

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Janelle Hein

Elder: Dale Enns

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

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

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

Hospitality Team 6: Alex & Bonnie Baker, Kevin & Tracy
Baker; Phil & Rona Flesner

Church Cleaners: R. Nelson School: K. Baker

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun. Sept. 17: 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
4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Sun. Sept. 24: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:00 am – Hospitality

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

Mon., Oct. 16: Parent/Teacher Conferences

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

Mon., Oct. 23: School Field Trip @ Ordway, "Diavolo"

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



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 15

Date: September 17, 2017

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

WS 767: Church of God, Elect and Glorious
CDS: Children are a Gift from You, Lord
TLH 231: We Now Implore God, the Holy Ghost
TLH 464: Blest Be the Tie That Binds
WS 799, st. 1-3: This is the Feast of Victory
Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 121, TLH p. 152

Liturgy:

WS, p. 12 (Projected)
Psalm 121, WS p. 42

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 15:15-21
Matthew 16:21-26

Sermon: Romans 12:1-8

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.* ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. ³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them:* if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, *let us use it in our ministering;* he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. (NKJVTM)

“You Need Your Team!”

1. You are there for them
2. They are there for you

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Church Picnic:** Today there is the church picnic here on the church grounds following worship. A “bouncy house” is in the backyard. There will be grilled hot dogs, salads, and desserts. Folks may help out as needed with serving and cleanup. Committee #3 will be serving and doing cleanup. Please stay and enjoy the Christian fellowship!
- ◆ **Grace Hosting Conference:** This year Grace is hosting the Minnesota Pastoral Conference on Oct. 3-4. The Dorcas Guild committee #1 is organizing the meals. Normally the hosting congregation provides lodging for the Tue. night of the conference, which would be the night of Oct. 3. At this point five of the pastors are requesting lodging and there is the potential for around seven. If anyone is willing to provide this, please speak with pastor. Depending on how discussions go, the pastors will likely arrive at one’s home sometime after supper to about maybe 9 or 10 pm. Besides a bed, perhaps breakfast could be provided.
- ◆ **500th Anniversary Series:** This October we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation and the important doctrinal truths it has and continues to faithfully proclaim. We will be focusing on five unique and important doctrines of the Reformation, through a “pastor exchange” with other CLC congregations in Minnesota. We will study the doctrines of Justification (J. Naumann), the Means of Grace (J. Hein), the Theology of the Cross (R. Sauers), Vocation (N. Mayhew), and the Two Kingdoms (D. Baker). Each pastor will rotate to the five congregations and present a Bible Class study and worship service/sermon on one of these important Biblical truths. Lord, through our study of Your Word grant us understanding of these important truths, comfort us in Your abounding mercy and grace toward sinners, and give us strength to live our lives to Your glory.
- ◆ **Joint Worship:** The Minnesota Area CLC Reformation Festival for the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation will be held at 4 pm on October 29 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato, MN. The theme will be “Celebrating God’s Grace.” A fellowship meal will be served following the service. Guests planning on attending the meal afterwards are being asked to bring a dessert of any kind to share. Those who wish to participate in the joint choir are invited to a 3 pm rehearsal, singing “This is My Word,” “Luther’s Evening Prayer,” and “A Mighty Fortress is Our God.” Music for the service is available from our choir director. The children are invited to sing in the children’s choir which rehearses at 3:30 pm and will be singing “Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain,” something the Sunday School children are working on and will be singing here at Grace that morning. As we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, let’s take the time to join together with our fellow CLC brothers and sisters in Christ here in Minnesota to support and encourage one another with God’s grace in Christ Jesus and with our Biblical Lutheran heritage in these last days.
- ◆ **Golf Outing:** The 10th Annual Snell Open benefitting the Josh Snell Memorial Scholarship Fund is set for next Sat., Sept. 23, at Hidden Greens in Hastings, MN. Registration forms are by the guest book.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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).
- ◆ **Immanuel Begins:** A few weeks ago the academic year began at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. During the opening service, President Sippert spoke about “The One-Way Street of Christian Education at Immanuel.” High school enrollment begins with 110 total students (33 freshmen, 29 sophomores, 24 juniors, and 24 seniors). We rejoice that this enrollment is slightly higher than last year and is an increase of three students from what was anticipated. In the college there are 20 total students with more of these being enrolled full-time than last year. At this time 11 students are pursuing the teaching ministry and five are preparing for seminary training. In seminary there are three students, two of them beginning the program with one vicaring, Samuel Naumann at Hales Corners, WI. The vicar program provides practical pastoral experience for seminary students. We thank the Lord for all the blood-bought souls that will be immersed in His Word during their Immanuel experience.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Mark Weis of Grace Lutheran in Cape Coral FL, has accepted the call to St. Luke’s Ev. Lutheran in Lemmon, SD. Reports from our Florida congregations are quite positive about the damage being fairly minimal with downed trees and electricity outages. But, by the grace of God, the recovery is going smoothly.
- ◆ **Cell Phones:** Please turn off during church so as not to interfere with the projection system and with the worship of your fellow Christians.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #1 – Books of the Bible

