

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson Elder: Benno Sydow
Ushers: Al Rosendahl; Scott Baker; Chad Hestekin; David Stifter; Lyle Trulin

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

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

Church Cleaners: Volunteers? School: Oman

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

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

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

Church Cleaners: Boe/Ochsner School: Pearson

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Jan. 29: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 4)
 11:15 am – Hospitality

Wed., Feb. 1: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

Sun., Feb. 5: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper (Epiphany 5)
 11:15 am – Hospitality

Sun., Feb. 12: Council Meeting

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. 22, 2017 Sun.: 118 S.S.: 15 B.Cl.: 46

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,716.85	CLC:	\$840.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	950.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-583.15	CLC:	-110.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$12,076.35	CLC:	\$2,985.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	13,200.00	CLC:	3,800.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-1,123.65	CLC:	-815.00	
GLC Other:	159.45	Living Faith:	2.00	Tuition Aid:	195.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	150.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	20,066.25	Tuition Aid:	2,497.12	

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: 763-784-8784

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Epiphany 4

Date: January 29, 2017

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 27: Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul
 TLH 388: Just as I Am, without One Plea
 TLH 392: Blest Is the Man, Forever Blest
 TLH 391: Blessed Are the Sons of God

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 1, TLH p. 123

Liturgy:

WS, p. 12 (Projected)

Scripture Reading:

Psalms 1
 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Sermon: Matthew 5:1-12

¹ And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. ² Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (NKJVTM)

Get an Attitude with Christ's Beatitudes!

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Immanuel Tour Choir:** Grace has been asked to host the Immanuel Tour Choir for an evening concert at 7 pm, Sunday, March 19. This year's tour (March 10-19) will be going west to Washington. Dorcas Guild committee #2 will be hosting a meal for the choir beforehand.
- ◆ **Church Bulletin:** Our regular church bulletin is a helpful tool to inform the congregation of worship service details, news items, and devotional materials. It is hoped that the congregation will refrain from reading the bulletin (other than what's needed for worship) in order to have focus and to respect the time of worship and Bible Class. A good time to read the bulletin is before or after these activities. Thank you for your consideration.
- ◆ **Cell Phones:** Please 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 monitor their activity and assist the children with regard to size of helpings.
- ◆ **Women's Retreat:** Save the date for the 2017 Women's Retreat on April 21-23! This will be held in Winona, MN. This year's theme is "Thy Will Be Done" and is based upon Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." Registration is now open at: LadiesRetreat.CLClutheran.net. If you do not have Internet access and would like assistance registering, contact Heidi Nelson for assistance. The deadline for registration is March 21.
- ◆ **Men's Retreat:** Men 18 and older are invited to a retreat for their personal faith, family, and fellowship at church. The theme for this weekend is: "Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). The retreat will be held Sept. 22-24, at Wyalusing State Park near Praire Du Chein, WI, an hour south of LaCrosse. Information may be found at www.manup.clclutheran.org. The cost is \$75 which includes lodging, meals, and activities. Registration deadline is August 1. If you have any questions please speak to your pastor or contact Nathanael Mayhew at ndmayhew@juno.com or 404-729-4602.
- ◆ **After Banquet Committee:** Parents of Immanuel Lutheran High School are currently working on this year's After Banquet Party to be held May 6. We rely on donations from parents, church members, and local businesses. We are able to buy some prizes, but if you would like to donate a prize, that would be greatly appreciated. Even home baked items or care packages are a great gift idea. Monetary donations may be sent to: ILC After Banquet Committee, c/o Immanuel Lutheran College, 501 Grover Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701. Questions may be directed to joannagamble@hotmail.com. Thank You!

CLC News: Pastor Rob Sauers of Bethel Lutheran in Morris, MN, has returned the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran in Madison Hts., MI (Detroit area).
 ✠ Pastor Neal Radichel of Luther Memorial in Fond du Lac, WI, 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. Pastor Paul Nolting of Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN, has now received this call. ✠ Immanuel Lutheran of Mankato MN, has called Kristen Friedrichs to teach Social Studies and Brandan Heinze to teach Mathematics and Science at its school.

- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #13 – First Article, Part 1.

CLC E-Devotion – Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

BLESSED!

"This is a fine, sweet, and friendly beginning for His instruction and preaching. He does not come like Moses or a teacher of the Law, with demands, threats, and terrors, but in a very friendly way, with enticements, allurements, and pleasant promises.



