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✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson Elder: Brandt Wendland

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

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

Counting Team 4: Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave
Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner; Chad Hestekin

Hospitality Team 1: Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice
Sandhoefner

Church Cleaners: Kanneh School: Flesner

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Mar. 22: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class

10:00 am – Worship Service

11:15 am – Hospitality

Wed., Mar. 25: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

6:00 pm – Lenten Soup Supper

7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship Service

Sun., Mar. 29: **Palm Sunday**

8:30 am – Choir Practice

9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class

10:00 am – Worship Service w/CDS mini-concert

11:15 am – Hospitality

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

Fri., Apr. 3: **Good Friday**

7:00 pm – Good Friday Worship w/ Lord's Supper

Sun., Apr. 5: **Easter**

7:30 am – Easter Breakfast

9:00 am – Easter Worship

Sun., Apr. 12: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class

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

11:15 am – Hospitality

Fri., Apr. 17: 5:30 pm – Hein/Schaser Wedding

Sun., Apr. 19: Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

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)

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Church Year: Lent 5

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: March 22, 2015

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

WS 722: Deep Were His Wounds

TLH 172, st. 1-5: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

TLH 153: Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

TLH 151, st. 2,4: Christ, the Life of All the Living

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 143, TLH p. 155

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

TLH 331, st. 7-8

Scripture Readings:

Hebrews 5:7-9

Passion Account

Sermon: Matthew 27:27-30

²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. ²⁸And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. ²⁹When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put *it* on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. (NKJVTM)

Victim of Cruel Abuse

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Midweek Lenten Service:** Our midweek Lenten services conclude this Wed. at 7 pm, with the theme “Gratitude for God’s Geographic Grace.” 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. If you have any questions, please speak with Jackie Radichel.
- ◆ **Liberia Collection:** Alvin Jask is sending another collection to Liberia. Please bring any books or other learning materials next Sunday, March 29. He is also looking for children’s shoes.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Field Day:** Joelle Nelson of Berea is organizing this year’s field day with various CLC Day Schools, held on Fri., May 8, 9 am to 4 pm. If you are interested in helping, contact her at joelleroo@yahoo.com
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Roland Gurgel of Bethel in Spring, TX (Houston area), has received the call to Bethel in Morris, MN. † Pastor Andrew Schaller of Trinity in Watertown, SD, and Zion in Hidewood Township, SD, has accepted the call to Calvary in Marquette, MI.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #21 – Third Article

Last Week’s Stats: Mar. 15, 2015 Sun.: 96 S.S.: 15 B.Cl.: 46 Wed.: 70

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,951.59	CLC:	\$420.00	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	\$526.25	CLC:	\$100.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,340.00	CLC:	1,060.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+137.84	CLC:	-540.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$35,027.35	CLC:	\$9,288.70	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	36,740.00	CLC:	11,660.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-1,712.65	CLC:	-2,371.30	
GLC Other:	310.25	Living Faith:	25.00	Tuition Aid:	25.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	55.00	Kinship:	0.00
ILC Student Aid:	60.00	ILC Bldg.	200.00	IIF: 20.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	+4,860.00	Tuition Aid:	+519.12

The Blessings of Christ’s Cross by C.F.W. Walther

The crucifixion, which ended with the triumphant cry, “It is finished” (John 19:30), was the offering of the all-sufficient sacrifice for the atonement of all sinners. The Man on the cross was the Lamb of God, who bears the sins of the world to carry them away from the face of God. The salvation of the whole world once hung by those three nails of the cross on Golgotha. As the fruit from the wood of the forbidden tree from which the first man once ate brought sin, death, and damnation upon the entire human race, so the fruits of the wood of the cross restored righteousness, life, and blessedness to all people.

On account of this, the cross is both holy and blessed! Once nothing but a dry piece of wood, it was changed, like Aaron’s staff, into a green branch full of heavenly blossoms and fruit. Once an instrument of torment for the punishment of sinners, it now shines in heavenly splendor for all sinners as a sign of grace. Once the wood of the curse, it has now become, after the Promised Blessing for all people offered Himself up on it, a tree of blessing, an altar of sacrifice for the atonement, and a sweet-smelling aroma to God. Today, the cross is still a terror – but only to hell. It shines upon its ruins as a sign of victory over sin, death, and Satan. With a crushed head, the serpent of temptation lies at the foot of the cross. It is a picture of eternal comfort upon which the dimming eye of the dying longingly looks, the last anchor of his hope and the only light that shines in the darkness of death. (C. F. W. Walther, *God Grant It*, translated by Gerhard Grabenhofer, pp. 838-839, 2006 CPH)

The Key to Happiness in 2015

If you made a list of New Year’s Resolutions for 2015, you might consider adding “going to church”! According to a new study by the Austin Institute for the Study of Family and Culture, a strong correlation exists between a commitment to faith and personal happiness.

The study found that people who attend weekly religious services are almost twice as likely (45%) to describe themselves as “very happy” than people who do not attend religious services (28%).

A study conducted ten years ago by the University of Chicago, The General Social Survey, generated similar results, so this isn’t really news. In that study, a sampling of Americans were asked, “Would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy?” Religious people were more than twice as likely as non-religious people to say they were “very happy” (43%-21%). Those who never attend religious services were overwhelmingly more likely to say they were not happy (21%-8%).