CLC Financial Report - August

CLC Financial Report Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2017	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 2 Months	Balance 8/31/2017
General Fund	0	145,390	154,112	155,000	- 8,722
ILC Operations	0	293,606	174,704	88,000	118,902
Total	\$0	\$438,996	\$328,316	\$243,000	110,180
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	27,274	1,081	6,424		21,931
ILC Building Projects (AC/Dorm)	- 49,213	17,061	129,373		- 161,525
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	61,237	19,512	22,769		57,980
Kinship	43,040	17,762	14,485		46,317
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	1,030,843	451,161	183,559		1,298,445
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	68,917	27,724	31,229		65,412
Reserve Fund	225,190	0	0		225,190
Total	\$1,407,288	\$534,301	\$387,839		\$1,553,750

ILC Academic Center Mortgage (& North Hall Renovation)	
Beginning Balance January 1, 2010	\$1,751,804
Current Balance August 31, 2017	\$1,215,098
(* North Hall not in AC Bal) Principal paid to date	\$532,784
North Hall Reno Budget \$300,000. Project Spent:	* \$231,988

Notes:

- * **General Fund** offerings in August totaled \$98,915 vs disbursements of \$67,229, recovering from a negative balance of -\$40,408 at the beginning the fiscal year to -\$8,722. Congregational offerings fell short of congregational CBP estimates for the 1st 2 months by \$10,000.
- * **ILC Building Projects** offerings in August totaled \$15,479 vs disbursements of \$121,389, of which \$8,000 was for the monthly loan payment on the Academic Center and the balance for renovation expenses for North Hall boys' dorm. The dorm renovation is complete (and occupied!) at a total cost of \$255,000, \$45,000 under budget. The balance in the Projects Fund is temporarily negative, but will become positive when the North Hall loan restores the Building Projects Fund to its pre-renovation balance of \$24,000, a reserve to assure loan payments on the AC. Offerings substantially above this amount are paid directly on the loan principal. The North Hall renovation loan will now be rolled into the Academic Center loan balance to maintain one monthly loan payment. North Hall renovation included removal & replacement of the old, inefficient HVAC system, re-roofing, new windows through-out, high efficiency water heaters, and some spruce-up on this 37-year-old building.
- * **CEF**: revenues in August included \$250,000 transferred from CEF investments for a congregational loan.
- * **MDF**: offerings in August totaled \$12,060 vs disbursements of \$18,024.
- * **SAF**: received \$19,008 in August from offerings (\$5,566) and student loans repaid (\$13,442) vs disbursements of \$31,229, mostly for student awards & loans allocated to student accounts for the 1st semester. The \$65,412 SAF balance is a good start toward the SAF budget of \$160,000, to provide student loans, grants, & scholarships.

James E. Sandeen, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

Last Week's Stats: Sept. 10, 2017 Sun.: 98 S.S.: 19 B.Cl.: 41

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,047.86	CLC:	\$1,125.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	950.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-252.14	CLC:	+175.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$119,776.04	CLC:	\$33,917.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	122,100.00	CLC:	35,150.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-2,323.96	CLC:	-1,233.00	
GLC Other:	228.50	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	215.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	15.00	Kinship:	100.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	200.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	28,612.75	Tuition Aid:	5,527.62	

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) ⁽³⁾

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) ⁽³⁾

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 oil.
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).

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

Please submit this
form no later than
October 9, 2017

500th Anniversary

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