

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder Frank Radichel

Ushers David Stifter, Scott Baker, Chad Hestekin, Al Rosendahl, Dylan Stifter, Lyle Trulin

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

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

Church Cleaners Sydow School Miller

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers David Stifter, Scott Baker, Chad Hestekin, Al Rosendahl, Dylan Stifter, Lyle Trulin

Counting Team :1 Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel; Pat Paplow

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

Church Cleaners Sydow School Miller

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Apr. 26: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality

Wed., Apr. 29: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Confirmation Preparation

Fri., May 1: Kindergarten Visitors Day @ Grace School
Immanuel High School Visitors Day @ Eau Claire, WI

May 1 & 2: 7:30 pm – Immanuel Musical: Oklahoma @ Eau Claire, WI

Sun., May 3: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality
12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Mon., May 4: 10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study Club @ Inver Grove Hts.

Fri., May 8: Field Day (5th-8th grade, by Berea in Inver Grove Hts.)

Wed., May 13: 7:30 pm – Immanuel Keyboard Recital @ Eau Claire, WI

Thu., May 14: 7:00 pm – Ascension Day Worship

Sun., May 17: Confirmation Sunday

Thu., May 21: 7:00 pm – Grace School Spring Program

Fri., May 22: 12:00 pm – School Year Dismissal
3:00 pm – Immanuel Class Day; 7:30 pm – Immanuel Concert

Sat., May 23: 10:00 am – Immanuel Graduation @ Immanuel Fieldhouse

Sun., May 24: 9:00 am – Summer Schedule Begins (Pentecost/Graduation)

Sun., June 7: 3:00 pm – MN Delegate Conference @ Eagle Lake, MN

Sun., June 14: 9:00 am – Grace Lutheran 60th Anniversary Service

June 16-18: CLC General Pastoral Conference @ Eau Claire, WI

August 3-7: 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School

Grace Lutheran Church & School

“I am the **good shepherd**. The **good shepherd** lays down his life for the sheep.”

John 10:11



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-8th

Church Year: Easter 3

Date: April 26, 2015

✠ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

Worship Preparation:..... Psalm 23, TLH p. 128

Opening Prayer:

Hymn:..... TLH 190: Christ the Lord is Risen Again

Liturgy:..... TLH, p. 5 ff. (Also available on laminated sheet in pew)

Introit:

P: The LORD is my shepherd;

C: I shall not want.

P: He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

C: He leads me beside the still waters.

P: He restores my soul;

C: He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

P: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

C: For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C: You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

P: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life;

C: And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

Gloria in Excelsis:..... TLH 193, st. 1,6

1. Christ the Lord is risen today,
Sons of men and angels say.
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens, and, earth, reply.

6. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to Thee by both be given!
Thee we greet triumphant now:
Hail, the Resurrection Thou!

First Reading:..... Acts 4:23-33

The early Christians gather together to pray for boldness.

Gradual:

P: Christ has risen from the dead.

C: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

P: He has made Him ruler over the works of His hands;

C: He has put everything under His feet.

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd;"

C: "I know My sheep and My sheep know Me." Alleluia.

Second Reading:..... 1 John 3:1-2

We can marvel that God in His mercy has made us His children.

Confession of Faith:..... Apostolic Creed, TLH p. 12

Hymn:..... TLH 436: The Lord My Shepherd, Ill Not Want

Sermon:..... John 10:11-16

¹¹ *✠ am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.*

¹² *But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. ¹⁵ As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. ✠(NKJV™)*

“Safe in the Arms of Jesus”

1. Because He is the Good Shepherd

2. Because we are the sheep of His flock

Offertory: TLH, p. 12 f.

Hymn:..... TLH 426: The Lord My Shepherd Is

Offering, Prayer, & Benediction:..... TLH, p. 14

Hymn:..... WS 783: Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep

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!

