

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Janelle Hein Elder: Frank Radichel

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

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

Church Cleaners: R. Nelson School: K. Baker

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

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

Church Cleaners: R. Nelson School: K. Baker

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Sept. 16: 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service
12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Wed., Sept. 19: CLC Coordinating Council @ Eau Claire, WI
4:30-6:15 – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Sun., Sept. 23: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service

Mon., Sept. 24: 7:00 pm – Grace School Parent Night

October 2-3: Minnesota Pastoral Conference @ Red Wing, MN

October 14: Mission Festival (tentative - still finding a speaker)

October 17-20: CLC Teachers' Conference @ West Columbia, SC

Sun., Oct. 21: Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

Last Week's Stats: Sept. 9, 2018 Sun.: 8xx

East York - 2016-2017 - Sept. 6, 2016 - Sun.					
Sun. Offering:		Grace:	\$3,255*	CLC:	\$1,596
Weekly Need:		Grace:	3,700	CLC:	1,000
-Under / +Over:		Grace:	-445	CLC:	+596
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Year-to-Date Offering:		Grace:	\$123,616**	CLC:	\$32,180
Year-to-Date Need:		Grace:	133,200	CLC:	36,000
Year-to-Date (+/-)		Grace:	-5,884	CLC:	-2,820
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GLC Other:	3	Living Faith:	0	Tuition Aid:	70
SAF Endowment:	0	MDF:	259	Kinship:	50
ILC Student Aid:	0	ILC Bldg.	100	IIF: 0	CEF: 0

Current Balances: Tuition Aid: \$5,789

* Includes \$0 in school tuition ** Includes \$3,294 school-year-to-date tuition

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: Pentecost 17

Date: September 16, 2018

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 7: As We Begin Another Week

CDS: Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend

TLH 540: With the Lord Begin Thy Task

LSB 854: Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go (WS 781)

TLH 572: Praise to God, Immortal Praise

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 100, TLH p. 144 f.

Liturgy:

WS, p. 1 (Projected)

Scripture Readings:

Ephesians 6:5-9

Ruth 2:1-23

Sermon: Ruth 2:11-13

¹¹ And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. ¹² "The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge." ¹³ Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants." (NKJVTM)

Our Christian Work Ethic in Our Fields of Labor

1. Be diligent, not lazy
2. Be content with your earnings, not dissatisfied
3. Remain faithful to your superiors, not defiant
4. Remember to take a rest, not be a workaholic
5. Gratify your Lord, not merely men
5. Thank your Lord for the resultant blessings of work

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ♦ **Church Picnic Today:** Today there is the church picnic here on the church grounds following worship. A “bouncy house” is in the backyard. Hot dogs are provided. Please stay and enjoy the Christian fellowship! Committee #3 will serve and cleanup, though additional help would be appreciated.
- ♦ **Installation:** You are invited to attend the installation of Nathan Pfeiffer as pastor of Berea Lutheran Church at Berea Lutheran Inver Grove Hts. Pastor Pfeiffer’s installation will be held at Berea on Sun., Oct. 21 at 4 pm. A lunch will follow. Note that Robert Street is closed for road work. You will have to follow the detours on Hwy 3. You might want to check an online map to find your way to the church. Give yourselves a little extra time. Remember Pastor Pfeiffer and Berea and Trinity congregations in your prayers. – Rev. John Schierenbeck.
- ♦ **“Man Up” Retreat:** Men from CLC congregations across the country have attended the annual “Man Up!” retreat over the past two years. Join them this year, October 12-14 at Wyalusing State Park. It is a wonderful opportunity to be encouraged in your faith through the study of God’s Word, in your God-given roles as men of Christ’s church, and to build relationships with other men who share your faith and the struggles of living in a sin-filled world. For more information, pick up the information sheet on the table in the narthex. Please contact Pastor Nathanael Mayhew (ndmayhew@att.net or 404-729-4602) or visit: www.manup.clclutheran.org if you have additional questions.
- ♦ **CLC News:** Pastor Michael Gurath of Holy Cross Lutheran in Phoenix, AZ, has returned the call to Bethel Lutheran in Morris, MN. ✠ Pastor Douglas Priestap has received the call to serve Resurrection Lutheran in Calgary, Alberta Canada, on a part-time basis to be shared with his present call at Grace Lutheran in Live Oak, FL. ✠ Pastor James Albrecht of St. John’s Lutheran in Okabena, MN, has received the call to Our Redeemer’s Lutheran in Red Wing, MN.
- ♦ **Cell Phones/Smart Phones:** Please remember to 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

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!

Council Meeting Notes – September 9, 2018

Meeting called to order. August Council meeting minutes were read and approved. August treasurer’s report was presented and approved.

