

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Benno Sydow
Ushers: Michael Ude; James Bomber; David Hein; Ryan Oman; Eli Wales

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

Church Cleaners: P. & J. Radichel

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Michael Ude; James Bomber; David Hein; Ryan Oman; Eli Wales

Counting Team 4: James Bomber; Brad Kitzman; Paul Lentz; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust

Church Cleaners: Ochsner

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., July 9: 9:00 am – Worship Service
 11:00 am – Council Meeting
Sun., July 16: 9:00 am – Worship Service
 10:15 am – Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings
July 24-28: 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School
Sun., July 30: 9:00 am – Worship Service w/VBS Children
Mon., Aug. 14: 7:00 pm – School Opening Meeting w/Ice Cream Social
Sun., Aug. 20: Opening at Immanuel Lutheran (Eau Claire, WI)
Mon., Aug. 28: Opening at Grace Lutheran School

Last Week's Stats: July 2, 2017 Sun.: 75

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$4,263.11	CLC:	\$1,055.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	950.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+963.11	CLC:	+105.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$85,909.67	CLC:	\$24,561.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	89,100.00	CLC:	25,650.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-3,190.33	CLC:	-1,089.00	
GLC Other:	379.50	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	200.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	100.00	Kinship:	100.00
ILC Student Aid:	125.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	26,597.75	Tuition Aid:	3,194.62	

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9

G R A C E

Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE
 Fridley, MN 55432

Email: john.p.hein@gmail.com

Home Page: www.FridleyLutheran.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635)

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Church Year: Pentecost 5

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: July 9, 2017

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 346: Jesus! And Shall It Ever Be
 TLH 263: O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe
 TLH 451: Stand Up! - Stand Up for Jesus
 WS 769: Lift High the Cross

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 31, TLH p. 130

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)
 Gloria: TLH 9:5

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 20:7-13
 Romans 5:12-15

Sermon: Matthew 10:24-33

²⁴"A disciple is not above *his* teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵"It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more *will they call* those of his household! ²⁶"Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. ²⁷"Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. ²⁸"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹"Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. ³⁰"But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹"Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³"But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." (NKJVTM)

Courageously Confess Christ and His Word

1. Without caving into the pressure of the world
2. By speaking fearlessly of Him who is with you

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Vacation Bible School:** On July 24-28, 9:00-11:30 am, we will be having our VBS. This includes children age 4 years, to children going into 8th grade. Please register your children on the sheet by the guest book. Already there are 43 children registered with a number of non-members. We thank the Lord for leading a number of volunteers to help staff this.
- ◆ **VBS Snacks:** Those who are willing to provide snacks for the children at VBS, please sign up on the sheet by the guest book. Thanks!
- ◆ **Youth Group:** It has been suggested that a youth group be organized for our high-school-aged members, perhaps to meet six times a year on Sunday evenings. The months of Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., and April were suggested. The Elders would like to see if a member might volunteer to coordinate this for Pastor who would still be involved in leading devotions/topical discussions. Also, those high school youth who are interested in this, please sign-up by the guest book.
- ◆ **Ark Encounter/Creation Museum Trip:** has been scheduled for July 25-27 (Tue.-Thu.). See what the Ark may have looked like and tour the Creation Museum in Kentucky. Full details, discounted blocked hotel rooms, and combo tickets may all be found and reserved by going to <https://goo.gl/forms/m7LI28VJJXwPnQEH2??>
- ◆ **CLC Mission Helpers to Nepal:** Seventeen Mission Helpers will depart on an evening flight from Chicago on Monday (7/10) on their way to Kathmandu, Nepal where they will be met by Pastor Raju Bhitrakoti, his family, and other pastors and members of the Himalayan Church of the Lutheran Confession of Nepal (HCLCN). These seventeen individuals will divide into four teams as they spend the next three weeks proclaiming the simple Gospel message to approx. 1,500 children in Himalayan villages where HCLCN congregations are located. Pastoral training classes will also be taught among the pastors and Himalayan Bible Institute students of the HCLCN. You can follow along with the Mission Helpers through the trip blog at: <http://2017clcmhtnepal.blogspot.com/>. Your prayers are much appreciated.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor James Albrecht of St. John's Lutheran in Okabena, MN, has returned the call to St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran in Lemmon, SD. ✠ Teacher Amy Mielke of Messiah Lutheran in Hales Corners, WI (Milwaukee area), has returned the call to Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. ✠ Teacher Matthew Thurow of Berea Lutheran in Inver Grove Heights, MN, has the call to teach grades 3-5 and serve as principal at Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI. ✠ Teacher Ross Kok of St. John's Lutheran in Okabena, MN, has the call to Holy Cross Lutheran in Phoenix, AZ.



