

✠ **TODAY AT GRACE** ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson Elder Frank Radichel

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

✠ **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** ✠

Ushers Larry Brandt, Roger Brandt, Charles Davis, Nick Duehlmeier, Dale Enns, Lynn & Ned Sandhoefner

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

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

Church Cleaners ?? School Wales

✠ **OUR SCHEDULE** ✠

- Sun., May 3:** 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
11:15 am – Hospitality
12:00 pm – Council Meeting
- Mon., May 4:** 10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study Club @ Inver Grove Hts.
- Wed., May 6:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Confirmation Preparation
- Fri., May 8:** Field Day (5th-8th grade, by Berea in Inver Grove Hts.)
- Sun., May 10:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service; 11:15 am – Hospitality
- Wed., May 13:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Confirmation Preparation
7:30 pm – Immanuel Keyboard Recital @ Eau Claire, WI
- Thu., May 14:** 7:00 pm – Ascension Day Worship
- Sun., May 17:** 9:00 am – Confirmation Examination
10:00 am – Worship with Confirmation
- 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
- Sun., June 21:** 4:00 pm – Pastor Rob Sauers Ordination @ Morris, MN
- 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



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Fridley, MN 55432

Email: jphein@clclutheran.com

Home Page: www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.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: Easter 5

Date: May 3, 2015

✠ **WORSHIP INFORMATION** ✠

Hymns:

TLH 192, st. 1-5: Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

TLH 336: My God, Accept My Heart This Day

TLH 234: Holy Ghost, with Light Divine

Communion: TLH 206

TLH 207, st. 6: Like the Golden Sun Ascending

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 67, TLH p. 137

Liturgy:

WS, p. 12 (Communion)

Psalm 118: WS, p. 29

Scripture Readings:

Acts 8:26-40

John 15:1-8

Sermon: 1 John 3:18-22

¹⁸ My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹ And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. ²⁰ For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. ²² And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. (NKJV)

Reading Your Heart

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Grace Anniversary Service:** Save the date! Sunday, June 14, 9 am.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Ascension Worship:** 40 days after Jesus' resurrection He ascended into heaven visibly from His disciples. Knowing that He was now seated at the right hand of the Father in full glory and ruling over all things, they worshipped Him with great joy. Our opportunity to worship Him is a week from this Thursday evening, May 14, 7 pm.
- ◆ **Confirmation:** This year confirmation will be held on May 17. This year's confirmands are Julianna Hein, Olivia Lentz, and Jack Maki. May the Lord bless their preparations and their resolve as they consider the commitment they are making with the help of God.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Book:** "Steeple in the Distance," a novel by Deborah Ude, is now available. It may be purchased either directly from Deborah Ude at deborahude.com, through the CLC Book House at clcbookhouse.org, or through Michael and Jess Ude. The cost is \$20.00 per book. Pastor Dave Naumann, Chairman of the Board of Education and Publications comments: "There are many "Christian" novels on the market. Most of them contain the glaring, as well as the subtle, errors of the reformed. Here is a breath of fresh air. A fiction novel that is solidly Lutheran, written by Deborah Ude. Something you can recommend and a book you can be pleased to have in your library."
- ◆ **Book Correction:** From Rev. Daniel Fleischer: Educating the Children (II) in *Standing on the Wall*, page 328 of the first printing and 322 of the second: We do not apologize for encouraging that where possible Christian parents make use of the Christian day school in their congregation, and Immanuel Lutheran College. We do **NOT** claim that teachers at Immanuel are better teachers or more competent than teachers in the public sector.
- ◆ **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.

- ◆ **Traveling Vacation Bible School (TVBS):** We are planning our summer trips for TVBS this summer and are praying that the Lord will move hearts to participate in a flier or teaching trip, or both. If you don't know what this involves you can go to www.clctvbs.org for information. We are looking for individuals or families to travel for between a day and a week to distribute fliers or to teach VBS lessons to children in congregations around the country. All expenses are covered by the TVBS Committee. This summer we are serving congregations in Georgia, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota. If you are able and willing to help, please register at www.clctvbs.org or contact Ross Roehl at ross.roehl@ilc.edu.
- ◆ **Black Hills Family Bible Camp:** Camping in the beauty of the Black Hills, studies in the beauty of God's Word. July 5-9. All ages are welcome. The cost is \$40-50/person for food, camp sites and activities (prices for families vary depending on size and age). There will be chaperons for grades 5-12 if parents can come. For more information, contact Pastor Aaron Ude, 605-393-1311/aaronude@gmail.com.
- ◆ **Porkies Youth Camp-out:** August 12-16 (Wed-Sun), 2015. For kids entering grades 8-12. Total camp fee \$65. We'll camp at the Union Bay group campsite right on Lake Superior (near Ontonagon, MI). We'll have devotions, group discussions, hiking, swimming, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, and beach football. It's okay if you've never camped. We do everything together and we'll help you learn. Speak with Pastor Hein about any details.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Teacher Quinn Sprengeler of Redemption in Lynnwood, WA (Seattle area), has received the call to Gethsemane in Spokane Valley, WA. The ILC Seminary faculty has made arrangements to allow Raju Bhitrakoti to graduate early. They will present Raju with his diploma this Monday, May 4. This will allow him to return to Nepal three weeks earlier than scheduled so that he can be there to offer much needed help and leadership with the earthquake relief efforts. Other information is included in today's bulletin about the earthquake.
- ◆ **Vacation Bible School:** This is scheduled for August 3-7.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #26 – Sacrament of the Altar 2

