

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Ryan Mueller

Elder: Dale Enns

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

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

Hospitality Team 3: Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Nick & Miranda Duehlmeier; Dan & Cindy Degnan

Church Cleaners: Anderson School: Rinne

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Benno Sydow; Gary Gunther; Larry Nelson; Bill Rust; Jeff Stifter

Counting Team 3: Brian Eichstadt; Duane Enns; David Hein; Chad Hestekin; Benno Sydow

Hospitality Team 4: James & April Bomber; Rachelle Kanneh; Heidi Nelson; Bob & Suki Vandever

Church Cleaners: Sandhoefner School: Rinne

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Feb. 11: 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service (Transfiguration)
11:00 am – Hospitality
12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Wed., Feb. 14: **ASH WEDNESDAY – LENT BEGINS**
4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
6:00 pm – Soup Supper
7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship Service w/Lord's Supper

Sun., Feb. 18: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service (Lent 1)
11:00 am – Hospitality
11:15 am – Voters Meeting to Call Second Teacher

Mon., Feb. 19: NO SCHOOL – President's Day

Sat., Feb. 24: 9:00 am – Necklace Missions Project

March 9-11: CLC Grade School Basketball Tournament @ ILC

Last Week's Stats: Feb. 4, 2018 Sun.: 103 S.S.: 19 B.Cl.: 45 Wed.: 18

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,364.00	CLC:	\$599.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,700.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-336.00	CLC:	-401.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$15,225.00	CLC:	\$4,138.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	18,500.00	CLC:	5,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-3,275.00	CLC:	-862.00	
GLC Other:	398.00	Living Faith:	10.00	Tuition Aid:	345.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	110.00	Kinship:	10.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	115.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot: \$40,355		Tuition Aid: \$5,120		

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: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Transfiguration

Date: February 11, 2018

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 135: 'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here

TLH 452: The Son of God Goes Forth to War

TLH 341: Crown Him with Many Crowns

CDS: WS 719: Jesus on the Mountain Peak

TLH 658: Onward, Christian Soldiers

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 148, TLH p. 156 f.

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Scripture Reading:

2 Kings 2:1-12a

Mark 9:2-9

Sermon: Joshua 5:8-15

⁸ So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal¹ to this day. ¹⁰ Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. ¹² Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year. ¹³ And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" ¹⁴ So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" ¹⁵ Then the Commander of the LORD'S army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so. (NKJVTM)

Our Commander Is Prepared for War!

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Offering Statements:** The Offering Statements for 2017 are in your mailboxes. If you have any questions, please contact Benno Sydow.
- ◆ **Call Meeting:** We are going to be having the call meeting for the second full time teacher immediately after service on Sunday, February 18. – President Eli Wales
- ◆ **Midweek Lenten Services:** Our midweek services will begin this Wed., Ash Wednesday, February 14, 7 pm. The theme of our series is "Lord, Abide with Me," meditations based on the favorite evening hymn, TLH 552, "Abide with Me." These midweek services can deepen our appreciation of the redemptive work our Savior, Jesus Christ, accomplished in our behalf.
- ◆ **Lenten Soup Suppers:** These gatherings are a way for people to eat between work and our Midweek Lenten worship services. There is a sign-up sheet posted in the Fellowship Hall for those who are willing to provide soup and do setup and cleanup. There are still openings!
- ◆ **Altar Guild:** The Altar Guild is looking for one or two new members to assist in caring for our Lord's altar. Some of the duties include cleaning the communion ware, changing the altar cloths, setting up the Advent wreath, purchasing and caring for altar flowers/plants. Please see Jackie Radichel or Mikey Oman if interested.
- ◆ **Necklaces:** Missionary Ohlmann has suggested a project to reach out to our fellow Christians in Africa: beaded cross necklaces that he will then take with him on the Mission Helper Trip in July. The Dorcas Guild has decided to help make some of them. We will be meeting at 9 am on Sat., Feb 24, to assemble them. All (including children) are invited to come for fellowship and fun in this mission effort!
- ◆ **On Wings of Eagles:** Pastor Mark Weis has published a second book via Amazon titled "On Wings of Eagles." This is a collection of brief devotions with corresponding poetry, all based on Scripture passages and flavored with his experiences. You can find the book on Amazon by searching the title along with his name. His other devotion book "One Thing Needful" is also still on sale at Amazon. Both books cost \$9 each.
- ◆ **Organ Concert:** Former Grace member, Ryan Mueller, will be presenting a pipe organ concert on Sun., March 18, 2 pm, at School Sisters Of Notre Dame Good Counsel Hill in Mankato, MN. He will be presenting on the 1877 Johnson & Son pipe organ, the program featuring works of prominent composers of the 19th and 20th centuries. Refreshments and treats will follow the program.



