

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Al Rosendahl

Ushers: Al Rosendahl; David Stifter; Joel Stifter

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

Hospitality Team 2: Andrea Dahl; Dan & Cindy Degnan; Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow

Church Cleaners: Volunteers?

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Al Rosendahl; David Stifter; Joel Stifter

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

Church Cleaners: Volunteers? School: Holmberg

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

- Sun., Oct. 21:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School (Study of the Call)
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:00 am – Hospitality
11:30 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings
4:00 pm – Pastor Pfeiffer Installation @ Berea in Inver Grove Hts.
- Wed., Oct. 24:** 4:30-6:15 – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class (Proverbs)
- Sat., Oct. 27:** 9:00 am – Grace Work Day
- Sun., Oct. 28:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School (Gospel of John)
10:00 am – Worship Service
- Wed., Oct. 31:** Reformation Day (501st Anniversary – Oct. 31, 1517)
4:30-6:15 – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class (Reformation Theme)
- Sun., Nov. 4:** Return to Standard Time (Turn clocks back one hour)
8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School (Gospel of John)
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
11:00 am – Hospitality
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)
- Wed., Nov. 21:** 7:00 pm – Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service
- Thu., Nov. 22:** Thanksgiving Day – No Worship

Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His holy hill;
For the LORD our God *is* holy. - Psalm 99:9

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)

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Church Year: Pentecost 22

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: October 21, 2018

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 8: Father, Who the Light This Day
S.S. – TLH 508: Thou Whose Almighty Word
TLH 621: O Father, All Creating (Tune TLH 473)
CW 505: Love Is the Gracious Gift (Tune WS 752)
TLH 36: Now Thank We All Our God

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 139, TLH p. 154 f.

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)
Gloria: TLH 250:1, 4

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 2:18-24
Hebrews 2:9-11

Sermon: Mark 10:2-16

² The Pharisees came and asked Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce *his* wife?" testing Him. ³ And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴ They said, "Moses permitted *a man* to write a certificate of divorce, and to dismiss *her*." ⁵ And Jesus answered and said to them, "Because of the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. ⁶ "But from the beginning of the creation, God made them male and female." ⁷ 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸ 'and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹ "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." ¹⁰ In the house His disciples also asked Him again about the same *matter*. ¹¹ So He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. ¹² "And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." ¹³ Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought *them*. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw *it*, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." ¹⁶ And He took them up in His arms, put *His* hands on them, and blessed them. (NKJVTM)

From Beginning to End – The Lord's Foundation of Family

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **From Pastor:** Last Sunday I received the call to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Spokane, WA. Some thoughts about the call and the calling process are included in today's bulletin.
- ◆ **Installation:** The installation of Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer at Berea Lutheran Church in Inver Grove Hts. is today at 4 pm. A lunch will follow.
- ◆ **Welcome Back:** Sue Anne Kirkham has moved back to Minnesota. We rejoice in the Lord's tender care for her during her time in Texas. Please speak with her if you're able to help her move in on Oct. 23.
- ◆ **Cleaning List:** The next six weeks are open for church cleaning. Members are reminded of your privilege to care for your church.
- ◆ **Minnesota Reformation Festival:** A joint Reformation festival worship service for CLC congregations in Minnesota will be held at Berea Lutheran Church in Inver Grove Hts., MN, on November 4, 4:00 pm. Following the worship service there will be a potluck meal in which you may bring a dish to share.
- ◆ **Anniversary:** Morning Star Lutheran in Fairchild, WI, will be celebrating 25 years of CLC services on Sunday, November 4. Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm, with Worship following at 2:00 pm. Guest speakers include Pastor Paul Tiefel, and Pastor/Professor Emeritus David Lau. Our address is 250 N Center St, Fairchild, WI 54741. Please come join us in thanking the Lord!
- ◆ **Retirement:** Pastor David Baker's farewell service/sermon is set for Sun., Dec. 9, at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Red Wing. An invitation is herewith extended to the retirement party planned for the Bakers on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 18, at 3:30 pm at the church. A dinner will follow at 5 pm.
- ◆ **Box Tops:** Our goal for our submission of Box Tops for Education is \$150. We are currently at about \$90. Please keep clipping the box tops and send them in to school. The deadline is October 30.
- ◆ **New Devotion Book:** Pastor Mark Weis, a CLC pastor serving in Lemmon, SD, has a unique and wonderful ability to express Biblical encouragement and teachings in writing. He recently published a new devotional book called, "One Thing Needful, Volume 2." This volume has devotions which fall into four categories: general devotions, along with devotions on the seven letters to the seven churches of Revelation, the seven 'words' Jesus spoke from the cross, and the seven petitions of the Lord's Prayer. Those interested can find the book on Amazon by searching for "One Thing Needful, Volume 2, Mark Weis." The cost is \$9.75. His two former books are also on Amazon, entitled, "One Thing Needful," and "On Eagles Wings."



