

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

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

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

Hospitality Team 6: Alex & Bonnie Baker, Kevin & Tracy Baker; Phil & Rona Flesner

Church Cleaners: Wales

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

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

Church Cleaners: Sydow

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

**Sun., May 29:** 9:00 am – Worship Service (Graduation)  
 10:00 am – Hospitality (last one, honoring graduates)  
**Sun., June 5:** 9:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper  
 3:00 pm – MN Delegate Conference @ Mankato, MN  
**Sun., June 12:** 9:00 am – Worship Service  
 10:15 am – Yannarely Baby Shower  
 11:00 am – Council Meeting  
**Thu., June 9:** 6:00 pm – Meet for Spring Lake Park Parade  
**June 23-26:** CLC Convention @ Eau Claire, WI  
**Sat., June 25:** 9:00 am – Work Day  
 3:30 pm – CLC Convention Worship Service @ Messiah  
**July 25-29:** 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School  
**Mon., Aug. 29:** Grace School Opening

**Last Week's Stats:** May 22, 2016 Sun.: 166

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,113.63	CLC:	\$605.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
	-Under / +Over:	-1,186.37	CLC:	-395.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$63,635.74	CLC:	\$19,140.35	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	69,300.00	CLC:	21,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-5,664.26	CLC:	-1,859.65	
GLC Other:	150.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	105.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	145.00	ILC Bldg.	140.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	14,894.00	Tuition Aid:	1,721.12

**CLC News:** Trinity Lutheran of Watertown, SD, has called Collette Krause to be the teacher/coordinator of their pre-school for one year. ✠ Pastor Matthew Hanel of St. Matthew Lutheran in Dallas, TX, has returned the call to Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI.

## Grace Lutheran Church & School



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 Fridley, MN 55432

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Home Page: [www.JustifiedByGrace.org](http://www.JustifiedByGrace.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-8<sup>th</sup>

**Church Year:** Pentecost 2/Graduation

**Date:** May 29, 2016

## ✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

### Hymns:

TLH 28: Now Let All Loudly Sing Praise  
 Choir: When You Pass Through the Waters  
 WS 724: Jesus, Remember Me  
 TLH 515: O Thou from Whom All Goodness Flows  
 Children: Go Now in Peace  
 WS 800: Go, My Children, with My Blessing

### Worship Prep:

Psalm 25, TLH p. 128

### Liturgy:

TLH, p. 32 f. (Matins)  
 Offering TLH 441:1-2

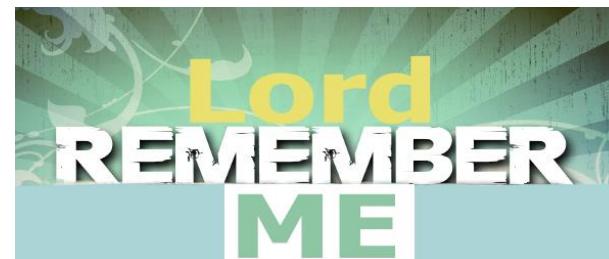
### Scripture Reading:

Genesis 8:1-5, 13-22  
 Luke 23:39-43

### Sermon: Psalm 25:4-7

<sup>4</sup>Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. <sup>5</sup>Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You *are* the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day. <sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, For they *are* from of old. <sup>7</sup>Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD. (NKJV™)

"LORD, in Your Mercy Remember Me!"



## ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Graduation Recognition:** Today we recognize Patrick Baker as the graduate from our Christian Day School. What a marvelous Christian foundation our congregation has been able to provide all the children who attend Grace Lutheran School. We also congratulate and wish the Lord's richest blessings upon the other graduates in our midst:
  - ★ Annie Rhinesmith – Shakopee High School
  - ★ Isaiah Bergstrom – Champlin Park High School
- ◆ **Parade:** On Thur., June 9, our school will be walking in the Spring Lake Park Tower Days Parade. All are invited to participate to help let the community know about the treasure of our Christian school! We hope that all of our students and parents will be able to participate in this. We will meet in the parking lot at Woodcrest School at 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Among Us:** Marvin Wagner recently learned that he has lung cancer. He is still finding out about treatment. After successful surgery, Norma Rust will now be receiving radiation treatment. Lord, remember your tender mercies toward these Your servants!
- ◆ **Baby Shower:** A baby shower will be held for Sarah Yannarely (nee Stifter) on June 12 after church in the fellowship hall. RSVP to Heidi Nelson. Details can be found on the invitation on the bulletin board.
- ◆ **Vacation Bible School:** On July 25-29, 9:00-11:30 am, we will be having our VBS. This includes children age 4 years, to children going into eighth grade. Please register your children on the sheet by the guest book. In preparing for VBS, we will need to put together a staff, including teachers and coordinators for crafts and music. Please consider this labor of love and let Pastor know of your willingness.
- ◆ **Professorage Update:** The Immanuel Professorage Committee (IPC) has been doing a lot of planning for projects that will upgrade the professorage that Prof. Paul Naumann will be moving into this summer. We are looking for volunteer help immediately before or after Convention, or anytime in June and early July convenient for you (in teams or individuals). In particular, the time after Convention (ends June 26) will be the most crucial and helpful. Projects include: installing new windows & siding, installing new carpeting/flooring, updating kitchen, painting inside, and fencing in the back yard. Those who are able to help with any of these projects or would like more details, please contact Pastor Paul Tiefel (715-829-2000/tiefels@hotmail.com).
- ◆ **Men's Retreat:** There will be a "Man Up" men's retreat this summer, from Fri., Aug. 26-28. It will be held at Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI (one hour south of LaCrosse). The cost is \$75 for the weekend and includes lodging, meals, and activities. Registration deadline is July 1. The retreat is being organized by CLC congregations in Minnesota and Wisconsin to strengthen and encourage men 18 years and older in their God-given roles in the home, church, and society. The weekend will include Bible Study, Fellowship, and other activities. Sign up today at [www.manup.clclutheran.org](http://www.manup.clclutheran.org) or email Nathanael Mayhew at [ndmayhew@juno.com](mailto:ndmayhew@juno.com).

## LAW AND GOSPEL

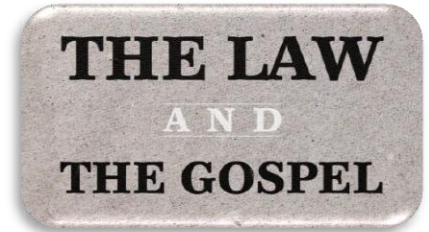
*"Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe"* (Galatians 3:21-22).

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### Martin Luther comments on these verses:

For this reason, therefore, the Law is not against the promises of God: first, because the promise does not depend on the Law but on the truth of God; secondly, because in its highest and greatest use the Law humbles and by humbling makes men groan, sigh, and seek the hand of the Mediator. It makes His grace and mercy very sweet – as Psalm 109:21 says, *"Your mercy is sweet"* – and His gift precious beyond the telling. Thus it makes us ready for Christ. He who has never tasted the bitter will not remember the sweet; hunger is the best cook. As the dry earth thirsts for rain, so the Law makes the troubled heart thirst for Christ. To such hearts Christ tastes sweetest; to them He is joy, comfort, and life. Only then are Christ and His work understood correctly.

Therefore the best use of the Law is to be able to employ it to the point that it produces humility and a thirst for Christ. He Himself requires thirsting souls and attracts them in a most charming manner to Himself when He says (Matthew 11:28): *Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*" Therefore He gladly soaks and irrigates this dry ground. He does not pour out His waters on ground that is fertile or fat or free of thirst. His blessings are inestimable. Therefore He grants them only to the needy; He preaches good news to the poor (Luke 4:18) and gives water to the thirsty. *"If anyone thirst,"* He says in John 7:37, *"let him come to Me."* *"He heals the brokenhearted"* (Psalm 147:3). That is, He comforts and saves those who have been vexed and troubled by the Law. Accordingly, the Law is not against the promises of God. (Luther's commentary on Galatians 3 [1535], p. 329 in vol. 26 of Luther's Works, American Edition, 1963, 1991 CPH)



## ANOTHER GRADUATION

Even an admittedly unabashed and unapologetic supporter of private educational institutions was impressed with the weekend of class-day activities, concert, graduation exercises, and fellowship witnessed recently on the campus of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Immanuel is the educational nursery of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC).

The event to which reference is made was not unlike others over the many years of the school. As one grows older and recognizes that the sun is setting and the shadows are growing longer, one increasingly recognizes what a gift this school is to the students who attend as well as for the future of the church. We pray that the generations following will have opportunity to have the Christian education offered at Immanuel, and appreciate the blessing it is.

Immanuel is not a large school. It is hardly a blip on the educational landscape. It is not a prestigious school in societies' way of thinking. Yet its students go from its high school to heights equal to any other school. It is recognized by those who make it their business that the academics are of highest quality. In its unpretentious college by societal standards, it has trained men for the ministry of the Word who have served the Lord faithfully. It has trained teachers, men and women, who have served in classrooms of the church faithfully. Some of its graduates serve with distinction in other schools and in public higher institutions of learning.

