

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)

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Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Transfiguration

Date: February 14, 2021

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 135: 'Tis Good, Lord, to be Here
WS 719: Jesus on the Mountain Peak
TLH 284: Father of Mercies, in Thy Word
TLH 657: Beautiful Savior

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 148, TLH p. 156f.

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)
Gloria: TLH 244:1,4

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 34:29-35
Mark 9:2-9

Sermon: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

¹² Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech-- ¹³ unlike Moses, *who* put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. ¹⁴ But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the *veil* is taken away in Christ. ¹⁵ But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. ¹⁶ Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. ^{4:1} Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. ² But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. (NKJVTM)

YES, THERE IS FREEDOM!

IN CHRIST, THE FACE COVERING IS LIFTED!

✠ *THE ANNOUNCEMENTS* ✠

COVID-19 Pre-Cautions: If anyone is high risk, vulnerable, recently exposed to a COVID-19 patient, or has symptoms of illness (esp. high temp. and cough), the individual along with any others in that person's household are urged to stay home for one's own well-being and the well-being of others. Online worship is still available at FridleyLutheran.org. Due to the Governor's 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.

- ➔ **Among Us:** We give thanks to our Great Physician that Barb Crandall, mother of Cindy Bruckbauer, continues to improve. She will receive treatment and rehabilitation for a few more weeks at Robbinsdale.
- ➔ **Midweek Lenten Services:** Our midweek services will begin this Wednesday, Feb. 17, 7 pm. The theme we will consider is, "The Lamb's Lenten Letters of Love," focusing on the letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2-3. According to the end of Revelation 1, Jesus is in the midst of His people, walking among them like a Shepherd inspecting His flock. He sees the fruit of the Spirit's work in most congregations. But He also sees weakness among some of His flocks. During Lent we see just how much Jesus loved His flocks which He "purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). Often it may seem that Jesus doesn't know what's going on in His flocks, perhaps even with the events of the past year. But Revelation 1-3 reminds us He is very much active and caring for His flocks. To Laodecia He says, "Whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent." That sets the stage for the series which will begin on Ash Wednesday.
- ➔ **Lenten Soup Suppers:** These would be at 6 pm each Wednesday. These gatherings are a way for people to eat between work and our Midweek Lenten worship services. The Elders have decided to continue this custom with some protocols. Family groups would be seated together and masks would be required when not eating. There is a sign-up sheet posted in the Fellowship Hall for those who are willing to provide soup and do setup and cleanup. Eli Wales is responsible for communicating to the hosts some of the expectations.
- ➔ **Basketball Tournament:** The annual tournament held at ILC in Eau Claire is cancelled this year.
- ➔ **Christ's Explorers Camp:** Holy Trinity of West Colombia, SC, is holding Christ's Explorers Camp for students entering grades 3-9. The camp will be held in Pigeon Forge, TN, from August 12-15, with the theme: "Fix your eyes on Christ." Cost is \$75, which includes all lodging, meals, and activities. This camp is limited to the first 50 campers, so be ready to register when registration opens on May 1. Please feel free to contact Sara Kloke at runsforfun@aol.com or Karen Howell kdhowell32@gmail.com for more information.
- ➔ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #8 – Sixth Commandment

CLC Financial Report - January

| CLC Financial Report Operating Funds | Balance 7/1/2020 | YTD Revenue | YTD Disbursed | Budget 7 Months | Balance 1/31/2021 |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| General Fund | 0 | 588,442 | 615,884 | 640,150 | - 27,442 |
| ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy) | 0 | 835,876 | 740,562 | 803,915 | 95,314 |
| Auxiliary Funds | | | | | |
| ILC Improvement Fund (IIF) | 201,448 | 15,251 | 124,243 | | 92,456 |
| ILC Building Projects (AC/Dorm) | 14,542 | 2,077,523 | 1,068,856 | | 1,023,209 |
| Mission Development Fund (MDF) | 84,054 | 145,828 | 109,222 | | 120,660 |
| Kinship | 86,093 | 109,788 | 79,517 | | 116,364 |
| Church Extension Fund (CEF) | 1,914,371 | 1,749,037 | 146,310 | | 3,517,098 |
| Student Aid Fund (SAF) | 84,280 | 80,082 | 79,673 | | 84,689 |
| Reserve Fund | 294,092 | 26,232 | 0 | | 320,324 |
| Total | \$2,678,880 | \$4,203,741 | \$1,607,821 | | \$5,274,800 |

