

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson      Elder: Frank Radichel

Ushers: Rick Nelson; Keith Radichel; David Stifter; Joel Stifter; Bob Vandever

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

Church Cleaners: Anderson      School: Wales

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Rick Nelson; Keith Radichel; David Stifter; Joel Stifter; Bob Vandever

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

Hospitality Team 1: Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz

Church Cleaners: Sydow      School: Whelan

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

**Sun., Feb. 10** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
9:00 am – Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 5)  
12:00 pm – Council Meeting

**Mon., Feb. 11:** 10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study Club (Mankato, MN)

**Wed., Feb. 13:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

**Sun., Feb. 17:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
9:00 am – Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 6)  
11:00 am – Hospitality  
3:30 pm – Installation of Pastor Starkey @ Red Wing, MN

**Mon. Feb. 18:** President's Day – No School

**Wed., Mar. 6:** ASH WEDNESDAY – Midweek Lenten Worship Begins

**March 8-10:** CLC Grade School Basketball Tourney @ Immanuel

**March 8-13:** Grace School Spring Break

**Last Week's Stats:** Feb. 3    Sun.: 108    S.S.: 14    B.Cl.: 36    Wed.: NA

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,991*	CLC:	\$605
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,000	CLC:	1,000
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-9	CLC:	-395
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$21,093**	CLC:	\$4,704
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	20,000	CLC:	5,000
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+1,093	CLC:	-296
GLC Other: 1,081	Living Faith:	1	Tuition Aid:	5
SAF Endowment: 0	MDF:	0	Kinship:	60
ILC Student Aid: 100	ILC Bldg.	100	IIF: 0	CEF: 0

Current Balances:      Tuition Aid: \$4,068

\* Includes \$0 in school tuition      \*\* Includes \$200 year-to-date school 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:** Epiphany 5

**Date:** February 10, 2019

## ✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

### Hymns:

TLH 4: God Himself Is Present

CDS – TLH 279: Today Thy Mercy Calls Us

TLH 417, st. 1-5: How Can I Thank Thee, Lord

WS 770: I Hear the Savior Calling

TLH 412: May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

### Worship Prep:

Psalm 85, TLH p. 140f.

### Liturgy:

WS, p. 12 (Projected)

TLH 249 (instead of Psalm)

### Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 6:1-8

1 Cor. 14:12b-20

### Sermon: Luke 5:1-11

<sup>1</sup> So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, <sup>2</sup> and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing *their* nets. <sup>3</sup> Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. <sup>4</sup> When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." <sup>6</sup> And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. <sup>7</sup> So they signaled to *their* partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" <sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; <sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." <sup>11</sup> So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him. (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

### Our Savior's Keys to Successful Fishing

1. He calls us ordinary people to do His work
2. He commissions us to share an extraordinary message

## ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

◆ **Midweek Lenten Services:** Our midweek services will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6, 7 pm. The theme of our series is "Mementos of Our Savior's Passion." When the Second World War ended, American servicemen and women came home victorious, bringing back mementos of the war. There was another war of far greater importance in which we have mementos. These items in themselves were of no great value, but played a role in Jesus' passion. We will be considering how they tie in with what He did for us. 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!
- ◆ **Thanks:** Recently Ann Radichel made some new signs to reserve pews during events like funerals. We thank her for these.
- ◆ **Bridal Shower:** A bridal shower will be held for Emily Hein on Sat., March 2, 11 am, in the fellowship hall. Please RSVP to Heidi Nelson. Additional details are on the invitation on the narthex bulletin board.
- ◆ **Installation:** Pastor Starkey will be installed at Our Redeemer's Lutheran in Red Wing, MN, on Sun., Feb. 17, 3:30 pm, meal after.
- ◆ **ILC After-Banquet Party:** The ILHS Parent Committee is preparing for this year's After Banquet party which will be held May 4, 2019. They are looking for a variety of donations to help with this effort. Please see the posted letter (in the entry/on the bulletin board/etc) for further details. Questions can be directed to Joanna Gamble via email - joannagamble@hotmail.com or phone/text 651-253-3050.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #15 – First 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 the Pastor. He would be delighted to visit with you!*

