

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Eli Wales

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

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

Church Cleaners: Fleischer

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

Counting Team 4: James Bomber; Paul Lentz; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust

Church Cleaners: Fleischer

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Aug. 18: 9:00 am – Worship Service (Pentecost 10)

Sun., Aug. 25: 9:00 am – Worship Service (Pentecost 11)

3:00 pm – Opening Service at Immanuel (Eau Claire, WI)

Mon., Aug. 26: 8:00 am – Opening Day at Grace Lutheran School

Sun., Sept. 1: 9:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper (Pentecost 12)

Sun., Sept. 8: 8:30 am – Choir Practice Begins

9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School Begin

10:00 am – Worship Service (Regular Schedule Resumes)

Sun., Sept. 15: Annual Church Picnic

October 1-2: Minnesota Pastoral Conference @ Mankato, MN

October 16-18: CLC Teachers' Conference @ Fridley, MN

Wed., Oct. 16: 7:00 pm – Teachers Conference Worship Service

Last Week's Stats: Aug. 11 Sun.: 83

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,294*	CLC:	\$810
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,000	CLC:	1,000
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,706	CLC:	-190
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$123,333**	CLC:	\$30,405
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	128,000	CLC:	32,000
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-4,667	CLC:	-1,595
GLC Other: 330	Living Faith:	0	Tuition Aid:	48
SAF Endowment: 0	MDF:	200	Kinship:	50
ILC Student Aid: 100	ILC Bldg.	200	IIF: 0	CEF: 0

Current Balances: Tuition Aid: \$2,224

* Includes \$0 in school tuition ** Includes \$6,024 year-to-date school tuition

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9

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)

Phone: 763-784-8784

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 10

Date: August 18, 2019

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 18: Lord, We Come Before Thee Now

TLH 323: With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh

TLH 342: Chief of Sinners Though I Be

WS 777: Amazing Grace

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 103, TLH p. 145f.

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 16:4

Scripture Readings:

Daniel 9:15-18

1 Corinthians 15:1-10

Sermon: Luke 18:9-14

⁹ Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men-- extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. ¹² 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' ¹³ "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' ¹⁴ "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (NKJVTM)

What is Your Posture before God?

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Sunday School:** One of the vital programs at Grace for the instruction of our youth is the Sunday School. Those interested in helping out with teaching, subbing, or helping out in any kind of way may speak with either Pastor Hein or Michael Ude, the superintendent.
- ◆ **Service Schedule:** Please keep in mind that the service schedule will be changing on **September 8**. Sunday School and Bible Class will begin at 9:00 a.m. with regular morning worship at 10:00 a.m.
- ◆ **CLC Teachers Conference:** On October 16-18, Grace will be hosting the CLC Teachers Conference. There will be over 40 teachers from CLC congregations throughout the USA. Also, there will be a worship service on Wed., Oct. 16, 7 pm. The entire congregation is strongly encouraged to attend as a way to meet the teachers and to show congregational support for our connections within our church body. Also, as a way to contribute to this, please mark CLC Teachers Conference on your offering envelope. The intent is to raise about \$1,200 to cover expenses involving meals, a field trip, bus expense and the like. Grace will need to provide housing during this time.
- ◆ **Fleischer Book:** A sequel to Rev. Daniel Fleischer's "Standing on the Wall" is getting ready for publication: "Christ--No Other Foundation." Please speak with him so that he can get an idea of how many books you may want. The price will likely be \$15.00 per book (373 pages) with a target date for release by Reformation. Sections: Prayers, Poems, and Hymns; Devotional (Largest section); Seasonal; Reformation Lutheranism; Lutheran Confessionalism; Worship Life; Education; Family Life.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Richard Kanzenbach of the tri-parish of Morning Star Lutheran in Fairchild, WI, Trinity Lutheran in Millston, WI, and Peace With God Lutheran in Onalaska, WI, has returned the call by the dual-parish of Zion Lutheran in Ipswich, SD, and Redeemer Lutheran in Bowdle, SD. ✠ Pastor Delwyn Maas of Gift of God Lutheran in Mapleton, ND, has received the call to Trinity Lutheran in Spokane, WA. ✠ Pastor Andrew Schaller of Calvary Lutheran in Marquette, MI, has returned the call to Bethel Lutheran in Morris, MN. ✠ Pastor Ted Barthels of St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran in Austin, MN, has returned the call to Prince of Peace Lutheran in Loveland, CO. ✠ Miss Miriam Bernthal has accepted the call to be full time preschool teacher at Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI, and also to help other teachers as much as possible.

