

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Ryan Mueller      Elder: Benno Sydow

Ushers: Al Rosendahl; Scott Baker; Chad Hestekin; David Stifter; Lyle Trulin

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

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Al Rosendahl; Scott Baker; Chad Hestekin; David Stifter; Lyle Trulin

Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Rick Nelson; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker

Hospitality Team 7: Jan Davis, Chad & Amanda Hestekin; Ryan & Mikey Oman; Eli & Laura Wales

Church Cleaners: Volunteers?      School: Nelson

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

**Sun., Jan. 8:** 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class

10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 1)

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:** 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class

10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 2)

11:15 am – Hospitality

11:30 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

**Mon., Jan. 16:** Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School)

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

**Sun., Jan. 22:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice Resumes

**Wed., Mar. 1:** Ash Wednesday – Midweek Lenten Worship Begins

### 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 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)

**School Phone:** 763-784-6340

**Church Year:** Epiphany 1

**Phone:** 763-784-8784

**Grades:** Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup>

**Date:** January 8, 2017

## ✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

### Hymns:

WS 717: Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

TLH 128: Brightest and Best of the Sons

TLH 127: As with Gladness Men of Old

WS 769: Lift High the Cross

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

### Worship Prep:

Psalms 72, TLH p. 138

### Liturgy:

TLH, p. 32 f. (Matins)

Offering TLH 441:1-2

### Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 3:2-12

Matthew 2:1-12

### Sermon: Isaiah 60:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. <sup>2</sup> For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. <sup>3</sup> The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. <sup>4</sup> "Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side. <sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. <sup>6</sup> The multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD. (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

### Epiphany's Startling Surprises!

1. The LORD's glory has come in Christ Jesus
2. The LORD's glory shall be seen by others

## ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Christmas Tree:** Those willing to help take down the Christmas tree may do so following hospitality today.
- ◆ **Directory:** We are 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.
- ◆ **Dorcas Guild:** At the meeting next Sunday individuals will be nominated for officers (vice president and secretary/treasurer). Actual election of officers will be at the April meeting.
- ◆ **Cable TV:** As a reminder, our weekly worship services are shown on Fridley Municipal Television Channel 17 through cable. Our services play at midnight and 5 pm on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.
- ◆ **School UPC Collections:** Please deposit required proofs of purchase in specific containers for each one in the fellowship hall. Do not mix them together. This saves time for getting them ready for redemption. For Campbell's submissions the UPC code must be included with the point value indication. You can also submit the entire label.
- ◆ **Tournament:** The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Grade School Basketball Tournament for CLC Youth will be held at Immanuel Lutheran College, March 10-12, 2017 (Friday-Sunday). Registration for teams ends on Feb. 1. Teams are co-ed, and fall into one of three categories: A (7th-8th grade), B (5th-6th grade), or C (5th-8th grade). Full guidelines are available on <http://www.clclutheran.net/tourney>.
- ◆ **2017 Cleaning:** The 2017 cleaning sign-up list is posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. So far only a few families have volunteered and January isn't filled. There are enough families in the congregation to fill each week of the year. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **CLC Board of Missions Update:** At an evening service at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, Pastor Todd Ohlmann was commissioned by CLC President Michael Eichstadt as our Visiting Missionary. The service can be viewed online at [www.eauclairemessiah.com](http://www.eauclairemessiah.com) ("Online Worship"). With Missionary Ohlmann's acceptance of the Visiting Missionary call and commissioning, he has resigned from his position on the CLC Board of Missions, and as Chairman of that Board. President Eichstadt has appointed Pastor Rob Sauers to complete Pastor Ohlmann's term on the Board of Missions which ends in 2020. Mr. Joel Krafft was elected as the Board of Missions Chairman. Please continue to pray for Missionary Ohlmann and his family, as well as those who serve on our behalf on the various CLC boards, that the Lord's name may be glorified, and His kingdom come!