"Blessed are the poor. Yet the little word 'spiritually' is added, ... so be poor or rich physically and externally, as it is granted to you -- God does not ask about this -- and know that before God, in his heart, everyone must be spiritually poor. That is, he must not set his confidence, comfort, and trust on temporal goods, nor hang his heart upon them and make Mammon his idol. David was an outstanding king, and he really had his wallet and treasury full of money, his barns full of grain, his land full of all kinds of goods and provisions. In spite of all this he had to be a poor beggar spiritually, as he sings of himself (Ps. 39:12): 'I am poor, and a guest in the land, like all my fathers.'

"Look at the king, sitting amid such possessions, a lord over land and people; yet he does not dare to call himself anything but a guest or a pilgrim, one who walks around on the street because he has no place to stay. This is truly a heart that does not tie itself to property and riches; but though it has, it behaves as if it had nothing, as St. Paul boasts of the Christians (2 Cor. 6:10): 'As poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.'"

With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected.
 But for us fights the Valiant One. ...

-- Martin Luther

Years pass, times change, faithful children of God – men and women – are called to their eternal rest. Yet, some things do not change. The devil still walks about seeking whom he may devour; he still spreads his seeds of deception and lies. *And the Word of God does not change.* For our comfort and strength we have the Word of God which assures us that the same eternal God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as well as of our faithful forefathers, lives and reigns. His truth will prevail because the Heavenly Father Who cannot lie has promised. “Dear Father, keep us faithful and raise up faithful confessors after us who will proclaim your abiding Word and the blessed message of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus, our Savior.”

Luther’s hymn still resounds in Lutheran churches today, even within many that have forsaken the principles of the Reformation. There are different translations, one of which is reproduced below. *The Handbook to the Lutheran Hymnal*⁽³⁾ calls it “one of the most excellent translations.”

A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing;
Our shelter He, amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow’r are great, And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God’s own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth is His name, From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And tho’ this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim — We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, For lo! his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow’rs — No thanks to them — abideth:
The Spirit and the gifts are ours Thro’ Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God’s truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.⁽⁴⁾

1) 2) 3) Polack, W. G., *The Handbook to the Lutheran Hymnal* 1942, pp.192-193 Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

4) Hedge, F. H, *Gems of German Verse*, 1852

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

“The name of the Lord *is* a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe” (Proverbs 18:10)•

“A Mighty Fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon” is perhaps the best known of Luther’s hymns. It was written in 1529, prior to the Diet of Speyer (Spires). A consequence of the Diet was the coining of the word Protestant.

At the Diet of Speyer in 1526, the evangelical areas were permitted “each one to live, govern and carry himself as he hopes to answer it to God and His Imperial Majesty.” The edict of 1526 resulted in a temporary suspension of the *Edict of Worms* (1521). It had put Luther under the ban and subject to death. One of the paragraphs of the lengthy edict of Worms said,

“After the fatherly admonitions and exhortations made to the said Martin by our Holy Father the pope; after the vocation, citation, obligation, and condemnation of Luther and his works; after the presentation of the bulls to us and their disclosure throughout almost all of Germany, and by our order executed in our Netherlands, our city of Louvain, and the imperial cities of Cologne, Mainz, Trier, and Liège, the said Martin Luther has not only refused to repent, return to the obedience of our Holy Church and renounce his errors, but this man of wickedness and furor against our faith and against our Mother Church wants to continue spreading the detestable and perverse doctrines of his wicked and pernicious spirit. He has written, in Latin and German, several books full of heresy and blasphemy which have been condemned by the sacred councils of the Catholic Church. Day after day he continues to write and spread new errors and false doctrines, to the great scandal of the people. In his books he confuses and destroys the order of the seven sacraments of the church, which for a long time have been invariably and devoutly observed.”

The suspension of the Edict contributed to the expansion of the evangelical movement. However, in 1529 the Turks (Muslims) were threatening the empire. The emperor and the Catholics wanted a united front to confront the Turks. Thus, the Catholics revoked the ruling of the 1526 Diet of Speyer and demanded that the empire return to the Catholic religion. German princes protested the revocation of their liberties, and were hereafter called Protestants.

