

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Benno Sydow
Ushers: James Bomber, Eli Wales, David Hein, Michael Ude, Ryan Oman

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

Hospitality Team 3: Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Nick & Miranda Duehlmeier; Dan & Cindy Degnan

Church Cleaners: Rosendahl School: Nelson

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: James Bomber, Eli Wales, David Hein, Michael Ude, Ryan Oman

Counting Team 3: Brian Eichstadt; Phil Flesner; Chad Hestekin; Benno Sydow

Hospitality Team 4: James & April Bomber; Rachelle Kanneh; Heidi Nelson; Bob & Suki Vandever

Church Cleaners: Wales School: Wales

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., May 8: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality

Wed., May 11: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Confirmation Preparation

Fri., May 13: Field Day (5th-8th grade, by Berea in Inver Grove Hts.)

Sat., May 14: 9 am – Flower Planting Day

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

Fri., May 20: 3:00 pm – Immanuel Class Day @ Immanuel Fieldhouse
7:30 pm – Immanuel Concert @ Messiah Lutheran

Sat., May 21: 10:00 am – Immanuel Graduation @ Immanuel Fieldhouse

Sun., May 22: 9:00 am – Confirmation Examination
10:00 am – Worship with Confirmation (Trinity Sunday)

Thu., May 26: 7:00 pm – Grace School Spring Program

Fri., May 27: 12:00 pm – School Year Dismissal

Sun., May 29: 9:00 am – Summer Schedule Begins (Graduation)

Sun., June 5: 3:00 pm – MN Delegate Conference @ Mankato, MN

Thu., June 9: Spring Lake Park Parade

June 23-26: CLC Convention @ Eau Claire, WI

July 25-29: 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School

Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432



Email: jphein@clclutheran.com

Home Page: www.JustifiedByGrace.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635)

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Church Year: Easter 7

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: May 8, 2016

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 217: Oh, Sing with Exultation

TLH 218: See, the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph

TLH 473: The Church's One Foundation

TLH 469: Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 145, TLH p. 155 f.

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 199:4

Scripture Reading:

Acts 13:44-52

John 13:31-35

Sermon: Revelation 21:1-6

¹ Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." ⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." ⁶ And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts." (NKJVTM)

"Our Living Lord: The Church's Deliverer"

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **A Blessed Mother's Day** to all our mothers in the congregation. We thank the Lord for the Christian care and concern that you have imparted to your children through the Word of God. May that same Word strengthen you for the times in which we live, knowing the comfort you receive through God's gracious promises.
- ◆ **Kindergarten Call:** Dear members of Grace, I accept the call extended to me to teach Kindergarten at Grace next year. With the help of God I look forward to teaching the little lambs under my care. Keep the teaching staff and me in your prayers as we fulfill our calls. Ann Radichel
- ◆ **Congratulations:** On the afternoon of April 24, Andrea and John Dahl had a private baptism of their new daughter, Sydney. We thank the Lord that she has joined the Lord's family!
- ◆ **Extra Work Day:** Come help make our church grounds beautiful! A flower-planting day is planned for Saturday, May 14, 9 am. Speak to Heidi Nelson with questions.
- ◆ **Grace Lutheran School** staff is already beginning to plan for the 2016-17 school year. If you are interested in enrolling your child in our school, please speak to one of the teachers for an enrollment form.
- ◆ **School Program:** On Thur., May 26, 7 pm, the children of our day school will be putting on their play, "Beauty and the Beast." All members and friends of Grace are invited to show support of the children's efforts and of our school. Refreshments will follow.
- ◆ **Parade:** On Thur., June 9, our school will be walking in the Spring Lake Park Tower Days Parade. All members are invited to participate to help let the community know about the treasure of our Christian school! We are hoping that all our students and parents will be able to participate in this. More details will be available soon.
- ◆ **Graduates:** Please list any member of Grace that is graduating this year (Jan-Dec 2016) on the sheet on the tract rack table. Include the school's name and the degree. Our Graduation Sunday is May 29. Patrick Baker will also graduate from Grace School that day.
- ◆ **Lutheran Spokesman:** The Lutheran Spokesman is a publication by the CLC which is dedicated to sharing rich, devotional messages for our spiritual edification. Those who currently receive the publication are listed on a sheet by the guestbook. If you no longer wish to receive it, please cross out your name. If you don't receive it and would like to, please sign up. The congregation covers the cost.
- ◆ **The Branches:** "The Branches" renewal list is by the guest book. This is a quarterly publication for Christian women. Please check your name if you want to continue receiving this publication, making any corrections to the listed information. Issues are available by US mail or email. If you are not receiving "The Branches" now is the time to add your name to the list. The congregation pays for the subscription.

