

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson Elder: Al Rosendahl
Ushers: Michael Ude; James Bomber; David Hein; Ryan Oman; Eli Wales
Counting Team 3: Brian Eichstadt; Duane Enns; Chad Hestekin; Benno Sydow
Church Cleaners: Anderson

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Al Rosendahl; Scott Baker; Chad Hestekin; David Stifter; Lyle Trulin
Counting Team 4: James Bomber; Brad Kitzman; Paul Lentz; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust
Church Cleaners: Anderson

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Aug. 6: 9:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
Sat., Aug. 12: 9:00 am – Grace School Work Day
Sun., Aug. 13: 9:00 am – Worship Service
 11:00 am – Council Meeting
 4:00 pm – Harvest Festival @ Hecla, SD
Mon., Aug. 14: 7:00 pm – Grace School Meeting w/Ice Cream Social
Sun., Aug. 20: 3:00 pm – Opening Service at Immanuel (Eau Claire, WI)
Mon., Aug. 28: 8:00 am – Opening Service for Grace Lutheran School
Wed., Aug. 30: 4:30-6:15 – Catechism Begins for Public School Students
Sun. Sept. 10: 8:30 am – Choir Practice Begins
 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School Begin
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Regular Schedule Resumes)
 11:00 am – Hospitality Begins
Sun., Sept. 17: Annual Church Picnic
October Sundays: Lutheran Reformation Pulpit Rotation
October 3-4: Minnesota Pastoral Conference @ Grace
October 18-20: CLC Teachers' Conference @ Mankato, MN
Sun., Oct. 29: Special 500th Anniversary Reformation Service @ Grace
 4:00 pm – Joint Reformation Service @ Mankato, MN
October 31: 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation

Last Week's Stats: July 30, 2017 Sun.: 122

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,530.04	CLC:	\$895.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	950.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+230.04	CLC:	-55.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$96,787.82	CLC:	\$28,406.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	102,300.00	CLC:	29,450.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-5,512.18	CLC:	-1,044.00	
GLC Other:	100.00	Living Faith:	10.00	Tuition Aid:	385.00
SAF Endowment:	10.00	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	160.00
ILC Student Aid:	202.00	ILC Bldg.	200.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 3.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	27,417.75	Tuition Aid:	4,330.62	

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 9

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: 1st-8th

Date: August 6, 2017

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

WS 781: Preach You the Word
 TLH 446: Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray
 TLH 574: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
 Communion Distribution: TLH 307
 TLH 49: Almighty God, Thy Word is Cast

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 18, TLH p. 125 f.

Liturgy:

WS, p. 12 (Communion)

Scripture Reading:

Joel 3:12-16
 Romans 8:26-27

Sermon: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴ Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ "but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. ²⁶ "But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. ²⁷ "So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' ²⁸ "He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' ²⁹ "But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ 'Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.' ³¹ "Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." ³² He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³³ "The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. ³⁴ "The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. ³⁵ "Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. ³⁶ "The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, ³⁷ "and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ³⁸ "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (NKJVTM)

Be Prepared for the Final Harvest

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **School Volunteers:** Grace Lutheran School is looking for volunteers to assist the teachers with the upcoming school year. If you can help with these or other school activities, please speak to Janelle Hein or a Board of Ed member (Chad Hestekin, James Bomber, or Michael Ude). Specific areas to help include (found on signup sheet):
 - Recess monitor: daily 11:35-11:55 and 1:50-2:05
 - Lunch monitor: daily 11:55-12:20
 - Study hall monitor: daily 9:30-11:15 or as otherwise arranged.
 - Field trip coordinator
- ◆ **Among Us:** Yesterday Ned Sandhoefner, former member of Grace and son of Krista Sandhoefner, was married to Chara nee Meyer. May the Lord richly bless their marital union with Christian love. Address: 1030 Pumphouse Rd. #3; Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.
- ◆ **Youth Group:** It has been suggested that a youth group be organized for our high-school-aged members. 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. Those high school youth who are interested in this, please sign-up by the guest book.
- ◆ **Sunday School:** Those interested in teaching, subbing, or helping out in any kind of way may speak with either Pastor or Michael Ude.
- ◆ **Harvest Festival:** Prince of Peace Lutheran Church invites you to join us for our annual Harvest Festival 4 pm, Sun., Aug. 13. We will have an outdoor service followed by a turkey BBQ dinner. All will take place at the Marvin Hansen farm, 10401 Stateline Rd.; Hecla, SD. All CLC members are invited to join us in a choir piece: "A Thanksgiving Prayer" by Don Besig (practice at 3:30 pm). For more info., please contact Pastor Daub (pastor_daub@hotmail.com/605-994-2145).
- ◆ **Worship Services in Waco, TX:** Today St. Matthew will begin hosting Worship Services a couple times a month in Waco, Texas at the La Quinta Inn & Suites conference room. The address is 6003 Woodway Drive, Waco TX 76712. Upcoming schedule: Aug. 6, 20; Sept. 10, 24. If you know of anyone living in the Waco area who would be interested in joining us for worship please contact Pastor Hanel (hanel95@hotmail.com/972-733-4535).
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Norman Greve of St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran in Iron River, MI, had a mini-stroke last weekend. He is thankful to be able to return to sound health in order to serve the Lord.

