

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Benno Sydow

Ushers: Roger Ochsner; Bob Maki; Jack Maki; John Maki;
Joel Stifter

Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Dale Enns; Larry Nelson;
Ryan Oman; Pat Paplow; Phil Radichel

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

Church Cleaners: Sydow School: Nelson

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Roger Ochsner; Bob Maki; Jack Maki; John Maki;
Joel Stifter

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

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

Church Cleaners: Wales School: Oman

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Apr. 30: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality

Wed., May 3: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

Sun., May 7: 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., May 8: 10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study Club @ Mankato

Fri., May 12: NO SCHOOL (K-4th Grade)
Field Day (5th-8th Grade, by Berea in Inver Grove Hts.)

Fri., May 19: 12:00 pm – Grace School Dismissal
3:00 pm – Immanuel Class Day @ Fieldhouse
7:30 pm – Immanuel Spring Concert @ Messiah Lutheran

Sat., May 20: 10:00 am – Immanuel Graduation Service @ Fieldhouse

Sun., May 21: Confirmation Sunday

Wed., May 24: 7:00 pm – Grace School Spring Program

Thu., May 25: 12:00 pm – Grace School Dismissal for Summer
7:00 pm – Ascension Day Worship

Sun., May 28: 9:00 am – Summer Worship Schedule Begins (Graduation)

Sun., June 4: 3:00 pm – Minnesota Delegate Conference (New Ulm, MN)

June 13-15: CLC General Pastoral Conference (Eau Claire, WI)

July 24-28: 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School

Grace Lutheran Church & School



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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: Easter 3

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: April 30, 2017

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 210: The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

WS 728: Christ Is Living

TLH 427: How Firm a Foundation

TLH 189: He is Arisen! Glorious Word!

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 16, TLH p. 125

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 193:1,6

Scripture Reading:

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

John 20:19-31

Sermon: 1 Peter 1:3-9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls. (NKJVTM)

“ Faith Refined as Hope Expects ”

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Liberia Call:** This past week the CLC Board of Missions extended Pastor Hein a part-time call to be visiting missionary to Liberia. This isn't a call for me to decide between Grace and Liberia. It would be a call to consider whether or not to add the work of Liberia to what I currently do here at Grace. In many ways it would continue my involvement in Liberia, except now that aspect of my work would be under auspices of the Board of Missions. It would entail being in touch with our key contacts in Liberia, also including travel there as directed by the Board of Missions. They would be the ones financially responsible for supporting this particular work. Obviously I would appreciate your prayers. May the Lord's will be done! - Pastor Hein
- ◆ **Messiah Call:** Last Sunday Heidi Nelson received the call from Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, to teach in their lower grades classroom. She would appreciate your prayers as she considers this call.
- ◆ **Work Day:** Thank you to all who participated and contributed to the work effort yesterday! A good-sized crew accomplished a lot.
- ◆ **Graduates:** Please list any member of Grace that is graduating this year (Jan-Dec 2017) on the sheet on the tract rack table. Include the school's name and the degree. Our Graduation Sunday is May 28. Kathleen Baker will also graduate from Grace School that day.
- ◆ **Grace Lutheran School** staff is already beginning to plan for the 2017-18 school year. If you are interested in enrolling your child in our school, please speak to one of the teachers for an enrollment form.
- ◆ **Campbell's Labels for Education:** Since participation in this program has declined in the past few years (not on our part), Campbell has come to the very difficult decision to discontinue this program. Grace School has benefited from participating in this program for over 20 years obtaining educational and playground items at no cost to the school. Recently the school has opted to redeem UPCs for prepaid Visa cards for purchasing items not offered in the Campbell catalog. One last final submission of UPCs will be made the first week in June. Therefore, please bring all labels and deposit them in the container in the Fellowship Hall by the end of May. Many thanks for supporting Grace School by submitting labels. Your help is appreciated.
- ◆ **Lutheran Spokesman:** The Lutheran Spokesman is a publication by the CLC which is dedicated to sharing rich, devotional messages for our spiritual edification. Those who currently receive the publication are listed on a sheet by the guestbook. If you no longer wish to receive it, please cross out your name. If you don't receive it and would like to, please sign up. The congregation covers the cost.
- ◆ **Landscaping:** Interested in helping make the church grounds beautiful with plants and flowers this spring and summer? Planting will take place in May, along with watering throughout the summer. If you helped last year and would like to help again, or if you'd like to join the Flower Committee for this year, please speak with Heidi Nelson. This is a great opportunity to serve!
- ◆ **Black Hills Family Bible Camp:** Camping in the beauty of the Black Hills, studies in the beauty of God's Word. All ages are welcome, children will need to be accompanied by a chaperon or family. There will be many outdoor activities such as hiking, swimming, fishing, bonfires, s'mores, etc. The camp is Sun. evening July 16, through Thurs. morning the 20th. The cost (including food, campsite, and activities) is \$60 for ages 13 and up, \$40 for ages 5-12, and children 4 and under are \$10. There are bathroom facilities. You can bring your camper, otherwise bring a tent. You can come for just part of the camp. To sign up or for more information, contact Pastor Aaron Ude (605-393-1311/aaronude@gmail.com). Please register by June 16.
- ◆ **Man Up Weekend:** The weekend is intended to offer strength and encouragement for men 18 and older for their personal faith, family, and fellowship at church. The theme: "Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). The weekend will include Bible Study, Fellowship, Leadership Training, Team and Relationship Building and Worship, as well as several outdoor activities. The retreat will be held Sept. 22-24 at Wyalusing State Park near Prairie Du Chien, WI, south of LaCrosse. For more information and registration, see www.manup.clclutheran.org. The cost is \$75 for the weekend and includes lodging, meals, and activities. Registration deadline is August 1. If you have any questions please speak to your pastor or contact Nathanael Mayhew (ndmayhew@juno.com/404-729-4602).
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor John Hein of Grace Lutheran in Fridley, MN, has received a call from the CLC Board of Missions to be the part-time missionary to Liberia. ✠ Mrs. Heidi Nelson, member at Grace Lutheran in Fridley, MN, has received the call to teach 3rd and 4th grades at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. Mrs. Becky Buck had previously returned this call. ✠ Teacher Claire Abbas of Peace Thru Christ Lutheran in Middleton, WI, has accepted the call to teach at Gethsemane Lutheran in Spokane Valley, WA. ✠ Teacher Paul Tiefel III of Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, has received the call to be teacher and principal at St. Stephen Lutheran in Mountain View, CA. ✠ Former teacher, Karl Olmanson, has received the call to be principal and teacher at Grace Lutheran in Sleepy Eye, MN. ✠ Mrs. Collette Krause has received the call to teach kindergarten for one year at Trinity Lutheran in Watertown, SD. ✠ The Call Committee for Graduates made the following assignments to this year's Immanuel Lutheran Seminary graduates: Samuel Rodebaugh to Immanuel Lutheran in Winter Haven, FL; Thomas Naumann to Mount Zion Lutheran in Madison Hts., MI (Detroit area); and Stefan Sonnenfeld to Faith Lutheran in Manchester, MO (St. Louis area). The requests from St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran in Lemmon, SD, and Rock of Ages Lutheran in Grand Rapids, MI, were unable to be filled by the Committee.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #24 – Baptism 3 and 4

