

Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Fridley, MN 55432



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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 19

Date: October 11, 2020

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

WS 772: On Galilee's High Mountain
TLH 479: Zion, Rise, Zion, Rise
TLH 460: Behold the Sure Foundation-Stone
WS 769: Lift High the Cross

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 66, TLH p. 136

Liturgy:

Projected (w/TLH498 & WS 770)

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 12:1-6
2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Matthew 5:13-16

Sermon: Ephesians 4:7-16

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." ⁹ (Now this, "He ascended"-- what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) ¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-- Christ-- ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (NKJVTM)

E Pluribus Unum: Out of Many, One!

1. We are many different people with many different gifts, yet we are all one in Christ
2. As many different people with many different gifts we work for one purpose: building up the body of Christ

✝ ***THE ANNOUNCEMENTS*** ✝

- ➔ **Caution:** If anyone is high risk, vulnerable, recently exposed to a COVID-19 patient, or has symptoms of illness (especially high temperature and cough), the individual along with any others in that person's household are strongly urged to stay home for one's own well-being and the well-being of others. Online worship is still available at FridleyLutheran.org.
- ➔ **Masks:** Due to the Governor's executive order, face coverings or masks are now required during worship at Grace. Children under the age of 2 are exempt. Ages 2-5 "are encouraged to wear a face covering when in public if they can do so reliably ..."
- ➔ **Physical Distancing:** Post-its are on the pews that are to be used. Please remember to not block areas of foot traffic. Thank you for being mindful of your fellow Christians.
- ➔ **Box Tops:** If you have any clipped box tops at home, please send those to school in the next couple of weeks. Our Box Tops for Education submission is due November 2.
- ➔ **Church Cleaning:** The rest of the year is open for cleaning volunteers.
- ➔ **CLC News:** Recently colloquized pastor Johnathan Schnose has the call to be resident vacancy pastor at the dual parish of Redeemer Lutheran in Bowdle, SD, and Zion Lutheran in Ipswich, SD. He also has the call to be resident vacancy pastor to Bethel Lutheran in Morris, MN.
- ➔ **Candidates for Immanuel Professor Call:** The Board of Regents for Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary invites "all pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession" (CLC Constitution) to nominate an individual or individuals to fill the vacancy which will be created by the retirement of Professor John Reim at the end of the 2020-21 academic year. The position would require someone seminary trained with the ability to teach primarily music, college Greek, and other potential disciplines commencing with the 2021-22 academic year. The person would serve as the director of the mass and tour choirs, potentially teaching piano and organ. Those submitting nominations are strongly encouraged to verify that the individual would be willing to be nominated and would need to include information regarding the nominee's educational background and teaching and/or professional experience, also indicating how the person might help our school in technology expertise, extracurricular activities, or administrative positions. Nominations are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight November 20, 2020 (letters postmarked November 10, 2020) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com.
- ➔ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #37 – Evening Prayer

CLC Financial Report - September

CLC Financial Report Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2020	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 3 Months	Balance 9/30/2020
General Fund	0	203,926	274,005	274,350	- 70,079
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	372,205	297,690	344,535	74,515
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	201,448	1,240	58,480		144,208
ILC Building Projects (AC/Dorm)	14,542	1,995,284	1,057,686		952,140
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	84,054	68,502	52,356		100,200
Kinship	86,093	59,171	34,556		110,708
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	1,914,371	1,339,003	35,069		3,218,305
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	84,280	23,352	31,583		76,049
Reserve Fund	294,092	0	0		294,092
Total	\$2,678,880	\$3,486,552	\$1,269,730		\$4,895,702

ILC Building Projects (Academic Center & North Hall) Paid in Full !!

General Fund – September offerings of \$64,078 vs disbursements of \$101,951 increased the negative balance by \$37,873 to \$70,079. Expenditures were right on budget for the 1st Quarter, so the negative balance was due to a shortfall of offerings, though still they were \$30,000 higher than last September. And still we count our blessings much more than just daily bread! **And our Boards of Trustees, Regents, Missions, & Ed & Publications still count on the Lord for their major funding through our regular offerings to our CLC General Fund.**

ILC Operations– ILC September revenue of \$122,060 vs disbursements of \$110,758, giving ILC operations a positive cash flow for the month.

ILC Building Projects – With the CLC indebtedness on the Academic Center & North Hall dorm upgrades paid in full, and early, we have not only saved several hundred thousand dollars in interest, but our budget is helped with monthly savings of \$8,000 which we had been paying on that loan's debt service! Thanks & glory to our gracious God, who loads us daily with His benefits!