Pastor’s Report

- Instruction classes for Vanessa Vandever continue.
- Motion passed to transfer Chad and Amanda Hestekin to Messiah in Eau Claire.
- Pastor Hein may have to make a quick, short visit in October. Part of this is a relatively urgent opportunity in Bopolu.
- Pastor thanks everyone for allowing him to take vacation in August.
- Brad Kitman and children are attending a different church. We are still pursuing this situation.

Board of Elders Report

- The nomination committee will consider individuals to fill the Trustee position vacated by Brad Kitman.

Board of Education Report

- Grace Lutheran School is off to a good start.
- The CLC Teachers Conference will be October 17-20, 2018, in West Columbia, SC.
- Conversion of the school bathrooms to family (unisex) bathrooms is completed.

Board of Trustees Report

- Bids are being obtained for snow plowing of the parking lot.
- Miscellaneous projects are being worked on and completed.
- An interior decorator is being pursued for enhancing the interior of our church.

Other Business

- A chair has been purchased for Pastor to use during Bible Study.

Adapted from Minutes submitted from Secretary Roger Ochsner

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”

Colossians 3:23-24

REJOICE IN THE LORD

“The world is very evil” is the first line of a hymn. In keeping with that assessment is the reality that there is not much over which to be joyful as one surveys the world filled with wars and rumors of war, hatred, and selfish pursuit of personal agendas. We need not go far outside our door wherever it is we live to see hatred, corruption, political hypocrisy, slander, lying and cheating, immorality, vulgarity, abuse and every other form of moral and spiritual perversion. One cannot turn on the television without daily hearing about murder, rape, burglary, and every expression of crime imaginable, if not unimaginable.

Now pinch yourself. If you still have flesh, you sin. Only those wearing blinders can gainsay the fact of evil (wickedness) in the world to which our sin contributes. There is very little, if anything to be joyful about in this corrupt and dying world. What joy there is, is short-lived, because in this sin-laden world joy and happiness are subject to change according to circumstances. Further, fear and uncertainty overtake us frequently. Crime in the street, murder, abortion, riots, protests, and unrest unsettle us, even make us angry. For faithful confessors of Christ, frustration overcomes joy when we observe the church losing its way as it tries to accommodate itself to the world. Personally, we suffer loss of health and the ravages of sickness. Except in a superficial way, there is little over which to be joyful in the present that is imitating the world before the flood.

Every human on the earth is offspring of Adam and Eve. Yet we do not enjoy the perfection with which they were created because they disobeyed the Lord and introduced sin into the world through the agency of the devil who lost his first estate when he rebelled against God. Consequently, all people born into the world have inherited the moral corruption of Adam and Eve, together with the judgment of death. Save for the Lord Jesus, there is no one born of woman who is born without sin. There is no one born who at birth is innocent before God. There is no one who will escape death (the wages of sin) which the Lord had said would be the result if Adam and Eve disobeyed.

Evil existed in the world from the moment that Adam and Eve listened to and negotiated with the devil. “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man” (Mark 7:21-23). The sin of man defiled all of creation. Evil is in the world because man forsook God, not because God forsook man.

In mercy the Lord, though rejected and offended, intervened to salvage mankind. He gave the promise of the Savior, and in the fullness of time sent Jesus, the Savior of the world, to take upon Himself the sin, the guilt, and the punishment man deserved. This rehabilitation of mankind was a complete makeover. “But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:11). Now according to promise all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ have eternal life. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son [believes in the Son] has life ...” (1 John 5:11-12).

The sanctified life, the life God’s people live to the glory of God, is a work of the Spirit of God through the Gospel. As believers in Christ set apart for salvation from the masses of those who reject Christ, we have been set aside for sanctification from those who by their rejection of Christ have neither the will nor the power to serve Him.

Yet because in this life we have the flesh we do not attain perfect sanctification. We sin. We do not always serve the Lord as we desire or ought. For that reason, we “draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.” We do so in full confidence of His promise that “if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). We pray further that the Lord will sanctify us by His truth, for His Word is truth.

Of those who by the Spirit of God walk in the ways of the Lord, and who trust in the Lord to carry them through every sorrow and difficulty, Proverbs says, “The hope of the righteous will be gladness, but the expectation of the wicked will perish. The way of the Lord is strength for the upright, but destruction will come to workers of iniquity” (Proverbs 10:28-29). Even now on this earth the believer in Christ can look beyond the here and now with confident hope, whereas the unbeliever whose life is dictated by the imagination of the corrupt heart has no hope. Those who reject Christ, who live for self, who love the world, who live in sin without any sense of guilt have no sense of what awaits them. The latter is the tragedy of tragedies.

By prayer and supplication, we as citizens still in this world will implore the Lord to guard and protect us from all evil. We will implore Him that His call to repentance will be recognized and be effective. We will pray for His forgiveness of our sins and for the strength of faith to be lights in the darkness of this world.