- ◆ **CLC President:** CBP estimates: In preparing for January voters meetings, remember that CBP estimates are requested as soon as possible. Please encourage your councils and voters to address the matter carefully and with prayer to the Lord, who graciously provides the earthly means necessary to maintain ILC and our mission program. Carefully examine the needs and opportunities the Lord has placed before us, and as individuals and congregations pray for the faith to freely give firstfruits, as St. Paul urges, with cheerful and generous hearts to Him who first loved us. / Dissolution: Divine Word, Spring Valley, MN, is dissolved as of Dec. 31, 2016. / Clarification: Questions have been raised regarding Mark Bohde's status. While at one time serving in the public ministry of the CLC and more recently being a member of Bethel, Houston, TX, he has resigned from Bethel and is not a member of the CLC. / TVBS: The Traveling Vacation Bible School Committee is making plans for summer 2017. If your congregation is interested in hosting or sponsoring a TVBS session, please contact Prof. Ross Roehl ([ross.roehl@ilc.edu](mailto:ross.roehl@ilc.edu)). For more information, consult the TVBS website ([www.clctvbs.org](http://www.clctvbs.org)).
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Frank Gantt of St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran in Lemmon, SD, has accepted the call to Zion Ev. Lutheran in Lawrenceville, GA (Atlanta area). ✠ Pastor Mark Tiefel of Redemption Lutheran in Lynnwood, WA (Seattle area), has returned the call to the Tri-parish: Grace Lutheran in Valentine, NE; Peace Lutheran in Mission, SD; and St. Paul's Lutheran in White River, SD.

### **Last Week's Stats:** Jan. 1, 2017 Sun.: 75

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	3,649.50	CLC:	610.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00*	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+349.50	CLC:	-390.00	
GLC Other:	327.00	Living Faith:	102.00	Tuition Aid:	78.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 3.00

Current Balances:      Parking Lot: 19,556.25      Tuition Aid: 1,892.12

\*Based on 2016 Figure. Voters have yet to determine 2017 amount.

"For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." Romans 14:8)

Whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. We belong to none other than the Lord. This is our greatest comfort and joy: that we have as our Lord He to whom the Father has given all power in heaven and on earth and has placed all things in His hands. Who, then, could possibly do us harm? The devil may very well attack us with his murderous rage, but he will never snatch us from the Lord's hand. For we who believe in Jesus Christ and live under His guardianship have also become lords ourselves over the devil, sin, death, etc. In order that such lordship might be ours, He was made man for our sake. He appealed to the Father on our behalf and so loves us in this way: He was condemned, offering Himself up for our sakes. With His precious blood He purchased us and washed us clean from sin. Still more He has placed in our hearts the Holy Spirit, the pledge of our inheritance and blessedness, making us kings and priests for God and joint heirs with Himself. This is most certainly true. O Lord, strengthen our faith that we would always remember these things and never doubt these promises. (Martin Luther)



## Deciding Our Level of Support for the CLC in 2017

One of the matters that our voters will be taking up at our annual meeting on January 15 is our estimate of what our financial support will be for our church body, the Church of the Lutheran Confession, in 2017. Here is a brief review of the kinds of things we accomplish together with our fellow Christians in the CLC:

- **Support of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary** – The education of pastors, Christian day school teachers, and well-trained laymen is of vital importance to the CLC. About 2/3 of the cost of operating our school comes from student tuition and fees. The remainder is provided from our CBP offerings. 53 cents of every dollar we contribute to the CLC helps make this possible.
- **Support of U.S. and foreign missions** – Spreading the Gospel at home and abroad is our commission from the Lord Jesus, and our privilege as His ambassadors. We help to support 6 CLC congregations in the U.S. and Canada, as well as foreign affiliate churches and seminaries in Africa, India, Nepal, and Myanmar. There are more than 60,000 members in these churches, and incredible opportunities to share the Gospel of Christ crucified with large numbers of people who do not yet know Him. 35 cents of every dollar we contribute to the CLC helps to support this effort.
- **Support of our retirees, CLC debt, and administration** – Through our Board of Trustees, the faithful service of our retired called servants is acknowledged with a modest monthly stipend. Debt on one professorship is serviced, and our General Business Office is funded. 11 cents of every dollar we contribute to the CLC funds these needs.
- **The Board of Education and Publications** receives a modest amount each year to help with the publication of books and other materials by the CLC. 1 cent of every CBP dollar funds these projects.