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!

The Lord's Supper Preparation

As a reminder, communicants are to examine themselves prior to communing. 1 Corinthians 11:27: "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup."

Prayer before the Lord's Supper:

Lord God, You invite all who are burdened with sin to come to You for rest. In the sacrament of Holy Baptism You called me to be Your child by the Holy Spirit. I now come at Your invitation to receive the holy body and blood of my Savior, Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Prepare my heart, Lord, to receive this precious meal with a repentant heart: sorry for my sins and recognizing they deserve punishment, but also rejoicing in the full forgiveness You have granted me by grace through Jesus' holy and precious blood shed for me at the cross. Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope in You, and assure me of Your blessed peace. Hear me for the sake of Jesus, my dear Savior. Amen.

Prayer after the Lord's Supper:

Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to me in this holy sacrament. Thanks and praise be to You for Your divine tenderness and love shown to me, Your child. I humbly ask you, now that I've received Your body and blood in the Sacrament, continue to fill me with the power of Your Holy Spirit. May I be led to ever embrace by faith the treasures of Your grace imparted to me, especially the forgiveness of sins and fellowship with You. Keep me in Your faith and favor that I may live in You and You may live in me. Let the love that You have shown me enable me, with a forgiven and tender heart, to love You and my neighbor. Preserve me in the true faith until everlasting life. Hear me, O Jesus, for the sake of Your dear name. Amen.

TLH 306

1. Lord Jesus Christ, Thou hast prepared
A feast for our salvation,
It is Thy body and Thy blood;
And at Thy invitation
As weary souls, with sin opprest,
We come to Thee for needed rest,
For comfort and for pardon.

4. We eat this bread and drink this cup,
Thy precious Word believing
That Thy true body and Thy blood
Our lips are here receiving.
This word remains forever true,
And there is naught Thou canst not do;
For Thou, Lord, art almighty.

7. Grant that we worthily receive
Thy Supper, Lord, our Savior,
And, truly grieving o'er our sins,
May prove by our behavior
That we are thankful for Thy grace
And day by day may run our race,
In holiness increasing.

8. For Thy consoling Supper, Lord,
Be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in every place
The world against it rages.
Grant that this Sacrament may be
A blessed comfort unto me
When living and when dying.

1 Corinthians 10:16

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

CLC President's Letter – August 2017

From CLC President, Pastor Michael Eichstadt

August 3, 2017

Dear brothers in Christ and fellow workers in His harvest field:

I grew up hearing farmers say that on a warm, humid, calm summer night you can stand in a field and actually “hear” the corn grow. So as a teenager, one night I decided to test the folk legend. Shortly after dusk I walked out into the corn field and listened. At first there was nothing. But then I caught it. Even though there was no breeze whatsoever, I heard a faint rustling. The sound of corn growing? Maybe.

However, most of the time, whether it's corn in the field or tomatoes in the garden, growth is undetectable at the moment. Still, growth occurs. Over the course of days, weeks, and months, with the help of rain and sunshine, a crop sprouts, emerges, matures, and produces a harvest. God designed His creation that way and promises, “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease” (Gen. 8:22). The activity is not as visually spectacular as a Fourth of July fireworks extravaganza, yet it is far more powerful and essential for life.

In a similar way, the Lord says through Isaiah, “As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Is. 55:10-11).

Wouldn't it be great if you could walk into church, a counseling meeting, a Bible class, or VBS session and “hear” the Word growing on the spot? Perhaps sometimes you do. Someone asks to speak with you and offers a heartfelt, tearful confession of sin and expression of trust in Christ as the sacrificial Lamb which takes away the sin of the world. A joyful hymn of praise for the Lord's mercies raises the rafters on a Sunday morning.

But even when nothing is evident at the time, count on the Word working. God designed it that way. I was reminded of that recently when a young member excitedly shared with me that after several years of her patient encouragement, a friend had agreed to meet with me and have her child baptized.

Encouraged by the Lord's sure promises, let's keep up the work in the Lord's harvest field, knowing that there is much more going on than we either see or hear at the moment.

“HOW THE KINGDOM OF GOD GROWS”

Read Mark 4:26-34

At times, the word of God may seem small compared to the big problems and heartaches of life. But there is no greater power on earth to make things grow, from a struggling faith to a struggling congregation.

The kingdom of God has nothing to do with earthly kings, visible kingdoms, or geographic locations with specific boundary lines. Jesus taught, **“The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you.”** Simply put, the kingdom of God is God's gracious rule within the human heart. How does this kingdom grow?

We Scatter the Seeds

Mark 4 opens with the parable of the *Sower and the Seed*. When the Lord's disciples failed to understand its meaning, Jesus explained that the seed in this parable represented the word of God. **“The farmer sows the word,”** He said in Mark 4:13. So in all three parables of Mark 4—the *Sower and the Seed*, the *Growing Seed*, and the *Mustard Seed*—the seed represents the word of God.

