

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Janelle Hein Elder: Frank Radichel
Ushers: Al Rosendahl; Chad Hestekin; David Stifter; Joel Stifter
Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Rick Nelson; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker
Hospitality Team 6: Jan Davis, Chad & Amanda Hestekin; Ryan & Mikey Oman; Eli & Laura Wales
Church Cleaners: Hein School: None

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Al Rosendahl; Chad Hestekin; David Stifter; Joel Stifter
Counting Team 3: Brian Eichstadt; Duane Enns; David Hein; Chad Hestekin; Benno Sydow
Hospitality Team 2: Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Janelle Hein; Jenny Kleifgen; Chris Lentz
Church Cleaners: Sydow School: A. Baker

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Mar. 11: 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Lent 4)
 11:00 am – Hospitality; 12:00 pm – Council Meeting
March 12-14: NO SCHOOL
Wed., Mar. 14: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 6:00 pm – Soup Supper
 7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship Service
Sun., Mar. 18: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Lent 5)
 11:00 am – Hospitality
Sun., Mar. 25: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Palm Sunday) w/mini-concert
 11:00 am – Hospitality
Fri., Mar. 30: 7:00 pm – Good Friday Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
Sun., Apr. 1: 7:30 am – Easter Breakfast
 9:00 am – Easter Festival Worship Service

Last Week's Stats: Mar. 4, 2018 Sun.: 108 S.S.: 17 B.Cl.: 48 Wed.: 62

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| Sun. Offering: | Grace: | \$4,051.00 | CLC: | \$1,134.00 |
| Wed. Offering: | Grace: | \$1,199.00 | CLC: | \$100.00 |
| Weekly Need: | Grace: | 3,700.00 | CLC: | 1,000.00 |
| -Under / +Over: | Grace: | +1,550.00 | CLC: | +234.00 |
| Year-to-Date Offering:: | Grace: | \$25,655.00 | CLC: | \$7,903.00 |
| Year-to-Date Need: | Grace: | 29,600.00 | CLC: | 8,000.00 |
| Year-to-Date (+/-) | Grace: | -3,945.00 | CLC: | -97.00 |
| GLC Other: 1,350.00 | Living Faith: | 0.00 | Tuition Aid: | 85.00 |
| SAF Endowment: 0.00 | MDF: | 50.00 | Kinship: | 200.00 |
| ILC Student Aid: 10.00 | ILC Bldg. | 120.00 | IIF: 0.00 | CEF: 0.00 |
| Current Balances: | Parking Lot: | \$42,410 | Tuition Aid: | \$583 |

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: Lent 4

Date: March 11, 2018

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 436: The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

Baptism: Thea Beverly Best

WS 751: God's Own Child I Gladly Say It

TLH 27: Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul

WS 800: Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 46, TLH p. 134

Liturgy:

WS, p. 12

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 49:8-13

Galatians 4:21-31

Sermon: John 6:1-15

¹After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is *the Sea* of Tiberias. ²Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. ³And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. ⁵Then Jesus lifted up *His* eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" ⁶But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. ⁷Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." ⁸One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, ⁹"There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" ¹⁰Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. ¹¹And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed *them* to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." ¹³Therefore they gathered *them* up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world." ¹⁵Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. (NKJV^M)

A Little Goes a Long Way

1. *As we trust in Jesus to provide for us*
2. *As things come in the most unlikely of ways*

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

◆ **Baptism:** We welcome Thea Best into God's kingdom today through the sacrament of Holy Baptism! May Nicole and Joey Best tend to her foremost need of spiritual care through the Word of God. Standing in as sponsors today are Adam Wales and Steph Bernthal.



◆ **Midweek Lenten Services:** Our midweek services continue this Wednesday at 7 pm. The theme of our series is "Lord, Abide with Me," meditations based on the evening hymn, TLH 552, "Abide with Me, Fast Falls the Eventide." Come and ponder how the events of the Lord's Passion secured for us His abiding love. Join us at 6 pm for the Lenten soup supper so people can eat between work and worship.



◆ **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.

