

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Dale Enns

Ushers: Larry Brandt; Jeremiah Boe; Nick Duehlmeier;
Dale Enns; Duane Enns

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

Hospitality Team 5: Andrea Dahl; Pat & Dawn Paplow;
Frank & Ann Radichel

Church Cleaners: R. Nelson School: A. Baker

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Larry Brandt; Jeremiah Boe; Nick Duehlmeier;
Dale Enns; Duane Enns

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

Hospitality: NA - Church Picnic

Church Cleaners: R. Nelson School: K. Baker

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun. Sept. 10: 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:00 am – Hospitality
12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Mon., Sept. 11: 10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study Club @ Inver Grove Hts.

Wed., Sept. 13: 4:30-6:15 – Catechism for Public School Students

Sat., Sept. 16: 1:00 pm – Luther Memorial Dedication @ Fond du Lac, WI

Sun. Sept. 17: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:00 am – Annual Church Picnic
3:00 pm – MN Delegate Conference @ Sleepy Eye, MN

Mon., Sept. 18: 7:00 pm – Grace School Parent Night

Wed., Sept. 20: CLC Coordinating Council Meeting in Eau Claire, WI

October 1,8,15,22,29: Lutheran Reformation 500th Anniversary Series

October 3-4: Minnesota Pastoral Conference @ Grace

Sun., Oct. 15: Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings

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

Sat., Oct. 28: 9:00 am – Grace Work Day

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

October 31: 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation

Fri., Nov. 10: Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day

Nov. 10-11: 7:30 pm – ILC Musical, "Anne with an E" (Music @ 7 pm)

Nov. 6-24: Pastor Hein's Mission Trip to Liberia

Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Fridley, MN 55432

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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 14

Date: September 10, 2017

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

WS 744: How Great Thou Art

TLH 123: Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

TLH 628: Shepherd of Tender Youth

Sunday School Teacher Installation

TLH 54: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 90, TLH p. 142

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 3:2,4

Scripture Reading:

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Matthew 7:24-29

Sermon: Psalm 90

¹ Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. ² Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You *are* God. ³ You turn man to destruction, And say, "Return, O children of men." ⁴ For a thousand years in Your sight *Are* like yesterday when it is past, And *like* a watch in the night. ⁵ You carry them away *like* a flood; *They are* like a sleep. In the morning they are like grass *which* grows up: ⁶ In the morning it flourishes and grows up; In the evening it is cut down and withers. ⁷ For we have been consumed by Your anger, And by Your wrath we are terrified. ⁸ You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret *sins* in the light of Your countenance. ⁹ For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh. ¹⁰ The days of our lives *are* seventy years; And if by reason of strength *they are* eighty years, Yet their boast *is* only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away. ¹¹ Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, *so is* Your wrath. ¹² So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom. ¹³ Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants. ¹⁴ Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, That we may rejoice and be glad all our days! ¹⁵ Make us glad according to the days *in which* You have afflicted us, The years *in which* we have seen evil. ¹⁶ Let Your work appear to Your servants, And Your glory to their children. ¹⁷ And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands. (NKJVTM)

Lord, Teach Us to Number Our Days

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Among Us:** Maureen Eichstadt's father, William McGraw, passed away on August 28. This past Friday Scott Wyman, son of Patricia Wyman, passed away while he was hospitalized. We pray for both of these families as they find comfort from the Lord and His Word of salvation. Scott Baker has moved to the Fargo area. His new address is 1500 12th St. West, Apt. 112; West Fargo, ND 58078.
- ◆ **Church Picnic:** Next Sunday, 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 doing cleanup.
- ◆ **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 Lutheran College Visitors Day:** is Nov. 10 beginning at 10 am in the ILC gymnasium for chapel. It will feature presentations and classroom visits until 3 pm. Come and learn more about your church's college and a continuing education with Christ. Housing can be provided along with meals. Friday evening there is the opportunity to see the ILC fall musical: Anne with an E. It will be performed both Fri. and Sat. evenings at 7:30 pm. A band concert will precede it Fri. night at 7 pm and a variety of student musical performances on Sat. night at 7 pm. Speak with your pastor about questions and attendance. Someone please convey attendance information and any housing requests to Prof. John Ude, the ILC academic dean, by Nov. 7 (W: 715-836-6631/H: 715-600-6210/john.ude@ilc.edu).
- ◆ **Fellowship for CLC Women:** The CLC Women's Retreat West will be held September 22-24, 2017 at Chadron State Park, Nebraska. You may find more information and a registration form at www.christianwomensretreat.weebly.com. <> The CLC Southeastern Women's Retreat will be held November 10-12, 2017 in Savannah, Georgia. For more information please contact Pastor Matthew Hanel at pastor@dallaslutheran.com, or 972-733-4535. <> More information on both events can be found on the table in our narthex.
- ◆ **Invitation:** Luther Memorial of Fond du Lac, WI, is celebrating and praising the Lord's blessings and work in our fully remodeled church and school over this past year. On Sat., Sept. 16, we will be serving lunch at 11:30 am, followed by our dedication service at 1 pm and a cake reception/presentation following the service. There will also be tours given before and after the dedication worship service. We hope you will join us in praising Jesus for this historical event for our congregation. If you are able to come, please RSVP at FDLlutheran.com!

