

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Benno Sydow

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

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

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

Church Cleaners: Sandhoefner School: Nelson

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

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

Hospitality Team 1: Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice Sandhoefner

Church Cleaners: Sandhoefner School: Oman

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

**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)

**Wed., Jan. 18:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

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

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

9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class

10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 3)

11:15 am – Hospitality

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

**March 10-12:** Grade School Basketball Tournament for CLC Youth

**Sun., Mar. 19:** 7:00 pm – Immanuel Tour Choir Concert

**Last Week's Stats:** Jan. 8, 2017 Sun.: 105 S.S.: 11 B.Cl.: 38

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,389.50	CLC:	\$725.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	950.00*	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-910.50	CLC:	-225.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$6,039.00	CLC:	\$1,335.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	6,600.00	CLC:	1,900.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-561.00	CLC:	-565.00	
GLC Other:	244.25	Living Faith:	10.00	Tuition Aid:	235.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	100.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	20.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00

Current Balances: Parking Lot: 19,786.25 Tuition Aid: 2,127.12

\*Based on the Council-proposed 2017 Figure. Voters have yet to determine 2017 amount.

## 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:** Epiphany 2

**Date:** January 15, 2017

## ✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

### Hymns:

TLH 462: I Love Thy Kingdom Lord

TLH 284: Father of Mercies, in Thy Word

TLH 477: Lord Jesus, Thou the Church's Head

TLH 658, st. 2-3: Onward, Christian Soldiers

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

### Worship Prep:

Psalm 27, TLH p. 129

### Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 360:1,7

### Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 49:1-6

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

### Sermon: Hebrews 10:23-25

<sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

## Let's Stir Things Up!

1. By holding fast to our confession of God's Word
2. By having the good habit of gathering together
3. By encouraging each other in love and good works

## ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ♦ **Voters and Dorcas Guild:** Today is the annual Voters meeting. We ask our Voters to stay and participate. All men 18-years and older are eligible to serve as Voters. The Dorcas Guild will also meet.
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **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>.
- ♦ **Immanuel Tour Choir:** Grace has been asked to host the Immanuel Tour Choir for an evening concert at 7 pm on March 19, the last concert of the tour. This year's tour (March 10-19) will include CLC congregations from South Dakota, North Dakota, and Washington.
- ♦ **Thanks:** Dear Everyone, Thank you for donating to my fund over at ILC. I had a lot of fun the first semester, and I hope the second semester will be just as fun. I really appreciate all the help and support from the whole congregation. I also want to thank Pastor, Mrs. Hein, Mrs. Bergstrom, and even Mrs. Radichel for all the help over my school years. Their teachings have helped a lot in my schooling. Sincerely, Patrick Baker // Dear Members of Grace, Thank you for all the support you have given us for our schooling. It is a privilege to be able to go to Immanuel. Your helping with our tuition helps make it possible. Thank you! Julianna & David Hein.
- ♦ **CLC News:** Pastor Neal Radichel of Luther Memorial in Fond du Lac, WI, has received 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. ✠ Pastor Rob Sauers of Bethel Lutheran in Morris, MN, has received the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran in Madison Hts., MI (Detroit area).

*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!*

## Council Meeting Notes – January 8, 2017

The meeting was called to order with a prayer. Roll was taken. The December council meeting minutes were read and approved. The December treasurer's report was read and approved. The annual treasurer's report was distributed.

### Pastor's Report

- Pastor has sent his Liberia report to the CLC Board of Missions. The Elders met with them here this week.
- Pastor reviewed attendance statistics for the year.

### Elder Report

- Motion passed to recommend to the voters that the CLC Board of Missions assume responsibility for work in Liberia.
- Motion passed to recommend to the voters to submit a CLC CBP of \$50,350 for 2017. Previous year figures were as follows:

2014	\$54,000
2015	\$55,000
2016	\$52,000

- Motion passed that the Trustees collect background check information on Grace workers and store it in a secure receptacle.

### Education Report

- January 16 is teacher conferences.
- January 25 the kindergarten students will have a pajama party.
- Thank you to all who helped prepare the Christmas bags.
- Research is continuing regarding tuition rates for private schools.

### Trustee Report

- January 21 is a church cleanup day.
- Research is continuing regarding a new property insurance policy.
- The report was accepted.

Adapted from the minutes from Secretary Roger Ochsner

# **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## **The Bible is Our Basis ...**

<b>... for a foundation</b>	<i>For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:11</i>
<b>... for strength</b>	<i>God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1</i>
<b>... for guidance</b>	<i>Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. Psalm 119:105</i>
<b>... for salvation</b>	<i>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</i>
<b>... for eternal life</b>	<i>And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3</i>
<b>... for doctrine</b>	<i>All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16</i>
<b>... for fellowship</b>	<i>Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. Romans 16:17</i>
<b>... for forgiveness</b>	<i>In [Jesus] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:14</i>
<b>... for love</b>	<i>In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10</i>
<b>... for wisdom</b>	<i>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9:10</i>
<b>... for truth</b>	<i>Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. John 17:17</i>
<b>... for peace</b>	<i>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7</i>

## **1517—REFORMATION—2017**

Though prior attempts at reformation had been made, the reformation of 1517 is remembered as the watershed event in the church, as well as in secular society. The Reformation was primarily religious. It addressed matters of doctrine, and the teaching of the church. Nevertheless, it expanded beyond anything that Martin Luther, a former papal loyalist envisioned, as pope, church, emperor, politician, and people on the streets, were affected. It touched government, education, economics, culture, and family. Once it started no one could stem the tide. Five hundred years later, not only the church, but also secular society is still recognizing its impact.