- ◆ **Summer Schedule:** On Sunday, May 29, the summer schedule will begin with worship service held at 9 am. Bible Class and Sunday School will be suspended for the summer. Hospitality hour will also be suspended after honoring the graduates next week. If anyone wishes to host any of the Sundays in summer, they may sign up on the list located on the fellowship hall's bulletin board.
- ◆ **Missoula Preaching Station:** With thanksgiving to the Lord of the Church, Gethsemane Lutheran of Spokane Valley, WA, is pleased to announce that satellite services will be held in Missoula, Montana, this Sunday (May 8) at 11:00 am (MDT). This is a monthly preaching station sponsored by Gethsemane, with Tim Daub conducting the service. Service Location: Wingate Hotel; 525 Airway Blvd.; Missoula, MT 95808. Contact Tim Daub at daub_family@hotmail.com.
- ◆ **Traveling Vacation Bible School (TVBS):** If you can help, please register at www.clctvbs.org or contact Ross Roehl at ross.roehl@ilc.edu.
- ◆ **ILC Student Aid Fund (SAF):** Currently the SAF has an unexpected negative balance due to very low investment earnings this year. We are anticipating a negative \$15,000 balance at the end of this academic year unless offerings to the SAF help resolve this. The SAF is the fund that supports Immanuel students through loans, grants, and scholarships. Please consider this in your offerings to support the Lord's work. Our current students can be greatly helped as the Immanuel experience positively impacts them in their faith journey. Former Immanuel students are encouraged to consider the SAF in their offerings so that current students may also receive the same benefits they once received.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Luke Bernthal has returned the call to serve as associate pastor at Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN. ✠ Pastor Roland Gurgel of Bethel Lutheran in Spring, TX (Houston area), has returned the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran in Madison Heights, MI (Detroit area). The congregation has now called Seminarian Joseph Naumann. ✠ Pastor Matthew Hanel of St. Matthew's Lutheran in Dallas, TX, has received the call to Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI.
- ◆ **Vacation Bible School:** This is scheduled for July 25-29.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #36 – Meal/Evening Prayers

A Blessed Mother's Day! We thank the Lord for our Christian mothers!

Last Week's Stats: May 1, 2016 Sun.: 105 S.S.: ?? B.Cl.: 44 Thu.: 50

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,790.45	CLC:	\$651.00	
Thu. Offering:	Grace:	\$630.26	CLC:	\$100.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+120.71	CLC:	-249.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$56,451.23	CLC:	\$17,035.35	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	59,400.00	CLC:	18,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-2,318.51	CLC:	-864.65	
GLC Other:	610.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	130.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	345.00	IIF: 1.00	CEF: 2.00
<i>Current Balances:</i>		<i>Parking Lot:</i>	<i>14,042.00</i>	<i>Tuition Aid:</i>	<i>1,539.12</i>

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES – MAY 1, 2016

The meeting was called to order with a prayer. Roll was taken. The April council meeting minutes were read and approved. The April treasurer's report was read and approved.

Trustee Report

- Vacuum cleaners are not working. We are looking at better ones.
- The work day yesterday went well. Work will continue this Friday.
- Security: Motion passed to put a sign by the entry to the parking lot (i.e. - Visitors Only). Pursuing with Xcel to put lights on poles in the back for about \$9 per month. Pursuing cameras (6-9) in the parking lot for \$1000-\$2000 and \$400-\$800 per camera.

Pastor's Report

- There were 2 baptisms in April. May 22 is confirmation.
- We still need to find housing for our vicar, Sam Rodebaugh, this fall.
- Classes have started between Pastor Hein and Liberia.
- It was nice to see the young folks at the work day yesterday so they can get a feel for what it takes to keep the church running.

Elder Report

- SW Metro: They presented a list of items to complete in order to organize. Seminarian Joe Naumann has returned their call.
- The health insurance will continue with HealthPartners with a slight change in larger deductibles.
- ILC has a visiting program. The Elders intend to set this up for this fall during Bible class and the service.
- October 9 is Mission Festival.

Education Report

- Iowa Basic Tests were given last week.
- Kindergarten roundup is completed. There is the possibility of a new family joining. There could be 4 girls in that grade next year.
- The 7th and 8th grade class trip is being planned.
- Visitor's day was last Friday at ILC.
- May 26 is the school play.
- June 9 is the Spring Lake Park parade.

