

Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Fridley, MN 55432

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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: Advent 3

Date: December 13, 2020

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 75: Ye Sons of men, Oh, Hearken
WS 703: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers
WS 715: Where Shepherds Lately Kneled
TLH 92: Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 85, TLH p. 140

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)
Gloria: TLH 58 & 62

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies. ²¹ Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil. ²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. (NKJVTM)

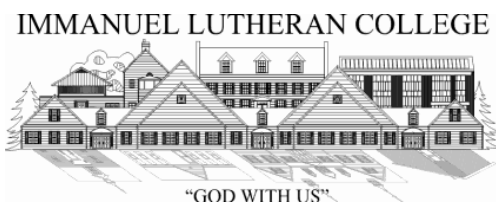
ENJOY GOD'S RECIPE FOR CHRISTMAS CHEER



✝ ***THE ANNOUNCEMENTS*** ✝

- ➔ **COVID-19 Pre-Cautions:** 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](https://www.fridleylutheran.org). Due to the Governor's executive order, face coverings are required during worship at Grace. Children under the age of 2 are exempt. For 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.
- ➔ **Candlelight Worship:** This coming Wednesday, 7 pm, is our annual candlelight service, continuing our theme, "God Loves Me Dearly." Due to restrictions, we will be unable to have our congregational Christmas meal this year.
- ➔ **Christmas Eve Worship:** This will be on Thu., Dec. 24, 6 pm. The children at Grace will be presenting the theme "God's Love Eternal," considering how His love planned the birth of Jesus, the Savior to save the world from eternal punishment, offering forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Join us during this precious time of year to ponder our Savior's coming. This year adjustments are being made in accordance with COVID protocols. To accommodate proper distancing within sanctuary and to keep our occupancy under 100, online registration is required: signup.com/go/jAJfTHA. A seating chart will then be created.
- ➔ **Christmas Eve Rehearsals:** Today the children will rehearse for a little longer following our worship service, perhaps around 12:15 pm. Also, next Sunday (Dec. 20) will be the final rehearsal at 8:45 am. Please have the children here promptly.
- ➔ **Christmas Day Worship:** This will be on Fri., Dec. 25, 10 am. Christ's birth is the reason for the season. May the love of this Child be the gift you open up your heart to on Christmas Day!
- ➔ **New Tour Choir CD:** A new ILC Tour Choir CD has been released. A poster is by the mailboxes. Cost: \$12/each or \$20 for two. Pastor has copies available on consignment.
- ➔ **2021 Cleaning:** The 2021 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.

- ➔ **Parking Reminder:** For those members who are able, please park further away to permit those with physical impairments to be able to park closer to the church.
- ➔ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.
- ➔ **Liberia:** To make a contribution to the work in Liberia, write in "Liberia" on one of the Project lines of your offering envelope.
- ➔ **Organ:** A key current project that the Voters determined to have as a goal is the replacement of the organ. There is a fund open for that purpose. You may designate donations as "Organ Fund."
- ➔ **Stock Donations:** The Voters of Grace have provided a process for members to donate equities to the Congregation. Anyone interested in doing this can get information from President Rick Nelson or Secretary Bill Rust. Such a donation spares the donor from being taxed on any capital gains.
- ➔ **Qualified Charitable Distribution:** For those over 70½ it may be beneficial for you to send your offerings directly from an IRA fund to the church. The advantage of this procedure is those amounts are NOT considered as income and your adjusted gross income is less. For more information see Phil Radichel or Benno Sydow.
- ➔ **ILC Christmas Concert:** This will be held Friday, December 18, at 7:00 pm. Because of the mild forecast for Friday, the concert will be held outside on the hillside next to the gym. Guests are encouraged to bring their own chairs, if they wish. Because of the considerable space we have outdoors, it will be open to the public.
- ➔ **Nominations for ILC Professor:** The following nominations have been received to fill the professorship vacated by the impending retirement of Professor John Reim at the end of the 2020-21 academic year: Pastors Paul Krause, Neal Radichel, Rob Sauers, and David Schaller. All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding these candidates are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight December 29, 2020 (letters postmarked December 24, 2020) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com.