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Thanks** to Pastor Emeritus Paul Fleischer for sharing God's Word today. He lives in Red Wing with his wife Laila. He is also the brother to Daniel Fleischer. May the Lord bless his retirement!
- ◆ **Among Us:** Benno Sydow had surgery to repair a detached retina. Jeff Jacobson's mother passed away from cancer. May the sheep of the Good Shepherd rest safely in His arms.
- ◆ **Grace Anniversary Service:** Save the date! Sunday, June 14, 9 am.
- ◆ **Grace Pictorial Directory:** Thanks for all your cooperation in getting pictures for the directory. If you weren't able to get your picture taken, please speak with Rick Nelson so that we can get everyone included.
- ◆ **Grace Lutheran School** staff is already beginning to plan for the 2015-16 school year. If you are interested in enrolling your child in our school, please speak to one of the teachers for an enrollment form.
- ◆ **Graduates:** Please list any member of Grace that is graduating this year (Jan-Dec 2015) on the sheet on the tract rack table. Include the school's name and the degree. Our Graduation Sunday is May 24.
- ◆ **Liberia:** Alvin is trying to get one last shipment to Liberia in three weeks. He would like to collect toys or educational items for the children with whom he hopes to share the Word of the Lord.
- ◆ **Youth Conference:** Immanuel Lutheran of Mankato is sponsoring a Youth Conference this summer (July 28-August 2) in Como, CO. The conference features sessions of Bible Study, outdoor recreation, Colorado River rafting and more. Brochures for the conference are available by the guest book. .
- ◆ **Immanuel Visitors Day:** will be held this Fri., May 1, at the Immanuel campus in Eau Claire, beginning at 8:00 am. Young people in grades 7 and above are invited. Please speak with Pastor about your interest.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Mental Health Seminar:** On Sun., May 3, 12:30 pm, Ascension Lutheran in Batavia, IL, will be hosting a seminar on a variety of topics in the field of mental health. The seminar will feature licensed clinician and social worker, Dean Marzofka of Eau Claire, WI. For more information contact Pastor David Pfeiffer at 630-879-9455.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Teacher Sherman Carstensen of Trinity in Watertown, SD, has returned the call to Gethsemane in Spokane Valley, WA; he has accepted the call to be grades 3-5 teacher and principal at Faith in Markesan, WI. Pastor Paul Krause of Faith in Markesan, WI, has received the call to Trinity in Watertown and Zion in Hidewood Twp., SD. Rev. Daniel Fleischer has accepted the call to the pastoral vacancy. Miss Naomi Bernthal, a 2014 graduate of ILC, has received the call to teach 2-3 grade at Messiah in Eau Claire, WI. Our prayers include our brother and sisters in Christ in Nepal where a large earthquake struck and also Pastor Olive's wife, Claudia, who has been in a hospital in Mexico with a herniated disc.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #25 – Sacrament of the Altar 1

PSALM 23 TO THE FULLEST

The Lord is my Shepherd That's Relationship!
 I shall not want..... That's Supply!
 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures That's Rest!
 He leadeth me beside the still waters That's Refreshment!
 He restoreth my soul That's Healing!
 He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness That's Guidance!
 For His name's sake That's Purpose!
 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death That's Testing!
 I will fear no evil That's Protection!
 For Thou art with me That's Faithfulness!
 Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me That's Discipline!
 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies That's Hope!
 Thou anointest my head with oil..... That's Consecration!
 My cup runneth over..... That's Abundance!
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life That's Blessing!
 And I will dwell in the house of the Lord That's Security!
 Forever That's Eternity!

What is most valuable is not what we have in our lives,
 but WHO we have in our lives.

Amen.



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

LIFE WHERE AND HOW LONG

A wealthy man, trying to figure out how to spend his money, according to a recent article in the St. Paul Pioneer Press⁽¹⁾ sat with some scientists who discussed, among other things, whether death is inevitable, or whether it is a “solvable problem.” “A number of guests were skeptical about achieving immortality, but agreed that living to the age of 150 was a “worthy goal.” Why? But then if living to be 150 in this world gone mad is a worthy goal why not 200 years?

The Creator God in His goodness created man with a marvelous intelligence. In the exercise of that God-given intelligence many advances have been made that have enhanced life on earth, including increasing man’s life span. Through medical science and technology people of our generation generally live longer than generations before us. However, any expanded span of life will still be a far cry from the age of the patriarchs in the Old Testament. “All the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died” (Genesis 5:27).