QUOTATION

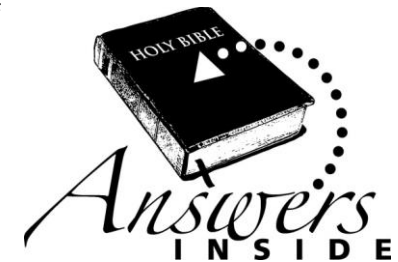
The following quotation on the **inspiration, importance, timely relevance and power of the Bible** is adapted from an 1865 book by **Daniel March** entitled: **"Night Scenes From the Bible"**:

"The Bible is the oldest and newest of books. It surveys the whole field of time and it looks farthest into the infinite depths of eternity. It creates a vivid and absorbing interest in the scenes and events of the past, and it keeps us in the most active awareness of the times in which we live. It gives us the most

reliable record of what has been and it affords us our only means of knowing what is yet to be. It is so conservative as to make it a solemn duty to study and revere the past, and it is so progressive as to be in advance of the most enlightened age. It is strict enough to denounce the very shadow and semblance of sin, and it is liberal enough to save the very chief of sinners. It is full of God and must therefore be read with a pure and reverent heart, and it is full of man and must therefore always be interesting and instructive to all who would know themselves.

The Bible is the plainest of books, and yet it has depths of wisdom which no created mind can imagine. It is set as a beacon to show all wanderers the true and safe path that leads to eternal life, and its light shines forth even in the midst of life's storm clouds and darkness. It describes all the conditions of life, and gives utterance to the deepest feelings and emotions of the heart and soul. It sings a song of triumph for the victor in Christ and a wail of defeat and anguish for those who are lost in unbelief.

The composition of the Bible was extended through a long course of years. It was carried on under a great variety of circumstances and bears the imprint and diversity of each individual writer. And yet the spirit of divine inspiration breathes throughout and speaks with equal fullness through all the times and circumstances and writers. Thus in the Bible God and man, earth and heaven, time and eternity speak with one voice and teach the same Truth. Thus the Bible is made to be the one Book for all ages and nations, for all classes of people and states of society, and for all capacities of intellect and needs of the soul."



It is interesting to see how the worm turns. When those who confess to hold the truth, out of weakness, fear, or a false sense of ill-conceived love *tolerate* error in the fellowship, error soon attains *equal standing* as a viable option until the error once only tolerated reigns *supreme*. Now the shoe is on the other foot as *errorists appear to tolerate truth*, though they are not as “gracious” in their toleration of orthodoxy as their fallen victims were of heterodoxy.

Lovers of truth, truth and error cannot co-exist. They are diametrically opposed. But how can we know which is which? Jesus said, “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). Truth frees. Error enslaves. Truth nourishes. Error starves. Truth is of God. Error is of the devil. The truth *will* ultimately prevail, but how many souls are ensnared by the devil and lose their inheritance because they were deceived and forsook the truth and the Good Shepherd who promised to keep them? As our Lord tells us, *the Church, the Body of Christ, will endure*. The question is, will the fellowship enjoyed as a confessional Lutheran Church endure in a world given to compromise? It is good if the question makes us uncomfortable, if it moves us to watchfulness.

Satan is the master of the progressive lie. A nation that knows not God will go its own way to its end. Children of God who confess the truth will be alert to the devil’s ways.

May we have the mind of the early Church which “continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship ...” (Acts 2:42). To “continue steadfastly” meant that the early church received the word of the Lord Jesus and the Apostles, by the power of the Spirit retained what they had received, were loyal to it, and consistently acted on its principles.

For the sake of our own souls, and the souls of those who come after us, *now* is our time. By the grace of God, may we stand with the Reformers of old, lest we succumb to the modern mentality that to expand our witness, we will tolerate the dilution of the product?

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 5/2017

1) *WorldNetDaily* on line, May 16, 2017

2) Krauth, C.P. (1871). *The Conservative Reformation and its Theology*. Philadelphia: Lippincott. (pp. 195-196)..

3) C. F. W. Walther, *Lehre und Wehre* XXIX:1 (January 1883), p. 32; quoted in F. Bente, *American Lutheranism* (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1919), Vol. II, p. 182. Quoted in lecture from the 37th Annual Reformation lectures, Bethany Lutheran College, October 28-29, 2004, Prof. David Jay Weber.

BE ALERT, STAND FAST

The devil is at work. As effective as his devilish work is in the world, it is not pretty. We are observing a society that is crumbling before our eyes in a nation that has called itself a Christian nation. Satan, a master of deceit, has enlisted people of authority to assist him in undermining morals and long held principles of decency. He has deceived people into thinking that what was right is wrong, and what was wrong is right; he is introducing into this country in the name of freedom ideas that are foreign to the welfare of this country. He has blinded eyes to history, led people to forget history or rewrite it as though the past never existed. A nation whose citizens never knew the Lord or have forsaken Him, has no defense mechanism. Consequently, with or without intent, while many promote and approve what is detrimental, if not destructive to a well-ordered, moral, and secure society, others out of ignorance, a lack of concern, or simple rejection of history meekly follow. In this way a nation, or at least its culture, is compromised and destined for its own destruction.