◆ **Lower Grade Teacher Call:** Dear Members of Grace, After prayerful consideration, the Holy Spirit has led me to accept the call you have extended to teach lower grades at the school. Thank you for comments shared and prayers on behalf of the Lord's work. I pray that He will sustain and help me in the feeding of His Lambs in this very important calling. Your sister in Christ, Heidi Nelson (March 3, 2018)

◆ **From Student Teacher:** To the Members of Grace Church and School, My experience at Grace has been such a wonderful blessing to me! I am so grateful for all of the support and kind words you have shown me. I am thankful for the chance to have been able to spend time and get to know some of you! The Christian love and fellowship has overwhelmed me with joy! I ask that you keep me in your prayers as I continue in my last quarter of my final year at Immanuel. I am very excited to see what the Lord has planned for me! Thank you for your kindness and support! I will continue praying for your school! Lord's blessings as you finish this school year and continue on to the next year with the blessing of a new full time teacher! In His great love, Michaela Winters (March 8, 2018)

◆ **Easter Flowers:** There is an Easter flower signup sheet by the guest book at the church entry for anyone who would like to donate either an Easter lily or decorative plant for our Easter service. Please also indicate if you are taking the plant home after the service or leaving it. These flowers will be purchased and placed on the altar for Easter and a reminder slip will be placed in your mailbox.



◆ **CLC Youth Camp:** Registration is coming up! You will be able to register online (the website will be up in the next month) on **March 25** at 3:00 pm CST. Camp this year will be held at Camp JIM in Pillager, MN. The cost will be \$175/camper and campers entering grades 6-12 are eligible. You can check out our Facebook page for more updates.



◆ **Installation:** Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church of Mankato, MN, welcomes members of area CLC congregations to attend the installation of Pastor Neal Radichel on Sat., April 7 at 1 pm. A catered fellowship meal will follow the service. The congregation is trying to get a head count for the meal, so please inform Pastor today if you plan on attending. The Immanuel Choir will be singing "This is My Word" by Pepper Choplin. Members from area CLC churches who would like to join the choir are welcome to do so. A rehearsal will take place at 12:30 pm in the church sanctuary.

◆ **CLC News:** Mrs. Heidi Nelson has accepted the call to teach lower grades at Grace Lutheran in Fridley, MN. ✠ Mr. Brian Fox of Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, and supervisor at the boys' dorm at ILC, has accepted the call to be teacher/principal at Valley Bible Academy at St. John's Lutheran in Clarkston, WA. ✠ Teacher Neil Bernthal of Immanuel Lutheran in Winter Haven, FL, has returned the call to Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI. ✠ Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer of Trinity Lutheran in Spokane, WA, has received the call to Luther Memorial in Fond du Lac, WI.

◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #20 – Third Article, Part 2.

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 - February

| CLC Financial Report Operating Funds | Balance 7/1/2017 | YTD Revenue | YTD Disbursed | Budget 8 Months | Balance 2/28/2018 |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| General Fund | 0 | 658,183 | 641,222 | 620,000 | 16,961 |
| ILC Operations | 0 | 993,055 | 819,183 | 352,000 | 173,872 |
| Total | \$0 | \$1,651,238 | \$1,460,405 | \$972,000 | 190,833 |
| Auxiliary Funds | | | | | |
| ILC Improvement Fund (IIF) | 27,274 | 174,043 | 6,444 | | 194,873 |
| ILC Building Projects (AC/Dorm) | - 49,213 | 356,991 | 201,117 | | 106,661 |
| Mission Development Fund (MDF) | 61,237 | 138,084 | 127,288 | | 72,033 |
| Kinship | 43,040 | 69,486 | 76,625 | | 35,901 |
| Church Extension Fund (CEF) | 1,030,843 | 845,377 | 665,641 | | 1,210,579 |
| Student Aid Fund (SAF) | 68,917 | 99,389 | 111,387 | | 56,919 |
| Reserve Fund | 225,190 | 0 | 0 | | 225,190 |
| Total | \$1,407,288 | \$1,683,370 | \$1,188,502 | | \$1,902,156 |

| ILC Building Projects (Academic Center Balance & North Hall) | |
|--|-----------------|
| Beginning Balance November 1, 2017 | \$1,460,931 |
| Current Balance February 28, 2018 | \$1,448,348 |
| Principal paid to date | \$12,583 |