- ◆ **Florida:** Please remember Florida and surrounding areas in your prayers as hurricane Irma approaches this weekend. The CLC has congregations in Cape Coral, Winter Haven, and Live Oak along with preaching stations in Orlando and Coral Springs. Some (if not all) are cancelling services today because of the coming storm.
- ◆ **From Corpus Christi:** The Lord has spared the members of Resurrection and Shepherd of the Valley among many others from great loss on account of Hurricane Harvey. The city of Corpus Christi narrowly missed the worst of the storm as the eye passed just to the north east with full force landing around Rockport. Many Resurrection members remained in their homes, others left the area ... Some who stayed lived very near the worst part of the storm though received no harm to their lives, and it appears property damage including that at the church is minimal considering the magnitude of such a storm. ... We are thankful for the Lord's protection, and all of your prayers for us. The Members of Resurrection Corpus Christi, and Shepherd of the Valley Weslaco - Pastor Edward Starkey. While there has been great damage in the Houston area, recent reports have stated that our fellow brothers and sisters in the Houston congregation are safe and well.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Mark Weis of Grace Lutheran in Cape Coral FL, has received the call to St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran in Lemmon, SD. ✠ Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran in Saginaw, MI, has returned the call to Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN. Pastor David Schaller of Redeemer Lutheran in Dowagiac, MI, has now received this call. ✠ Pastor Emeritus John Schierenbeck has returned the call to serve as the vacancy pastor at Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN. ✠ Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, has issued a one-year interim call to several local, part-time teachers in order to staff its classroom for grades 3-4. The ladies who have accepted this call are Barbara Gurgel, Lynette Roehl, Kelly Beekman, and Valerie Hammett, who had returned the full-time call. ✠ Mr. Eric Libby has returned the call to teach 11/12 Religion at Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN for the fall semester of 2017. The congregation has now called Pastor Douglas Libby to the same position, and he has accepted. ✠ Kayla Wendt of Immanuel Lutheran has accepted the congregation's call to serve part-time teaching Choir, PE, and Spanish. ✠ President Eichstadt: I have been informed by pastor emeritus Steven Karp that he and his wife have joined an ELS congregation in Klamath Falls, OR. Therefore he has requested that his name be removed from the emeritus roster of the CLC.

Last Week's Stats: Sept. 3, 2017 Sun.: 75

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$6,424.93*	CLC:	\$623.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	950.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+3,124.93	CLC:	-327.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$116,728.18	CLC:	\$32,792.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	118,800.00	CLC:	34,200.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-2,071.82	CLC:	-1,408.00	
GLC Other:	38,628.48**	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	195.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	175.00	Kinship:	0.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	125.00	IIF:	0.00
		CEP:	0.00		
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	28,387.75	Tuition Aid:	5,312.62

* Includes \$3,900 in School Tuition, \$2,524.93 General Offering

** Includes \$38,528.48 for Roof Insurance Reimbursement

Lutherans who don't care or who are indifferent to what is happening are contributing to the problem, and to the deterioration of confessionalism. Timothy was exhorted by the apostle to faithfulness. He was to minister "to preserve the apostolic gospel pure and unchanged, and to guard it against the increasingly vicious attacks of false teachers." (3)

A celebration of the Reformation is meaningful only if the celebrants are ready to point to Scripture, and to the Lutheran Confessions drawn from the Scriptures, and say, "Here we stand." This suggests that celebrating the Reformation calls for honest introspection, and where necessary, confession and reformation. The prophet Ezekiel in a most sobering chapter wrote, "Thus says the Lord God to the shepherds: 'Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, *but* you do not feed the flock. The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them. So they were scattered because *there was* no shepherd; and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered'" (Ezekiel 34:1-5). The same chapter gives the comfort of the Lord that He will seek out and feed His flock. He will gather the sheep even though the shepherds abuse and scatter them.