- ➔ **CLC Project KINSHIP:** As endeavors to spread the Gospel overseas continue to increase, so do our opportunities to support these endeavors. Of the current 113 overseas seminary students, there are currently five students that do not have stateside sponsors. Please consider becoming a sponsor through the CLC KINSHIP program. The cost for this particular sponsorship is \$35/month (\$420/year). There will also be sponsorship opportunities for the overseas orphan population in the near future, and KINSHIP would welcome folks who are willing to be put on the "wait list" for those sponsorships. These sponsorships require a similar financial commitment. Contact is Dan Roehl (danroehl@hotmail.com or 507-381-2042).
- ➔ **2021 CLC Mission Helper Trip:** With an application deadline quickly approaching and still so much uncertainty concerning international travel, vaccination requirements and availability, and government restrictions on gatherings in Nepal due to the pandemic, the decision has been made to cancel the 2021 trip that was tentatively scheduled for July with the prayer that things will be back to normal enough by this time next year to make plans for 2022.
- ➔ **Installation:** Terry Stringer will be installed today as the Assistant Vacancy Pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Spokane, WA, during its regular Sunday worship service. This call is for one year.
- ➔ **Sunday School & Adult Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Parts

The following is the nomination slate for 2021:
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Treasurer: Phil Radichel ➤ Elder: Dale Enns; Al Rosendahl ➤ Education: Dale Enns; Roger Ochsner; Bob Vandever ➤ Trustee: Al Rosendahl; Bob Vandever ➤ Delegates: Dale Enns; Dave Rust; Al Rosendahl; Benno Sydow; Frank Radichel; Rick Nelson ➤ Key Executives: Rick Nelson; William Rust |
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Last Week's Stats: Dec. 6, 2020 Sun.: 72 Bible Cl.: 31 S.S.: 11 Wed.: 39

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$1,962	CLC:	\$285
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	\$160	CLC:	\$20
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,000	CLC:	950
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,878	CLC:	-645
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$189,202	CLC:	\$45,397
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	196,000	CLC:	46,550
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-6,798	CLC:	-1,153
GLC Other: 531	Living Faith:	0	Tuition Aid:	50
SAF Endowment: 0	MDF:	0	Kinship:	160
ILC Student Aid: 0	ILC Bldg.	0	IIF: 0	CEF: 0
Current Balances:	Tuition Aid:	\$653		

CLC Financial Report - November

CLC Financial Report Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2020	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 5 Months	Balance 11/30/2020
General Fund	0	395,817	445,018	457,250	- 49,201
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	580,797	517,079	574,225	63,718
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	201,448	2,137	127,936		75,649
ILC Building Projects (AC/Dorm)	14,542	2,001,115	1,060,436		955,221
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	84,054	87,229	84,056		87,277
Kinship	86,093	79,121	60,822		104,392
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	1,914,371	1,411,915	131,682		3,194,604
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	84,280	44,716	51,258		77,738
Reserve Fund	294,092	0	0		294,092
Total	\$2,678,880	\$3,626,233	\$1,516,190		\$4,788,923

General Fund – November offerings of \$119,293 (incl a special member gift of \$50,000) vs disbursements of \$96,054, resulted in a net gain reducing our operating deficit by \$23,233. Compared to last November CBP offerings are \$20,000 higher, disbursements are \$2,000 less, and the current deficit is \$23,000 less. While much improved, there remains a sizeable CBP General Fund deficit. Looking again down the last Balance column above, we continue to be blessed with very positive balances in all our other funds! Our CBP General Fund continues to need our major support since it funds the general operating expenses of our church body and provides the major subsidy for **the work of our Boards of Trustees, Regents, Missions, and Ed & Publications**. Lord, increase our faith through the faithful use of Your Means of Grace, and according to Your promise, provide us Your needful blessings to respond with bountiful fruits of faith for Your work.

ILC Operations – ILC November revenue of \$85,805 vs disbursements of \$108,650, which are more than revenues received this month, but still much less than budgeted, and still a positive balance!

ILC Building Projects – November receipts were \$1,056 vs disbursements of \$1,960 for the Planning Committee expenses. With the long-term indebtedness on the Academic Center & North Hall paid in full from a member Charitable Remainder Trust, the appointed ILC Planning Committee is moving forward with a recommendation for consideration by our next CLC Convention in June 2021 for a new gym, and repurposing the 50-year-old gym for ILC chapels, band/choir practices, plays, musicals, & CLC larger gatherings. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

CEF – November revenue was \$44,629 from 21 CEF loan re-payments vs disbursements of \$3,949 in monthly administration expenses. The \$3 million balance may be needed in the near term for several large loans which are anticipated.

MDF – November offerings of \$10,537 vs disbursements of \$19,789, which includes the 6th of 12 \$10,000 construction loan installments for the Nepal Bible Institute classroom. (View building progress at: <http://missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com/2020/12/progress-in-nepal.html>)

IIF – November offerings of \$371 vs disbursements of \$3,435 for Covid-19 related expenses.

“God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8 ^{NIV})

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

The Word of the Lord Grows Because of the Pandemic

The following is submitted by John Schierenbeck with the knowledge and approval of President Eichstadt:

During this Covid crisis, we once again are reminded that just as in the book of Acts, the Word of the Lord grows, often in unexpected ways. The emphasis is not on numbers but simply on spreading the good news of our Savior's birth, death, and resurrection.