## CLC Financial Report - January

CLC Financial Report Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2018	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 7 Months	Balance 1/1/2019
General Fund	0	562,849	605,313	\$571,200	- 42,464
ILC Operations	0	902,977	742,966	\$823,088	160,011
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,465,826</b>	<b>\$1,348,279</b>	<b>\$1,394,288</b>	<b>\$117,547</b>
<b>Auxiliary Funds</b>					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	108,123	78,763	65,244		121,642
ILC Building Projects (AC/Dorm)	15,500	176,212	141,253		50,459
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	55,340	85,297	96,861		43,776
Kinship	36,637	55,724	76,221		16,140
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	1,356,241	286,040	417,380		1,224,901
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	77,286	70,705	98,868		51,123
Reserve Fund	298,855	-9,424	0		289,431
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,947,982</b>	<b>\$743,317</b>	<b>\$893,827</b>		<b>\$1,797,472</b>

ILC Building Projects (Academic Center Balance & North Hall)	
Beginning Balance November 1, 2017	\$1,460,931
Current Balance January 1, 2019	\$1,244,025
Principal paid to date	<b>\$216,906</b>

**General Fund** – Offerings of \$124,893 vs disbursements of \$100,884. The GF \$24,000 positive cash flow for the month reduced the negative balance to - \$42,464. General fund receipts have struggled to erase the deficit since July, but made significant progress this 2<sup>nd</sup> month in a row. The GF provides major subsidy to board budgets of Trustees, Regents, Missions, and Ed & Publications. It is supported by monthly congregational & special offerings to the General Fund, (CBP).

**ILC Operations**– ILC revenue (incl subsidy) was \$152,462 vs disbursements of \$105,469.

**ILC Building Projects** – Revenues of \$22,795 include congregation offerings of \$21,595, plus a special gift of \$1,200 vs disbursements of \$8,000 for Academic Center/North Hall loan.

**CEF** – Revenue of \$53,575 from CEF loan repayments, plus \$1,300 congregational gifts vs disbursements of \$255,765, which includes the requested repayment of a CEF note of \$252,620.

**MDF** – Offerings of \$13,471 vs disbursements of \$17,920 (\$8,700 pastoral conferences; \$3,700 Bldg repairs; \$3,000 Outreach visitation Asia/India/Africa; \$1,500 Literature & Equipment; \$1,000 Missionary Travel)

**SAF** – Revenue of \$9,434 included congregation offerings (\$2,072) and student loan re-payments (\$7,362) vs disbursements of \$11,779, mostly for Student Grants, Loans, & Scholarships.

**Kinship** – Offerings of \$18,446 vs disbursed \$14,890 for bi-monthly Orphan/Sem/Widow subsidy.

**Reserve Fund:** – The Fund booked a negative -\$9,424 due to market downturn in investment acct. Other valuation losses booked: IIF (-\$7,303); CEF (-\$59,370); Student Aid Endowment (-\$10,853).

James E. Sandeen, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

concerns as God's people who are troubled at the systematic destruction of our present but temporary home on earth.

As confessors of Christ whose citizenship is in heaven but who are left on earth for a purpose, we must speak out against evil, honestly, without fear or favor, yet in love for the lost and the perpetrators of evil. The Lord died for them also and wants to save them. The Lord said, "... Thus it was necessary ... that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24: 47). At the same time, we need to be alert to the distractions of the devil.

Whereas the Lord can turn the evil of Satan into good as Joseph told his brothers, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good ..." (Genesis 50:20), the devil's ploy is the opposite, namely, to turn the good intent of God's people unwittingly to his evil purpose. For Satan it is a matter of self-preservation. Thus, he seeks to dictate the agenda. If he can turn hearts, minds, and concentration of the people of God toward spending an inordinate amount of time and energy addressing the abortion issue (an evil the Church cannot ignore) and other hot topic issues, that is time not spent on preaching the Word which is anathema to the devil.

Paul warned against falling for such devilish tricks. In his prison farewell epistle, Paul encouraged Timothy to keep focus and balance: "But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will" (2 Timothy 2:23-26).

The Lord's Word will endure until He returns. Satan cannot stifle it. "The Word they still shall let remain nor any thanks have for it" as Luther wrote in the hymn. "One little word can fell him." As we contest the evil, may our Lord help us to be faithful to the task that neither the evil nor the devil's ploys rob us of our vision, or our commitment to proclaim the Gospel which overcomes the devil's wiles.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 2/2019

## THE DEVIL WINS IF WE LOSE FOCUS

With the passing of the New York law that permits abortion up to birth, if not even ending life after the child is born, other states are being emboldened. Virginia considered legislation that would allow a child accidentally born alive after an abortion procedure or who was considered unviable to be killed or allowed to die *after* birth. **[Though it had the governor's endorsement, the bill was defeated].**

As Christians who believe that life begins at conception, we oppose abortion at any point. Under *current* Virginia law there are some restrictions. Second- and third-trimester abortions are allowed only to preserve the health or life of the woman. Under the proposed law a woman seeking to abort would no longer have needed to have an ultrasound before having an abortion. In Virginia three doctors must weigh in concerning the woman's health before an abortion. Under the proposed law that restriction would have been removed. (Source: The DAILY CALLER News Foundation, 1-30, 2019, reported in the *Daily Signal*, on line.)

