

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Benno Sydow
Ushers: Michael Ude; James Bomber; David Hein; Ryan Oman; Eli Wales

Counting Team 4: James Bomber; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust

Hospitality: Suspended for New Years

Church Cleaners: Hein

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Michael Ude; James Bomber; David Hein; Ryan Oman; Eli Wales

Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Pat Paplow; Phil Radichel

Hospitality Team 6: Alex & Bonnie Baker, Kevin & Tracy Baker; Phil & Rona Flesner

Church Cleaners: Hein School: Nelson

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Jan. 1: NEW YEAR'S DAY
 10:00 am – New Year's Day Worship w/Lord's Supper (Bible Class, Sunday School, Hospitality suspended)
 3:00 pm – Pastor Doug Libby Installation at Eden Prairie, MN

Mon., Jan. 2: 7:00 pm – Missionary Ohlmann Commissioning (Eau Claire, WI)

Tue., Jan. 3: Grace School – Classes Resume

Fri., Jan. 6: EPIPHANY DAY

Sun., Jan. 8: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality
 12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Mon., Jan. 9: 10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study Club @ Mankato, MN

Wed., Jan. 11: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

Sun., Jan. 15: 11:30 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

Sat., Jan. 21: 9:00 am – Grace Work Day

Wed., Mar. 1: Ash Wednesday

The following is the nomination slate for 2017:

- Elder: Dale Enns
- Education: James Bomber, Michael Ude
- Trustee: Brad Kitman, Ryan Oman
- Delegates: Rick Nelson, Phil Radichel, Al Rosendahl, Dave Rust

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: January 1, 2017

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

Another Year Is Past and Gone (Tune TLH 375)

TLH 117: The Ancient Law Departs

TLH 114: Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

Communion: TLH 116, 120

For Thy Mercy and Thy Grace

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 2, TLH p. 123

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 15 (Communion)

Gloria: TLH 106, st. 4,7

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 63:7-9

Galatians 4:4-7

Sermon: Luke 2:21

²¹ And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. (NKJVTM)

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds!

1. He will save the world because of its sin
2. He will complete what He set out to do

ANOTHER YEAR IS PAST AND GONE

(Melody: TLH 375)

Another year is past and gone,
And cannot be recaptured.
Its days are done, and we've advanced,
Still closer to our parting.
O Lord, forgive our sins, we pray
And keep us on the narrow way
As now arrives a New Year.

In Christ, You've claimed us as your own
He is our Lord and Savior.
Our confidence is firmly based
Upon Your Word most faithful.
Your promises are good and true,
And always firm and gracious
Most certainly we thank You.

Another year is now a gift,
A time of grace and favor.
May we fore'er in word and deed
Give praise and honor to Your name.
Help us to share Your Gospel Word
With those who still are dead in sin,
That they might know their Savior.

We know not what this year will bring,
What evil lurks, or good will come.
We know that all is in Your hands
And e'er what comes is for our good.
You'll never leave, nor let Your child
Go through the year without Your hand.
For sure, You'll guide and keep us.

Help us, O Lord to follow You O, keep us in Your care each day.
Keep us e'er faithful to Your Word, That never from its truth we stray.
It is a lamp unto our feet The light that leads us, without fail,
Upon the path to heaven.

If this year now will be our last And all the years are gone and past,
Lord, keep us in Your loving arms And bear us to our home in heaven.
There we shall see our Savior dear, Our Lord, Who is forever near,
And we'll know peace forever.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2016

For Thy Mercy and Thy Grace

1. For Thy mer - cy and Thy grace,
2. Lo, our sins on Thee we cast,
3. Dark the fu - ture; let Thy light
4. In our weak - ness and dis - tress,
5. Keep us faith - ful, keep us pure,

Faith - ful thro' an - oth - er year.
Thee, our per - fect Sac - ri - fice,
Guide us, bright and Morn - ing Star.
Rock of strength, be Thou our Stay;
Keep us ev - er - more Thine own.

Hear our song of thank - ful - ness;
And, for - get - ting all the past,
Fierce our foes and hard the fight;
In the path - less wil - der - ness
Help, oh, help us to en - dure;

Sav - ior and Re - deem - er, hear!
Press un - to our glo - rious prize.
Arm us, Sav - ior, for the war.
Be our true and liv - ing Way.
Fit us for the pro - mised crown.