The Reformation is not about preserving the Lutheran Church. It is about retaining the truth of the gospel and the means of grace to ourselves and our posterity. It is about being true to the gospel through which the Lord will gather His children, so that they may be confirmed in the truth of their salvation in Christ, by grace through faith alone. Since He does this through the Word which He has committed to His Church, God help us to be faithful to the call and responsibility.

If we are going to be true to our Lord, we will continue in the truth of His Word without apology or qualification; to remain true to our Lutheran heritage, we will stand upon the Lutheran Confessions drawn from Scripture, without qualification. We will believe, confess, and teach salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

Lutheran is not as Lutheran does. Lutheran is as Lutheran believes, with one caveat: "If it is not Scripture, it is not Lutheran."¹



Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 9/2017

- 1) Klug, Eugene F. - Stahlke, Otto F., *Getting into the Formula of Concord- A History & Digest of the Formula*, Preface, 1977, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis MO
- 2) Preus, Rolf, An essay delivered in Crookston, MN, Feb. 27, 2000
- 3) Franzmann, Martin, *Concordia Bible with Notes*, page 416

FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AFTER THE REFORMATION

This year Protestantism generally, and Lutheranism particularly, is celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. While this is occurring, the principles of the Reformation are largely being disregarded by many who claim the Lutheran name. A Pew Research Center poll concluded by the statistics compiled on many Reformation related subjects that "Protestants and Catholics today are more similar religiously than they are different."

This is interesting, but not surprising. It prompted the one who alerted us to this poll to comment: "Interesting to see the degree to which adherents of specific religions are confused about what their religion teaches ... and it's stuff that's basic to the religion's core beliefs. Somebody's not doing a good job!"

About half of U.S. Protestants (52%) say both good deeds and faith in God are needed to be saved. This is a historically Catholic position. Fifty-two percent do not hold the principle of *sola fidei*, (by faith alone) which is what Scripture teaches. Two separate Pew Research Center surveys – one in Western Europe by telephone (April 11 to Aug. 2, 2017), and one in the United States on line (May 30 to Aug. 9, 2017) – said:

"Although Martin Luther and other Protestant reformers in the 16th century held that eternal salvation is attained solely through faith (a belief known in Latin as *sola fide*), the surveys show that many Protestants today say instead that eternal salvation is attained through a combination of faith and good works – which is the traditional Catholic position. Indeed, in most of the Western European countries surveyed, Protestants who believe that salvation depends on both faith and works outnumber those who say salvation comes through faith alone."

Also, according to the poll, fifty-two percent say that Christians should look outside of Scripture to tradition and the church for guidance. Again this is Catholic teaching, and a denial of *sola scriptura* (by Scripture alone).

Thirty percent of protestants in the United State hold to both the *sola fidei* (by faith alone) and *sola scriptural* principles, which with *sola gratia* (by grace alone) are the cardinal principles of the Reformation.

Sixty-seven percent identify Martin Luther as the catalyst of the Reformation.

Speaking from a Lutheran perspective (not a Protestant or Catholic), different factors are in play. One is an ignorance of history. The larger factor is a growing disrespect for God's Word. Whether it is because someone is not doing a good job or because of indifference toward one's personal salvation is arguable, but an attitude exists that apes Felix. When Paul spoke to him concerning Christ, Felix said, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time, I will call for you" (Acts 24:25). That attitude feeds the spirit that reflects

what the apostle Paul wrote in his last epistle (the prison epistle) to Timothy: “For the time will come when the will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ear away from the truth, and be turned aside to fable” (2 Timothy 4:3).

