

# Grace Lutheran Church & School



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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-8<sup>th</sup>

**Church Year:** Pentecost 18

**Date:** September 22, 2024

## ✠ **WORSHIP INFORMATION** ✠

### **Hymns:**

TLH 428: I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus  
TLH 396: Oh, for a Faith That Will Not Shrink  
TLH 402: O God, Forsake Me Not  
TLH 410: Jesus, Lead Thou On

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

### **Worship Prep:**

Psalms 31, TLH p. 130

### **Liturgy:**

TLH p. 5 (Projected)  
Gloria: TLH 239:1,4

### **Scripture Readings:**

Jeremiah 11:18-20  
James 3:13-18

### **Sermon: Mark 9:14-27**

<sup>14</sup> And when [Jesus] came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. <sup>15</sup> Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. <sup>16</sup> And He asked the scribes, "What are you discussing with them?" <sup>17</sup> Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. <sup>18</sup> "And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." <sup>19</sup> He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." <sup>20</sup> Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup> So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. <sup>22</sup> "And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes." <sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" <sup>25</sup> When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" <sup>26</sup> Then *the spirit* cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." <sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

## **Lord, I Believe; Help My Unbelief!**

## ✝ **THE ANNOUNCEMENTS** ✝

- ➔ **New Address:** Jane Englehorn; 4889 Old Hwy 8, Apt. #229; Mounds View, MN 55112-1528
- ➔ **Installation:** Grace Lutheran of Sleepy Eye, MN, wishes for you to join them in giving thanks to the Lord of the Church for the gift of their next pastor, Zachary Sippert. He will be installed on September 29 at 3:30 pm at Grace. Prof. Steve Sippert will be preaching and a luncheon will follow. For planning purposes of the meal, please let Pastor Pfeiffer (revpfei@gmail.com) know if you plan to attend.
- ➔ **Anniversary:** Zion Lutheran Church of Hidewood Township, SD, is celebrating their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. They will be celebrating on Sunday, October 13, 11 am, with former pastor Andrew Schaller as guest speaker. The service will be followed by a planned meal. Visitors are welcome -- for planning purposes, please let us know you are coming. Pastor Paul Krause (parsonpaulkrause@gmail.com)
- ➔ **MN Reformation Service:** This is being planned but is scheduled for Sun., October 27, 4 pm, at Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN.
- ➔ **Rise & Shine Retreat Revival:** An interest has been expressed to revive the 'Rise & Shine Retreat,' geared toward young adults of the CLC, particularly those in their 20's and 30's. What we are currently seeking are individuals who would like to help coordinate and plan such a retreat. Those interested, please contact Bethanie Gantt (715-577-8807) or Pastor Frank Gantt (470-214-3401/ pastorfrankgantt@gmail.com).
- ➔ **CLC News:** Pastor Timothy Daub of Prince of Peace Lutheran in Hecla, SD, has received the call to Faith Lutheran in Manchester, MO (St. Louis area). ✝ Pastor Daub has also received the call to serve as Vacancy Pastor of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran in Bowdle, SD. ✝ Pastor Tom Schuetze of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran in Denver, CO, has received and accepted the call to serve as Vacancy Pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran in Loveland, CO, following Pastor Timothy Wheaton's retirement on Sept. 29.
- ➔ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #2 – Luther's Morning Prayer

*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!*

## **CLC Financial Report - August 2024**

<b>Operating Funds</b>	<b>Balance 7/1/2024</b>	<b>YTD Revenue</b>	<b>YTD Disbursed</b>	<b>Budget 2 Months</b>	<b>Balance 8/31/2024</b>
General Fund	0	175,031	201,590	218,830	(26,559)
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	358,858	245,953	287,350	112,905
<b>Auxiliary Funds</b>					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	110,979	6,950	53,954		63,975
ILC Building Projects	1,560,282	90,874	0		1,651,156
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	120,784	27,708	19,341		129,151
Kinship	169,884	22,411	25,273		167,022
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	2,684,208	158,061	10,356		2,831,913
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	117,317	16,335	44,429		89,223
EduK8 Fund	47,692	7,003	0		54,695
Reserve Fund	79,964	698	0		80,662
<b>Auxiliary Funds Totals</b>	<b>\$4,891,110</b>	<b>\$330,040</b>	<b>\$153,353</b>		<b>\$5,067,797</b>

**General Fund** – Compared to a year ago, contributions through August are down about \$20,000 and expenditures up about \$11,000. Thus, the General Fund has a negative balance compared to a small positive balance at this time last year.

