

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson      Elder: Frank Radichel

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

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

Counting Team 3: Brian Eichstadt; Duane Enns; Dan Degnan; Benno Sydow

Church Cleaners: R. Nelson      School: Bergstrom

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

**Sun., Sept. 23:** 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School  
10:00 am – Worship Service

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

**Wed., Sept. 26:** 4:30-6:15 – Catechism for Public School Students  
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

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

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

**Sun., Oct. 14:** Mission Festival (Missionary Evensen as Guest Speaker)  
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School (India Presentation)  
10:00 am – Mission Festival Worship Service  
11:00 am – Potluck and Blood Drive

**Mon., Oct. 15:** No School – Parent/Teacher Conferences

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

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

**Sat., Oct. 27:** 9:00 am – Grace Work Day

**Wed., Oct. 31:** Reformation Day (501<sup>st</sup> Anniversary – Oct. 31, 1517)

**Sun., Nov. 4:** 4:00 pm – MN Reformation Service (Inver Grove Hts.)

**Fri., Nov. 9:** Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day

**Nov. 9-10:** 7:30 pm – ILC Musical, "Willy Wonka" (Music @ 7 pm)

**Last Week's Stats:** Sept. 16, 2018    Sun.: 113    S.S.: 21    B.Cl.: 39    Wed.: 24

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,151*	CLC:	\$575	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,700	CLC:	1,000	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,549	CLC:	-425	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$129,022**	CLC:	\$34,351	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	136,900	CLC:	37,000	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-7,878	CLC:	-2,649	
GLC Other:	20	Living Faith:	110	Tuition Aid:	170
SAF Endowment:	0	MDF:	150	Kinship:	60
ILC Student Aid:	10	ILC Bldg.	100	IIF: 0	CEF: 0

Current Balances:      Tuition Aid: \$5,959

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

## Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75<sup>th</sup> 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-8<sup>th</sup>

**Church Year:** Pentecost 18

**Date:** September 23, 2018

## ✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

### Hymns:

WS 791: Lord, When You Came as Welcome Guest

LSB 860: Gracious Savior, Grant Your Blessing

TLH 624: O Blessed Home Where Man and Wife

TLH 625: Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

### Worship Prep:

Psalm 57, TLH p. 135

### Liturgy:

WS, p. 1 (Projected)

### Scripture Readings:

Proverbs 31:10-12, 25-31

Ephesians 5:22-33

Ruth 3:1-18

### Sermon: Ruth 3:9-11



<sup>9</sup> And he said, "Who *are* you?" So she answered, "I *am* Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative." <sup>10</sup> Then he said, "Blessed *are* you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich." <sup>11</sup> "And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you *are* a virtuous woman." (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)



## Being (or Seeking) a Virtuous Spouse

1. One who loves in deed, not in word only
2. One who self-sacrifices and puts all selfish pride aside
3. One who seeks someone honorable, not merely attractive

## ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Mission Festival:** Mission Festival will be on Sunday, October 14, along with our annual blood drive. Missionary Peter Evensen will be our guest speaker. He will also have a presentation during our Bible Class hour. Dorcas Guild Committee #1 will host. Please bring a dish to share as there will be a potluck meal.



- ◆ **Box Tops:** Our goal for our fall submission of Box Tops for Education is \$150. We are currently at about \$70. Please keep clipping the box tops and send them in to school. The deadline is October 30.
- ◆ **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](http://www.manup.clclutheran.org) if you have additional questions.
- ◆ **Visitors Day:** Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day is November 9 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. We will attempt to provide lodging, if needed, Thu. or Fri. nights for those attending College Visitor's Day and these visitors will be our guests at meals. Friday evening there is also the opportunity to see the ILC fall musical: Willy Wonka. It will be performed both Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm. A band concert will precede it Friday night at 7:00 pm. and a variety of student musical performances on Saturday night at 7:00 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 November 6. Phone: 715-271-5641, e-mail: [john.ude@ilc.edu](mailto:john.ude@ilc.edu).

- ◆ **ILC Professor Call:** The CLC Call Committee for Educational Institutions extended a call to serve as professor at Immanuel Lutheran College in Eau Claire, WI, to Dr. Daniel Schierenbeck of Living Word Lutheran of Blue Springs, MO. This call is for replacing Prof. Paul Schaller who plans to retire in June of 2019.