As Christians, you and I have but one role in the growth of God's kingdom. That role is not to form Political Action Committees or Standing Religious Armies, but to “scatter the seed” of God's word. Each time you comfort a mourner with the Scriptures, or read a family devotion, or remind your children how much God loves them and what God has done to redeem them in Jesus Christ, you are scattering the seed of God's word. If you don't view the scattering of this seed as a privilege and serious responsibility, consider how faith is created and nourished and cultivated: **“Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ,”** Romans 10:17.

God Makes the Seeds Grow

In the parable of the *Growing Seed*, what part did the farmer play in making the seed grow? None. Notice what Jesus said: **“A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself”**—the Greek word is AUTOMATOS, the source of our English AUTOMATIC—**“the soil produces the grain,”** Mark 4:26-28.

A seed does not grow because of us but in spite of us. The same is true of the seed of God's word. Just as the power to grow lies in the seed itself and not in the farmer, so also the power to grow faith, heal, and change behavior lies not in the person who shares the word of God, but rather in the word of God being shared. Using language strikingly reminiscent of today's text, the apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians: **“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes everything grow,”** 1 Corinthians 3:6-7.

At times, the word of God can appear so small when compared to life's biggest headaches, heartbreaks, and problems. Isn't this implied in the parable of the *Mustard Seed*? What appears smaller, more ordinary, and less promising than a mustard seed? The same can be asked of the family Bible. Yet, there is no greater power on earth to make things grow, whether a struggling faith or a struggling marriage or a struggling congregation. As Paul wrote in Romans 1:16, **“I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.”**

How does the kingdom of God grow? We scatter the seeds. God makes the seeds grow. You believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior because sometime, somewhere, someplace, someone planted a Gospel seed in you. And God made it grow.

Written by Pastor Mark Weis



IMITATING THE GREAT COMMISSION

Every Christian congregation wrestles with concerns about church growth, keeping members, and a viable mission presence in their community. You can be sure that you will

see plenty of so-called solutions to these issues across different churches. Some approach the work of the church like a business. As long as you meet your goals and keep your commitments, growth will eventually happen. Some are so afraid of these concerns that they discard any approach that doesn't lead to numerical growth. Still, some make the elements of the worship experience, namely music, architecture, and atmosphere the chief priority.

All of these thoughts beg the question, what is the best model for a church? To answer, we look to the Bible, which is very straightforward. The Gospel of John is a good example. Near the end of both that book and Christ's ministry, Jesus gave instructions to His disciples about this very thing. He said,

"Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)

A church's responsibility is to preach the law and gospel. The law at times when sin needs to be revealed and repented of, and the gospel at times when the law has generated this effect. Forgiving or retaining sins - that's what it all comes down to. It's very easy for a church to stray from this mission and focus on the lesser alternatives like those previously mentioned. A truly mission-minded congregation will bear the marks of the law and the gospel. So, what does that look like today? Our image comes directly from Christ's Great Commission -

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen." (Matthew 28:19-20)

The Gospel in Word and Sacrament, also called the Means of Grace, is the vehicle upon which the ministry of the Church grows. Jesus commands His followers to baptize and preach all which He has commanded. We could also add in His command to practice the Lord's Supper often, in

remembrance of what He did. The Gospel's effect cannot be measured solely in numerical growth or societal popularity. The Church does not rise or fall on fads and customs. It stands firm on Christ, the Cornerstone, and His Word is the unchanging foundation for growth and strength.

Many churches may tout a highly functioning mission program but leave the word of God out of the picture. It is true that the churches have opportunity to provide many outreach services that care for bodily needs. However, without the gospel in Word and Sacrament at work, a church can never fulfill its purpose or generate lasting spiritual growth. Be a mission-minded congregation that stands, defends, and promotes the law and gospel ministry by continuing to imitate the Great Commission.

Mission minded examples - How is your congregation celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation? It was 500 years ago when the Lord Jesus used men like Martin Luther to uncover God's Word of truth about His Word and Sacraments and how they are to be properly used. What a great opportunity to show your community that your congregation *still* stands for the proper use of the Means of Grace in the Sacraments.

1. **Hold a joint Reformation Service!** If possible, contact area CLC churches to celebrate the truth about the Word alone, Faith alone, and Scripture alone. Invite the public to the service through social medias - Facebook, email chains, church yard signs, newspapers and radio stations, and even better, personal invitations from you!
2. **Hold a seminar!** Advertise and invite the community to a presentation/discussion about what the Reformation was *really* all about. Emphasize not just the history, but more importantly the defense of the Gospel as Peter writes, **"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."** (1 Peter 3:15)

7 Habits of a Mission-Minded Congregation

Love for the Lost	Encouraging one another
Imitating the Great Commission	Strengthening the Individual
Reliance Upon the Word	Thinking of Ideas (Being Creative)
Desire to Achieve Unity	



The **Committee on Domestic Fields** is a subcommittee of the CLC Mission Board. "The purpose of the Committee on Domestic Fields (CDF) is to make outreach ideas and material available to CLC congregations and to encourage them in carrying out the Great Commission of our Savior, Jesus Christ."