Last Week's Stats: Apr. 26, 2015 Sun.: 115 S.S.: 20 B.Cl.: 41

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,395.80	CLC:	\$680.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,340.00	CLC:	1,060.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-944.20	CLC:	-380.00	
Year-to-Date Offering:.	Grace:	\$52,414.04	CLC:	\$14,732.30	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	56,780.00	CLC:	18,020.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-4,365.96	CLC:	-3,287.70	
GLC Other:	627.36	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	50.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 20.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	5,650.00	Tuition Aid:	1,155.37

~~WE KNOW WHERE JESUS IS. WHERE ARE THEY?~~

Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; nor are there any works like Your works ... For You are great and do wondrous things; You alone are God (Psalm 86: 8,10). Inasmuch as there is none like You, O Lord [You are great, and Your name is great in might], Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For this is Your rightful due (Jeremiah 10:6-7).

So Who is the God extolled by the Psalmist and by Jeremiah? He is the eternal God -- Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. He is the God beside whom there is none other. He is God Who by the power of the Spirit breathed into the holy writers the Scriptures, His Word! He is the Creator, the Redeemer, the Sanctifier. He alone is the God of our salvation, the God Who manifested His love to fallen man in the person of Jesus Christ.

The God of Scripture is *not the founder* of the Christian religion. The God of Scripture is *the essence* of the Christian religion. The Christian religion is the absolute, that is to say, the absolutely perfect religion. It is not in need of any supplementation or improvement, and it cannot be developed to a higher degree of perfection. It is unsurpassable. (*) It is the absolute for two reasons. 1) It conveys the perfect salvation. 2) It is perfect and unsurpassable because its source and norm is not the word of man, but God's own Word, which is perfect and beyond criticism. (*)

By the Word revealed to us in the Scripture we are converted from unbelief to faith in Christ Who is the foundation of all that we believe and hope. He is the Word in Person, the Word Who by His suffering and death, and resurrection promises and gives eternal life to all who believe in Him. He is the essence and confirmation of the hope that is the message of the empty tomb celebrated with thanksgiving at Easter. *He is our hope* (1 Timothy 1:1).

The Christian religion is the *only* religion whose God lives. Heathen religions all have a god, but one of their own making. There are some heathen religions, e.g. Islam, that speak of Christ, but speak of Him only as a prophet. Islam, as well as any other religion that denies the person of Christ His humanity and divinity and teaches salvation by works is heathen.

Our Lord Jesus spoke the Word of the Father. Through His Word He called sinners to himself. Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28). Jesus, Priest and King, indeed was the ultimate Prophet. In the temple He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah ... (Luke 4:17) And when He had opened the book He read: The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim

liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18-19)

Our Prophet, Priest, and King died as the Lamb of God and has cleansed us from sin and unrighteousness and given life to everyone who believes in Him. That is our Easter joy, our comfort in death, and our certainty of heaven!

How different from all other religions! Every other religion can take you to the grave of its prophet, if it claims one. Every other religion may ostensibly take you to the grave of that one whom it venerates and follows. The prophets and gods of every heathen religion are dead!

The most that Christians can do is visit what is presumed to have been the grave site the tomb of Jesus Christ. But He is not there! He who died is risen! He is alive! The angel said to the women, Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay (Matthew 28:5-6). The apostle Paul wrote, But now is Christ risen from the dead, and has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep (1 Corinthians 15:20). In the same chapter he reports of all who saw Jesus after His resurrection. Among them were the disciples with whom the risen Lord Jesus walked on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-31).

And where is Jesus today? He ascended to heaven to the right hand of God the Father. Jesus returned to the glory that was His before He came to earth. He now is preparing the place for each believer in heaven (John 14:1-3). He is ascended but still, by His own Word, Immanuel with us even now as He said, I am with you always, even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). Our living, ascended Lord knows us and *is present with us*, as Psalm 139 says so beautifully. At His call we will be with Him for He Who said, Because *I LIVE, YOU SHALL LIVE* also (John 14:19) also said that where He is we shall be also (John 14:3).

In the early Church the traditional greeting was the mutual assurance of Christ's resurrection. Christ is arisen to which came the response, He is risen indeed. That is still the joyous faith and confession of the redeemed children of God.

And where again are the prophets and gods of the heathen? O yes, they are dead!

* F. Pieper: *Christian Dogmatics*, Vol. I, pp. 34-37