- ◆ **Update on India:** The current political climate in India has made Christian work there more and more difficult. Our missionary has faced increased scrutiny. On his last exit, in particular, he was questioned at length, which led to concerns about whether he would be allowed to enter the country on his return. The WELS missionaries have experienced similar problems. We are currently pursuing other visa options which we hope will alleviate the problems he has recently faced. Please remember him and the work of our brethren in India in your prayers with the assurance that the “effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16).

- ◆ **Mexico:** Two CLC representatives will be traveling to Mexico at the end of this month to encourage our brethren there following the tragic and sudden death of two seminary students. They will be meeting with Pastor Olvera in Juarez and with the remaining seminary students, as well as worshipping with members of the congregation in Juarez during their Sunday services. Pray that the Lord would sustain this small group of believers in their all-important work of proclaiming the Gospel in a dangerous country, but to people in need of the knowledge of the only Savior from sin and death.



- ◆ **Third Foreign Missionary:** At our recent Convention, the way was paved for the calling of a Third Foreign Missionary. The Board of Missions is in the process of working out the details of funding for this new called worker as well as the location and duties for this call. The Board of Missions hopes to issue a call for the Third Foreign Missionary in the coming months.

- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work: #2 – Luther's Morning Prayer**

*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 E-Devotion - November 11, 2017

Matthew 19:5 For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

### MARRIAGE MATH

According to the Bible, if marriage were a math equation it would look like this:  $1 + 1 = 1$ . What does God mean by that? Simply this--that it is His design, purpose, and will regarding marriage that husband and wife become one in many ways:

- ➔ they are bonded together in life's most intimate union and relationship -- physically, emotionally, and (we pray) also spiritually;
- ➔ they become part of each other so that nothing ever separates them until death;
- ➔ they cherish and care for each other as Christ does the Church;
- ➔ each other's needs, desires, and dreams become their own;
- ➔ each willingly sacrifices self, and anything else, for the other;
- ➔ they joyfully and faithfully carry out their complementary biblical roles as husband and wife.



All of this is God's description of marital love in Scripture--a permanent, heartfelt, unwavering, unselfish, sacrificial bond and commitment patterned after Christ's love-commitment to His beloved bride, the Church. And since God is the perfect Creator, Designer, and Implementer of Christian marriage, we do well to hear and heed His counsel as the ultimate authority on the subject.

While this ideal and intimate marital union meets daily opposition from both our society and our own sinful hearts, our hope in Christian marriage--as in life--always remains the forgiving love of our God and Savior. His great love is the true foundation for all earthly love, including marriage. He alone can fill our hearts with the kind of love for Him and for our spouses that it takes to make life and marriage work.

May God's wonderful marriage math equation ( $1 + 1 = 1$ ) add up in our hearts and lives to a God-pleasing and blessed Christian marriage.

-- Adapted from the "Lutheran Spokesman"

## CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE BEFORE A WATCHING WORLD

At the off ramp from the north loop around the Twin Cities is a billboard that reads: "Enjoy not having to pretend you like your in-laws anymore." The intent of this obvious blatant invitation to call the divorce lawyers is no doubt to get attention using levity to mask the seriousness and discomfort of ending a marital relationship. We do not find making light of divorce funny. What strikes us is the lightness and disrespect that such an advertisement exhibits toward a relationship that God has established for the benefit of man and woman, as well as for the benefit of society.



The eternal God instituted the marital union at creation. He also regulates it. "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 'So then they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate' (Matthew 19:4-6). He instituted marriage because it was not good that man should be alone. Therefore He said, "I will make him a helper comparable to him" (Genesis 2:18). In God's plan Adam (man) and Eve (woman) would be to one another companions--emotionally, sexually, and spiritually. One of the mutual blessings of this relationship would be the procreation of offspring. Marriage according to the will of God is the foundational stone of a well-functioning family, and essential to the well-being of society. They have it wrong who think that society is destroying marriage and the family today. It is the other way around. A lack of respect for God's Word, His institution of marriage, and his order within marriage, destroys families and with their destruction makes a well-ordered society an unrealized dream.