Other Business

- The chart regarding the parking lot in the bulletin looks good. It would be good to publish it periodically.
- Parking lot estimates and options (do only the current area, include the grass area, etc.) are being pursued.

Adapted from minutes by Secretary Roger Ochsner

LOUIE THE LANCER NEEDS YOUR HELP!



The Immanuel Athletic Boosters (IAB) was formed over 10 years ago as means to engage friends and supporters of Immanuel High School in various efforts to enhance Immanuel High School athletics. For nearly all of those years, IAB has organized a service group to work the annual Country Jam event in Eau Claire, earning on average about \$4000/year for those efforts. The results of those earning efforts have allowed IAB to provide the following items to ILHS.

- ➔ Glass backboards for all the practice baskets in the gymnasium, new scoreboard system for the gymnasium, automated basketball shooting machine, material and labor for dugouts on the baseball field, chain link fencing for both the softball and baseball field, new electric service to the lower athletic field that will be able to power a future well pump, electricity to storage sheds, concession stand, and any other electrical demand, stage protection and wall mats in the gymnasium, IED in the gymnasium, baseball/softball field infield grooming machine, and numerous other smaller items.

Our next big project is the drilling of a well, installation of a well pump, and irrigation system for both the softball and baseball fields. As fees continue to rise to use public baseball fields in Eau Claire, the irrigation system would allow ILHS fields to be used for all home games at a considerable cost savings to ILHS.

So...what does this have to do with you?

IAB is always looking to expand its list of volunteers as opportunities are found to expand our ability to earn funds for ILHS. Last year, the owner of Country Jam started the Blue Ox Bluegrass Music Festival in Eau Claire, and engaged IAB for a number of paid services. This year the Blue Ox is again offering IAB first chance at a number of paid service positions. Our earning potential for the 2-1/2 day event would be over \$2000 ... ***If we can staff it.***

The days and hours for the Blue Ox event are:

- Thursday, June 9 4:30 pm – 11:30 pm
- Friday, June 10 10:30 am – 11:30 pm
- Saturday, June 11 10:30 am – 11:30 pm

We are breaking the Friday and Saturday into a 1st shift between 10:30 am and 5:30 pm, and a 2nd shift from 5:30 pm to 11:30 pm. You can work one shift, both shifts, one day, or every day. Every little bit helps! The Blue Ox is a very low key event with total ticket sales estimates at 4500, compared to Country Jam which may have 25,000-30,000 per day. The service work we provide can be done by almost anyone and always with other IAB partners.

Folks who have participated in these past IAB efforts have found them to be extremely enjoyable, entertaining, and rewarding. A fun time is had by all!!!

If you are interested to find out more about the IAB and its work efforts at Blue Ox, you can contact me, **Tom Beekman** via the following means.

Work ...715-836-4628 / Cell ...715-579-4596 / Email...thomas.beekman@dot.wi.gov

A MOTHER'S INFLUENCE

How do you teach your children about creation? We sometimes make this challenge more difficult than it really is. You don't need a degree in science, and previous experience digging for fossils isn't a requirement. Expertise in theology, a jaw-dropping testimony, or years of church service aren't necessities. You simply *introduce your child to the Creator of the universe*.

Seek to lead your little one to the Lord at an early age. The Holy Spirit becomes their Helper, leading them to a deeper understanding in spiritual matters. He also helps you in teaching your children about their Creator.

Foster a sense of wonder. Let them experience the wonders of creation—take them to Grand Canyon, on nature walks, and to museums. Catch fireflies and stargaze. Give them relaxed environments full of unstructured time to explore and discover the majesty of God's handiwork.

Provide an environment of curiosity—welcome the “what if” and “what about” and never-ending “why” questions. Don't discourage them if you're unsure of the answers. Don't be afraid to say “I don't know, but I know where to look. Let's find out together!” Teach them where to go for answers, and establish the Bible as the ultimate authority. Don't worry about *the chicken or the egg questions*—you've got this!

Equip yourself and your kids with biblical and scientific knowledge. ... Learn the problems of evolution and become confident in what the Bible says about creation. As a parent, God has placed you in a strategic position in your child's life. Your relationship with your child gives you a position of influence like none other on Earth. You can diminish the impact and even silence the voices from evolutionary sources.

Be a good ambassador of Christ in your home. Be kind. It's easy to bark commands when you have limited sleep and a hectic schedule, but take the time to demonstrate respect for your children. When you are a good representative of Christ in the home—when you exhibit the love of Jesus—your children will most likely want to identify with you and the things you value. Examine how you treat your children. Do you treat them as worthy treasures, made in the image of God?