In a slightly less formal survey conducted at Allied Faith & Family offices around the country, we found that people who took in the most Faith & Family entertainment were more likely to be in a great mood and spread that mood to others. –*Allied Faith & Family*

BEARING THE CROSS

Jesus Bore the Cross: The instrument of His death and our victory

After the sentencing of Jesus by Pilate “when they had come to a place called Calvary, there they crucified Him ...” (Luke 23:33)

The Jewish leaders delivered Jesus to Pilate because they did not have the authority to pronounce the death penalty (John 18:31). Further, while Deuteronomy 21 speaks of hanging, and Paul writes in context of our redemption in Christ, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree” (3:13), crucifixion was not a Jewish manner of punishment. The Jewish historian, Josephus, spoke of crucifixion as an act of unusual punishment.

“Crucifixion did not begin with the Romans, but it was a method of execution that had developed centuries earlier in the ancient near East. The Medes and the Persians practiced this gruesome torture method as well as the Carthaginians and the Egyptians, and later it was adopted among the Greeks and finally the Romans in the first century. Crucifixion was mentioned in history from about the 6th century BC to the 4th century AD.” It appears that Constantine ended this means of punishment.

Crucifixion was reserved for slaves and extreme criminals, political or religious agitators, pirates, or those who had no civil rights, though rarely if ever was a Roman citizen crucified since it was against Roman law.

In practice the condemned went to the site of crucifixion carrying his own cross with a crier preceding him crying out the crime for which he was dying. The criminal carried only the crossbeam (50-100 lbs.) which was then placed upon a vertical pole that was permanently anchored. Scripture tells us that Jesus carried his own cross (John 19:17). Whether the weight of what Jesus carried was the whole cross (as is generally depicted) or just the beam, the real weight He bore was far heavier than the cross. He bore the sins of the whole world as He went, knowing that at the end of road He would suffer the reality of being forsaken by his Father in heaven, and die on the cross. *

To fully appreciate what occurred, detach yourself from the raw emotion of witnessing such a cruel spectacle. Let your emotion not be over the sight of the suffering Savior, but rather over the fact that it is your sin that brought this sharp sentence upon Him. Jesus himself told the women who wept along the way not to weep for Him, but for themselves (Luke 23:28). The sinner cannot escape the wrath to come, except he repent of his sins, turn to the Savior in faith, and acknowledge with thankful heart that what He bore He bore for us, and further then believe that what He bore has removed the curse and punishment of sin that we deserved. Jesus carried the cross of His physical demise. That cross on which He died became the cross of victory to all who believe in Him.

There is another compelling picture of the walk to Calvary. They laid hold of Simon, a Cyrenian, a native of Africa “and on him they laid the cross that He might bear it after Jesus” (Luke 23:26). Where was Peter? Where were the other disciples? A stranger was conscripted to carry the cross of the Savior. Would Simon have traveled that way had he known what would happen to him? We don’t know. We are told that he was “compelled” (Matthew 27:32) to carry the cross, no doubt by the soldiers. But may we be so bold as to believe that there was an inner compulsion when he saw the suffering Savior bear His burden? How deeply Jesus humbled himself! As Jesus humbled himself and stumbled under the weight of all that He bore, we are comforted in our weakness in knowing that we have a High Priest Who is touched with the feeling of our infirmity (Hebrews 4:15). He knows our frame. He knows that we are dust. He is our Immanuel (God with us) to bear us up!

We bear the cross: A witness of our faith

Jesus said, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me” (Matthew 16:24). Christ bore the cross to the death for our life and salvation. By the Spirit we have been drawn to that cross of victory. With the victory in hand through faith, may we dare to die!

We speak of crosses in our life. Sickness, trial, affliction, loss of job, loneliness, all these and other things of life we are accustomed to call crosses. No question they are burdens to bear, burdens which our Lord will help us to bear according to His promises. But the cross of which the Savior speaks in Matthew is not such. The cross we are to bear is *the cross of suffering for the sake of Christ and the Gospel*.

As confessors of the Savior we are called to follow in the train of the apostles who bore the cross through their ministry, to the loss of their life for the sake of Christ. Stephen “calling on God and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit’” died under a hail of stones (Acts 7:59). Saul was approving of Stephen’s death, but later as Paul bore the cross of suffering and death for Jesus’ sake (2 Timothy 3). John Huss was burned at the stake in 1415 for the cause of the Gospel. Martin Luther suffered the slings and arrows of Satan, and the wrath of the Roman Church. A confessor of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus and a student of Luther, Patrick Hamilton, died in Scotland, burned at the stake for the faith at the age of 24. Countless nameless Christians have died through the ages as a consequence of their confession of Christ and the Gospel.

Our age is increasingly hostile to followers of Christ. Ridicule, scorn, rejection, mockery, and even death is the lot of people who confess the Lord Jesus. Look to the cross of Christ; listen to His gracious words of forgiveness and His cry of victory as He committed His soul into the hands of the Father. As you are a member of His body through faith, with His words He commended you and all who believe in Him to the Father, and sealed this blessing with His resurrection, for “Can the Head rise and leave its members dead?” God help us to avoid the persecution and heaviness of the cross, ***but may we never escape it because when we were called to confess the faith, we shrank from the privilege and the responsibility!***

But there is another way we can bear the cross.

Life High the cross; the love of Christ proclaim

Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Paul said, “I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for every one that believes” (Romans 1:16). Proclaim the Gospel and hold fast the faithful Word knowing what’er befall “we have peace through the blood of His cross” (Colossians 1:20), peace with God Who reconciled us unto himself by the death of His Son, our Savior.

How better to close our devotion than to pray and sing:

“Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes,

Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.

Heaven’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;

In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me” (TLH- 552:8).

*Crucifixion information from various sources of many on-line.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 3/2015