- ◆ **Visitors Day:** Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day is November 9 beginning at 10 am in the 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. There is also the opportunity to see the ILC fall musical: Willy Wonka. It will be performed both Fri. and Sat. at 7:30 pm. A band concert will precede it Fri. at 7 pm. and a variety of student musical performances on Sat. at 7 pm. Speak with your pastor about questions and attendance or contact Prof. John Ude, the ILC Academic Dean, by Nov. 6 (715-271-5641/john.ude@ilc.edu).
- ◆ **2019 Mission Helper Trip:** Applications for the 2019 CLC Mission Helper Trip to India are being accepted. The application deadline is January 7. Space is limited so it is best to apply early. Apply online and find more information at: www.MHT.LutheranMissions.org or contact Todd Ohlmann at thohlmann@gmail.com
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor John Hein of Grace Lutheran in Fridley, MN, has the call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran in Spokane, WA. ✠ Pastor George Dummann of Salem Lutheran in Eagle Lake, MN, has returned the call to Bethel Lutheran in Morris, MN. ✠ Teacher Brian Fox has resigned from teaching at St. John's Ev. Lutheran in Clarkston, WA. Mrs. Desi and Pastor Dave Naumann are covering the teaching responsibilities at this time. ✠ From President Michael Eichstadt: For well over a year several conference visitors and others have sought to help Pastor Roland Gurgel recognize the many examples of a willful neglect of pastoral duties on his part which has caused harm to the souls under his care. Those efforts have been rejected. Therefore, out of concern for souls and the integrity of the ministry among us, the presidium has suspended Pastor Gurgel from the ministerium of the CLC for the good of the souls involved and the integrity of the ministry. The membership of Bethel congregation has been informed, and they will now need to consider the status of Pastor Gurgel's call. Please keep Pastor Gurgel, the saints at Bethel, and our fellowship at large in your prayers during this difficult time.

◆ Sunday School Memory Work: #6 – Fourth Commandment

Last Week's Stats: Oct. 14, 2018 Sun.: 115 S.S.: 17 B.Cl.: 48 Wed.: 16

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$4,503*	CLC:	\$2,183
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,700	CLC:	1,000
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+803	CLC:	+1,183
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$144,061**	CLC:	\$40,233
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	151,700	CLC:	41,000
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-7,639	CLC:	-767
GLC Other: 100	Living Faith:	0	Tuition Aid:	30
SAF Endowment: 250	MDF:	180	Kinship:	170
ILC Student Aid: 120	ILC Bldg.	110	IIF: 0	CEF: 0

Current Balances: Tuition Aid: \$1,864

* Includes \$94 in school tuition ** Includes \$3,888 school-year-to-date tuition

God-Centered Worship

The Witness, Vol. 5, Is. 3 (for CLC College-aged individuals, clcwitness.org)

Written by Emily Hein

There are quite a few churches in the area around my house. In particular, there is one “mega-church” about a block down the road. Now, as a disclaimer, I have never attended this church and have not personally experienced the type of worship that goes on there. However, I can say that I’ve heard them worshipping there. Just a few weeks ago, while on a walk around my neighborhood, I heard some loud bass coming from what I thought was a car driving past, perhaps listening to some rap music. However, it turned out to be the mega-church down the road. A quick Google search provided me with images of the inside of the church, which looked to me more like a rock concert venue than a church.

A little further into my research of this church, I found videos of worship services. I thought I would take a look and see what it was like. About 10 minutes into the first video I found, I had only heard God mentioned maybe four times. The pastor had walked onto the stage in jeans, a polo, and a leather jacket and started talking about the state fair. I wasn’t sure if this was supposed to tie into a sermon or not, so I kept watching. However, nothing he was saying in the first 10 minutes of a 30-minute video sounded anything like a sermon. Another video I began watching showed the congregation lifting their hands and swaying along to a rock song that mentioned Jesus once or twice.