- ◆ **Midwest Christian Women's Retreat:** Sponsored by Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato, MN, this will be held April 20-22, 2018, at the Riverport Inn & Suites, Winona, MN. This year's theme is: "That Your Joy may be Full!" Registration is open 2/1/18 - 3/23/18. The retreat fee is \$75. All the hotel costs and reservation information, as well as retreat registration information can be found at www.ladiesretreat.clclutheran.net. Questions? Speak with Heidi Nelson.
- ◆ **Black Hills Family Bible Camp:** Camping in the beauty of the Black Hills, studies in the beauty of God's Word. All ages are welcome, children accompanied by a chaperon or family. There will also be many outdoor activities such as hiking, swimming, caving, fishing, kayaking, bonfires, s'mores etc. The dates are Fri. evening July 13 through Tue. morning July 17. To sign up or for more information, contact Pastor Aaron Ude (605-393-1311/ aaronude@gmail.com).
- ◆ **ILHS Banquet:** Parents of Immanuel Lutheran High School are currently working on this year's After Banquet Party to be held May 5. The ILHS Banquet is held at a local restaurant with the After Banquet Party immediately afterwards in the high school gymnasium. The party is held to provide a fun, safe place for the students to enjoy this special evening honoring the Senior class. The gym is decorated in a prom-type setting with games, prizes, refreshments and entertainment provided at no cost to the students. We do rely on donations from school parents, church members, and local businesses. We are able to buy some prizes, but if you are able to donate a prize that would be greatly appreciated. Even homemade items or care packages are a great gift idea. Monetary donations are also appreciated and may be sent to: ILC After Banquet Committee; c/o Immanuel Lutheran College; 501 Grover Road; Eau Claire, WI 54701. You may contact Joanna Gamble for any questions (651-253-3050/joannagamble@hotmail.com). Thank you!
- ◆ **CLC News:** Teacher Andrew Roehl of Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, has received the call to be Teacher/Principal at St. John's Lutheran in Clarkston, WA.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #16 – Second Article, Part 1.

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!



CLC Financial Report - January

CLC Financial Report Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2017	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 7 Months	Balance 1/31/2018
General Fund	0	601,231	574,370	542,500	26,861
ILC Operations	0	863,095	711,927	308,000	151,168
Total	\$0	\$1,464,326	\$1,286,297	\$850,500	178,029
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	27,274	171,713	6,444		192,543
ILC Building Projects (AC/Dorm)	- 49,213	354,976	193,117		112,646
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	61,237	122,250	124,474		59,013
Kinship	43,040	61,688	71,245		33,483
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	1,030,843	758,067	561,915		1,226,995
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	68,917	85,986	98,507		56,396
Reserve Fund	225,190	0	0		225,190
Total	\$1,407,288	\$1,554,680	\$1,055,702		\$1,906,266

ILC Building Projects (Academic Center Balance & North Hall)	
Beginning Balance November 1, 2017	\$1,460,931
Current Balance January 31, 2018	\$1,451,510
Principal paid to date	\$9,421

Notes:

- * **General Fund** offerings in January totaled \$132,986 vs disbursements of \$97,420, a positive cash flow offsetting last month's negative balance of -\$12,091 & resulting in a balance of \$26,861. Budgetary offerings needed per month are \$77,500.
- * **ILC Building Projects** revenue in January totaled \$16,676 vs the monthly mortgage payment of \$8,000 on the consolidated loan for the Academic Center and the North Hall dorm project. The Board of Trustees maintains a 3-month payment reserve in this fund and so will pay down around \$80,000 directly on the loan principal, saving total interest of \$115,000 & decreasing the loan term by 2 years.
- * **CEF:** revenue in January totaled \$34,240 from CEF loan repayments vs disbursements of \$14,940.
- * **MDF:** offerings in January totaled \$19,480 vs disbursements of \$28,770 largely for expenses in our foreign mission fields: building improvements (\$12,500), pastoral conferences & outreach in India & Mexico (\$5,700), our part-time missionaries' foreign travel (\$5,100), and Bibles, tracts, & misc (\$5,400).
- * **SAF:** received \$12,915 in January from offerings (\$3,100) and student loan re-payments (\$9,800) vs disbursements of \$20,621 for allocation of 2nd semester student grants (\$10,500), and monthly student loans (\$9,000) & admin expenses (\$1,100).
- * **IIF:** The ILC Improvement Fund January offering was \$1,400, which brings the IIF balance to \$192,500. This will enable us to do all of the approved projects in the IIF. Re-paving of Ingram Drive is the top priority.

James E. Sandeen, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

KEEPING FOCUS

No doubt 2018 will spawn some introductory sermon material during the Lenten Season. Wednesday February 14 is Ash Wednesday, the traditional Valentine's Day. Easter Sunday falls on April 1, the traditional April Fool's Day. The last time this occurred was 73 years ago (1945).

Valentine's Day is said to have been introduced into North America in the 19th century through British settlers. The origin of Valentine's day and April Fool's day is cloaked in some uncertainty. In researching the origin of each, differing accounts are given for each. While not as clear with respect to April Fool's day, it is agreed that Valentine's Day has religious roots.

Some claim that Valentine's Day has its roots in the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia, a fertility celebration commemorated annually on February 15. Pope Gelasius I recast this pagan festival as a **Christian** feast day around 496, declaring February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day. In a similar vein, another account claims the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to 'Christianize' the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the ides of February, or February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to Romulus and Remus who, according to Roman mythology, are said to have founded Rome in 753 AD.

