

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson Elder: Frank Radichel

Ushers: Brian Eichstadt; Alex Baker; Kevin Baker; Dan Degnan; Brandon Paplow; Pat Paplow

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

Hospitality Team 4: Bonnie Baker; Nick & Miranda Duehlmeier; Jenny Kleifgen; Pat & Dawn Paplow

Church Cleaners: Wales School: NA

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Brian Eichstadt; Alex Baker; Kevin Baker; Dan Degnan; Brandon Paplow; Pat Paplow

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

Church Cleaners: Wales School: Rinne

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Jan. 5: 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
11:00 am – Hospitality

Mon., Jan. 6: **EPIPHANY**
Grace School Return from Christmas Break

Wed., Jan. 8: 4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

Sun., Jan. 12: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 1)
12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Mon., Jan. 13: 10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study Club @ Mankato, MN

Wed., Jan. 15: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class Resumes

Sun., Jan. 19: Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

Sat., Jan. 25: 9:00 am – Grace Work Day

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 29 Sun.: 74 Tue.: 36

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,895*	CLC:	\$685
Tue. Offering:	Grace:	\$1,965	CLC:	\$220
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,000	CLC:	1,000
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+860	CLC:	-95
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$209,537**	CLC:	\$49,797
Total Budget for Year:	Grace:	210,000	CLC:	52,000
Difference from budget (+/-)	Grace:	-463	CLC:	-2,203
GLC Other: 339	Living Faith:	0	Tuition Aid:	200
SAF Endowment:200	MDF:	0	Kinship:	70
ILC Student Aid: 100	ILC Bldg.	200	IIF: 0	CEF: 0

Current Balances: Tuition Aid: \$867

* Includes \$0 in school tuition ** Includes \$9,460 year-to-date school 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)

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Church Year: Christmas 2

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: January 5, 2020

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

As We Begin Another Year (insert, tune TLH 7)

TLH 376: Rock of Ages

TLH 371: Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

Communion: TLH 307; TLH 123

TLH 370:1,4: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 148, TLH p. 156 f.

Liturgy:

WS, p. 12 (Communion)

Scripture Readings:

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18

John 1:14-18

Sermon: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

¹⁰ 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, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks *himself* with ornaments, And as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its bud, As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, So the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. ^{62:1} For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, And for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, Until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, And her salvation as a lamp *that* burns. ² The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, And all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will name. ³ You shall also be a crown of glory In the hand of the LORD, And a royal diadem In the hand of your God. (NKJVTM)

Rejoice in Your Lord Who Has Given You New Clothes of Righteousness

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Among Us:** While recovering from her liver biopsy, Ellen Bergstrom now has Influenza A. Please keep her in your prayers.
- ◆ **Directory:** We are preparing for the publication of the yearly directory at Grace. Please check your contact information in the draft copy of the directory located in the narthex. Place a check mark by your entry if it is correct. If it is not, then please edit as necessary. If you wish to add email or cell numbers, please do so. Your cooperation is appreciated as we attempt to produce an accurate directory. Also, please ensure your birthday and/or anniversary information is correct.
- ◆ **2020 Cleaning:** The 2020 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **Seminar:** Pastor Nathanael Mayhew and Joe Naumann are conducting a "What is Christianity?" seminar at the Sleepy Eye Convention Center on Jan. 8, 6 pm. For more info., call 507.461.1698.
- ◆ **KINSHIP Sponsors:** The CLC KINSHIP Committee is seeking sponsors to support overseas orphans and seminary students. Opportunities are expanding in these important fields but can only expand as fast as our financial support allows. One example is the Congregation Confessionnelle Lutheranienne Du Congo (CCLC). The CLC-sponsored seminary in the Congo is hoping to expand their enrollment to fifteen students from their current enrollment of seven. There are eight men waiting to enroll, but we need sponsors to make that enrollment possible. This particular sponsorship is \$40/month. For more information please see, call, email, or text Dan Roehl—danroehl@hotmail.com / 507-381-2042).
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #12 – Conclusion.

The following is the nomination slate for 2020:

- Secretary: Bill Rust, Benno Sydow
- Elder: Al Rosendahl, Dave Rust
- Education: Roger Ochsner, Ryan Oman
- Trustee: Pat Paplow, Bill Rust, Bob Vandever
- Delegates: Dale Enns, Bill Rust, Dave Rust, Benno Sydow

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!