President Eichstadt has received a request from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Melrose, WI to send representatives of the CLC to present information on the CLC and its teachings. St. Paul's is one of the few remaining congregations in the Protes'tant Conference. The Protes'tants came out of the WELS in the 1920's. One of their leaders was JP Koehler. This congregation's pastor retired about three and a half years ago. They have been served by faithful lay leaders ever since.

The story of how St. Paul's learned about and came in contact with the CLC is similar to the story of how Holy Trinity in West Columbia, SC came in contact with the CLC. Holy Trinity was a member of the LCA, but they had formed an independent congregation also served by lay leaders. Through a remarkable chain of events they came in contact with the CLC and Pastor PF Nolting.

St. Paul's, Melrose came in contact with the CLC through Carrie Seybt. Carrie graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire and taught music in the Melrose/Mindoro school district. She taught next door to the librarian/special-ed teacher. Fast forward 14 years. At the beginning of the Covid crisis, this teacher came upon Carrie's Facebook page which contained videos of Pastor Chad Seybt's services and sermons.

St. Paul's recently wrote to President Eichstadt:

"On November 8, 2020 the members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Melrose, WI each cast a ballot to seek further information from the CLC about their beliefs. This ballot was cast with intent to obtain information only, with no intent of joining the CLC at the current time. The vote was a unanimous, yes.

We the members of St. Paul's, would like to respectfully request that a Pastor or representative of the CLC come and present their teachings to us and answer questions that we may have.

Our knowledge of and interest in the CLC began back in early April of 2020. We are a Protes'tant Lutheran church and we have been without a pastor since May of 2017. A member saw Pastor Chad Seybt's church service online and asked to receive a copy of the COVID devotions he mentioned in a sermon. We eventually copied and shared these with our members, with Pastor Seybt's permission to do so. The congregation's response was very favorable and several of us were also tuning in to his online church service. We then asked if we could get written copies of his sermons to share with our members and if it was possible to get his sermons on recordings. He graciously obliged and since the end of May we have been listening to his sermons every week during our church services, with exception of two Sundays. The congregation received these sermons with gratitude and the regular attendance and discussions about the sermons has been evidence that God's word is working in all of us. As our faith grew we also saw where we have had many shortcomings and even failings over the past 3.5 years without an earthly shepherd. This lead to further research into what the CLC teaches and more sharing with the congregation of other CLC resources such as the Daily Rest devotion booklets, The Spokesman, viewing of other CLC church services online, and using some of the CLC Sunday School material, along with the continued blessing of Pastor Seybt's audio, online, and written sermons."

President Eichstadt appointed John Schierenbeck and Pastor Chad Seybt to represent the CLC. A meeting has been scheduled for December 20th, Lord willing. As always we pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal a unity of purpose and teaching. We shall see what this meeting leads to and are thankful for the opportunity to present God's Word and our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's Word does not return to him void but accomplishes his purposes even because of a pandemic.



**That All May
Know Him**

✝ **TODAY AT GRACE** ✝

Organist: **Sue Nelson**

Elder: **Dave Rust**

Ushers: **Gary Gunther; Bob Maki; Bill Rust; Jeff Stifter; Bob Vandever**

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

Church Cleaners: **Sydow**

School: **Nelson**

✝ **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** ✝

Ushers: **Gary Gunther; Bob Maki; Bill Rust; Jeff Stifter; Bob Vandever**

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

Church Cleaners: **D. Rust**

School: **Oman**

✝ **OUR SCHEDULE** ✝

Sun., Dec. 13: 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class

10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 3)

11:00-12:15 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal

3:00 pm – ILC Piano & Organ Recital

Wed., Dec. 16: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

7:00 pm – Candlelight Worship

Fri., Dec. 18: 7:00 pm – ILC Christmas Concert

Sun., Dec. 20: Bible Class cancelled

8:45 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal

10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 4)

12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Wed., Dec. 23: Grace School's Christmas Party

Grace School's Christmas Break Begins

Thu., Dec. 24: **CHRISTMAS EVE**

6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship

Fri., Dec. 25: **CHRISTMAS DAY**

10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship

Sun., Dec. 27: No Bible Class or Sunday School

10:00 am – Worship Service (Christmas 1)

Thu., Dec. 31: **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

7:00 pm – New Year's Eve Worship w/Lord's Supper

Sun., Jan. 3: 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class

10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper

Sun., Jan. 10: 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class

10:00 am – Worship Service

12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Sun., Jan. 17: Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings