

Click here to open service web page for: 2015/03/15/

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Brandt Wendland

Ushers: Don Auel, Ole Olmanson, Adam Wales, Eli Wales,
Brandon Wendland, Brandt Wendland

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

Hospitality Team 5: Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick;
Frank & Ann Radichel

Church Cleaners: Oman School: None

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Don Auel, Ole Olmanson, Adam Wales, Eli Wales,
Brandon Wendland, Brandt Wendland

Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack
Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Brandt Wendland

Hospitality Team 6: Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian &
Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt & Teresa Wendland

Church Cleaners: Oman School: DeBoer

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Mar. 15: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality

Mon., Mar. 16: No School

Wed., Mar. 18: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
6:00 pm – Lenten Soup Supper
7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship Service

Sun., Mar. 22: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service; 11:15 am – Hospitality

Wed., Apr. 1: 7:00 pm: Grace School Fair

Fri., Apr. 3: 7:00 pm – Good Friday Worship w/ Lord's Supper

Sun., Apr. 5: 7:30 am – Easter Breakfast; 9:00 am – Easter Worship

Last Week's Stats: Mar. 8, 2015 Sun.: 117 S.S.: 14 B.Cl.: 38 Wed.: 76

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,115.54	CLC:	\$665.00	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	\$509.83	CLC:	\$440.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,340.00	CLC:	1,060.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-714.63	CLC:	+45.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$31,549.51	CLC:	\$8,768.70	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	33,400.00	CLC:	10,600.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-1,850.49	CLC:	-1,831.30	
GLC Other:	530.75	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	320.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	150.00	Kinship:	100.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	50.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	+4,735.00	Tuition Aid:	+494.12

Grace Lutheran Church & School



A Bronze
Serpent
Saves the
Israelites

Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432



Email: jphein@clclutheran.com

Home Page: www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.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: Lent 4

Date: March 15, 2015

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 245: God Loved the World So that He Gave

TLH 171, st. 1,6-9: Upon the Cross Extended

TLH 394: My Faith Looks Up to Thee

TLH 179: On My Heart Imprint Thine Image

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 38, TLH p. 132

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

TLH 377, st. 10

Scripture Readings:

John 3:14-21

Passion Account

Sermon: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For *there is* no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." ⁶So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. ⁷Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸Then the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery *serpent*, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived. (NKJVTM)

Solution to the Stinging Snakebite

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Midweek Lenten Services:** Our midweek services continue this Wednesday at 7 pm, with the theme "Gratitude for God's Geographic Grace," looking at God's promises based on features of geography used in the Bible. A soup supper will be held at 6 pm before worship.
- ◆ **Good Friday:** On April 3, at 7:00 pm, we will be holding our Good Friday service. The Lord's Supper will also be celebrated. The Day our Savior died is very precious for us as redeemed sinners. Let's honor it by pondering His profound love for us.
- ◆ **Easter Day:** Easter is on Sunday, April 5. We will be having the Easter breakfast at 7:30 am, followed by the Easter worship service at 9:00 am. What an opportunity we have to gather in worship on the day we commemorate our Lord's glorious resurrection from the dead! There is a signup sheet for those willing to help at the breakfast.
- ◆ **Easter Plants:** Anyone wishing to purchase an Easter lily or decorative plant for the altar, please sign up on the sheet by the guest book. They will be purchased and arranged for you on Easter Sunday. If you have any questions, please speak with Jackie Radichel.
- ◆ **School Science Fair:** On Wed., April 1, at 7 pm, the children of our Day School will be presenting a science fair. Each child will have a booth and will make an individual presentation. Come and support our school!
- ◆ **Wedding Invitation:** An invitation to the Christina Hein/Tim Schaser wedding at 5:30 pm on Fri., Apr. 17 is posted on the bulletin board.
- ◆ **Summer Youth Camp 2015:** Just a quick reminder that registration for Summer Youth Camp 2015 is open! Camp takes place on the campus of Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. Camp is for children going into grades 5-9. Cost is \$125 per camper. Only the July 19-25 session is open. For more info about camp, FAQs, and a longer explanation of how the registration process will work please go to youthcamp.clclutheran.net. Please address any specific questions to one of the camp directors: Tom Naumann (920-266-5387 thomasjnaumann@gmail.com) and Jessica Sydow (952-905-9981 jessicasydow10@gmail.com).
- ◆ **CLC News:** Teacher Jennifer Ohlmann of Luther Memorial in Fond du Lac, WI, has received the call to Gethsemane in Spokane Valley, WA. ✠ Pastor Edward Starkey, missionary to India, has accepted the call to Resurrection in Corpus Christi, TX.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #20 – Third Article

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 Pastor Hein. He would be delighted to visit with you!