Until 1969, the calendar of the Roman Catholic Church included Valentine's Day in recognition of St. Valentine who died around 270 A.D. However, his identity was questioned as early as 496 A. D. by Pope Gelasius I, who referred to the martyr and his acts as "being known only to God." One account from the 1400s describes Valentine as a temple priest who was beheaded near Rome by emperor Claudius II for helping Christian couples wed. A different account claims Valentine was the Bishop of Terni, also martyred by Claudius II on the outskirts of Rome. Because of the similarities of these accounts, it's thought they may refer to the same person. Enough confusion surrounds the identity of St. Valentine that the Catholic Church discontinued liturgical veneration of him in 1969, though his name remains on its list of officially recognized saints.

Some suggest that April Fool's Day also had some religious component. However, there are at least five different explanations for the origin of the day, enough to support the suggestion that its origin is "shrouded in mystery."

[Information regarding Valentine's Day and April Fool's Day is found on various sites on line, of which there are numerous].

Whatever significance was claimed for Valentine's Day in church life in the past is forgotten today. Valentine's Day and obviously April Fool's Day as "fun days" in our society are of no significance to Christ-believers.

However, Ash Wednesday and Easter are indeed significant to Christians to whom the days mean something. The date of Ash Wednesday as the first day of Lent is determined by the date of Easter. The date of Easter, set by the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D., is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. To arrive at the date of Ash Wednesday, count backward 40 days (not counting the Sundays). The day will always be a Wednesday. Of course, one can count the days ahead from Ash Wednesday (excluding Sundays) to arrive at the date of Easter. Sundays are not counted in as much as it is the first day of the week, the day of our Savior's resurrection.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season in the church. The 40 days of Lent bring to remembrance the 40 days of the Savior's confrontation with the devil in the wilderness as He began His ministry. Significant was His victory over the devil as He overcame him with the Word of God. Three times Jesus rejected the temptation of the devil with "It is written" (Matthew 4). Shortly thereafter, "Jesus began to preach and to say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" (Matthew 4:17). The 40 days of Lent specifically focus on our Savior's destruction of Satan. For that reason, penitent, thankful Christians faithfully avail themselves of the opportunity to hear and review the redemption message, and consider the price the Savior paid for their redemption. Lent includes Holy Week, which begins on Palm Sunday, and includes Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. With the burial of Jesus, His humiliation of which His suffering, death, and burial were part concludes. His exaltation of which His resurrection is part is another chapter, one which the Church will celebrate through eternity.



In the Bible there are many places where sorrow over sin is manifested through the use of sackcloth and ashes (Hence today some still place ashes on their forehead as a symbol of repentance). Repentance is no more necessary or cleansing during Lent than any other time. But the observance of Ash Wednesday dating back to the 11th century is a fitting beginning for the Lenten season because it focuses our immediate attention on the significance of Christ's suffering and death for us as well as upon the blessing we derive from His bearing our sins as our substitute.

For the Christian, Lent (*) in church terminology is a season of reflection, of preparation, as well as anticipation. The season of Lent as pre-Easter observance defines the Christian's life. The Christian's whole life is one of reflection, preparation, and anticipation for the coming of the Lord Who upon His return will separate the penitent (believers) from the impenitent (unbelievers). To the penitent will be given life eternal (forever with the Lord). The impenitent will be judged to a living hell (forever separated from the Lord).

In the flesh we daily sin much and deserve nothing but punishment. The Christian's whole life thus is a time of reflection. "I have sinned." It is a time preparation, through daily contrition and repentance. "Lord I have sinned. Have mercy upon me, and for Jesus' sake forgive me my sin. I believe that where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation." Consequently, the Christian's anticipation is nurtured by the message of Lent: "[But] He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement for our peace was upon him, and by His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). It is stimulated by the message of Easter.

Easter is not part of Lent. It is the declared fulfillment of all that the Savior did for us. It is the stamp of perfect completion of Christ's redemptive work. As observation of Lent in time prepares us for the celebration of the restoration of life through Jesus' resurrection, the message of His resurrection prepares us, and heightens anticipation for the fulfillment of Jesus' promise that as He lives, we shall live also (John 14:19). *This is the meaning of Easter.* "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34).



The lifelong preparation of Lent and the in-time anticipation spawned by the Easter message of Christ's victory over death come together in the blessed words of Revelation 7: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen." And who are those who are thus singing? "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them."

Regardless of the distractions that accompany Ash Wednesday and Easter this year or any year, blessing in time and eternity comes to faithful Christians whose focus reflects the faith of the apostle Peter, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68), and of David, "In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God" (Psalm 62:7). With Mary, as we wait, each child of God may say, "And my spirit rejoices in 'God, my Savior'" (Luke 2:47).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 1/2018

(*) Middle English *lente(n)*, Old English *lencten*, *lengten* spring, Lent, literally, lengthening (of daylight hours) -- Dictionary.com