So many churches in today’s world are shifting the focus of their worship to the worshiper, not the One being worshipped. Things like this make me appreciate the traditions and worship style of my church. I can appreciate the liturgy we follow, the hymns we sing, and the sermons we absorb every Sunday so much more when I know that there are people who essentially go to a rock concert to worship God and miss out on hearing the law and gospel. When Jesus was speaking with the Samaritan woman at the well, He told her that “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). Worshipping God is not meant to be about us. We are there to sing our praises to Him, not to sing something that will make us feel emotional. We are there to learn His Word, not to watch a show. God’s house is to be a special place where we as Christians can gather and hear His Word in its truth. God wants us to “speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1). Sound doctrine is vastly more important than how much we like a song that we sing in a worship service.

Our church services are to be centered on God and His Word. Singing worship songs just to elicit an emotional reaction from the congregation is not what the Triune God is about. The Spirit works in the hearts of those who have heard the Good News of the Gospel. It doesn’t depend on how much we swayed or how high we raised our hands when listening to a worship song. Jesus commanded us to preach His Word in the well-known words of the Great Commission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20a). As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:16, “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!” Preaching the gospel is what God wants us to do! Not just singing to Him without any real substance in our words. We shouldn’t strive for an emotional response; we should strive to strengthen and build up our faith.

Emotional reactions are not what God is looking for in a worship service. That’s not to say we shouldn’t be moved by what we’re listening to in a church service. There have been times when I’ve felt so relieved hearing the pastor pronounce that my sins are forgiven that I’ve been overcome with joy. Or when hearing a hymn sung at a close relative’s funeral has brought me to tears. However, emotional responses based on songs that don’t even touch on the gospel is not edifying for our faith; it rather makes us feel good for a short time. We need to hear the law and gospel in order to truly hear God’s Word for long-term, faith-based responses. This can be the danger with churches like the mega-church down the road from my house: If the law is not preached on a regular basis, and no confession of sins or absolution is spoken, how can we know that we need a Savior, or that our sins are forgiven? “The entirety of [God’s] word is truth” (Psalm 119:160a), so we should preach the entirety of Scripture!

Focusing on God’s Word and hearing sermons that preach law and gospel are to be the focus of our worship services. Once we start focusing on ourselves and our feelings, we lose sight of what’s truly important - God sending His only Son to take away our sins. Faith in Him is our ticket to heaven, where we will be blessed to continue our God-centered worship into eternity.



Things to consider

- The call is a sacred matter. A person is not at liberty to handle it in a light or haphazard fashion.
- God has blessed each of us with gifts and abilities. Each of us has a life to be lived for Him. How can God's gifts be best put to use in His Kingdom.

Things not to consider:

- Living needs and quarters (unless physical necessity requires it)
- The kind of facilities that are in use
- Climate (unless health is a factor)
- Friendships or relative ties
- Someone's simple desire without a sound reason—a sound reason has to do with stewardship of gifts and the work of God's Kingdom.
- Any kind of insistence or pressure.
- In short, reasons the flesh may set forth.

A person considering a call will frequently pass through 1) an initial reaction either to accept or return the call; 2) utter confusion as the various factors bearing upon a decision are considered; and 3) a clear conviction of what the decision should be. A decision may come in a few days, or it may take several weeks. If a person is convinced of God's call, there should be no hesitancy to accept the call because of reluctance or a feeling of inadequacy because whom the Lord calls He also equips (Jeremiah 1:4-10, Exodus 4:10-17).

Some Details about the Call to Trinity

- **Location:** Spokane, WA
- **Established:** 1944 (also charter member of CLC)
- **Total Souls:** 95, 20 at-a-distance (75 communicants)
- **Average Sunday Attendance:** 36 (9 at Withrow, WA, 1/month)
- **Sunday School:** 5 active in Spokane, 2 in Withrow
- **Other:** 7 home-bound, 4 in Catechism, nearby Gethsemane in Spokane Valley has close ties with a school

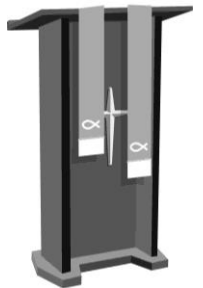
Last Sunday, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Spokane, WA, called Pastor Hein to serve as their pastor. In this time of deliberation and prayer, we do well to review what God says concerning the Divine Call. The Bible Class hour this morning will be used to discuss the two calls being considered as well as answer questions concerning them.

