

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Janelle Hein Elder: Al Rosendahl
Ushers: Larry Brandt; Nick Duehlmeier; Dale Enns; Duane Enns; Ned Sandhoefner
Counting Team 3: Brian Eichstadt; Phil Flesner; Chad Hestekin; Benno Sydow
Hospitality Team 5: Andrea Dahl; Pat & Dawn Paplow; Frank & Ann Radichel
Church Cleaners: Anderson School: Wales

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Larry Brandt; Nick Duehlmeier; Dale Enns; Duane Enns; Ned Sandhoefner
Counting Team 4: James Bomber; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust
Hospitality Team 6: Alex & Bonnie Baker, Kevin & Tracy Baker; Phil & Rona Flesner
Church Cleaners: Anderson School: Wales

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Feb. 19: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 6)
 11:15 am – Hospitality

Wed., Feb. 22: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

Sun., Feb. 26: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 7)
 11:15 am – Hospitality
 2:30 pm – Evangelism Seminar @ Eau Claire, WI

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: Feb. 12, 2017 Sun.: 99 S.S.: 14 B.Cl.: 45					
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,052.30	CLC:	\$1,552.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	950.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-247.70	CLC:	+602.00	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$22,010.08	CLC:	\$5,962.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	23,100.00	CLC:	6,650.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-1,089.92	CLC:	-688.00	
GLC Other:	407.86	Living Faith:	2.00	Tuition Aid:	187.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	150.00	Kinship:	70.00
ILC Student Aid:	21.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	20,910.25	Tuition Aid:	2,976.12

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 7

Date: February 19, 2017

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 27: Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul
 CDS – TLH 428: I Am Trusting Thee Lord Jesus
 TLH 34: My Soul, Now Bless Thy Maker
 WS 800: Go, My Children, with My Blessing
 WS 785: Children of the Heavenly Father
 (Like As a Father)

Worship Prep:

Psalm 103, TLH p. 145 f.

Liturgy:

WS, p. 12 (Projected)

Scripture Reading:

1 Corinthians 3:10-11,16-23
 Matthew 5:38-48

Sermon: Psalm 103

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name! ² Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: ³ Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, ⁴ Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, ⁵ Who satisfies your mouth with good things, *So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle's. ⁶ The LORD executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed. ⁷ He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. ⁸ The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. ⁹ He will not always strive *with us*, Nor will He keep *His anger* forever. ¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, *So great is* His mercy toward those who fear Him; ¹² As far as the east is from the west, *So far has* He removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father pities *his* children, *So the* LORD pities those who fear Him. ¹⁴ For He knows our frame; He remembers that we *are* dust. ¹⁵ *As for* man, his days *are* like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. ¹⁶ For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, And its place remembers it no more. ¹⁷ But the mercy of the LORD *is* from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, ¹⁸ To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them. ¹⁹ The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all. ²⁰ Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. ²¹ Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, *You* ministers of His, who do His pleasure. ²² Bless the LORD, all His works, In all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul! (NKJVTM)