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Directory:** We are again preparing for the publication of the yearly directory at Grace. Please check your contact information in the draft copy of the directory located in the narthex. Place a check mark by your entry if it is correct. If it is not, then please edit as necessary. If you wish to add email or cell numbers, please do so. Your cooperation is appreciated as we attempt to produce an accurate directory. Also, please ensure your birthday and/or anniversary information is correct.
- ◆ **Thank You:** The Kirkham family wishes to thank all those who have offered comfort, prayers, and encouragement as we deal with the loss of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and uncle. We were incredibly blessed to have Jack in our lives, and we continue to be blessed by his legacy of quiet confidence, humble witness, fine intellect, and a caring, generous heart. Please know that the love of our Christian brethren continues to lift us as we face the difficult path before us, and God's constant presence illuminates the dark hours with the promise of brighter days ahead. The Lord is good and faithful, in life and in death, and we take great consolation in knowing that Jack now enjoys the perfect joy and perfect peace purchased for him by his Savior. Sue Anne Kirkham
- ◆ **Video:** If you are interested in a copy of a DVD from the Christmas Eve service, please speak with Pastor or Frank Radichel.
- ◆ **Christmas Flowers:** All members who purchased flowers for the altar may take them home.
- ◆ **2017 Cleaning:** The 2017 cleaning sign-up list is posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. As of now, only 5 family units have volunteered. There enough families in the congregation to fill each week of the year. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **Installation:** Pastor Doug Libby will be installed to today at Living Savior of Eden Prairie in a special service at 3 pm, at the Huber Funeral Chapel, 16394 Glory Lane, Eden Prairie, MN, 55344. A brief reception will follow service. Members of area CLC congregations are invited to join Living Savior on this joyous occasion.

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 25, 2016			
Christmas Eve:		Christmas Day:	
Christmas Eve Offering:	Grace: 6,655.00	CLC: 2,610.00	
Christmas Day Offering:	Grace: \$2,085.00	CLC: \$400.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace: 3,300.00	CLC: 1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace: +5,440.00	CLC: +2,010.00	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace: \$160,497.45	CLC: \$47,999.84	
Total Budget for Year:	Grace: 172,000.00	CLC: 52,000.00	
Difference from budget (+/-)	Grace: -11,502.55	CLC: -4,000.16	
GLC Other: 1,472.85	Living Faith: 0.00	Tuition Aid: 75.00	
SAF Endowment: 0.00	MDF: 60.00	Kinship: 110.00	
ILC Student Aid: 10.00	ILC Bldg. 0.00	IIF: 10.00 CEF: 0.00	
Current Balances:	Parking Lot: 19,331.25	Tuition Aid: 1,814.12	

ANOTHER YEAR IS PAST

Another year has come and gone—how quickly a year passes, it seems, as one gets older. As one reviews the passing years, and thinks about the changing scenes and circumstances of life, one thing remains abundantly clear. The conditions of life basically do not change as the Preacher, the son of David, recorded in Ecclesiastes.

The theme of the Ecclesiastes declares, “Vanity of vanities ... all is vanity” (1:2). This theme is reaffirmed in the last chapter, as Solomon concludes with the same words, “Vanity of vanities ... all is vanity” (12: 8).

A reader of Ecclesiastes can quickly see how Solomon's theme is a good description of the state of the world, the passing of time, and our own existence in it. Matthew Henry wrote of Ecclesiastes: “It convinces us of the vanity of the world, and that it cannot make us happy; of the vileness of sin, and its certain tendency to make us miserable. It shows that no created good can satisfy the soul, and that happiness is to be found in God alone; and this doctrine must, under the blessed Spirit's teaching, lead the heart to Christ Jesus.” Ecclesiastes is a record of “what days speak, and wisdom which the multitude of years teaches.”

Some may dismiss this book as morbid, a real downer—a description of abject pessimism. It is not difficult to understand how many will make that assessment. However, it is the assessment only of those who reject the grace of God, and Jesus Christ. It is not surprising when they who reject the manifest expression of God's love have no hope for the future beyond what the godless sin-cursed world offers. Without faith in Christ, life is empty, debilitating fear rules, enmity thrives, and eternity is anguish.

