

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Al Rosendahl

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

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

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

Church Cleaners: Fleischer

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

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: 9:00 am – Worship Service
3:00 pm – Opening Service at Immanuel (Eau Claire, WI)

Sun., Aug. 27: 9:00 am – Worship Service

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. 3: 9:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper

Mon., Sept. 4: Labor Day – No School

Sun. Sept. 10: Return to Regular Sunday Schedule
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

Mon., Sept. 11: 10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study Club

Sun., Sept. 17: Annual Church Picnic & MN Delegate Conference

October Sundays: Lutheran Reformation Pulpit Rotation

October 3-4: Minnesota Pastoral Conference @ Grace

October 18-20: CLC Teachers' Conference @ Mankato, MN

Sun., Oct. 29: 4:00 pm – Joint Reformation Service @ Mankato, MN

October 31: 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation

Last Week's Stats: Aug. 6, 2017 Sun.: 86

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,682.00	CLC:	\$923.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	950.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-618.00	CLC:	-27.00	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$99,469.82	CLC:	\$29,329.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	105,600.00	CLC:	30,400.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-6,130.18	CLC:	-1,071.00	
GLC Other:	125.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	758.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	100.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	150.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	27,542.75	Tuition Aid:	5,088.62

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)

Phone: 763-784-8784

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Grades: 1st-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 10

Date: August 13, 2017

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

"Glad to be in the House of God" (inside bulletin)

TLH 360 – Stanzas 1-5

TLH 284 – Stanzas 6-9

TLH 416 – Stanzas 10-13

TLH 644: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 119, II, TLH p.149

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 246:1,4

Scripture Reading:

1 Kings 3:5-12

Romans 8:28-30

Sermon: Matthew 13:44-52

⁴⁴ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, ⁴⁶ "who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, ⁴⁸ "which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ "So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, ⁵⁰ "and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth." ⁵¹ Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." ⁵² Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure *things* new and old." (NKJVTM)

Are You a Good Fish or a Bad Fish?

1. A 'bad' fish which snubs God's rule and kingship?
2. A 'good' fish which treasures God's rule and kingship?

✠ 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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Service Schedule:** Please remember that the service schedule will be changing on Sept. 10. Sunday School and Bible Class will begin at 9:00 am with regular morning worship at 10:00 am.
- ◆ **Sunday School:** Those interested in helping out as teacher substitutes may speak with either Pastor or Michael Ude.
- ◆ **Church Picnic:** On Sun., Sept. 17 there will be a church picnic here on the church grounds following our regular church service. Grilled meat will be provided. Members are asked to bring a dish to share, including things like salads, chips, and/or desserts. Committee #3 will be serving and cleanup, though additional help would be appreciated.
- ◆ **Golf Outing:** The 10th Annual Snell Open benefitting the Josh Snell Memorial Scholarship Fund is set for Sat., Sept. 23, at Hidden Greens in Hastings, MN. Registration forms are by the guest book.
- ◆ **Immanuel's Opening Service:** The opening worship service for Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will be on Sun. Aug. 20, 3 pm, at the campus fieldhouse. It seems that this time is preferable since many of the parents tend to leave on Sunday late afternoon. Please continue to pray for the Lord to bless the Christian education of our young people at Immanuel as God's enduring Word of truth is passed down to the next generation.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran in Saginaw, MI, has received the call to Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN. The congregation has also called Pastor Emeritus John Schierenbeck of Eau Claire, WI, to serve as interim pastor and member Eric Libby to teach 11th-12th grade Religion for the first semester of the 2017-18 school year. ✠ Pastor Richard Kanzenbach of Morning Star Lutheran in Fairchild; Peace with God Lutheran in Onalaska; and Trinity Lutheran in Millston, all in WI, has returned the call to St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran in Lemmon, SD. ✠ Mrs. Valerie Hammett of Mankato, MN, has been called to teach 3rd and 4th grades at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. Mrs. Hammett has CLC teaching experience, but is not serving a regular call at this time. ✠ Teacher Matthew Thurow of Berea Lutheran in Inver Grove Heights, MN, has returned the call to Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI. Faith Lutheran has now called Teacher Barry Hay to be principal for one year and Teacher Marie Muehlenhaupt full time for one year and they both have accepted their calls.

GLAD TO BE IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The glorious Three in One,
With joyful and united hearts
We sing and praise and pray.

With broken heart and mournful sigh
We come before His throne.
Our sins and errs we there confess
And seek His pard'ning grace.

Through faithful servant, called by God,
We hear the pard'ning Word.
By grace our sins are all forgiv'n,
Through Christ Who died for us.