**ILC Operations** – Revenue is up almost \$20,000 over the same period as last year and disbursements down about \$35,000. The result is a much higher balance than last year.

**ILC Improvement Fund** – Most of the amount spent out of this fund was for the work this summer to remodel the teacherage for the new Professor.

**ILC Building Projects** – Most of this revenue is market value gain on the investment. Contributions to the fund were just under \$20,000 of the total.

**Church Extension Fund** – Here too, most of the revenue, over \$70,000, was gain in the market value of the investments, with the remainder from congregation payments on their loans.

**Other Auxiliary Funds** – The activity in the other funds in the table above is very similar to the activity in the same period a year ago.

*Stephen R. Lentz, CLC Treasurer*

*Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees*



# The Truth

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**Note:** The following email was sent to CLC pastors this week by Pastor Emeritus Vance Fossum who is a member in our congregation at West Columbia, SC. While the email refers to the original language of the New Testament text, which is in Greek, the essence of this message applies to us all.

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Dear Brothers of “The Truth,”

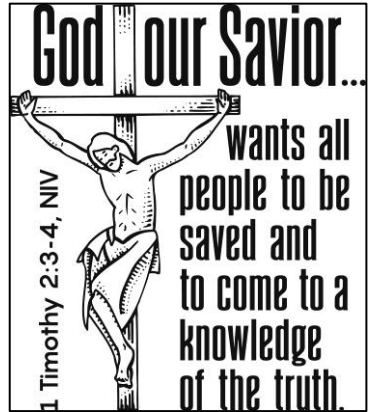
As we all know, “The Truth” in its fullest biblical sense has never come from man to God, but always and only from God to man. In Eden, the insidious intent of the “Father of Lies” was to get Eve to leave The Truth of God’s word/command. Believing the lie, Eve struck out on her own – seeking her own truth. She “saw” that the tree was “good for food” and a “*delight*” to *her own eyes*. Seeking her own truth, she concluded that the tree was “to be desired to make one wise.” (ESV) By heeding his wife rather than holding to “The Truth” God had spoken, Adam also sought his own truth in eating the forbidden fruit.

The immediate result of The Fall in Eden was separation from God; Adam and Eve knew sin, but they no longer knew Him as He wished to be known. Although many have yearned to know the true God since then, none can know Him by nature, even with the testimony about God in nature. God graciously sent His Son – The Divine LOGOS (Word) – into the world to reveal “The Truth” again to man.

In testifying to Pilate concerning the nature of His kingdom, Jesus said: “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I have come into the world – to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” (John 18:37, ESV) Pilate then asked, “What is truth,” because “The

Truth” was not known to him. Even though he knew what was true about Jesus – that He was innocent – Pilate finally gave in to the demands of the Jewish leaders. Effectively, he went against the voice of His conscience and chose *his own truth* to please the Jews.

Are the words of a father to his son in Shakespeare’s “Hamlet” – “To thine own self be true” – an encouragement to act on the basis of one’s conscience? Or do they mean “be true to you” in the sense of acting on the basis of what is good for *you* according to *your own truth*? Whatever the



old Bard meant, “truth” is still variously defined by natural man according to his own subjective sense of what seems good to him and for him. This becomes right and real, particularly when the voice of conscience is silenced. No matter how wrong, whatever “feels so good must be right,” to paraphrase a popular song.

For many years we have heard Satan’s parrots in the high places of humanism declare that there is no such thing as “Absolute Truth.” Small wonder so many people who think they are “in the know” proudly assert that they are following their *own truth* – “You have *your truth*, and I have *mine!*” And so it will be said until the end of time.