In this anniversary year, the confessional, and orthodox Lutheran Church will chiefly concentrate on the spiritual aspect of the Reformation. Of many blessings that resulted—chiefly the reemergence of the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ,—another was the reemphasis on the Word of God as the foundation of faith and life. The Word of God was paramount to Luther. “If we want to walk safely, let us accept that which the Word of God prescribes, and which God Himself wants us to know.” <sup>(1)</sup>

One of Luther’s themes was the priesthood of all believers. Against Rome’s elevation of the papacy and the priesthood to a special class, he spoke of making distinction between the way in which God calls us priests, and the way in which men call themselves priests. Following Luther, confessional Lutheranism testifies to the priesthood of all believers. “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light, who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy” <sup>(1 Peter 2:9)</sup>. Sermonizing on Psalm 110:4, “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek,” Luther said: “Consequently, every baptized Christian is a priest already, not by appointment or ordination from the pope or any other man, but because Christ Himself has begotten him as a priest and has given birth to him in baptism.” <sup>(2)</sup> No one is to function in a public capacity, that is in the pastoral or teaching activity in the Church without a regular call. Nevertheless, every Christian in the private exercise of one’s faith-life has the right and authority to witness to Christ, confess Him before the world, to speak the gospel, forgive sins, admonish the erring, as well as to comfort, pray, intercede for the neighbor, and in case of necessity, to baptize. In as much as these activities are exercises of the Word of God, the blessings that flow therefrom are as valid and certain as if God Himself has spoken, for power and blessing lies in the Word, and not in the individual.

In celebration of the Reformation in 2017 it is to be hoped that the understanding of the priesthood of all believers will be reinvigorated. In this regard, we do well to heed the Lord's warning to the congregation in Laodicea which had become enamored with material and temporal things, and had grown lukewarm in matters of faith (Revelation 3:16). Reinvigoration calls for a return to the first love, zeal for the truth and service to the Lord (Revelation 2:1-7). Such love is not regained by threat or intimidation, or under force of law. The law creates animosity toward the Word. Love for the Word and zeal for the truth is born of the gospel—the word that exudes the love of God, and fills us with the richness of God's grace in Christ our Savior. "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it" (Luke 11:28). The gospel energizes the heart and mind to serve the Lord, and to love the neighbor. The apostle admonishes us to desire in the manner of "newborn babes," "the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious" (1 Peter 2:2-3). By the Word, which the shepherds *heard* and *saw*, and which we find in Holy Scripture, we like the shepherds will be moved to exercise our individual priesthood. The shepherds "made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child (Jesus)" (Luke 2:17). They were the first lay-missionaries as they returned to their mundane, but important, vocation.

Our daily vocations put the family of believers in many different and unique circumstances in which opportunities exist to share the faith and Christian hope—opportunities to "*proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*" As Christ-believers share the message of the saving love of Christ, they can make a difference in individual lives.

J. Gresham Machen said: "For Christians to influence the world with the truth of God's Word requires the recovery of the great Reformation doctrine of vocation. Christians are called to God's service not only in church professions but also in every secular calling. The task of restoring truth to the culture depends largely on our laypeople." Only in the Lord, Who is the "way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6) is there relief from the burdens of life. Only in Him is found eternal salvation. To declare this message is a privilege and responsibility of the priesthood of believers.

As Christ-believers with an eternal hope, we cannot simply be content with the fact that we have it. The shepherds did not return to the fields keeping the message to themselves. Good news wants out. In both faith and life, we are called to reflect the truth of God, and His saving love to our neighbor, as did the shepherds.

Society suffers a dearth of truth. As truth and Christianity are being redefined by many today who think they know better than the Lord, souls are being deceived and destroyed. Removed 500 years from the Reformation, the times in which we live are equally in need of faithful confessors from the pulpit to the pew.



As children of God through faith in Christ, and as heirs of the Reformation, we ought not permit this year-long Reformation celebration pass by without introspection, as well as thanksgiving for God's grace in preserving the Word to us in these latter days. There is no better way to celebrate than to be "always ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you..." (1 Peter 3:15). As priests of our Lord it is our privilege and our responsibility.

1) Luther, Martin: *What Luther Says*, Vol. III, p.1482, para.4788, Concordia Pub. House, St. Louis, MO.

2) Luther, Martin: *What Luther Says*, Vol. III, p.1138, para. 3642, Concordia Pub. House, St. Louis, MO.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 1/2017

Let us be calmly confident in this case which has to do with God's Word. Christ, whose cause it is, will staunchly defend and uphold it against the cunning of the vile devil and the tyranny of the wicked and deceitful world. For those who confess Him before this evil and adulterous generation must suffer much thereby. Christ in turn will confess them before His heavenly Father and requite them for their suffering with the delights of eternity (Matthew 10:32). God Himself says, 1 Samuel 2:30, "He who honors Me, I will honor." Even if the waves of the sea are strong and huge billows rise up and roar furiously as though they would drown us, the Lord is still on high and has begun a kingdom as wide as the world which He now rules and has decreed that it shall endure. He is greater, yes, almighty, and He will accomplish it. Amen....

Therefore the only thing necessary for us to do is to believe and to pray most confidently in Christ's name that God will give us strength, since He has erected His kingdom and this is His doing. It is He who without our help, counsel, thought, or effort has brought His kingdom forth and has advanced and preserved it to this day. I have no doubt that He will consummate it without our advice or assistance. Because "I know in whom I believe," as St. Paul says (2 Timothy 1:12), I am certain that He will grant me more, do far more abundantly, and help and counsel us beyond all that we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20). He is called the Lord who can and will help in a wonderful, glorious, and mighty way, particularly when the need is the greatest. We are meant to be human beings, not divine. So let us take comfort in His Word and, trusting His promise, call upon Him confidently for deliverance in time of distress, and He will help. (Martin Luther)