Council Meeting Notes – August 11, 2019

Meeting was called to order with a prayer. July Council meeting minutes were read and approved as amended. July Treasurer's report was presented and approved.

Pastor's Report

- Aki Holmberg was baptized today, August 11, 2019.
- David Swigart and Karma Ryals instruction has been completed. Their decisions regarding membership are pending. Regardless, their sincere interest in hearing the Word in our midst continues.
- VBS was July 22-26, with an enrollment of 39.
- Sunday School staff is being worked on.
- The Heins have received their medical insurance cards from Medica through MNSure.
- A draft of the 2020 church calendar has begun.

Board of Elders Report

- No report.

Board of Education Report

- There are 18 students currently enrolled at Grace School for this fall.
- The ice cream social is tomorrow, August 12.
- A field trip to Target Field will be scheduled for the Teachers Conference.

Board of Trustees Report

- Business as usual with maintenance items.

Other Business

- Phil met with US Bank and Bremer Bank regarding opening accounts with them. Further discussion is necessary regarding changing banks. At this time, a recommendation will be made to the Voters to have an annual election for Key Executives at the bank.
- More information is needed to consider the purchase of an AED.
- Regarding virtual meetings, it was determined that individuals can only listen in during meetings, but they cannot participate more than that. This will be reported to the Voters.
- Motion passed to have Benno do more research regarding remote contributions.

Adapted from minutes submitted by Secretary Roger Ochsner

CLC Financial Report - July

CLC Financial Report Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2019	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 1 Month	Balance 7/31/2019
General Fund	0	53,674	99,250	88,575	- 45,576
ILC Operations	0	74,375	110,347	120,340	- 35,972
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	138,303	300	2,463		136,140
ILC Building Projects (AC/Dorm)	17,073	1,175	8,000		10,248
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	45,020	3,743	15,857		32,906
Kinship	56,634	5,322	15,240		46,716
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	1,442,490	75,079	3,553		1,514,016
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	50,707	56,353	10,453		96,607
Reserve Fund	278,088	0	0		278,088
Total	\$2,028,315	\$141,972	\$55,566		\$2,114,721

ILC Building Projects (Academic Center Balance & North Hall)	
Beginning Balance November 1, 2017	\$1,460,931
Current Balance July 31, 2019	\$1,197,558
Principal paid to date	\$263,373

General Fund – Offerings this month were \$53,674 vs disbursements of \$99,250, a negative start to a new fiscal year, not unusual for summer months. **The budgets of the Trustees, Regents, Missions, & Ed & Publications count on their major funding from your CLC General Fund offerings.**

ILC Operations– ILC July revenue was \$74,375 vs disbursements of \$110,347, this beginning deficit not unusual for a summer month when ILC is not in session. The opening of the new school year Aug. 26 will cover the July deficit with student revenues due in Aug.

ILC Building Projects – Offerings were \$1,175 vs a disbursement of \$8,000 for the AC/North Hall monthly loan payment.

CEF – July revenue was \$75,079 from CEF congregational loan repayments (including an early loan payoff of \$39,000) vs disbursements of \$3,311 for CEF monthly administrative expenses.

MDF –Offerings were \$3,743 vs disbursements of \$15,857, including \$10,000 assistance for Congo Bible School construction, \$2,500 for church building assistance, \$1,310 for foreign pastor motor bikes, and \$400 for Africa exploratory work.

SAF – Revenue of \$56,353 (including a bequest of \$47,600) vs disbursements of \$10,453 which was mostly for payments of scholarships & grants for the 1st month of the new school year.

Kinship – Offerings of \$5,322 (incl. \$3,120 from sponsors) vs disbursements of \$15,240, including \$7,610 for orphans and \$7,550 for Foreign Seminary & Bible School students.

Reserve – Opening Balance 7/1/18: \$298,855; Net disbursement of \$20,767 to cover General Fund FY19 shortfall; Closing Balance 7/31/19: \$278,088.

James E. Sandeen, CLC Treasurer / Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

After-Word

“AN UNEXPECTED ENDING”

Read Luke 18:9-14

Many expected God to praise the Pharisee and to condemn the tax collector. Only, that’s not what happened.