The Lord God established order within the family setting. In fact, in His word He equates the relationship of husband and wife, to the relationship between Himself and the Church which is His body. "The husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her ..." The husband is not a boss or a driver. He is the head who gives himself for his wife. "Everything" does not mean doing that which according to God's Word is demonstrably sinful. The husband is to take care of his wife, not because she cannot take care of herself, but because such care reflects the mind of God under whose loving care we all find comfort and peace.

*Every aberration* from the divine design for marriage, as well as from the divinely expressed will and intent for marriage is a consequence of the *original fall into sin!* The Creator and Instituter of marriage knew what He was doing. The problems that plague the marriage estate, families, and consequently society are not of God or His Word. They have arisen because in answer to the devil's temptation of Eve, "Has God indeed said?" (Genesis 3:1), fallen mankind has said, "God may have said it, but we know better." Society bristles at the Word of God concerning marriage. Perversion of marriage, broken marriages, fatherless children, abused children, immorality, corruption, divisions within home, society, and the church—all perversion is a consequence of fallen man thinking he knows better than God.

Because of our flesh and the corruption of the natural heart since the fall, we will never know on earth the perfection which God intended for the marriage relationship, or indeed for any aspect of society.

Oh, how society scorns the word of the Lord in Ephesians 5 concerning the relationship of husband and wife to one another, and by extension within the church. Christians are in the world, but not part of it. Beware of imbibing the philosophy of the world which rejects or makes light of God's Word.

"The husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church." In context what is wrong with that? Does Christ ever abuse, misuse, or mistreat the church? Does Christ deal with the church as an evil taskmaster, or demand of the church anything contrary to love and what is in accord with the will of the Father? No! *Christ gave Himself for the church.* We who are husbands would do well to read Ephesians 5 often, not simply for instruction, but above all to appreciate what blessings are ours in Christ, Who is our Savior, Benefactor, and our Life.

"Wives submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord." Submission is not abdicating responsibility. It is recognizing that a body cannot have two heads. This theme is continued in Ephesians 6 when the Lord tells children to obey their parents. Whether the church to the Lord, the wife to the husband, or the children to father and mother, submission is not a diminution of personality, personal worth, or value. The divinely established order which the Creator God and the Savior of us all has established in the context of marriage or the church is not weakness; it is strength.

We cannot control how our godless society, one without moral scruples, and one in which many choose to do what is right in their own eyes chooses to live and act. But as people in whom the Spirit of God has created faith and made children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, we can

appreciate as we sit at the cross and empty tomb together that together "we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones" (Ephesians 5:30). Christ-believers, equally forgiven and loved regardless of their position in life recognize that Christ is the head of the body. All members of His body are integral to the functioning of the body, whether male or female, husband or wife, young or old. In marriage and in the church on earth the Lord is served when we live within the parameters as well as the order which God has established.

Scripture says, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Genesis 2:24, Ephesians 5:31). Husband and wife united in Christ through faith and in marriage are witnesses before the watching world. Francis Schaeffer wrote, "The man-woman relationship of marriage is stressed throughout the Scriptures as a picture, an illustration, a type, of the wonder of the relationship of the individual and Christ and of the church and Christ." (\*) This is a responsibility and privilege not to be taken lightly.

Therefore, let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus. On one hand, He made no show of His equality with God (Philippians 2:5). On the other hand, without complaint He submitted Himself to the will of His Father "that God may be all in all" (1 Corinthians 15:28). Jesus and His Father were one, yet Jesus submitted Himself to the Father to accomplish what was the Father's will for us—our salvation. Thank you, Lord Jesus.

Husband and wife have been redeemed, justified, sanctified, and made righteous through Spirit engendered faith in the Lord Jesus. Yet in the flesh there is no human on the face of the earth without sin. There is on earth no marriage that is a perfect reflection of what the Lord instituted in Eden. As sinners, husband and wife and children together will make confession of sin and rejoice that in and through Jesus is full and free forgiveness of sins. With contrite heart, they will together pray faithfully to amend their sinful life.

In the context of life together as husband and wife let the desire to amend one's sinful life manifest itself by bowing to the Word of the Lord which says, "Let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband" (Ephesians 5:33). In the exercise of the marital union under Christ, husband and wife will consult on things with each other that in all things their actions and decisions will serve to the glory of God, and to the welfare of their family. It is the godly way.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 5/2018

\*) *The Church Before the Watching World*, Intervarsity Press, p. 40