AS WE BEGIN ANOTHER YEAR

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2019 (Melody: TLH 7)

1. As we begin another year
There is no need for us to fear.
Our Father holds us ever dear,
And promises that He is near.
2. Each year begins with confidence,
For Jesus is the sure Defense
For all who hold Him and confess
His holy name and righteousness.
3. Each year then, we begin in hope
E'en though we know not what it holds.
If trial and deep grief, take note:
Our gracious God will help us cope.
4. In every day and every way,
To God our Father we will pray.
As witness to God's love we'll say,
"Our Savior is our Staff and Stay."
5. He'll hold us in His warm embrace,
In every day and year and place.
So we can run our earthly race,
With confidence in His good grace.
6. He promises through His dear Son
That our eternal life is won.
Salvation unto us has come,
Through what our Lord, for us has done.
7. So it's forever true and clear,
As we now enter a new year.
The Lord will keep us: Never fear,
By grace in heav'n we will appear.

Grace Funds

GENERAL FUND: Contributions to this fund are used for budgeted expenses that normally are incurred in operating our church and Christian Day School. This includes such things as the pastor's and teacher's compensations, utilities, church operations, school supplies, pastor's mileage, etc.

TUITION FUND: Offerings are used to assist Grace students at Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, WI.

LIVING FAITH: This program offers opportunities for members to help those of the congregation who are in need of food, clothing, necessary medical supplies, etc. Your offerings to this fund serve the physical welfare of your brethren.

DORCAS GUILD FUND: This supports the projects of our women's group.

LIBERIA FUND: This is for projects Grace undertakes for Liberia.

PROJECT FUND: This is for any special projects the congregation decides to do.

CLC Funds

CLC GENERAL FUND (SOMETIMES CALLED "MISSIONS"): Contributions to this fund support the General Budget of the CLC. They are used to subsidize U.S. and foreign missions and to subsidize operating expenses at Immanuel Lutheran High School and College in Eau Claire, WI.

MISSION DEVELOPMENT FUND (MDF): This fund provides support for mission projects both at home and abroad. Funds are used for such things as missionary exploratory efforts, instruction materials, self-help projects in foreign mission fields, storm relief in India and Africa, etc.

PROJECT KINSHIP: Contributions are used for the support of orphanages in the foreign missions affiliated with the CLC. At times sponsorship is requested for specific orphans or seminary students in foreign mission fields.

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND (CEF): This Fund is maintained for the purpose of providing loans to build or buy churches and/or parsonages within the CLC.

ILC BUILDING FUND: Contributions are used for the financing of any new building projects at ILC. At this time the Academic Center is being financed.

ILC IMPROVEMENT FUND (IIF): This fund has been used for various capital expenditures or special projects at ILC, including such items as remodeling, updating blacktop, professorage upgrades, larger HVAC projects, etc.

ILC STUDENT AID: This Fund provides scholarships, grants, and loans to students attending the high school, college, and seminary. Contributions may allow students to prepare for the preaching and teaching ministries who otherwise might be unable to attend ILC. Eventually this fund is expected to be self-supporting because of an endowment element and the repayment of student loans after graduation.

ILC STUDENT AID ENDOWMENT: This Fund accumulates in principle as donations are made with the annual investment gains funneled into the ILC Student Aid Fund.

2019--ANOTHER NEW YEAR—2020

In 2020, we enter a new decade. Many years ago, as young children still do, we couldn't wait for the next year-- another birthday, another Christmas, another vacation to the lake. Now having arrived at an age when there are more years and decades behind than lie ahead, the natural being, as opposed to the spiritual, occasionally would like to slow down the progression of time. Years pass so quickly. Another decade? Already?

The Lord to whom a thousand years are like yesterday when it is past has measured our days and years. "The days of our lives *are* seventy years; and if by reason of strength *they are* eighty years, yet their boast *is* only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away" (Psalm 90:10).

With the new year and the new decade, some things will change. A new job. Perhaps retirement. Perhaps there will be a wedding in the family, a new child, another grandchild or great-grandchild. Change in health, for better or for worse. New home, new friends, new interests. Perhaps our team will finally win the World Series, or the Super Bowl. Perhaps a death in the family, or our own death. Who knows? Only the Lord knows.