In as much as death is a consequence of sin, it is folly to ask if death is inevitable. Simply put, the answer is, “Yes. Death is inevitable.” Many may try to extend life to a goal of their own making, but the God who created life, and Who pronounced the judgment of death upon man because of sin, has been, is, and ever shall be the One who determines the years of an individual’s life on this earth. The Psalmist whom it is unlikely would have been invited to that discussion in San Francisco wrote, “My times are in Your hand ... ” (Psalm 31:15). In those words, David acknowledged the inevitability of death reasons among which are circumstances which man will never conquer— hatred and antagonism of men and nations against one another. David said, “I am a reproach among all my enemies ... They scheme to take away my life ” (Psalm 31:13). Ironically the Lord said through James that the rich man will fade away in his pursuits (James 1:11). In anticipation of eternity, the child of God will pray with David, “Lord, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days ” (Psalm 39:4).

Finally Job also acknowledged the inevitability of death, “If a man dies, shall he live again” (Job 14:14)?

Death is inevitable because of sin. Those who doubt it, look to Jesus. Death was God’s judgment against man because of sin— spiritual death, temporal death, and eternal death. Jesus died and was buried because of sin — not His, but ours — which the Father laid on Him.

Man cannot extricate himself from spiritual death. He is born dead in trespasses and sins, and is rescued only from that condition by the power of the Spirit of God Who calls and enlightens the sinner through the Gospel — through the Word of the Gospel and the Gospel power inherent in baptism, the washing of regeneration. Yet temporal death remains. The body will die! Count the graves in the cemetery. But eternal death is a thing of the past for the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. As he believes in Jesus who gave His life on the cross and restored life through His resurrection, eternal death is conquered forever. If death is simply a problem to be solved, Christ solved it. The Lord Jesus Christ “has abolished death” (2 Timothy 1:10).

So then, is death inevitable? Yes and no! Physical death, the death of the body, yes (unless the Lord returns first). Eternal death? No, for those whose Spirit-engendered life was manifest through living and dying in faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.” (John 11:25,26)

Lazarus died. He had been dead for 4 days. But by the miraculous exercise of God’s grace, he lived. At Jesus’ word he came forth from the grave. Here was a divine illustration of Jesus’ words spoken for the comfort of us all, “though He may die, He shall live.” That could well have been enough for us, but the Savior said even more. “And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.” “With the coming of Him in whom is the life that is the light of men, the resurrection is no longer merely a far-off event at the last day; it is a presently effective reality. He who believes in Him ‘HAS’ eternal life; he ... HAS PASSED from death to life”⁽²⁾

Why would anyone except apparently someone who has nothing better to do with his money, want to study or work at trying to make man live on this sin-cursed earth for 150 years? So one lives 150 years! He still dies! Better spent is time studying the Scriptures and learning that Jesus through His life and death has gained for mankind a life beyond what can be dreamed of or hoped for on this dying globe.

On one hand, we take issue with those who are skeptical about immortality; of course we are speaking in a different sense than they. On the other hand, we fully agree with their skepticism in the context of which they speak.

In the same verse from Timothy in which the apostle spoke of Jesus as abolishing death he says “Jesus brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” When did Jesus overcome death and restore life and immortality which is assured us through the Gospel? Jesus did it when He died. Upon the completion of all that was necessary for our salvation He said “It is finished.” He did not die until He had fully atoned for our sin. If by His death He removed the cause of death it follows that death as a consequence of sin was also done away with. How do we know this? Jesus rose again from the dead! Death and life cannot co-exist. Either one reigns or the other. The believer in Christ knows that he has passed from death to life. What is the evidence of having passed from death to life? Because we love the brethren (1 John 3:14). The “because” declares the reason why we know ~~not why we~~ have passed from death to life.

Jesus in word and deed speaks only truth. Immortality brought to light through the gospel is reality. In Christ we live to die no more as He told Martha, “He who lives and believes in Me shall never die!” in the greatest of tragedies, by unbelief the majority are still under the sentence of death because they have rejected the Savior and the grace which brings salvation.

Perhaps that is the reason why they vainly seek to prolong life. To them we exhort, “Give up chasing shadows and “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household” (Acts 16:31).

As for all who believe and trust in the Lord Jesus “Be faithful unto death [of the body], and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10). Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown” (Revelation 3:11)