All who in Jesus Christ believe,
God's children, they are named.
All they who trust and are baptized
Eternal life shall see.

And thus it shall be endlessly
Until the world does end.
We sing all glory to our Lord,
And shall forevermore.

The servant lays upon our heart,
The lessons for the day.
Enriched and nourished by the Word,
Three-fold, we praise the Lord.

In unison of heart and mind,
The Creed of faith we speak.
We tell the world what we believe,
As we confess our faith.

We sing our hymn with waiting hearts,
And then we hear the Word.
The servant speaks; God's voice we hear,
The truth we yearn to know.

The servant speaks the Law of God,
The Gospel comfort too.
The Gospel is the power of God,
For life and for salvation.

Create in me a clean heart, Lord,
And keep me in Your sight.
O, Holy Spirit, stay with me,
And make my joy be full.

Dear Lord, You've bidden us to pray,
And promised You will hear.
For Church and neighbor and for self,
Our prayer ascends to You.

We pray the prayer you taught us, Lord,
Our Father, work Your will.
Protect, defend, and keep us well
Until we're home with You.

In peace and joy we now take leave
With blessing from Your heart.
Of all the things upon the earth,
Your blessing counts the most.

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, you heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. ^(*)

Amen!

*) Last Stanza: *The Lutheran Hymnal*: Hymn 644
Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 7/2017



CLC E-Devotion – July 13, 2017

Proverbs 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

IN DEFENSE OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINE

We live in a world where defenseless human beings are killed daily, while at the same time it is now possible for pets and animals to sue their owners for abuse! Should we be surprised then to find that children are told that they don't have to listen to their parents if what they say makes them 'feel bad'? Is there any surprise that the social structure God established appears to be crumbling in our country and world? Is there any surprise that 'discipline' is now a bad word, considered the opposite of love and equated with abuse?

Thank God that He has, by His Holy Spirit, separated us from our sins and dedicated us to His service. Thank God that He has transformed our minds so that we are enabled to show what is His good and perfect will. Thank God that He has given us His Word, which both mandates and blesses Christian discipline.

As mature Christians we strive to be our children's parents, not their peers. We recognize that our children are a blessing from God, a blessing that requires us to be responsible for their physical and spiritual needs. Thank God that He provides the means to feed both their bodies and souls!

He will also grant us the hearts to exercise Christian discipline. Christian discipline involves using both Law and Gospel. We will teach our children that God demands in His Law that they "honor serve and obey, and give us love and respect." When they disobey (provided we aren't telling them to disobey God) and dishonor us, they sin against God! We will not soft-pedal sin. We dare not.

We correct what is wrong IN GOD'S SIGHT and also teach them that Jesus has atoned for all their sins by His perfect obedience and willing sacrifice. We will endeavor to show them the love of Christ even when we discipline. We will return to them to confirm not only the reason discipline was necessary, but also our and the Savior's love for them.

Oh, blest the parents who give heed
Unto their children's foremost need
And weary not of care or cost!
May none to them and heav'n be lost!

Blest such a house, it prospers well,
In peace and joy the parents dwell,
And in their children's lot is shown
How richly God can bless His own.
(The Lutheran Hymnal, 625:3-4)

DISCERNMENT—A GIFT OF THE SPIRIT

"But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Natural man, fallen from the state of perfection with the introduction of sin, is dead in trespasses and sin. "Although man's reason or natural intellect indeed has still a dim spark of the knowledge that there is a God, as also of the doctrine of the Law, Rom. 1:19ff, yet it is so ignorant, blind, and perverted that when even the most ingenious and learned men upon earth read or hear the Gospel of the Son of God and the promise of eternal salvation, they cannot from their own powers perceive, apprehend, understand, or believe and regard it as true, but the more diligence and earnestness they employ, wishing to comprehend these spiritual things with their reason, the less they understand or believe, and before they become enlightened and are taught by the Holy Ghost, they regard all this only as foolishness or fictions. 1 Cor. 2:14: *The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him.*"⁽¹⁾.

Regeneration from spiritual death to spiritual life, from unbelief to faith, is a consequence of the work of the Spirit of God Who works through the Gospel which remains incomprehensible to those who will not listen to the Word. By the power of the Word preached the Holy Spirit "is certainly efficacious and works in our hearts."⁽²⁾ The Spirit gives the spiritual discernment which the wisest in the world do not have so long as they will not give attentive and earnest attention to the Word of God. Proverbs says, "Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth" (Proverbs 4:5).

Comprehending Scripture and the blessings that flow from it are indelibly connected in every way to Christ, the Living Word. Following His resurrection, Jesus said to His disciples, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.' And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures" (Luke 24:44-45).