As a Father Pities His Children,
 So the Lord Pities Those Who Fear Him

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Next Sunday:** The Sunday School children will be singing.
- ◆ **Midweek Lenten Services:** This year our midweek services will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 7 pm. Our theme is “Christ, Our Great High Priest,” meditations based on various sections from the Book of Hebrews. These midweek services can deepen our appreciation of the redemptive work our Savior, Jesus Christ, accomplished in our behalf.
- ◆ **Lenten Soup Suppers:** These fellowship gatherings start on Wednesday, March 1, 6 pm, as a way for people to eat between work and worship. There is a sign-up sheet for soup, setup, and cleanup.
- ◆ **Box Tops:** Our spring submission of Box Tops for Education is due by March 1. If you have any box tops, please try to send them to school by next Sunday.
- ◆ **Immanuel Tour Choir:** Grace is hosting 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. To support this effort, you may designate “Tour Choir” on your offering.
- ◆ **CLC Grade School Tourney:** The schedule is now finalized for the grade school basketball tournament held at Immanuel in Eau Claire, WI. This is available at: www.clclutheran.net/tourney/. Grace has a few players playing with Berea of Inver Grove Hts. Here is their schedule:
 - Fri., Mar. 10, 12:00 pm: IGH A (7th/8th Grade) vs. Eau Claire A1
 - Fri., Mar. 10, 1:00 pm: IGH B (5th/6th Grade) vs. Markesan B
 - Fri., Mar. 10, 9:00 pm: IGH A vs. Markesan A
 - Sat., Mar. 11, 3:30 pm: IGH B vs. Eau Claire B3
 - Sat., Mar. 11, 4:30 pm: IGH A vs. Eau Claire A3
 - Sun., Mar. 12, 3:00 pm: IGH B vs. Eau Claire B2
- ◆ **Cell Phones:** Please turn off during church so as not to interfere with the projection system and with the worship of your fellow Christians.
- ◆ **Evangelism Workshop:** Messiah Lutheran of Eau Claire is sponsoring an Evangelism Workshop for Sun., Feb. 26, 2:30 pm. We will be hearing and discussing how the truths which were brought to light once more in the Lutheran Reformation are the same truths that save today. There will be three presenters, as well as small-group discussion time. The workshop will be followed by a chili supper at 5:30 pm. The sponsors would appreciate hearing from those who are coming, for planning purposes. Please contact Dave Schrader at dave41schr@yahoo.com or 715-797-6787.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Matthew Hanel of St. Matthew Lutheran in Dallas, TX, has received the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran in Madison Heights, MI.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #16 – Second Article, Part 1.

Council Meeting Notes – February 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order with a prayer. Roll was taken. The January Council meeting minutes were read and approved. The January treasurer’s report was read and approved.

Pastor’s Report

- The ILC Tour Choir will be here March 19, 7 pm
- Midweek Lenten worship begins Ash Wed., March 1, 7 pm
- Good Friday worship will be April 14, 7 pm
- Easter worship will be April 16, 9 am, with breakfast at 7:30 am
- Pastor study club was this week. They are considering conducting a seminar related to the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation

Board of Elders Report

- Looking for volunteers to help with the Easter breakfast.
- Still considering options of what to do with the Wagner memorial of \$20,000.
- Working with the Board of Education on the abuse prevention policy.

Board of Education Report

- A family with two students has shown interest in coming to our school.
- A family has withdrawn their children from our school.
- The Spring Lake Park parade will be June 8, 2017.
- The refrigerator has failed and a replacement is being sought.
- The tuition cost to attend Grace school has been frozen for next year.
- Motion passed to pay \$1000 per student for 3 students for ILC tuition.

Board of Trustees Report

- Research is continuing regarding a new property insurance policy.
- Projects are being prioritized for this year.
- The work day went well.

Other Business

- Open Council items were reviewed.

Based on minutes submitted by Secretary Roger Ochsner

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!

Grace Funds

GENERAL FUND: Contributions to this fund are used for budgeted expenses that normally are incurred in operating our church and 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 supports the women's group and its activities.

PROJECT FUND: This is for any special projects the congregation decides to do. Currently there is a Parking Lot project and a special Liberia fund.

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.

After-Word

"MINISTERS OF CHRIST"

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

¹ When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ² For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

The goal of preaching is not to have parishioners say, "My, what a beautiful sermon." Rather, "My, what a beautiful Savior."

The phrase "ministers of Christ" is broader than the office of the public ministry. It also embraces the priesthood of all believers in Christ; that is, their God-given right and responsibility to administer the Gospel in whatever circumstances the Lord God has placed them. Yet, we often approach our public and personal ministries with a sense of weakness, fear, and trembling. What is the solution?



The Means is Scripture

Paul told the Corinthians, "**When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God,**" 1 Corinthians 2:1.