LUTHERAN CONFSSIONALISM

- Is the emphasis of the church on the Means of Grace (Gospel in word and sacrament)?
- Does the church take seriously the Lord’s loving command and will that essential to church fellowship practice is agreement in all that Scripture teaches?
- Does the church practice what it preaches and confesses?
- Has a worshiper heard Jesus, and the way of salvation through faith in Christ Jesus?

Comparing what is taught in a church or synod to the Word of God alone, and considering what Luther said about being a Lutheran, and that Lutheran means being loyal to Scripture,⁽⁶⁾ would he choose to be a member of the Lutheran Church today?

Now the most difficult question: Introspection

The name of our synod is *Church of the Lutheran Confession*, a name chosen in a time of conflict for a reason. The question: “*Are we still true to the name?*” As we abide by Scripture, and the Lutheran Confessions, we are. “Heavenly Father, for Jesus’ sake and by the power of the Holy Spirit help us to remain so.” We invite scrutiny by any who will compare what we teach to the Holy Scriptures.

“If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32)

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 4/2017

*) References, 1-4, 6 are from *What Luther Says*, Vol. II pp. 856-858
5) of *Concordia Triglotta*, Augsburg Confession, Art. IV

Last Week’s Stats: Apr. 16, 2017 Sun.: 100 S.S.: 18 B.Cl.: 41

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,200.72	CLC:	\$740.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	950.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,099.28	CLC:	-210.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$55,847.89	CLC:	\$15,545.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	56,100.00	CLC:	16,150.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-252.11	CLC:	-605.00
GLC Other: 265.95	Living Faith: 50.00	Tuition Aid: 125.00		
SAF Endowment: 0.00	MDF: 0.00	Kinship: 50.00		
ILC Student Aid: 50.00	ILC Bldg. 120.00	IIF: 20.00	CEF: 10.00	
Current Balances:	Parking Lot: 23,521.25	Tuition Aid: 1,761.12		

Origin of the name “Lutheran”

Before the Reformation, those not of Roman Catholic persuasion were known as “Evangelicals.” However, as the Reformation (1517) unfolded, those who received and confessed the teachings of the Bible as set forth by Martin Luther (1483-1546) who had been excommunicated from the Catholic Church were called Lutherans, the beginning of the “Lutheran” Church. They thus were distinguished from other evangelicals. Luther did not coin the name. He said, “I ask that men make no reference to my name and call themselves not Lutherans but Christians. What is Luther? After all, the doctrine is not mine, nor have I been crucified for anyone ... Let us cast out party names and be called Christians after Him whose doctrine we have ...”^(1*) The use of his name nevertheless persisted. He once called himself a “weak Lutheran.”⁽²⁾ He said, “Luther himself has no desire to be a Lutheran except insofar as he teaches the Holy Scripture in purity”⁽³⁾ Further, “But if you believe that Luther’s doctrine is evangelical and the pope’s unevangelical, you must not flatly deny Luther; otherwise you also disown his doctrine, which you admittedly recognize as the doctrine of Christ.”⁽⁴⁾

What defines Lutheran?