General Fund – January offerings were \$91,588 vs disbursements of \$97,374, resulting in a net shortfall for the month of \$5,785, and increasing the General Fund deficit to -\$27,442. Offerings to date are falling short of our CBP estimates by \$51,708, but General Fund disbursements are \$24,266 less than budgeted expenses. While large special offerings have certainly been a blessing from the Lord for our General Fund Budget, let us not forget that Jesus called to the attention of His disciples the generosity of even the widow’s offering of 2 mites, noting that though it looked small, it was all she had, even all her livelihood! Jesus considers every offering of faith for His Kingdom work is “big.” Praise the Lord who moves hearts to consider His gracious blessings to them, both spiritual & material, and then to bring thank offerings of faith commensurate with the material resources He has entrusted to them. Then He blesses those resources of every size, for **the work of His Kingdom!**

ILC Operations – ILC revenue of \$140,602 (incl \$49,500 subsidy) vs disbursements of \$110,534. Seven months through the fiscal year, disbursements are \$63,000 below estimated annual needs.

ILC Building Projects – January offerings were \$850 vs disbursements of \$5,615 for the Building Planning Committee expenses. The Committee intends to present a recommendation for consideration by the June 24 CLC Convention for a new gym and to repurpose ILC’s 50-year-old gym for ILC chapels, band/choir practices, plays, musicals, and CLC Conventions & large gatherings.

CEF – January revenue was \$23,714 from CEF monthly loan repayments vs disbursements of \$3,780 in debt service & admin expenses. The \$3.5 million balance will fund several anticipated loans. In Feb \$100,000 (of a \$137,500 loan) goes to Grace-Sleepy Eye to purchase a teacherage.

MDF – January offerings of \$20,291 vs disbursements of \$12,019, which includes the 8th \$10,000 construction grant (of 12 planned) for the Nepal Bible Institute classroom. (Note: these are MDF grants for the projects, not loans, as previously reported.

IIF – January offerings of \$730 vs \$1,393 disbursements for more ILC building security updates.

Kinship – Congregation offerings of \$12,712 vs disbursements of \$18,545 (\$8,400 orphans; \$8,530 foreign seminary students; \$90 widows.

*“Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but to Your name give glory,
because of Your mercy, because of Your truth.” (Psalm 115:1)*

The Hidden God -- Wearing a Mask

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me? The Words which I speak to you I do not speak from myself. But the Father, who dwells in me, he does the works. John 14:10

Therefore, where you hear the gospel being rightly taught, or you see a person being baptized, the Sacrament being handed out or received, or one being absolved there you can boldly say "Today I have seen God's Word and work, yes, heard God himself and seen his preaching and Baptism. The tongue, voice, hands, etc., are of men, but the Word and office are actually the divine majesty itself." So it should also be observed and believed as if one heard God's voice ringing from heaven above, or saw his hands baptizing or giving out the sacrament so that one make no separation or distinction between God and his Word of Office given us through Christ, or seek God to think about him in any other way.

When we come up to heaven then we will see him otherwise without means and cover, but here on earth you will not see him or receive him with your senses or thoughts, but rather, as St. Paul says, we see him in a dark Word of a veiled image, namely in the Word and Sacraments. It is just as [if they were] his mask or clothing under which he is hidden. But he is present there without a doubt so that he himself does wonders, preaches, gives the Sacrament, comforts, strengthens and helps. And thus we see him, as one sees the sun behind the clouds. For now we could not stand to see the bright sight and glory of that majesty. So he must clothe and veil himself in that way, as behind thick clouds. So it is sure, that whoever wants to see and cling to both the Father and Christ, after he is revealed and sits in his majesty, he grasps him through the Word and the works that he does in Christianity through the preaching office and other stations. ...

Therefore, every one should guard himself against ever again inquiring after God with his own senses and thoughts, but rather learn only to fasten and cling to his Word and act and decide only on that basis so that he will not fail. Now don't pay attention to anything else but believe that I, for Christ's sake, forgive you all your sins and am gracious and upon this you are baptized. Be obedient to your mother and father and do what your office and station in life ask. Then you have everything including God. "Oh," you say, "is that called seeing and hearing God? I thought he was up there in heaven and that I had to have some special revelation from him." No, not so. Rather, if you want to meet him then first see him in the Word under his mask so that hereafter you will see him in his majesty. For he will not do anything special for you outside and against his command, which he has given in his Word.