Take advantage of opportunities as they come up—the teachable moments. You have the advantage of being there for your child today. *You can't count on both of you being there tomorrow*. My own dear mother went to be with the Lord a few weeks after my 20th birthday. I watched her take her last breath and felt sudden, smothering panic. And the silly thing that came to my mind in that tragic instant was that I forgot to ask her how to make her banana pudding. The need to know the recipe was, obviously, insignificant—but the longing to hold on to my mother was monumental. Along with the devastation of losing my best friend, I remember feeling the loss of everything she was and her wealth of experiences and wisdom—memories, stories of our heritage, knowledge from her education and experiences, her unique perspective on life, her presence, and her love. I can assure you, your child would feel the same devastating loss if you went to be with the Lord today. You are the keeper of their childhood and everything precious to them.

This Mother's Day, embrace the privilege of being your child's mother. Share what the Lord has poured into your life. Don't miss the opportunities. Teach your child the wonders of creation and the sweetness of walking through life with their Creator.

By Jayme Durant. 2016. *A Mother's Influence. Acts & Facts*. 45 (5).

IN HEAVEN WHERE GOD IS, THERE I WANT TO BE--FOREVER

Eternity: Infinite time without beginning or end ... The timeless state following death ... The afterlife; immortality. Speaking from the perspective of people who believe that “Jesus Christ, is true God begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man born of the virgin Mary is my Lord,” and that “He has redeemed me a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sin, from death and from the power of the devil,” we look forward to the life promised to us in eternity in heaven.

At His ascension our Savior was parted from His disciples and was “carried up into heaven” (Luke 24:51). Luke tells us in Acts that Jesus “was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight” (Acts 1:9). Those words lead to all manner of speculation of where heaven is, how high it is. One Russian cosmonaut in the early years of space travel said he was in heaven and did not see God. As an aside, hell is spoken of as being down. How far? Such idle speculation is useless and wrong if for no other reason than it is applying temporal elements to the eternal. Except that God speaks to us in terms with which we can identify, we will be careful lest in our interest to know we go beyond Scripture. Therefore to the question itself we simply say, “Hell is where the devil is and God is not! Heaven is where God is! Furthermore, we do not care to find out, nor do we intend to find out by experience, where hell is.

More important than speculating about where hell is, is turning one's attention to avoiding it, and arriving in heaven. Scripture speaks clearly to that. “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16).

Scripture which says “Heaven and the earth will pass away” (Matthew 24:35) also speaks of a new heaven and a new earth. Peter wrote: “But the day of the Lord (Judgment Day) will come as a thief in the night, in which the heaven will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:12). “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (3:13).

What we know for sure is that the universe including the earth befouled by sin and death will cease to be as we know it now! The Lord said through the prophet, “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind” (Isaiah 65:17). In the 66th chapter the Lord speaks of the new heavens and the new earth which “I will make ...” (66:22)

While we indeed must wait to find out, perhaps our eternal home will be a restoration of what God intended for man when He created him and placed him in Eden. This thought is supported by the word which says that creation which was subjected to futility by reason of the fall “will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now” (Romans 8:20-22). These words indicate that nature is waiting for deliverance at the end of time. The glorious liberty of the children of God is release from this earth and everything that oppresses us on the earth—our corrupt flesh, sin, death, and the devil. It is peace and compatibility with God in the fullest sense, as well as with all of God's children in heaven. Waiting for death and destruction does not seem compatible with nature's desire to be “delivered from the bondage of corruption.” Will conditions of the restored heaven and earth be the ultimate fulfillment of the wolf and the lamb feeding together in Isaiah 65?

There are things we do know from the Word about heaven. There is much more that we do not know. The question of where heaven is intrigues us. Nevertheless, it is not important to know where heaven is. Time is better spent studying about and concentrating upon what the Bible says about how one gets to heaven.

What we know is that where God is we shall be. We know that righteousness will dwell in the new heavens and the new earth. We also know that those who died in unbelief and rejection of Christ will not be in the new heaven and the new earth. They will be on the outside looking in. Might that be part of the torment of hell? While we do not know how God will create the new heaven and the new earth, in which we shall dwell with Him, we do know that He knows, and that is enough for us.

Where it is, and what it will be pales in the Christian heart to actually being where our Father and the Savior are. What more need we know, or could we ask than to be with Him in whose presence is “fullness of joy” and at whose right hand “are pleasures forevermore” (Psalm 16:11), in the home “in which righteousness dwells”?! Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 5/2015