The sixty-six divinely inspired books of Holy Scripture are the source of Christian doctrine. The Bible in all its parts *is* the holy, inerrant Word of God because “Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:21). Lutherans believe “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God [God-breathed] ...” (2 Timothy 3:16). Lutherans believe that the Bible defines what is taught in the Church; the Church does not define what is taught in Scripture. Thus the Law – which exposes sin and condemns the sinner – is preached; at the same time, the Gospel – which sets forth the grace and mercy of God, forgives sins and brings the message of salvation in Christ – is proclaimed.

The cardinal [chief] doctrine of Holy Scripture is justification by grace through faith in Christ Jesus alone. “On account of the perfect merit of Christ, [God] justifies them, that is, He regards as righteous all those who believe that for Christ’s sake their sins are forgiven.”⁽⁵⁾

The Spirit of God produces the sanctified life of the Christian through the gospel. The Christian life is not mandated, but is a fruit of faith. “We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works ...” (Ephesians 2:10)

“The perfectly pure, the only, and the certain Word of God must be the foundation of our faith.”⁽⁶⁾ If it is not Scripture, it is not Lutheran!

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!

What is a confession?

In the context of what the Church teaches — its doctrine — a confession is what is taught and believed. A confession of what is taught distinguishes churches and denominations from one another. In the Lutheran Church the *Holy Scriptures alone determine what is to be taught and believed*. What is taught and believed from Scripture is in a particular church or church body known by what is preached in its pulpits, found in its writings, and taught in its schools. Confessions of the Church are a distinctive public witness of what is believed and taught. The distinctive confessions of the Lutheran Church are found in the *Book of Concord* of 1580.

The three ecumenical (universal creeds)

- The Apostles' Creed
- The Nicene Creed.
- The Athanasian Creed.

Specific Lutheran Confessions

- The Augsburg Confession
- The Apology (defense) of the Augsburg Confession
- The Smalcald Articles
- Luther's Small Catechism
- Luther's Large Catechism
- The Formula of Concord

What is confessional Lutheranism?

Confessional Lutheranism defines the church or church body which faithfully teaches all Scripture without mixture of human opinion or philosophy, practices the same, and proclaims justification by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. Confessional Lutherans believe that the word of God is as enduring and sure as Jesus Christ Who “is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). Therefore, confessional Lutherans do not change, adapt, or bend the Scriptures to satisfy reason, changing social mores, human agendas, or an allegedly more enlightened age. In matters of doctrine two directives of Scripture apply: “Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls” (Jeremiah 6:16), and again, “He who has My Word, let him speak My word faithfully” (Jeremiah 23:28). A confessional Lutheran Church takes doctrine as seriously as it does the commission of the Lord to “*teach all things* that I have commanded you ...” (Matthew 28:20).

With respect to truth or veracity on one hand, or practice on the other, confessional Lutherans faithful to the Word make no distinction between what the church calls fundamental or non-fundamental doctrines. If it is in

Scripture, it is God's Word. **That said, confessional Lutherans** accept the confessions found in the *Book of Concord* of 1580 without qualification because (quia) they are completely faithful to the teachings of the Bible. Confessional Lutheranism is identified not only by its verbal commitment to the Word of God and the Confessions, but by what is taught and practiced.

Other marks of Lutheranism

Historically, the Lutheran Church is a liturgical church. Its Trinitarian liturgy with confession of sins and absolution reflects its commitment to the truth. It has the Lord and His Word at its center, not entertainment nor the choir or the worship leaders. Its purpose is not to satisfy the senses and emotion, or political or social agendas, but to touch hearts in word and song with the everlasting Word of life which prepares souls for eternity. The Lutheran liturgy is reverent in its tone as worshipers are on sacred ground in the presence of the Lord as His Word is preached. “Walk prudently when you go to the house of God: and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools ...” (Ecclesiastes 5:1). Liturgy and the message combine to convince the worshipers that they were in the house of God.

Emphasis on the Means of Grace (Gospel in Word and Sacrament) distinguishes the confessionally faithful Lutheran Church from other protestant evangelicals as well as from the Catholic Church.

Now the hard question: Is Confessional Lutheranism dying?

Informed individuals concerned about the state of the *Lutheran Church* today, as well as for the eternal welfare of their own soul, and that of others, will measure the Lutheran Church *not according to subjective opinion or reason, but in light of God's Word. Therefore*

- Does the church accept and teach the whole Bible as the divinely inspired and inerrant Word of God?
- Does the church take seriously the commission to preach all that the Lord commands, including proclaiming the Gospel to all people?
- Are both Law and the Gospel proclaimed faithfully, according to the specific purpose of each? Is there a clear delineation of sin and grace?
- Does the church teach justification by grace through faith in Christ Jesus alone?
- Does the church subscribe to and confess without qualification the historic confessions found in the Book of Concord of 1580?
- Does the church uncompromisingly confess the Reformation principles: “By Scripture Alone, By grace alone, By faith alone”?