CEF – September revenue was \$24,277 from congregations' CEF loan payments vs disbursements of \$8,794 in CEF debt service for several CEF Promissory Notes repaid to members, resulting in the current CEF positive balance of \$3.2M. The Trustees expect several loans that will need this!

MDF – September offerings of \$8,670 vs disbursements of \$12,533 (4th of 12 \$10,000 construction loan installments for the Nepal Bible Institute classroom, \$1,300 for foreign missions visitation & exploratory work, and the balance for administration expenses.

Kinship – September gifts of \$10,064 (\$6,304 congregation offerings, \$3,760 orphan & sem student sponsors) vs disbursements of \$16,200 (\$8,070 for foreign orphanage subsidy, and \$8,050 for foreign seminary students.

Regardless of our synodical, congregational, or personal financial position & circumstances, whether rich or poor, we have to confess with wealthy King David, *“I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”* (Psalms 37:25)

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

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Frank Radichel

Ushers: Roger Ochsner; James Bomber; Jack Maki; John Maki; Ryan Oman

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

Church Cleaners: Ochsner

School: Craven

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Roger Ochsner; James Bomber; Jack Maki; John Maki; Ryan Oman

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

Church Cleaners: Volunteers?

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Oct. 11: Mission Festival w/Pastor Mark Bernthal
9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class
10:00 am – Mission Festival Worship Service
Note: Mission Festival Potluck Cancelled
12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Mon. Oct. 12: Grace School: Parent/Teacher Conferences

Wed., Oct. 14: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Oct. 12-16: Grace School: No School

Sun., Oct. 18: 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class

10:00 am – Worship Service

11:15 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

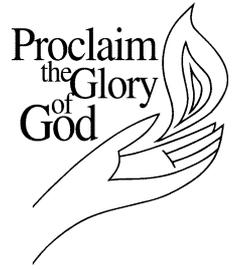
Last Week's Stats: Oct. 4, 2020 Sun.: 68 Bible Cl.: 31 S.S.: 13

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,033	CLC:	\$245
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,000	CLC:	950
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-967	CLC:	-705
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$158,831	CLC:	\$35,962
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	160,000	CLC:	38,000
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-1,169	CLC:	-2,038
GLC Other: 104	Living Faith: 150		Tuition Aid: 60	
SAF Endowment: 0	MDF: 150		Kinship: 100	
ILC Student Aid: 0	ILC Bldg. 0		IIF: 15	CEF: 0
Current Balances:	Tuition Aid:	\$3,717		

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!

STAYING TRUE TO THE LORD'S COMMISSION

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, “If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). A disciple is a student, a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Living Word. Through faith in Christ, true God and true Man, believers are children of God the Father and possessors of salvation. On the Mount of Ascension, Jesus gave His disciples through the ages the commission saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age” (Matthew 28: 18-20).



This commission was not given to the world, but to Christ-believers. The commission is to proclaim, as Paul described it, the whole counsel of God, chief of which is the law which condemns the sinner, and the gospel which is the message of justification and salvation by grace through faith in Christ; by divine authority, the Church through its ministry is authorized to preach the Word of God and to administer the Sacraments, and especially the authority to forgive sins and to retain sins. Paul wrote, “Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:16)!

The Lord reminds us through the prophet, “He who has My Word, let him speak My Word faithfully” (Jeremiah 23:28). Through the gospel faithfully proclaimed, the Spirit of God sanctifies and keeps the believer in the true faith. Through the gospel, the Spirit creates in the believer the sanctified will and power to live to the praise and glory of God. Through the gospel the Spirit converts hearts!

The primary mission of the Church concerns eternal salvation. The foundation of its ministry is the preaching of repentance and remission of sins in Jesus’ name (Luke 24:47). In as much as the faithful church speaks to the whole person — body and soul, the church faithful to the Lord and to its call proclaims the Word through which believers are empowered to be responsible citizens in the nation and the world; when the church faithfully sets forth the will of God the common good of government and society is promoted.

In this fallen world, church and government have a complementary but different role. The ministry of the Christian Church is *heaven-focused*. On the other hand, the proper role of government in this context is to guarantee freedom and the right of all citizens to worship and teach according to the dictates of their conscience. Government has nothing to do with heaven. The concerns of the state are temporal. The concerns of the Church are eternal. The state is ruled by law; the Church is ruled by the Gospel.