Notes:

- * **General Fund** offerings in February totaled \$56,951 vs disbursements of \$66,851, a shortfall resulting in a balance of \$16,961. Budgetary offerings needed per month are \$77,500.
- * **ILC Building Projects** revenue in February totaled \$2,015 vs the monthly mortgage payment of \$8,000. The Board of Trustees maintains a 3-month payment reserve in this fund and so will pay down \$80,000 of the \$106,000 balance directly on the loan principal, saving total interest of \$115,000 & decreasing the loan term by 2 years.
- * **CEF:** revenue in February totaled \$87,309 from CEF loan repayments & a new note received vs disbursements of \$103,725 due to several promissory notes matured and paid.
- * **MDF:** offerings in February totaled \$16,834 vs disbursements of \$2,814.
- * **SAF:** received \$13,402 in February from congregational offerings (\$1,600), memorials (\$2,500), and student loan re-payments (\$8,800) vs disbursements of \$12,879 for allocation of 2nd semester student grants (\$2,900), monthly student loans (\$9,000), and admin expenses (\$1,100).
- * **IIF:** The ILC Improvement Fund February offering was \$2,330, which brings the IIF balance to \$194,873. This will enable us to do all the approved projects in the IIF, including re-paving of Ingram Drive, field house heating upgrade, and several professorage repairs & upgrades.

James E. Sandeen, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

KNOWING JESUS

According to the American Atheist website, "Atheism is not an affirmative belief that there is no god nor does it answer any other question about what a person believes. It is simply a rejection of the assertion that there are gods. Atheism is too often defined incorrectly as a belief system. **To be clear: Atheism is not a disbelief in gods or a denial of gods; it is a lack of belief in gods** (their emphasis)." Ultimately this is a distinction without a difference. The word *atheist* comes from the Greek, *ah-theos*. "Ah" expresses a negative, and "theos" means god. Atheism is the disbelief in the existence of God or of any supreme being. Their assertion is a denial of themselves, for the reality is that they are gods unto themselves as they admit to no supreme being higher than themselves.

The God Who is, and Who created all, gives breath every day to the very ones who say, He does not exist. Atheism is proof of what Scripture says, "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'" (Psalm 14:1).

Fools say there is no God. Yet there are few if any who deny that Jesus Christ was born, lived, preached, and died in space-time history. What they will deny is that He was true God as well as true Man, and that He rose from the dead.

But many who *do* acknowledge the historicity of Jesus, speak of Him, claim Him, and even revere Him, nevertheless do not know Him. But shall we say some are trying to know him better. The *Sun*,⁽¹⁾ a newspaper in the United Kingdom, quotes an author who claims to have an idea what Jesus may have looked like. She suggests he probably had olive-brown colored skin, looked like a Middle East man with Jewish features, and further that he was about 5'5" tall, with a slight but muscular physique. It is likely he had a short beard with short, dark brown hair, and brown eyes. One of the sources of information she points to is the infamous Shroud of Turin, a burial cloth relic which according to the Catholic Church was the shroud in which Jesus was wrapped for burial. She makes no reference to another shroud. It is the Sudarium of Oviedo and is in the Cathedral of Oviedo, in Spain. The Sudarium is a piece of linen cloth, 34 by 21 inches. It is thought to have been used to cover the head of Jesus, though there is no image on this shroud. However, the Sudarium allegedly contains male blood of type AB, which matches the blood on the other alleged shroud. Difficult to prove, however, without DNA of Jesus.

All idle speculation of what Jesus looked like proves nothing. Neither does it contribute anything to knowing Him better, or at all. What it does prove is the shallowness of the spirituality of the masses.