CLC FINANCIAL REPORT February 2015

<i>CLC Financial Report</i>	Balance	Year to Date	Year to Date	FY 2015 Budget	Balance
Operating Funds	7/1/2014	Revenue	Disbursed	8 Months	2/28/2015
General Fund	0	611,450	577,097	\$602,667	34,353
ILC Operations	0	981,458	852,080	\$898,000	129,378
Total	\$0	\$1,592,908	\$1,429,177	\$1,500,667	\$163,731
Auxiliary Funds					
IIF - ILC Improvement	67,647	13,324	64,245		16,726
ILC Building	14,168	75,339	63,872		25,635
MDF - Mission Development	190,077	124,089	222,478		91,688
Kinship	59,320	50,949	50,372		59,897
CEF - Church Extension Fund	1,624,476	703,858	1,034,002		1,294,332
SAF - Student Aid	19,672	109,311	128,763		220
Reserve Account	89,769	0	0		89,769

ILC Academic Center Mortgage		
Beginning Balance:	January 1, 2010	\$1,751,804
Current Balance:	February 28, 2015	\$1,424,888
Principal Paid to Date:		\$326,916

Comments:

- General Fund offerings in February were \$52,523
- The General Fund disbursements were \$60,425 leaving a balance of \$34,353
- ILC balance at end of February is good at \$129,378 partially due to underspending of the budget
- Offerings for the ILC Academic Center were \$3,398 and the monthly payment is \$7,984 therefore the balance was reduced to \$25,635
- MDF expenditures for February were \$4,035 with the primary item being the support of \$1,950 for the Appleton, WI mission
- Note that the Student Aid fund balance is only \$220 at the end of February
- There were no expenditures from the IIF in February

Dr. James A. Sydow, CLC Treasurer
Philip E. Radichel, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

CLC E-Devotion – Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Luke 23:33 When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals -- one on his right, the other on his left.

THE NAILS OF HIS CROSS

They nailed Christ to His cross -- the cruel hammer-blows echoing between Calvary's hill and the walls of Jerusalem. Travelers on the nearby roads turned, some wincing, some asking, "Who is being executed?"

Another related question is raised almost every Lenten season. "Who was responsible for Jesus' crucifixion? For this cruel nailing?" Shall we blame the executioner who drove the nails? Or the centurion in charge of the detail? Or Pontius Pilate? Or the Jewish leaders who inflamed the mob to pressure the procurator?

Plainly, no one person, no one sin is responsible. It is the doing of many, this nailing up of the Son of God. Including those standing at the foot of the cross -- and those unconcernedly going about their business in the city or town where you live.

Annas and Caiphas, Pilate and the soldiers, Peter and the apostles. They were guilty of selfishness, pride and envy, of hatred, cruelty, slander and greed, of thoughtlessness and disloyalty. But you and I are well aware that it was not only the sins of people long ago which nailed Christ to His cross. There are also people responsible on the street where you live, in the house you call home.

"Ah! I also and my sin wrought Thy deep affliction.
This indeed the cause hath been of Thy crucifixion."

Jesus suffered and died to atone for our sins too. Our sins also were the nails of His cross. The thought is terrible and true. Yet the cross of Christ does not fill us with despair and terror. Instead of shuddering "We sing the praise of Him who died, Of Him who died upon the tree." Here we see that God is love, Christ bears our sins -- brings us mercy from above.

As Christ's people we glory in the cross of Christ -- yet NEVER in our sins which put Him on it. We celebrate His love, not our lust; His willing sacrifice, not our wayward sinfulness. Rather we loathe those sins of ours that made the bloody death of Jesus an awful necessity. As soon as we recognize ourselves in the sinners who appear in the Passion History, we turn away from and strive against those sins which ever threaten to take over heart and life, and to separate us from Christ our Lord.

In this way too We LIVE the praise of Him who died upon the tree.

WHO IS GOD?

Ever since the fall into sin, idolatry consumes the ungodly, and is a temptation to which even Christians succumb. As a common sin of the flesh, it manifests itself in various forms. Believers in Christ are exhorted “Therefore put to death *your members which are on the earth (what is earthly in you)*: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry” (Colossians 3:5).