CLC E-Devotion – February 9, 2021

Matthew 17:1-2 ... Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun,

The Lord Make His Face Shine Upon You!

The words above are very familiar. We hear them nearly every Sunday at the close of worship. They are the first words of the second part of the Aaronic Benediction. This blessing of God is not a mere wish. It is a word that is fully able to accomplish what it says. This happens if it is received by believing hearts. The LORD Himself creates such a reception within our hearts when He brings us to faith in Jesus our Savior.

So when these words of God are pronounced, we need to pay close attention, that we might receive them with a believing heart. A picture or visual remembrance can help us focus on the meaning of a particular word or phrase. And that's exactly what we find provided by our Savior on the Mount of Transfiguration - a scene that fills the Benediction words "make his face shine upon you" with power and meaning.

There on the mountain the fact that Jesus is the eternal Son of God come into human flesh is wonderfully made evident by the glory of the Lord shining through His human nature. Surely this was one of the scenes that the Apostle John (who was there) had in mind when He wrote of Jesus (John 1:14):

... the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

It is significant that Jesus' Transfiguration occurred only six months before His Crucifixion. The Son of God became the Son of Man in order to lay down His life for us on the cross. Only the Son of God was able to bridge the gap between us sinners and the Father by atoning for all our guilt - standing in for us by offering up His perfect Life in our place. In Jesus' face shining with divine glory we see that He is truly the eternal Son of the Father, the Son of God come for our salvation.

May we never forget exactly who it was that went to the cross for us. And when we hear the words "The Lord make His face shine upon you" may we also remember that the blessings of the benediction are secured for us by the Son of God made man.

*Once, upon a mountain sacred,
God in glory did appear,
As our Lord did shine so brightly,
Like the sun on earth so dear.
Can it be? Oh, praise the story:
God as man dwelt with us here!*

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: **Jan Davis**

Elder: **Dave Rust**

Ushers: **Brian Eichstadt; Alex Baker; Kevin Baker; Dan Degnan; Ryan Oman; Eli Wales**

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

Church Cleaners: **Wales**

School: **Vandevээр**

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: **Brian Eichstadt; Alex Baker; Kevin Baker; Dan Degnan; Ryan Oman; Eli Wales**

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

Church Cleaners: **Anderson**

School: **Vandevээр**

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

- Sun., Feb. 14:** 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class
12:00 am – Worship Service (Transfiguration)
12:00 pm – Council Meeting
- Mon., Feb. 15:** No School – President’s Day
- Wed., Feb. 17:** **ASH WEDNESDAY**
4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
6:00 pm – Lenten Soup Supper
7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship w/Lord’s Supper
- Sun., Feb. 21:** 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Lent 1)
- Wed., Feb. 24:** 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
6:00 pm – Lenten Soup Supper
7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship Service
- Sun., Mar. 28:** **PALM SUNDAY**
- Thu., Apr. 1:** **MAUNDY THURSDAY** (no worship service)
- Fri., Apr. 2:** **GOOD FRIDAY**
7:00 pm – Good Friday Worship Service
- Sun., Apr. 4:** **EASTER**
7:30 am – Easter Breakfast (Elders Yet to Discuss)
9:00 am – Easter Festival Worship Service

Last Week’s Stats: Feb. 7, 2021 Sun.: 59 Bible Cl.: 31 S.S.: 12 Wed.: 21

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|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|---------|
| Sun. Offering: | Grace: | \$4,109 | CLC: | \$565 |
| Weekly Need: | Grace: | 4,125 | CLC: | 1,000 |
| -Under / +Over: | Grace: | -16 | CLC: | -435 |
| Year-to-Date Offering: | Grace: | \$18,677 | CLC: | \$3,995 |
| Year-to-Date Need: | Grace: | 24,750 | CLC: | 6,000 |
| Year-to-Date (+/-) | Grace: | -6,073 | CLC: | -2,005 |
| GLC Other: 301 | Living Faith: 0 | Tuition Aid: 50 | | |
| SAF Endowment: 100 | MDF: 0 | Kinship: 0 | | |
| ILC Student Aid: 0 | ILC Bldg. 0 | IIF: 0 | CEF: 0 | |
| Current Balances: | Tuition Aid: | \$3,243 | | |