Each fall, the CLC Boards meet to map out the needs for the coming fiscal year. They propose a budget for the individual congregations to consider at their annual meetings. After they receive the estimated offerings from the congregations, the final budget is set in the spring. Here is the budget proposal for us to consider at our annual meeting on January 15:

### The CLC Operating Budget Summary

Budget:	Current FY17	Proposed FY18
– ILC (Board of Regents)	\$1,301,500	\$1,365,000
– CLC Missions	315,000	340,000
– Ed & Publications	10,000	10,000
– Old Retirement	67,000	66,700
– Debt Service/Admin	28,000	29,000
Current Year Total:	\$1,721,500	\$1,810,700
Student Revenue:	(821,500)	(830,000)
General Fund Offerings Needed:	\$900,000	\$930,000

The proposed budget reflects an increase of 3.3% over last year's budget. It also anticipates using \$50,000 from reserve funds for operating expenses. The increase is driven largely by salary increases for CLC called workers, from \$2,613 to \$2,728 per month, as well as increases for mission efforts. Here is the recent history of our congregation's CBP estimates and actual contributions over the last 5 years:

Year	Budget	Actual Offerings
2012	\$50,000	\$47,447
2013	\$50,000	\$52,050
2014	\$54,000	\$54,665
2015	\$55,000	\$51,540
2016	\$52,000	\$48,890

Please give these needs your prayerful consideration. The input of all our members is welcome. If you are not a voter, please make your ideas and desires known to a voter, or to the pastor. Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 15, following the worship service.

*"Let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7*



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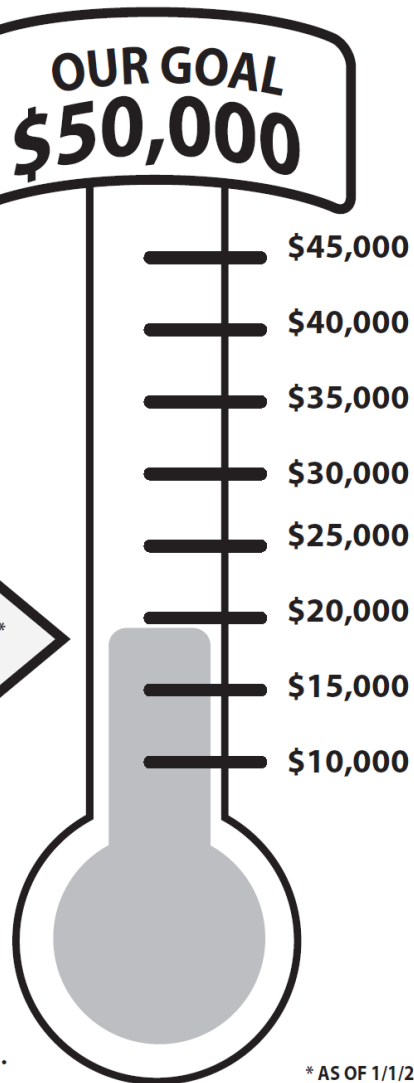
*"Let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7*

# GRACE PARKING LOT FUND



The original parking lot was installed on Wednesday, June 27, 1984 by H.L. Johnson Companies at a cost of \$10,100.

**19,331.25\***



On October 19, 2014 the Grace Lutheran Church Voter's assembly passed a motion to set up a "parking lot fund". Since then over \$19,000 has been raised. In April of 2016 quotes were gathered and a goal of \$50,000 was established. If you wish to contribute directly to this fund please check the "project" line on your offerings envelope and write in "parking lot".

\* AS OF 1/1/2017

## RELEVANCY

In theological language, the word *church* is used in a so-called proper sense and improper sense. The proper sense of the word church refers to the *Holy Christian Church* as we confess in the Apostolic Creed--the *called out ones* who have been *called by* the Holy Spirit *out of unbelief to faith* in the Lord Jesus Christ. The medium of the Spirit's calling is the means of grace—the Gospel in word and sacrament. In the proper sense, the CHURCH is the Body of Christ (Colossians 3:24), and consists only of believers in Christ. "He is the head of the body, the CHURCH ..." (Colossians 1:18).

As believers in Christ are born of the Gospel, so it is the Gospel through which they are nourished and preserved in the faith unto eternal life. Believers in Christ are found "not only in those external communions which teach the Word of God purely in every part, but also where, along with error, so much of the Word of God still remains that men may be brought to a knowledge of their sins and to faith in the forgiveness of sins, which Christ has gained for all men" (Mark 16:16). <sup>(1)</sup> The Holy Christian CHURCH bears no denominational name. It is not Lutheran, Baptist, Catholic, etc. It is the sum total of believers of whatever race or nation who through time and in the world by the power of the Spirit trust in the Savior for salvation.

Since faith in Christ is a matter of the heart and cannot be seen by men but "The Lord knows those who are His ..." (2 Timothy 2:19), the Holy Christian CHURCH is invisible. The Lord alone knows the hearts of men (2 Kings 8:39). Jesus said, "I know My sheep ..." (John 10:14).

On the other hand, *church* in the so-called improper sense is the external or visible organization. The *church in the external sense* is not equated with the *Holy Christian CHURCH*. The external entity is called church because of the Christ-believers who gather around the Word and Sacrament.

It is the will and command of God that Christians "test the spirits to see whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). The Lord calls on His people to identify with each other in worship, in prayer, at the altar, and before the pulpit with such as are of one confession, and faith in the Word of God. They are to avoid, carry on no *spiritual* fellowship with, those who teach contrary to the Word, but are to avoid them lest they be misled "by smooth words and flattering speech [that] deceive the hearts of the simple" (Romans 16:17-18). Such avoidance is not a judgment of the heart or salvation of those with whom we are not in fellowship; it is a *judgment on what is taught*, a judgment to which we are



exhorted when the Lord says, “Beware of false prophets” (Matthew 7:15). The identifier of what is truth or error is Holy Scripture! In love the Lord would shield His people from exposure to teaching which can undermine faith. The principle of God's love in this regard is “Separation for the sake of preservation!”

The only means by which Christians can identify one another in the church on earth is by the verbal confession of faith and life. The faithful exercise of church fellowship *separates on earth* believers in Christ from one another. But as aforesaid, the Lord has His children in those fellowships where “so much of the Word of God still remains that men may be brought to a knowledge of their sins and to faith in the forgiveness of sins, which Christ has gained for all men.” The separation Christians experience on earth does not separate believers within the Holy Christian CHURCH. That CHURCH remains whole and it remains one, for there is no division in the spiritual body of Christ. One day in heaven all believers in Christ will unite in praise to the Lord of our salvation.

Today we hear much about whether the church is relevant, meeting the needs of people. Some people have given up on attending church, or want to change the church because it is not deemed relevant to them. Much of this talk centers on social or cultural relevancy. What can the church do to make people more successful in life? How can it be made more appealing or interesting to people? What changes can be made to satisfy cultural and social demands? The answer for many lies in adapting form, substance, message, and doctrine to fit what people want, more than to what they need. “So, what can we do to make the church more relevant?” is their question.

We take another tact. The message which our God gave to the CHURCH was the commission to preach the Gospel to every creature, to fulfill its ministry through the proclamation of the Word—Law and Gospel. As the church on earth reflects the faith of the CHURCH *it does not have to do anything to make it more relevant. It is relevant!*

As all people on the earth since the fall are born in sin, and are under the wrath of God, and lost eternally unless saved by our Lord Jesus Christ, what is more relevant to their real need than to show them the way to life eternal? To this end, what is more relevant in fulfilling our Lord's commission than to preach repentance and remission of sins? How can a church be more relevant than to lead the dying to the foot of the cross of our Lord Jesus where the sins of all people were paid for, and to the open tomb where life was restored--the real life far beyond what passes for life on this stricken earth?

The message of salvation by grace through faith is relevant to the real needs of sinners beyond the social and cultural relevancy yearned for by many. We submit if we are preaching sin and grace, thus preparing people for heaven, a desired benefit will follow. Jesus said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33). On the other hand, there is no passage that exhorts us to satisfy ourselves first with the good things of life or to pursue social and cultural desires first, after which heaven will be given to us! Churches that promote social or cultural relevancy as their primary purpose on earth do not at the same time necessarily, if at all, prepare people for heaven!

The apostle Paul directs our attention to what is relevant: “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory” (Colossians 3:1-4).

To that the members of the Holy Christian Church assent, and for the fulfillment of the promise they wait. Of this promise, as well as by the assurance of all that our Lord has done for us, sanctification is born and nurtured within the heart of believers. By the power of the Father's love shown to us in Christ, God's children exercise themselves in pursuing what is good and pleasing to Him, and beneficial to the neighbor. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for *good* works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

In the spiritual context, as individuals, being relevant in the world is being who one is called to be—a faithful child of God in word and deed. They who desire a church that is relevant to their real needs are advised to seek out that fellowship on earth where Christ and the Gospel are the heart and core of the message.

In summary: That church is relevant that has as its “single purpose to be a Christian church that proclaims the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible. This gospel is the only way people can know the true God and the way to eternal life ...”<sup>(2)</sup>

As the body of believers on earth is faithful to its Lord, it is a reflection of the CHURCH of which Christ is the Head. There is nothing more relevant than the proclamation of the Gospel, the power of God unto salvation, which was demonstrated as “The Lord added to the CHURCH daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47).

1) Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, *Brief Statement*, 1932, p.13

2) Church of the Lutheran Confession, *Statement of Faith and Purpose*, p. 5