord knows our needs and applies the appropriate balm, "For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him" (Matthew 6:8). Child of God, "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

What God ordains is always good.
Though I the cup am drinking
Which savors now of bitterness,
I take it without shrinking.
For after grief God grants relief,
My heart with comfort filling
And all my sorrow stilling. (The Lutheran Hymnal: 521)

The second type of blindness and deafness is the more serious, because dying blind and deaf in the spiritual realm is fatal. The solution to the spiritual condition is not found in the doctor's office, it is not found in philosophy and wisdom of men. The *prescription* for healing is found in Holy Scripture; the *solution and healing* is found in Jesus Christ of whom the Scripture speaks, and to whom it calls us.

Then **you**
shall see...



**your heart shall
thrill and
rejoice, because
the abundance
of the sea shall
be brought
to you.**
Isaiah 60:5, NRSV