As we live on this earth while we wait for heaven, we enjoy the blessings the Lord gives us each day. We appreciate with thanksgiving “food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, field, cattle, money, goods, a pious spouse, pious children, pious servants, pious and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, discipline, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.”⁽¹⁾ All are gifts of God. But we recognize that these gifts given to enhance and sustain our temporal well-being will one day, without exception, pass away.

There is nothing of this world that can satisfy our deepest need. Nothing worth pursuing with a passion that would rob us of the “inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:4-5).

Since there is nothing in this world or of this world that is of abiding joy, it would appear from the words above that the life of a child of God is a morbid, lifeless, joyless existence. Though with Paul “we are hard-pressed on every side, yet [we are] not crushed; we are perplexed but [we are] not in despair; persecuted but [we are] not forsaken, struck down, but [we are] not destroyed” (2 Corinthians 4:8). We are not without true joy and a glad heart.

CLC E-Devotion - August 31, 2017

How can that be? It is so because the Father in heaven has reconciled us unto himself through the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. In the Lord Jesus Who does not change and who is Immanuel (God with us), we have peace with God. Clothed in the righteousness of Christ through faith we are assured of life with the Lord in heaven. Our abiding joy lies in and is generated by fellowship through faith with the Lord Jesus Christ Who says, “rejoice because your names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:20). The joy of the child of God is anchored in the abundant mercy of the Father Who “has begotten again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” We rejoice greatly when we focus on Christ through whom we “are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (2 Peter 1).

Jesus does not withhold from us reality. He told His disciples, “Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, *but your sorrow will be turned into joy* ... Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you” (John 16:20,22). The world rejoices at the discomfort of Christians in the world. But its joy rooted in unbelief will turn to weeping and gnashing of teeth.

In a time of confusion, fear, and uncertainty, Jesus said to His disciples, “these things I have spoken to you, that *in Me* you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, *I have overcome the world*” (John 16:33). *The child of God finds his joy in fellowship with Christ*, a joy the world cannot know. Since the joy of our heart is diminished, if not gone when, we focus on the world. What is the point of looking for joy in that which has been overcome and passes away?

Yes, we are joyful! The Psalmist said. “In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul” (Psalm 94:19). Isaiah wrote, “*I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God*; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation ... (Isaiah 61:10). To Isaac the Lord said, “Behold I am with you and will keep you wherever you go ... (Genesis 28:15).

Day by day, look unto the Lord Who has overcome Satan, sin, the world, death and hell. Day by day focus on the Lord and the promises of His Word that He will never leave us nor forsake us in time or eternity. Remember His goodness toward us, treasure the warm embrace of His love, contemplate the eternal joy that awaits us in heaven, keep in mind that “here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come” (Hebrews 13:14). In that city are the mansions being prepared for us presently by the Lord. Let us encourage one another in the words of the Apostle Paul, “Be anxious [worried about] for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7). The same apostle said: “REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS, AGAIN I SAY, REJOICE”

“Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing, A cheerful trust maintain;
For God, the Source of everything, Thy portion shall remain.
He is thy treasure, He thy Joy, Thy Life and Light and Lord,
Thy Counselor when doubts annoy, Thy Shield and great Reward.” ⁽²⁾

Galatians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God ...

Ecclesiastes 5:19 As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor--this is the gift of God.

FAITH REJOICES IN THE GIFT OF WORK

Faith in Jesus the Savior is the gift from God through which we receive the gifts of forgiveness of sin and Christ’s own righteousness -- and along with them, eternal life.

Similarly, the ability to work is a gift of God through which we receive other gifts. Among these are the blessings of bodily provision and the personal satisfaction that comes with a job well done. Note that whether the gift is physical or spiritual, we rob ourselves of joy and blessing when we do not give thanks to God for His benefits and instead act as though we have earned or deserved what comes from His gracious hand.

When it comes to faith in Christ there are plenty of people encouraging us to think that we are the source of that faith; that we by an act of the will make a decision to believe in the Savior. We resist such encouragements to wrong thinking with the word of our God. When we do this we find that the truth about faith enhances our ability to live as Christ’s people.

There are also many who would have us see work only as a means to make money, and to think that somehow we ourselves are the source of our talents and abilities. Here also we resist false and ungodly attitudes with the word of our gracious God. And here it is also true that right-thinking about work enhances our ability to joyfully live as Christ’s people. When we remember that our gifts and abilities come from God, in faith we can rejoice in using the gifts he has given us rather than looking with envy on those He has given others.

So look again at the two passages with which we began this meditation. With joyful heart give thanks that God has given you the gift of faith in Christ our Lord-- and the gift of work as well. Then let your work be an extension of your faith and an act of thanksgiving to your Savior-God.

1) Luther, Martin, *The Small Catechism* Lord’s Prayer, 4th Petition, CPH, 1943 ed

2) *The Lutheran Hymnal* 535 sts. 1,2 Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 8/2018