The Divine Call

Modeled in the Early New Testament Church

In Old Testament times, God chose and appointed the leaders of His people directly. God Himself called Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:1 ff.). God Himself appeared to Gideon while he was threshing grain and called him to be a judge in Israel (Judges 6:11 ff.). God Himself spoke to Samuel, calling him to be judge and prophet (1 Samuel 3:1 ff.). God Himself told Samuel whom to anoint when Israel asked for a king (1 Samuel 9:1 ff.).

As the church grew in the days following Jesus' ascension there was a need to call spiritual leaders in the Christian congregations. The calls were done through the congregations, but not without the direction of God. The Antioch congregation sent Saul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, but were directed by the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:1 ff.). Paul told to the Ephesian elders who truly chose them when he said, "... *take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which **the Holy Spirit** has made you overseers*" (Acts 20:28).



There is even an example of a call meeting recorded in the New Testament. There was a need to fill the apostleship left vacant by Judas. The assembly of Christians first identified the qualification for the office—someone who had been with Jesus from the beginning of His ministry (Acts 1:21). From among those who fit the qualification, a call list of two men was made—Joseph and Matthias (Acts 1:23). After creating the call list, the congregation prayed to the Lord for His guidance (Acts 1:24-25) and then they cast lots (Acts 1:26). The lot fell to Matthias and he was thus called to be the new apostle (Acts 1:26).

God's Call

"A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps" (Proverbs 16:9). This proverb is simply stated, but instills great confidence. When met with decisions in this life, it is necessary to use our God-given sense and abilities to evaluate the options, the pros and cons, the gains and losses. As we do this with a humble desire to follow God's will and with prayer for the Lord's guidance, we can be confident that when we have reached a decision it is from the Lord. We have planned the way, but the Lord directs our steps.



God already knows to whom He has given the gifts that will best serve any congregation at any given time. We just have to "catch up" to God and reach the point in time when He leads us to see and know whom He has chosen to serve where.

If God is the one who is does the calling, why doesn't He make it more plain? Why does He have *us* go through a process of call and deliberation? There are undoubtedly many reasons why God does this, but one of these reasons is: Trust. God wants His children to dig into His Word to find direction, He wants His children to use the truth He has given and apply it to their lives, He wants His children to turn everything over to Him in prayer and then take Him at His Word trusting that He will guide and bless the decision. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths"* (Proverbs 3:5-6).

God's call does not always match what human reason might suggest. The prophet Amos was a sheep breeder when God called him to be a prophet (Amos 1:1). Several of Jesus' disciples were fishermen, and none of the twelve were trained Bible scholars. Had Jesus set up a search committee, hired a "head-hunter," or held an election, none of the twelve would have been chosen. Yet, Jesus called each one of them, equipped them, and poured out His Spirit upon them to do the work for which they were called.

Prayerful Deliberation

Once an individual has received a call from a Christian congregation, the first and ongoing step in the decision process is prayer.

- The decision-making process could lead to anxiety because of uncertainty. God says: *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God"* (Philippians 4:6).
- The decision-making process includes the desire to be confident in the decision. God says: *"... ask in faith, with no doubting ..."* (James 1:6).
- When a call decision is made while using God's Word for counsel and taking the matter to God in prayer, then everyone can be confident that the final decision is God's will. Jesus says: *"Whatever you ask the Father in my name, He will give you"* (John 16:23).

Our life's purpose is to make the best possible use of the gifts God has given to us and to do so with thankfulness in service to Him and His kingdom. *"Serve the Lord with gladness ... present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service ... whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the father through Him"* (Psalm 100:1, Romans 12:1, Colossians 3:17).

With this in mind, a call decision is based upon a careful consideration of this question: *"In what role am I best able to serve the Lord with the abilities He has given me?"*

In evaluating this question it is helpful for an individual to seek information and advice from as many sources as seems useful. Others may be better able to assess a person's gifts and personal limitations. Others may also be able to recognize factors which the individual himself might overlook.

A clear picture of the work in a congregation (in general) and of the call (in specific) is necessary for properly making a decision. For this reason, the calling congregation sends as much information as it believes will be helpful, and happily answers questions that might arise during the decision process.