By the working of the Spirit we understand the world was framed by the Word of God. We understand the meaning and condemnatory nature of the law. Even if we cannot comprehend the depth of such love, we know the depth of the Father's love in sending Jesus into the world. We know that as Christ shed His blood for us we are reconciled to the Father. We

know that Jesus died as our substitute under the law, and that He restored life eternal by His resurrection. We know that our Lord attends every moment of our life, and that He will in His time according to His grace receive us into life in heaven, where even now our inheritance is laid up. All this, and much more, we know because He has given us His Word. His Word is truth, and the Spirit has worked in our hearts through the Word of Truth.

Yes, there are things on this earth we know but do not and will never understand until we are with the Lord, when what we don't understand here will not matter. We can never get a handle on the *how* of the Triune God (the Trinity). The truth that Jesus is true God and true Man surpasses our understanding. The real presence of the body and the blood of the Lord in the sacrament is beyond us. On one hand, *everything that we need to know for life and salvation is clear to the believer*. On the other hand, things that God has told us, the *how* of which, however, He in His inscrutable wisdom has not told us, is a matter of faith. "Faith is being sure of the things we hope for, being convinced of the things we cannot see" (Hebrews 11:1).⁽³⁾ We thank the Lord God for the indisputable evidence of His grace shown us in the person of Jesus, "In whom, though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible ..." (1 Peter 1:8).

We live in a world when not a day goes by without wars between nations, wars on our streets, wars in political camps—wars of all sorts. Wars of whatever sort—guns or not—are a consequence of sin, and of the devil who stirs the brew of discord. It is ever true. "There is no peace," says the Lord, "for the wicked" (Isaiah 48:22). Since Cain slew Abel the world has been in pursuit of an elusive peace. In the world, we hear that we need to fight war to gain the peace. That is understandable in a world whose concept of peace, however, is no deeper than the next angry word, or the rantings of an egomaniacal tyrant. This is the world in which Christ-believers live while awaiting deliverance to heaven.

In this world of perpetual unrest, Jesus spoke words that are not understood by natural man. In fact, the unregenerate who despise the Lord use Him for their purpose and as quickly mock Him by asking, "Where is the peace of which He spoke?" Denying Christ, they have no discernment of the kind of peace of which He spoke.

To the disciples, soon to be troubled by events surrounding Jesus, the Savior said, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). He reiterated His blessing when after His resurrection He appeared to His fearful disciples. "Peace to you" (John 20:21).

The peace of which the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) spoke is peace of heart, even in the midst of raucous chaos. It is the peace that He effected when He laid down His life for the sins of the world. It is the peace of reconciliation with the Father Who for our sins was justly displeased. This peace of reconciliation enjoyed by believers was sealed to us through the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. When our sins give us alarm, our flesh entices us, and the world presses in upon us, we find peace in going to the gospel Word for reassurance of God's grace and His steadfast love. It is the peace that will fill the heart when we pass from this vale of tears to our Lord in glory. The gospel gives the peace believers enjoy in knowing that through all the trials of life, the difficulties, and stresses, their Heavenly Father hears their prayers.

The fifth and final name is "Prince of Peace!"
And what a wealth of meaning lies not here!
The peace He came to bring all burdened souls
Is not a makeshift earthly armistice in carnal wars—
Ah no, 'tis peace eternal, made twixt God and man,
A peace which brings surcease from every toil.
A peace far surpassing human ken—
The angel-promised "Peace—good will to men!"⁽⁴⁾

Deniers of Christ and the gospel will never have the peace which the angels announced at Jesus' birth, and which Jesus declared in His ministry. This peace we deny ourselves if we neglect the gospel.

Peace— "Not as the world gives do I give you," said our Lord. In like manner, He gives us *hope* that the world cannot understand. The hope of the world is without an anchor— "I hope ..." without confidence of fruition. The believer finds peace in the Father "Who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). The apostle Paul wrote,

"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Hope in the living faithful God.

Thank the Spirit for spiritual discernment and for the faith to know what is written in the Law and the Prophets concerning Christ, as well as for the peace and hope you have in believing.

"Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus. Amen." (1 Peter 5:14).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 8/2017

1) *Formula of Concord*, Thorough Declaration: Of Free Will, *Concordia Triglotta*, p.885, para. 9-10

2) *Ibid*: page 903, para 55

3) Beck, William F. *An American Translation*, Leader Publishing Company, New Haven, MO

4) Madson, Norman A. *Evening Bells at Bethany* 1948 Lutheran Syond Book Company, Mankato, MN