Have you ever read a novel with a completely unexpected ending; an ending that left you stunned, shaking your head, and thinking, “I never saw that coming”?

Perhaps the people who heard Jesus tell the *Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector* felt exactly the same. Most were likely Pharisees; as Luke described them, **“some who were confident in their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else.”**

As such, they were no doubt thrilled with the premise of the parable; two men praying in the temple, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. From their perspective, any story about a Pharisee would have to be a good story with a good ending, in which the Pharisee was praised and the tax collector was condemned.

Only, that’s not how the parable ended. According to Jesus, the tax collector **“went home justified before God.”** And at this, the listeners were stunned, disappointed, even angry. “What?” they thought. “How could this be? This was not the ending we expected.” Of course, they did not expect this ending, because they did not expect God to reject the religious Pharisee and to forgive the sinful tax collector. But He did.

God’s ways are not our ways. And His way to salvation is very different from Man’s way. In the unexpected ending of His parable, Jesus taught that salvation is not based on who we are, but on who God is-not on our works, but on God’s redemptive work in Jesus Christ.



Not Us, But Him

Pharisees were the religious elite in Israel: church-goers, alms-givers, law-keepers; concerned about every 'jot' and 'tittle' of the Mosaic Law, but often ignoring its intent and essence; able to 'strain out a gnat and swallow a camel.'

The Pharisees viewed themselves as a "cut above the rest;" as implied by the name Pharisee itself-from the Hebrew word PAR-ASH, meaning 'separated one.' **"God, I thank You that I am not like other men,"** said the Pharisee in the parable.

If the Pharisee represented society's best, the tax collector represented the worst. Most tax collectors in Judea were Jews employed by the Roman government; and therefore viewed as collaborators, traitors, and even idolaters. At the time of Jesus, tax collectors were permitted to use any method they chose, and to collect any amount they desired, as long as the Roman government received its share. Abuse was rampant.

Simply put, the Pharisee in the parable was the 'good guy,' and the tax collector was the 'bad guy.' Yet, it was the latter, not the former, who After Word went home justified. Why? God's definition of good is very different from Man's definition. And when it comes to salvation, Man's good is never good enough. As the psalmist wrote, **"there is no one who does good, not even one."** Not even a Pharisee.

Our salvation is not based on who we are, but on who God is. The tax collector in the parable understood this; while ironically, the religious Pharisee did not. The Pharisee expected God to save him because he was a good person. The tax collector believed God would save him despite his having been a bad person. Why? Because he knew who God is – the gracious, merciful God who forgives even the worst of sinners, when they turn to Him in humility, repentance, and faith.

Not Our Works, Not Our Works, But His

But His According to one source, there are more than 4,200 religions in the world today. Yet, of all these religions, only one teaches that Man cannot save himself; that salvation is not by works but by grace, not by doing but by simply believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. That one religion, of course, is Christianity, as taught by the Bible.

*"For all those who
exalt themselves
will be humbled,
and those who
humble themselves
will be exalted."*



Salvation by works makes perfect sense to human reason and human nature. As human beings, we must work for everything else-work to eat; work to pay bills; work to enrich a troubled marriage. "Hi-ho, hi-ho, it's off to work we go."

So, why can't our good works justify us before God? Because we are sinful by nature. Because, as Isaiah wrote, **"All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags."**

Salvation by works was the approach of the Pharisee. Standing in the spotlight of his self-righteousness, he boasted about his good works: **"I fast twice a week,"** he said, **"and give a tenth of all I get."** Admirable? Yes, but not 'savable;' that is, not able to save. For despite all his good deeds, the Pharisee did not go home justified before God; the tax collector did. An unexpected ending.

In Christ's remarkable parable, the Pharisee is not only an example of how our good character can never be good enough to save us; but also how our good works-regardless of quantity or quality-can never justify us before Almighty God. As Paul wrote to the Galatians: **"So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified."**

So, through faith in Christ, we poor sinners also have an unexpected ending; a glorious ending that we had no right or reason to expect: the forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation. And that is one unexpected ending that will never disappoint us.

Written by Pastor Mark Weis, 2/19/2017

All Scripture quotations are from the NIV, 1984 Edition

"The greatest sin is to be conscious of none." - Selected



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!