Sadly, and to the shame of Lutherans who have gone with the times, false teachers who identify with Luther by name, but not with what He taught, have accommodated the itching ears. Luther feared that it would go this way after his death, and it did; yet there arose confessors faithful to Scripture who were emboldened by the Spirit to set forth the *Formula of Concord*. “It is unlikely that the Lutheran Church could have survived without the Formula, at least as a church loyal to the Augsburg Confession.”⁽¹⁾ Consequently, the Lutheran Church of the three solas—*Scriptura, Gratia, Fidei*—survived and flourished to the blessing and benefit of countless numbers since the Reformation.

However, the devil does not sleep; the devil is never indifferent. We are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the age when Luther stood, Bible in hand, and said, “Here I stand.” Unless Lutheranism stands with Luther and the faithful confessors who literally put their life on the line, any celebration of the Reformation is a sham.

The suggestion that “Protestants and Catholics today are more similar religiously than they are different” isn’t new. What changes there are within the Catholic Church are not doctrinal, but cosmetic. It has not repudiated the Papal Bull ‘Unam Sanctam’ (1302) which says that outside the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church “there is neither salvation nor remission of sins.” It has not repudiated the Roman principle that says, “Furthermore we declare, state, define and pronounce that it is altogether necessary to salvation for every human creature to be subject to the Roman pontiff.”

Rome and Lutheranism, as defined by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA--which by the way does not speak for all Lutherans), has claimed a meeting of minds on justification. However, Rome *has never publicly repudiated* the opinions set forth at the Council of Trent, Session VI “On Justification” (1545-1563), the declarations of which are still in force. The Roman Catholic Church formally condemned the biblical doctrine of salvation by grace through faith alone. Rome pronounces judgment on anyone who believes that “the impious is justified by faith alone” (Canon 9). It condemns those who teach “that justifying faith is nothing else than confidence in divine mercy, which remits sins for Christ’s sake, or that it is this confidence alone that justifies us” (Canon 12). It declares, “If anyone says that the justification once received is not preserved and also not increased before God through good works, but that those works are merely the fruits and signs of justification obtained, but not the cause of its increase, LET HIM BE ANATHEMA” (Canon 24).

So, the question is in place and begs an answer, “If Rome and Lutherans are now becoming indistinguishable, who changed?” Any claim by Rome, or anyone else, that Rome has changed theologically and substantively, thus justifying Roman and Lutheran cooperation, is meaningless unless Rome repudiates the historical documents that the Reformers objected to 500 years ago. Rome has not changed; apostate Lutherans have changed.

“On October 31, 1999, representatives from the Lutheran World Federation and the Vatican signed a ‘*Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification*’ (JDDJ) which concludes: ‘The understanding of the doctrine of justification set forth in this Declaration shows that a consensus in basic truths of the doctrine of justification exists between Lutherans and Catholics.’

“Thus the doctrinal condemnations of the 16th century, in so far as they relate to the doctrine of justification, appear in a new light: The teaching of the Lutheran churches presented in this Declaration does not fall under the condemnations from the Council of Trent. The condemnations in the Lutheran Confessions do not apply to the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church presented in this Declaration.”⁽²⁾

The essayist who quoted the JDDJ document above asked a pertinent question, “Was the schism of the 16th century one big misunderstanding?”

ELCA.org reported: “The 2016 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Churchwide Assembly took several significant steps Wednesday moving forward the mission of this church as a church for the sake of the world.

“By a vote of 931 to 9, the assembly overwhelmingly accepted the ‘Declaration on the Way,’ a unique ecumenical document that marks a path toward greater unity between Catholics and Lutherans. Following the vote, an emotional assembly stood to applaud the momentous decision.” Note that ELCA compromised the truth “for the sake of the world.” The Catholics and ELCA communed together.

Lest we think that the Reformation schism was only between Protestants and Catholics, we must bear in mind that there were divisions over doctrine within Protestantism. As one example, Luther and Zwingli divided over the subject of the Lord’s Supper. Luther contended for “real presence,” namely that the body and blood of Christ are truly present, “under the bread and wine,” in the Lord’s Supper. Zwingli held out for “representation.” Luther said that they were of a different spirit. It was one of many “Here I stand” moments in Luther’s ministry, the most momentous of course, being before church and Emperor at Worms.

It is indeed true that differences are vanishing, however, not in reality, but because many believe today that in the interest of getting along, compromises are in order. The problem is not so much that some Lutherans are doing a bad job. The problem is that they are throwing Scripture overboard. From a biblical and confessional Lutheran perspective, they are false teachers who are deceiving the flock.