Evil often progresses by steps. Those who promote abortion have done so incrementally since *Roe vs Wade*. On many fronts, including in our own lives, we have witnessed the subtlety of Satan. Through the horrific incremental abortion creep, we should learn a lesson if we have not yet. The lesson? Resist the beginnings of evil. Satan is subtle.

Eve listened; Eve looked (the tree was good for food); Eve coveted; Eve ate (Genesis 3), and Adam with her. The apostle Peter knew whereof he spoke. "Be sober [keep a clear head --AAT], be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). In anything Satan proposes he has a plan to protect and extend his kingdom. To accomplish that he focuses on the church.

What is the mission of the Church? It is the proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ through which the Spirit of God creates disciples and children of God, who in turn are to proclaim the whole counsel of God "teaching them to observe all things that I have

commanded you” (Matthew 28:20). Teaching all things includes teaching the Law which identifies sin, uncovers sin, convicts the sinner, and pronounces judgment on those who will not repent. Thus, with Scripture we condemn the evil of abortion, drunkenness, idolatry, greed, hate and whatever other sins proceed from the corrupt heart. The Law must be preached to prepare the seed bed of the heart for the Gospel. A church which claims to be a confessional church faithful to the Lord, and which claims to care about the eternal welfare of souls for whom Christ died cannot in the name of love barter for a mess of pottage the responsibility to teach the whole counsel of God. Today, however, Satan has infiltrated much of Christendom with “milk-toast” theology.

Scripture teaches that repentance and remission of sins are to be preached. Only the Gospel converts the heart. Only the Gospel works repentance and faith and brings comfort to penitent and troubled souls. Only the Gospel assures the sinner that Jesus was punished upon the cross as our substitute (Vicarious atonement). Only the Gospel, the message of the sinner’s justification through the meritorious atonement of Christ, works assurance of salvation. Only the Gospel brings the message of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus as the Father’s exclamation mark on Jesus’ redemptive work in our behalf. Finally, only by the Gospel does the Spirit work faith which confesses:

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 person, 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, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

The fruit of Jesus’ work in our behalf is the eternal salvation of all who believe in Him whom the Father sent. Moreover, it is the Gospel which is the power of God unto the sanctified life – “that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.”

It is the responsibility of the Church which cares for souls to warn God’s children against the wiles of Satan, the world, and the flesh. The prophet Ezekiel warns us of the consequence of failing to warn and alert the sheep (Ezekiel 33). The Church fulfills its divinely assigned role when it comforts the troubled sheep and reaches with the Word to seek and find the lost for whom the Lord died. Thus, the faithful believers and ministers of the Word say with Paul, “I am determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2).

The Lord has laid an awesome and weighty task on the faithful. Who else than they who confess the Triune God, witness to the person and work of Christ, preach salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone and point the redeemed to heaven - who else can carry the message?

Now look about you. How is the church doing in this regard? Are we not surrounded to a great extent by many purveyors of “feel-good religion” philosophy whose attitude is aptly described in Proverbs which says, “enthusiasm without knowledge isn’t good” (Proverbs 19:2 -- AAT). Paul warns against zeal of those who are zealous for God, “but not according to knowledge” (Romans 10:2). Whatever good the church deems necessary to do in society and the world to make itself feel good is eye salve if the preaching of Law and Gospel, the means of grace, and the Savior are not predominant. Without the Law and the Gospel “they are clouds without water” (Jude 12). Satan knows that. He feeds and delights in fostering such aridness.

He has a plan. Because he has not forgotten that Jesus overcame him with “It is written” (Matthew 4) and because he still writhes under the crushing blow of the Lord on the cross and at the empty tomb, with what strength he has left (he still has more than anyone without Christ), Satan prowls the earth, subtly throwing up smoke-screens, diversions, and traps to turn the Church away from the proclamation of Law and Gospel, and the wielding of the sword of the Spirit which is the Word.

He plays on emotions and frustrations of the faithful who are troubled, for example, by blatant evil such as abortion. He does not pursue the ungodly and wicked who are already in his camp who still may have a semblance of conscience and have some of the same