The devil uses the same approach to undermine Christianity and the Church. He begins by creating doubt in hearts and minds as he did in Eden. “Has God indeed [really] said ...?” he asked Eve (Genesis 3:1). If anything, he has become subtler in his on-going effort to undermine the faith. He has enlisted Bible-toters to rend the flock through sowing seeds of error and anti-Christian ideas which to many seem small and harmless. The difference in this context between a nation and its culture and the Church is that while a nation can be destroyed, the Holy Christian Church cannot. We have the Savior’s promise on that (Matthew 16:18). This does not diminish the danger Satan represents, however, since redeemed souls can be led away from the faith. The children of God, therefore, are called to be on alert. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith ...” (1 Peter 5:8-9).

There are three operative words that describe Satan’s cunning attempts to overthrow the Christian faith and the orthodox Church—***Toleration, Equality, Supremacy***. These words in and of themselves are laden with no ill meaning or intent. But the devil utilizes them for his own purpose.

Stand
UP
Stand
UP
FOR
JESUS

TOLERATION manifests itself through acknowledgement and acceptance of differences of opinion or behavior in society. In the Church it frequently involves looking the other way when false teaching arises within the fellowship.

In a social and political world tolerance is a necessity. In a nation, many things with which we disagree must be tolerated in the name of freedom. But Christ-believers dare not turn a blind eye or deaf ear to evil, or abuses of freedom which threaten our national existence. Nevertheless, we state unequivocally that tolerating the *rights of others* does not constitute approval of what is being tolerated. We have the right (yet) and the responsibility to address concerns in a lawful way.

More importantly, faithful Christ-believers concerned about doctrine and practice within the Church, cannot fail to speak when an action, a life-style, or a teaching is contrary to the Lord God and denies the Scripture. Such *cannot be tolerated* in the Church. Our Lord instructs us how to address the matter of false doctrine, and false teachers who seek toleration for their false teaching.

Toleration, falsely practiced, surfaced in the extreme. "A former church has been taken over and converted to a mosque in a rural North Carolina county, and a group of Christian pastors took part in the conversion ceremony in an effort to 'show mutual respect' for their Muslim neighbors." ⁽¹⁾ This is more than toleration. It is capitulation.

An Episcopalian clergyman told WND: "the mosque had reached out to the local churches through an interfaith group in Raleigh and was hoping to strike a welcoming and respectful tone for the two faiths."

He said Christianity and Islam 'share common origins and scriptures' and that he felt it was the right thing to do to participate in the mosque opening as a show of respect for Islam. Islam, he said, teaches the Bible was corrupted by Jews and Christians and that the Quran was the final, perfected revelation of Allah as given by the angel Gabriel to the prophet Muhammad. *We reject* the assertion that the Islamic faith worships the "same god" as Christians, as well as the equation of the Quran with Holy Scripture.

While that is an extreme example of toleration, the same is being aped within much of Christianity in general, including Lutheranism. It is manifested by either an inability or an unwillingness to address error creeping into the church. Errorists (those who are not bound by

Scripture) seek to introduce, often in the name of love, teachings contrary to the Word of God. C. P. Krauth (d.1883) who was of the fellowship that is now the ELCA said well over 100 years ago that error begins by seeking toleration. "Its friends say to the majority: You need not be afraid of us, we are few, and weak; only let us alone; we shall not disturb the faith of others ... we only ask for ourselves to be spared interference with our private opinions." ⁽²⁾

In this way error is sneaking in. While we are indeed to speak in love, Scripture nowhere allows the toleration of error in the name of love! Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets" ^(Matthew 7:15). Hymanaeus and Philetus who strayed concerning the truth were of this sort. Paul warned that their message will spread as a cancer ^(2 Timothy 2:17). Error when it is identified, is to be isolated, and avoided together with those who spread it. If it is not, the next step toward heterodoxy will follow.

Krauth explains the mentality of errorists who initially seek toleration of their views. (C.F.W. Walther described Krauth as "the most eminent man in the English Lutheran Church of this country, a man of rare learning, at home no less in the old than in modern [?] theology, and, what is of greatest import, whole-heartedly devoted to the pure doctrine of our Church, as he had learned to understand it, a noble man and without guile." ⁽³⁾) Krauth went on to say: "**Indulged in for this time, error goes on to assert EQUAL RIGHTS.** Truth and error are balancing forces. The Church shall do nothing which looks like deciding between them; that would be partiality. It is bigotry to assert any superior right for the truth. We are to agree to differ, and any favoring of the truth, because it is truth, is partisanship. What the friends of truth and error hold in common is fundamental. Anything on which they differ is *ipso facto* non-essential. Anybody who makes account of such a thing is a disturber of the peace of the Church. Truth and error are two coordinate powers, and the great secret of church-statesmanship is to preserve the balance between them."

The third step in the progression toward confirmed heterodoxy is supremacy. Said Krauth: "**From this point error soon goes on to its natural end, which is to assert SUPREMACY.** Truth started with tolerating; it comes to be merely tolerated, and that only for a time. Error claims a preference for its judgments on all disputed points. It puts men into positions, not as at first in spite of their departure from the Church's faith, but in consequence of it. Their repudiation is that they repudiate that faith, and position is given them to teach others to repudiate it, and to make them skillful in combating it."