Many who saw Jesus during His ministry did not know Him. "When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets" (Matthew 16:13-14). Even the Emmaus disciples had their doubts. As Jesus walked with them after His resurrection they did not recognize Him. During their conversation they said to Jesus, "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel" (Luke 24:21). They not only did not recognize Him. They with many others

thought that He was the Messiah who was going to unshackle Israel from the domination of Rome, and “restore again the kingdom to Israel” (Acts 1:6).

Jesus suffers the same ignominy today within Christendom. Many speak about Jesus. They ascribe great things to Him. They revere and respect Him. Their claim to knowing Him is as a law-giver, a prophet, a good man, a miracle worker, a do-gooder, a healer, an integrationist, one who can make you rich if you follow His precepts. They want to be like Jesus and do what Jesus did. None of this means they know Jesus. They speak about Jesus in the manner of someone who speaks about another with whom they may have shaken hands at one time, but about whom they know nothing.

Who are they who know Jesus in the *meaningful* sense? It is they who believe that the Lord Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy and that He was conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the virgin, Mary. According to His humanity, He was of the seed of Abraham. It is they who are children of God through faith in Jesus (Galatians 3:26). They know Him and follow His voice as He said, “... the sheep follow Him, for they know His voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of a stranger” (John 10:4-5). To know Jesus is to acknowledge and believe in Him as the Son of God, Who gave His life for the sins of the world, and Who rose again to restore the condemned sinner to Life. To know Him is to confess His unity with the Father, equal in honor and glory and power with the Father and the Holy Spirit. To know Jesus means to trust in Him as the Savior Who has prepared for the redeemed a place in heaven, and apart from whom there is no Savior (Isaiah 43:11, 46:9).

Such depth of faith and understanding was not, is not, and will never be acquired in any other fashion than through the Word of God, specifically through the Gospel through which the Spirit works faith by which the Christ-believer says, “I believe.” His children did not make a decision for Christ, but they were drawn to Him by the Spirit.

“I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; even as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church He forgives daily and richly all sins to me and all believers, and at the last day will raise up me and all the dead, and will give to me and to all believers in Christ everlasting life. This is most certainly true.”⁽²⁾

Consequently, they who hear the voice of the Good Shepherd delight in the will of God, striving in Christ to live to the glory of God, drawing upon the strength of the Lord Jesus Christ Who has gained for us the victory over, sin, death and the power of the devil as they confess:

“I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, in order that I may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.”⁽³⁾

The apostle Paul expressed what it means to know Jesus. In his prison epistle he wrote, “For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless, I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day” (2 Timothy 1:12). You see, knowing Jesus is more than having an acquaintance with Him. It is more than trying to emulate His good life. It is trusting in Him in good times and in times of tribulation. In his last epistle the apostle also reminded Timothy of the substance of Scriptures “which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (3:15). Jesus spoke of the blessing of knowing Him in the real sense when in His high-priestly prayer, as He spoke to His Father in the presence of His disciples, He said, “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John 17:3).

The apostle John speaks a word to which we will pay heed. “He who says, ‘I know Him’ and does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him” (1 John 2:4-5). How often have we lied to the Lord?! Yet God in His grace says, “If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1).

They who know Jesus confess their sins, despair of their own works, and trust in Him and His righteousness for salvation, believing the Word which says, “. . . God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son, has life ...” (1 John 5:11-12).

There is a phrase, “Know Jesus, Know Peace.” This is a rather innocuous phrase subject to private interpretation. In the common parlance of today’s religious shallowness, it could be interpreted as political peace, not unlike that which the Emmaus disciples thought He would bring, or for which His own people crucified Him when He proved to be something else than they were looking for. However, it can mean something to one who knows and believes Jesus as the Savior Who “was manifested to take away our sins., and in Him there is no sin” (1 John 3:5). This is the peace of God which passes all understanding to all who know Him in faith, and who look forward by virtue of His atonement to the eternal peace of heaven.

As a child of God give thanks to Him that by the Holy Spirit, you may confidently confess, “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him Who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life” (1 John 5:20).

“Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus. Amen” (1 Peter 5:15)

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 2/2018

1) On line, 2/23/18

2) Luther, Martin, *Small Catechism*, explanation to 3rd Article

3) Ibid, 2nd article