Corinth was in Greece, and Greece was famous for its philosophy and oratory. As early as the Fifth Century B.C., traveling teachers known as "Sophists" taught a discipline they called "rhetoric;" from the Greek *rhema*, meaning "words." The goal of this early rhetoric was to persuade and even manipulate listeners through powerful speeches, extensive vocabularies, flowery metaphors; and practiced gestures—often at the expense of truth.

When Paul said, “**I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom,**” he meant: ‘I did not come to trick but to teach. I did not come to conceal the truth but to reveal the truth. I did not come to impress you with *my* words, but to share God’s words; or as he put it, “**the testimony about God.**”

But does this mean that pastors should not strive for excellence in preaching? No. Every sermon should be as good as it can be—good, not for the sake of being good, but good for the sake of glorifying God. Styles, vocabularies, compelling introductions and powerful conclusions are only useful if they serve the Word of God and do not supplant the Word of God. The goal is not to have parishioners leave church, saying, “What a beautiful sermon;” rather, “What a beautiful Savior.”

The means to ministry lies in proclaiming the Scriptures in their fullness—sin and grace, Law and Gospel; not in entertaining; not in diluting the teachings of the Bible to make them more palatable or reasonable. Scripture must be the means of ministry, because Scripture is the only means through which the Spirit of God has chosen to work.

The Message is “Christ”

Paul wrote, “**For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified,**” 1 Corinthians 2:2. What did Paul mean; that his teaching and preaching in Corinth consisted only of reciting the words “Jesus Christ and Him crucified”? No. He meant that Jesus Christ and Him crucified was always the focus of his message.

Early in my ministry, someone advised me to ‘look for Christ on every page of the Bible.’ I wish I could recall the source, because that godly advice helped shape my entire ministry. Not surprisingly, Martin Luther offered similar advice, saying, “If you want to interpret (Scripture) well and confidently, set Christ before you, for He is the Man to whom it all applies, every bit of it.”

In ministry, Jesus Christ must be the focus, because He is the focus of the entire Bible. And “**Christ and Him crucified**” must be the message, because there is no other Savior and no other way to be saved. As Jesus Himself explained, “**I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me,**” John 14:6.

The Power is God’s

Paul stated, “**My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power,**” 1 Corinthians 2:4-5.

If I could change anything about my ministry, it would be the foolish assumption I’ve had so often, amid so many difficult circumstances, that the power to create faith; the power to effect change; the power to return a wayward member to church; the power to enrich a troubled marriage; the power to encourage fellow Christians—that this power resided in me. However, it never has resided in me and never will. The power is God’s. And when we finally realize this truth and put it into practice, we will not only save ourselves heartache, but carry out our public and private ministries with confidence.

Paul said, “**I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes,**” Romans 1:16. Do we understand what this means? Look at your Bible. The cover may be worn. The pages may be dog-eared from use. The verses may be underlined. But there is no difference between the powerful words of Scripture and the words of power with which Jesus Christ calmed storms, healed the sick, and raised the dead.

And this is the Word He has entrusted to us.

Written by Pastor Mark Weis (GraceLutheran.net)
All Scripture quotations are from the NIV, 1984 Edition

There went out a sower to sow his seed. The picture is that of a farmer casting forth the seed broadcast over the land, every year with new diligence and hope, just as the longsuffering and kindness of the heavenly Sower does not become weary in spite of much apparently lost work, Is. 49, 4. His work is an example to the present day. "Every pious preacher, when he sees that things will not go forward, but seem to be growing worse, feels almost disgusted about his preaching, and yet he cannot and dare not desist, for the sake of even a few elect. And that is written for our consolation and admonition, that we should not be surprised or think it strange even though few people accept the benefit of our doctrine, and some even become worse. For commonly the preachers, especially when they are new and but recently come from the shop, believe that there should be success immediately, as soon as they have done speaking, and everything should be done and changed quickly. But that will miss the object far. The prophets and Christ Himself had that experience." (Luther)