Consequently, politics as such have no place in the ministry of the church called to proclaim salvation in Christ; politics does not belong in the pulpit. Unfortunately, today the message from many pulpits is becoming blurred. The world is entering the church and is even being invited in. In as much as the world and its political operatives do not know or have respect for the gospel the Church, the body of believers, suffers.

As society becomes blatantly more immoral if not amoral, and government and politicians either out of ignorance or fear approve that which Scripture calls immoral and sin, faithful ministers of the Word in the course of faithful preaching, by the very nature of their responsibility to the Lord, and out of concern for souls, will contradict those who in the name of rights, love, and political correctness defend what Scripture calls sin. Obedience to government as Scripture enjoins does not translate to silence when government, and political agendas or causes promote or advance sin. In this scenario faithful preaching of law and gospel frequently engenders accusations of discrimination, hatred, anti- (you name it), political agendas.

Individual Christians and the *faithful* Christian Church today are facing increasing pressure in an overtly anti-Christian society. Witness societal, legal, and governmental sanctions against any who in preaching or practical living disapprove of the sinful practice of homosexuality, transgenderism, societal abuse of marriage, abortion, the undermining of parental responsibility, all of which are contrary to the expressed will of God. Further, witness the charges of misogyny spewed at faithful Christian pastors who teach and Christians who believe what Scripture says of the husband/wife relationship.

Scripture teaches, and Christians believe that God's people in society are to abide by the laws of the land however mistaken, even immoral, some laws may be. They are not to take up arms or counsel rebellion against the government. But *Christians* whose consciences are bound by the Word of God *cannot remain silent*. They have the responsibility under God, and in the name of truth to speak and by legal means to try to change laws that support immorality and wickedness. If they cannot effect a change, and they are expected to participate in or actively promote what is demonstrably sinful, Scripture says say "No," for "we ought to obey God rather than man" (Acts 5:29). If necessary, Christians are called upon as an exercise of faith to suffer the consequences. Better to face the wrath of society and government in time, than to face the judgment of God in eternity!

In the face of anti-Christian influences and forces, Paul exhorts God's people to stand, clad in the armor of God. He wrote to the Ephesians, "Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which, you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints..." (Ephesians 6:14-18).

The instruction to the Church is, "Preach the Word, preach the Word, preach the Word," which is the sword of the Spirit that conquers hearts. We need not, and we dare not drag politics into the pulpit; neither can we compromise with the world or bow to its godless philosophies. As the Lord commissioned the Church to teach "all things that I have commanded you," as faithful representatives of our Lord we are to "be ready in season and out of season [to] convince rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching" (2 Timothy 4:2). The only law to be preached from our pulpits is the law of God which uncovers sin and convicts the sinner so that he will acknowledge his sin and confess it unto the Lord. With all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and shod with the gospel of peace, we will proclaim from our pulpits the saving gospel to the troubled, preach the peace of God through the forgiveness of sins, and proclaim the good news which converts the heart and is the power of God unto salvation in Christ Jesus." Woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel."

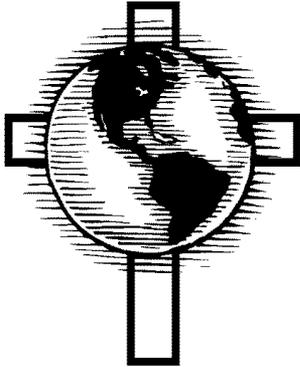
As we face down the foe, it behooves us to pray earnestly to the Lord of the Church to close the doors to our heart and to the church and thus forbid entrance to the world and Satan; we will pray to Him to guard and keep us from letting the foe dictate our ministry and purpose; we will pray for strength to keep up the fight, and for the heart to speak the truth in love. We will pray that as we have our inheritance safely reserved in heavens (1 Peter 1), our focus remains on heaven. Finally, we pray that the Lord will bless our gospel witness, so that those still caught in the snares and webs of Satan’s deceit will be won for heaven.

O God, our God in heav’n above,
Who knows the ways of men on earth,
In love You sent Your only Son
And saved us from the law’s dread curse

Look down and keep all You’ve redeemed,
Who by the Spirit call on You.
Protect us from the evil foe
Who daily plots our overthrow.

The Church exists by Your good grace,
Please keep it in your warm embrace.
Help it to stand in Word and truth,
That all it says reflects Your will.

O Lord, our God, our Savior true,
Help us to boldly share Your Word,
That by Your grace some may be won,
Who still are walking in death’s way.



Rev. Daniel Fleischer 1/2019



Hear the word of the LORD,
O nations, and declare
it in the coastlands
far away ...