However, as years pass probably more things stay the same than change. The devil will continue to walk about as a roaring lion; sin in all its manifestations (hatred, greed, immorality, murder and mayhem, et al) will remain, and grow bolder, if not worse. Read 2 Timothy 3. Political campaigns will continue to harass us; wars and rumors of wars will continue. Trials and tribulations common to the world since the entrance of sin will continue. Sickness and death will take no break. Indeed, as years and decades pass and some things change and others remain the same, the aging child of God adopts the attitude of the apostle Paul: "For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better" (Philippians 1:21-23), and with John will say, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).

Believers in Christ are subject to the same highs and lows as those of the unbelieving world. The Christ-believer lives and waits in this darkening world subject every day to temptations, sins, weaknesses, eccentricities, evils, and finally death. But there is an indescribable advantage not of our making that the believer has that the unbeliever does not because he rejects Christ. To the eternal, unchanging God Who daily and richly provides us with everything that we need belongs the glory. He says, "I will *never* leave you nor forsake you. So we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my Helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me'" (Hebrews 13:5-6)? Come what may in the new year or new decade God, our Creator, Justifier, and the Author of our salvation with whom there is no variableness or change is ever the same in His love, compassion, and care for us. In the steadfast, unchanging, loving care of the Lord Who has redeemed us we

find stability in a chaotic world. The Christ-believer finds comfort within the Heavenly Father's family. He says to each family member: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1).

As we begin another year,
There is no need for us to fear.
Our Father holds us ever dear,
And promises that He is near.

He'll hold us in His warm embrace,
In every day and year and place.
So we can run our earthly race
With confidence in His good grace.

Of things we know for sure, one is that we do not know what the new year will bring, good or bad. The other is that in the variable scenes of life the eternal God and Father remains ever the God of grace who will see us through it. Through all the changing scenes of life, the Lord and His Word have remained and will remain constant and unchanging through time and eternity. As Jesus has by His death and resurrection reconciled us unto the Father, the Father will neither leave us nor forsake us. Whatever changes and dangers confront us, we can look with joy and anticipation to the new year. For this, we thank the Lord, and our Savior Jesus, whose attributes show Him to be:

Unchangeable:

"For I am the Lord, I do not change " (Malachi 3:6).

"With Him is no variation or turning" (James 1:17).

He " is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Our Protector:

"God is our Refuge and Strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

"He will not allow your foot to be moved...The Lord is your keeper...The Lord shall preserve you from all evil" (Psalm 121).

"The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer..." (Psalm 18:2).

Ever with us:

"Fear not, for I am with **you**; be not dismayed, for I am your God; **I will** strengthen **you**, **I will** help **you**, **I will** uphold **you** with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with **you**. He **will** not leave **you** or forsake **you**" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which being interpreted is 'God with us'" (Matthew 1:23).

Ever kind:

"But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," Says the Lord, your Redeemer... "For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, Who has mercy on you" (Isaiah 54:8-10).

God is, "gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abundant in kindness, and did not forsake them" (Nehemiah 9:17).

... "that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:7).

Aware of our needs:

"For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him" (Matthew 6:8).

"For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish" (Psalm 1:6).

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place. Keeping watch on the evil and the good" (Proverbs 15:3).

All who call upon the Lord and look to Him in faith are assured:

"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I *will be* with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation" (Psalm 91:14-16).

Whatever 2020 brings, it is a time of grace -- a time to remember our Lord's faithfulness, a time to enjoy the Lord's blessings, a time to grow in faith, a time to share the Gospel, a time to focus with thanksgiving on our Father's *unchangeable* love in Christ Jesus. Rejoice. We can confidently affirm, "And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly Kingdom" (2 Timothy 4:18).

Regardless of age and passing of time, Christ-believers anticipate each new day and year with the eager anticipation of youth. Each passing day and year brings us closer to the eternity of rest God has prepared for embattled warriors who, strengthened by the love of Christ, have fought the good fight, have finished the race, and have kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7).

It is forever true and clear—
As we now enter a new year,
The Lord will keep us. Never fear,
By grace in heav'n we will appear.

"Lord Jesus, the eternal Son of the Father, abide with us, and by Your grace keep Your children until the eternal New Year in heaven."

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2019