On the night of Jesus’ betrayal, He did not speak to His disciples about “truth” as if it were something relative, that can be twisted this way or that in order to justify *any and all* immoral behavior, contrary to God’s Word/commands. He said: “I AM The Way, *The Truth*, and The Life; no one comes unto the Father but by Me.” (John 14:6) A few minutes later, Jesus promised “another Helper” to encourage and comfort them and *all believers* to the end of time, “even the Spirit of *The Truth*.” (John 14:15-17)



The point of taking so much of your time in your busy ministry of God’s saving Word, is that His Word is timeless. Jesus, the Word made flesh is “the same Yesterday, today, and forever. And while there are many false “spirits” teaching and believing many “truths,” there is only one Holy Spirit, and He is “the Spirit of *The Truth*” – the One prayed for by the Son and given by the Father to reveal “*The Truth*” to the hearts of sinful man through His God-breathed Word. You will notice, or have noticed, that the definite article in the genitive case is in the Greek but is not translated in our English versions! There is no textual problem here. One or two translations offer an interpretation. I hope we will not miss the clear emphasis of the article in our teaching of these verses of John’s Gospel, as he was “carried along” to write what he did by the Holy Spirit of “*The Truth*.”

SANCTIFY THEM IN THE TRUTH; **YOUR WORD IS TRUTH.**  
JOHN 17:17

# ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: **Jan Davis**

Elder: **Frank Radichel**

Ushers: **Gary Gunther; Daniel Hein; Bob Maki; Bill Rust; David Stifter; Jeff Stifter; Joel Stifter**

Counting Team 3: **Duane Enns; Tom Graham; Kevin Hulke; Dan Degnan; Benno Sydow**

Church Cleaners: **R. & H. Nelson** School: **Baker**

# ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: **Gary Gunther; Daniel Hein; Bob Maki; Bill Rust; David Stifter; Jeff Stifter; Joel Stifter**

Counting Team 4: **Gary Gunther; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust**

Church Cleaners: **R. & H. Nelson** School: **Gilmore**

# ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠



**Sun., Sept. 22:** 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School  
10:00 am – Worship (Pentecost 18)

**Sun., Sept. 29:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School  
10:00 am – Worship (Pentecost 19)

**Mon., Sept. 30:** 7:00 pm – Grace School's Parent Night

**Wed., Oct. 2:** Grace School's Field Trip to Springbrook Nature Center

**Sun., Oct. 6:** 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School  
10:00 am – Worship w/Lord's Supper (Pentecost 20)  
11:00 am – Hospitality (Team 1)

**Oct. 6-8:** Minnesota Pastoral Conference

**Oct. 7-11:** Parent/Teacher Conferences as Privately Arranged

**Sun., Oct. 13:** Mission Festival (Guest Speaker: Pastor Delwyn Maas)  
9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School  
10:00 am – Worship (Mission Festival)  
11:00 am – Mission Festival Potluck (Committee #2 Hosts)

**Oct. 16-18:** Grace School Fall Break – CLC Teachers' Conf. (Okabena, MN)

**Sun., Oct. 27:** 4:00 pm – MN Join Reformation Service (Mankato, MN)

**Last Week's Stats:** Sept. 15, 2024 Sun.: 81 S.S.: 10 B.Cl.: 27

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,891	CLC:	\$405
Weekly Need (est.):	Grace:	4,900	CLC:	1,135
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-2,009	CLC:	-730
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$177,239	CLC:	\$42,880
Year-to-Date Need (est.):	Grace:	181,300	CLC:	41,995
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-4,061	CLC:	+885
GLC Other:	7	Living Faith:	0	Tuition Aid: 550 Sanctuary: 0
SAF Endowment:	0	MDF:	0	Kinship: 140 EduK8: 0
ILC Student Aid:	0	ILC Bldg.	0	IIF: 0 CEF: 0
Current Balances:	Tuition Aid: \$5,127		Sanctuary: \$7,395	