Christ-believers, contesting against their own sinful flesh and the world will acknowledge the correctness of what Solomon wrote. Solomon experienced the things of which he wrote. As a sinner, he brought many of them on himself. Solomon had served himself and his desires. He understood the emptiness of the perverted nature, and of a life focused on temporal things. He spoke of chasing things of this world as “vanity and grasping for the wind.” At the end, he gave warning and admonition to forsake such a vain manner of life. When life with all its vanities ends, the distinction between those whose life is devoid of Christ and faith, and the penitent believer in Christ is stark. In picturesque words, he wrote:

“Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed,
Or the golden bowl is broken,
Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain,
Or the wheel broken at the well.
Then the dust will return to the earth as it was ...”

At the end of life all flesh, bar none, will turn to dust. However, of those who die in faith “The spirit will return to God who gave it” (12:6-8). Solomon concludes book:

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:
‘Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all.
For God will bring every work into judgment,
Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil” (12:13-14).

As we move past the old year into the new, let us confess our sins (repentance) and believe (faith) the promises of the gracious God, Who for Jesus’ sake “is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 3:9). Further, let us acknowledge that every gift of God is good and is given for our benefit (to be used with thanksgiving), but at the same time remember that the things of this life are only temporary, and therefore are not to be the *focus* of our being. “Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing” (Luke 12:23). Those whose life is wrapped up in vain *things* are warned: “Fool, this night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided”? So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God” (Luke 12:22). Therefore “Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven” (Matthew 6:20), keeping your focus on “Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2). “But seek first the kingdom of God ...” (Matthew 6:33).

Covet not the praise of the world, but “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your *good* works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

A life devoid of Christ is a life without hope. While they of the world will not admit it, a life without Christ and the future hope of heaven is the cause of inordinate fear and dread. But the children of God are faced with the same circumstances and enemies that cause fear in the unbelieving. The difference in the attitude of people of faith is that they are comforted by the promise of the Lord Who said, “Be strong and of good courage, do not fear or be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you” (Deuteronomy 31:6).

When every secret thing, whether good or evil, is revealed in the judgment, they whose life was manifest in fruits of repentance and faith will be received into glory. That is the confidence of all whose foundation is Christ, and whose focus is heaven. Whate’er betide, children of God can go into the New Year in confident hope!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2016

Grace Funds

GENERAL FUND: Contributions to this fund are used for budgeted expenses that normally are incurred in operating our church and Christian Day School. This includes such things as the pastor’s and teacher’s compensations, utilities, church operations, school supplies, pastor’s mileage, etc.

TUITION FUND: Offerings are used to assist Grace students at Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, WI.

LIVING FAITH: This program offers opportunities for members to help those of the congregation who are in need of food, clothing, necessary medical supplies, etc. Your offerings to this fund serve the physical welfare of your brethren.

DORCAS GUILD FUND: This is used to support the women’s group and any of its activities.

PROJECT FUND: This is for any special projects the congregation decides to do.

CLC Funds

CLC GENERAL FUND (SOMETIMES CALLED “MISSIONS”): Contributions to this fund support the General Budget of the CLC. They are used to subsidize U.S. and foreign missions and to subsidize operating expenses at Immanuel Lutheran High School and College in Eau Claire, WI.

MISSION DEVELOPMENT FUND (MDF): This fund provides support for mission projects both at home and abroad. Funds are used for such things as missionary exploratory efforts, instruction materials, self-help projects in foreign mission fields, storm relief in India and Africa, etc.

PROJECT KINSHIP: Contributions are used for the administration and support of orphanages in the foreign missions affiliated with the CLC. At times sponsorship is requested for specific orphans or seminary students in these foreign mission fields.

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND (CEF): This Fund is maintained for the purpose of providing loans to build or buy churches and/or parsonages within the CLC.

ILC BUILDING FUND: Contributions are used for the financing of any new building projects at ILC. At this time the Academic Center is being financed.

ILC IMPROVEMENT FUND (IIF): This fund has been used for various capital expenditures or special projects at ILC, including such items as remodeling, updating blacktop, furnace replacement, window replacement, painting, etc.

ILC STUDENT AID: This Fund provides scholarships, grants, and loans to students attending the high school, college, and seminary. Contributions may allow students to prepare for the preaching and teaching ministries who otherwise might be unable to attend ILC. Eventually this fund is expected to be self-supporting because of an endowment element and the repayment of student loans after graduation.

ILC STUDENT AID ENDOWMENT: This Fund accumulates in principle as donations are made with the annual investment gains funneled into the ILC Student Aid Fund.