Some observations from graduation weekend:

**CLASS DAY:** Class Day occurs on the day before graduation and the afternoon of concert evening. It acknowledges the athletic achievements and the campus activities of the students. Chiefly it is a day to acknowledge the academic accomplishments of the students, a day when academic scholarships and awards are given. The day is an acknowledgment of the many gifts that the Lord has given to students, with recognition of what students have accomplished through faithful use of their God-given talents. As surely as there is discipline and perhaps even a visit with a professor if a student does not use his gifts according to his ability, (and many of us have been there at some time in our life) it is a pleasure to acknowledge and recognize when the students have. "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 10:17). "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

**CONCERT:** For supporters and parents whose children attend, a highlight of any year at Immanuel occurs at Christmas and at the end of the year. The two sacred concerts demonstrate what the school is all about. The concerts are always centered in and around the Gospel. The concerts at Immanuel are not a performance. They are worship. One of the songs began: "I will sing of my Redeemer and his wondrous love for me"<sup>(1)</sup> Whether it is the mass choir or the tour choir the songs are the joyful demonstration of hearts united in faith and in confession of that faith. They are an expression of faith in song that uplifts the spirit of the hearers, and we might add the students. A beautiful song, *Mercy Tree*,<sup>(2)</sup> began, "On a hill called Calvary stands an endless mercy tree." It was a musical rendition of the events on Calvary and concluded with the message of the resurrection, and the ultimate joy of heaven. It struck an emotional chord, not only in the hearers but also in the choir members as was expressed by one of those who was singing. These concerts are one reason among many why members of our church count Immanuel special, and parents see it as a worthy if not necessary educational alternative to government schools.

"Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord, bless His name;  
Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.  
Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples"<sup>(Psalms 96:1-3)</sup>

**GRADUATION:** The highlight of the weekend is of course the graduation. The joint graduation of high school, college, and seminary students is perhaps unique in this age. While the graduates are acknowledged as they cross the stage, the graduation is unique in that it is a service, a service of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for His continued attention to these young people and for bringing them to the commencement of the next stage of their life and service. They were committed to His care and sent on their way with the confidence and prayer that they will continue in the paths of the Lord Who has called them to serve Him in whatever vocation they are engaged. The source of the address to the graduates was unlike those typically heard in most other institutions at graduation. It was Scripture. The message was simple, understandable, directed, and to the core. It was a law and gospel address. It was the substance of the message the choir had sung the night before. In addition, one of the passages most often seen on campus was a passage not likely heard, let alone acknowledged, at any other graduation. It was noted on graduation mortarboards (caps), posted on walls, chalked on the walkway. It was the Word of the Lord through Jeremiah: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope"<sup>(Jeremiah 29:11)</sup>.

**FELLOWSHIP:** One of the unique blessings of Immanuel is the fellowship that lasts life-long among those who have attended the school, or who have had an association with it. At concerts and graduation it is a "family reunion," in the truest sense. The bond is not athletic, or even academic. The bond is the genuine unity enjoyed by students and former students (going back many years) who having been steadfast in faith and confession truly celebrate Immanuel—God with us. Many are drawn back to the campus to enjoy the fellowship and to renew acquaintances made years ago. It is a fellowship of kindred minds who enjoy listening to the concerts and participating in the worship of the concerts and graduation. To experience it is to know the beauty and camaraderie of parents, children, and grandchildren of the same spiritual family who have graduated from the school.

Perhaps the most unique feature of the beautiful weekend was that it was the same as all past graduation weekends. Participants change, graduates are different, but the essence of it and the family reunion ever remain the same. Because the Lord is the focal point, and His Word the common bond, it could not be otherwise. We know the Lord will not change, nor will His love, and His will to give us all future hope. In a fractured world God help us to follow in the train of those who having kept the faith have entered into their rest. *As Christ is our Cornerstone*, as is sung by the alumni with the choir at the end of each concert, may we all appreciate the sense of the Alma Mater sung at the end of the graduation service:

*Nestled in the quiet beauty Of the tall green pines,  
God has set our Alma Mater, Guiding hearts and minds.  
Built on Jesus' words of promise – O, Lord, bless her well –  
Thus may e'er our Alma Mater Be Immanuel!*

1) I Will Sing of My Redeemer- Words; Philip P. Bliss

2) Mercy Tree- Words and Music : Michael Neal and Krissy Nordhoff