It is believed that the reimposition of the Edict moved Luther to write what has been called the battle hymn of the Reformation. One man wrote, "Luther with this hymn entered a protest before all the German people against any endeavor to obstruct the Gospel."⁽¹⁾ Luther recognized the danger and scourge of the Turks. Since Luther was concerned about the eternal salvation of souls, we can conclude that he recognized that as great a threat to Germany, to the Church, and to souls would be the loss of the pure Gospel if there were a return to papal domination. Luther would not return to the slavery of church tradition, nor would he sacrifice the confidence of salvation through faith in Christ—*alone*.

Luther was subject to fits of depression. If ever there was proof that the power behind the Reformation was the Lord, it is here. By Luther's own admission, if the success of the Reformation had been left to him, it would have been a miserable failure. Frequently he would say to Philip Melancthon, "Come Philip, let us sing the 46th Psalm." Hence the battle hymn of the Reformation has as its source text, "God is our Refuge and Strength, a very present help in trouble."⁽²⁾ (Psalm 46: 1).

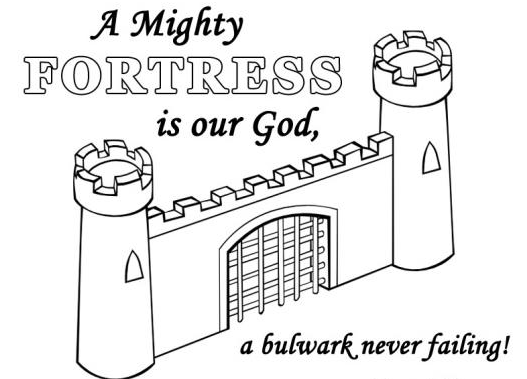
Luther surely also understood the sense of, and derived the comfort inherent in, the passage from Proverbs. "The name of the Lord *is* a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe." The Heavenly Father bids His children to cast all their care upon Him. He invites them to call upon Him in day of trouble. He promises to hear the prayer of those who call upon Him. We can imagine Luther saying with David, "For you have been a shelter for me, a strong tower from the enemy" (Psalm 61:3).

Five hundred years later in our national life and within the Church we are still troubled on every side. Everything that Christ-believers hold sacred is being attacked by the evil world around us: the truth and authority of the Word of God, marriage, family, morals, and decency. Within the church the precious truths of Scripture are being undermined and twisted. Much of *Christianity* has become a shadow of itself as its foundation is no longer *Christ*, but human philosophy. It is easy to become depressed and to give up the fight for truth as well as for faith. But in so doing we would be succumbing to Satan and our flesh. To give up the fight would be ceding the battle to Satan and his compatriots. Dear Christians, hear and contemplate what the Scripture says. Things are not as they appear because Christ was manifested, "*that He might destroy the works of the devil*"^(1 John 3:8). Jesus acknowledged that in the world His children will have tribulation, "*but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world*"^(John 16:33).

We cannot help but think of the gloating of Jesus' enemies, uneasy as they were, at the cross. The victory they thought they had won proved to be wishful thinking as their worst fears came to pass. On the third day Jesus rose again from the dead. God is not mocked!

In our day where shall we turn for shelter? Luther spent many hours in prayer. Luther immersed himself in the Word of God. God is our Refuge and Strength. Our help comes from Him who made heaven and earth.

What He said to Abram speaks also to us, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward"^(Genesis 15:1).



Christ, the Light of the world, is as a beacon in the tower calling and guiding us to safety. While we do not feel the physical embrace of His arms, we find safety and protection in the Word. In the Word we are assured that we are justified and forgiven our sins; in the Word we are assured that our redemption is complete, sealed to us by the resurrection of the Savior from the dead. In the Word we learn that Jesus is the name above all names whose will, power, integrity, and faithfulness brings to pass what He has promised and won for us. In the Word we are assured, as was Luther, that while the ungodly can make life miserable and even can take our life, they cannot rob us of the kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

Martin Luther was one of a kind as he had such an impact on the Church and on the state. This is evident from the fact that we are celebrating the Reformation 500 years after the fact. But for all his work and effort, the cause was greater than he. Imperative to Luther was the continuation of the preaching of the pure gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. For only through the gospel would sinners find forgiveness, peace, joy, and certainty of eternal salvation. The Reformation was not about Luther. It was about and to the furtherance of the gospel, and the Savior Who is the substance of the gospel.