Who God is is not an idle question. An idol is anything or person whom man loves and/or worships more than the true God, or in whom he places his trust more than in the true God. In making the point we wish to make we will dismiss the fool of which Scripture speaks, “The fool has said in his heart, ‘there is no God.’ They are corrupt ...” (Psalm 14:1). Since the fall into sin, every religion apart from Christianity has manufactured its own god. They are gods of men’s mind, imagination, and invention whose followers have tried to dethrone the true God Who has revealed himself both in nature (natural knowledge of God—Romans 1:18-20) as well as by revelation in Scripture (revealed knowledge of God—John 5:39). Through Moses on Sinai God said, “You shall have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:3). John exhorts, “Little children, keep yourselves from idols” (1 John 5:21); Paul wrote, “Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry” (1 Corinthians 10:14).

WHO IS GOD? God revealed Himself as the Triune God—one God, yet in the Godhead three separate and distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Numbers 6:24-26, Matthew 3:16-17, Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14). As we study Scripture we understand what God says. However, because of the depth of the mystery which is the Trinity we cannot comprehend the “how” of it. If we could we would be God. We accept through faith what the world declares unbelievable! The Christian Church confesses its faith concerning God in the three Creeds—the Apostolic, the Nicene, and the Athanasian. These creeds reflect the witness of Scripture, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord, our God, is one Lord” (Deuteronomy 6:4), and further bear witness to Scripture which teaches that there are not three Gods, but one God: “There is none other God but one” (1 Corinthians 8:4). The God of Scripture is eternal, unchangeable omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. He is holy, just, fair, faithful, and merciful. He is the God Who was, Who is, and ever shall be!

GOD THE FATHER: While in the unity of the Trinity the three persons are equal in every manner and attribute, Scripture ascribes creation chiefly to the Father. In that sense God is the Father of creation. But in a specific sense He is first of all the Father of Jesus. As Jesus humbled himself unto death in the Garden of Gethsemane, He called on the “Father.” On Calvary He declared from the cross, “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34), and again, “Father, into your hands I commit My spirit” (Luke 23:46). Jesus’ acknowledgment witnessed to the relationship testified to at His baptism when the Father spoke from heaven, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

God is the Father of all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. “You are all the sons (children) of God through faith in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:27). As children of God we are privileged to pray, “Our Father which art in heaven.” We acknowledge with John, “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God ...” (1 John 3:1). Isaiah testified to the blessing that is every believers, “You, O Lord, are our Father; our Redeemer from Everlasting is Your name” (Isaiah 63:16). Scripture abounds with references to God as Father, our Father. The Father compares His love to that of an earthly father for his children. “As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him” (Psalm 103:13).

GOD THE SON: Jesus “is of the Father alone, not made nor created, but begotten” (Athanasian Creed). Without the Son nothing was made that was made (John 1:3). In the uniqueness of the Trinity Jesus said of His relationship to the Father, “I and My Father are one” (John 10:30). Yet at Jesus baptism the Father said, “This is My beloved Son. In whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17). To the Father in heaven He said in His high priestly prayer, “Father, Your hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that your Son may also glorify You” (John 17:1). The inspired Word recorded by the apostle Paul speaks of the “Son Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 1:3), and how He was “declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:4).

God the Father sent His Son into the world to redeem the world from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Since the time of the apostles, Christians have confessed: “I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick (living) and the dead” (Apostolic Creed). Jesus and the Father are one; yet the Father did not die on the cross. The Son died on the cross. “And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son” (1 John 5:11).

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12). How rich is that passage for believers in Christ. Jesus is the Son of God. We are children of God through faith in Jesus. Jesus is our brother!

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT: The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding” (Athanasian Creed). In the Nicene Creed we confess that the Holy Ghost is “The Lord and Give of Life.” He was active at the creation (Genesis 1:2). The Spirit was instrumental in the transmission of God’s Word to the holy writers, “Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:21). The Holy Ghost works through the Means of Grace to convert the heart from unbelief to faith apart from which there is no salvation. “No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost” (1 Corinthians 12:3). We are saved “by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost” (Titus 3:5). “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13).

The Spirit of God through the Gospel sanctifies us, that is, He gives us a new heart from which grows fruits of faith to the glory of God and the praise of His grace.

Finally we confess that it is the Spirit of God who “calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith” (Third article).

“Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and His Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last;’ Besides me there is no God” (Isaiah 44:6)

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost—one God in three persons, blessed Trinity! “This is the catholic (Christian) faith; which except a man believe faithfully and firmly, he cannot be saved” (Athanasian Creed).