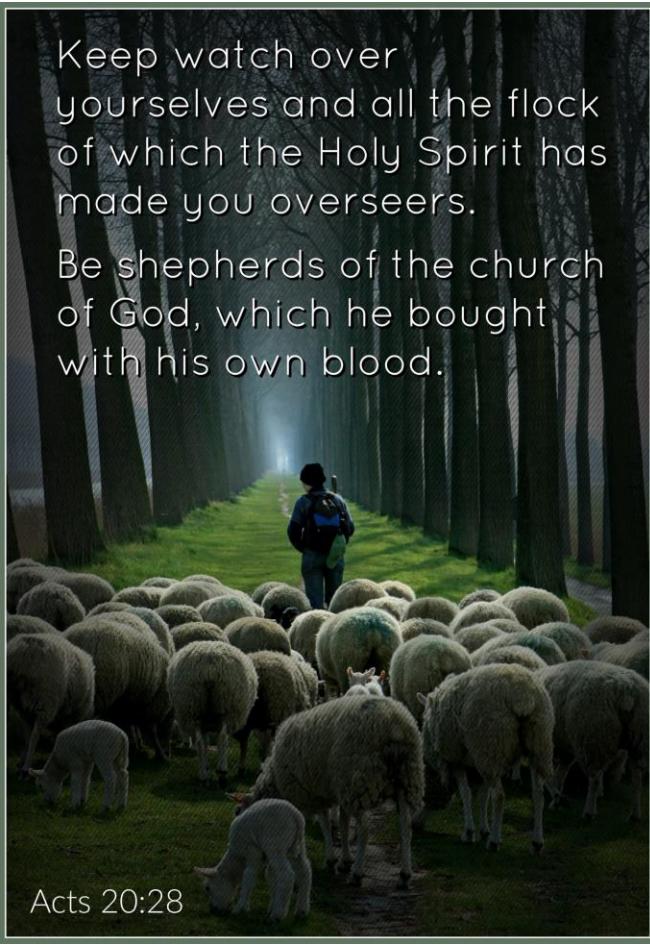

Grace Lutheran Church & School



Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.

Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Acts 20:28

Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE

Fridley, MN 55432



Email: john.p.hein@gmail.com

Home Page: www.FridleyLutheran.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 4/Good Shepherd

Date: May 3, 2020

† WORSHIP INFORMATION †

Hymns:

TLH 436: The Lord's My Shepherd

LSB 711: Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

TLH 493: Thou Who the Night in Prayer Didst Spend

TLH 51: Now May He Who from the Dead

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 23, TLH p. 128

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 200:1,8

Scripture Readings:

Ezekiel 34:1-15

1 Peter 5:1-11

Sermon: Acts 20:27-32

²⁷ "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

²⁸ "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

³¹ "Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. ³² "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (NKJVTM)

Bonded Together as Our Shepherd's
Flock through His Word

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- **Events at Grace:** The Elders are continuing the suspension of worship services now that the Governor has extended his stay-at-home order to May 18, reviewing this on a weekly basis. We continue to share an online package of spiritual materials by email, also posted on Grace's website at FridleyLutheran.org.

In addition, the following church events are suspended:

- Bible Class and Sunday School
- Lord's Supper during public worship services
- Hospitality and choir

Pastor is willing to serve private communion upon request. Please feel free to communicate with Pastor regarding any spiritual need you may have. His number is 612-408-1635.

- **This Weekend's Service:** The service today is from April 29, 2018, spliced with a new sermon.

- **Online Midweek Bible Class:** This coming Wednesday, May 6, 7 pm, Pastor will conduct a live online Bible Class via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87165441734?pwd=N3VgaFVxdkFtQ25RUzVXMvY2JsUT09>

Meeting ID: 871 6544 1734/ Password: 005765

Or call with phone: 1-312-626-6799 (same meeting ID & password)

Zoom can be used on your computer or on your mobile device by downloading the Zoom app via Google Play or Apple App Store.

- **School:** With the Governor's orders for school closures until the end of the academic year, Grace will be concluding its year in the same manner as the past few weeks. Classes will end when the teachers have completed their normal work. May the Lord continue to bless our children with a Christ-rendered education!

- **Grace Lutheran School** staff is beginning to plan for the 2020-21 school year. If you are interested in enrolling your child in our school, please speak to one of the teachers for an enrollment form. You may also email Janelle Hein at janellehein@gmail.com.

- **Offerings:** During this time when services are suspended, the Lord is still doing all His work to keep our souls and bodies in His keeping. His Gospel work never ends, even as our pastor and teachers continue to function in their divine calls. Therefore, our gratitude continues for the Lord's boundless and bountiful blessings. Please remember this by giving a thank offering to Him. These may be sent by mail directly to the church at:

Grace Lutheran Church; 460 75th Ave NE; Fridley, MN 55432

The Council will ensure these are accounted for and deposited.

- ➔ **Minnesota Delegate Conference:** The 2020 MN Delegate Conference has been rescheduled to Sat., July 11, 2020 from 10 am to 5 pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato, MN.
- ➔ **CLC News:** Seminary Graduate Cory Drehle has accepted the call to Berea Lutheran in Sioux Falls, SD. † ILC Graduate Mikkela Hammond of Eau Claire, WI, has accepted the call to serve as teacher at St. Stephen Lutheran in Mountain View, CA (San Francisco area). † Teacher Dan Barthels of Gethsemane Lutheran in Saginaw, MI, has been called by Cheyenne, WY. † Teacher Quinn Sprengeler of Redemption Lutheran in Lynnwood, WA (Seattle area) has been called to be 4th-8th Grade Teacher and Principal at Holy Trinity Lutheran in West Columbia, SC. † Pastor Michael Gurath of Holy Cross Lutheran in Phoenix, AZ, has received the call to St. Luke's Lutheran in Lemmon, SD.
- ➔ **S.S. Memory Work:** #26 – Sacrament of the Altar 3 & 4

I STILL BELIEVE

I still believe ...

- In an age of doubt, that Jesus' resurrection proves He is God, equal to the Father and the Spirit.
- In an age of confusion, that Jesus' resurrection shows every Word of the Bible is true.
- In an age of guilt, that Jesus' resurrection is heaven's decree that my sins are forgiven.
- In an age of fear, that Jesus' resurrection assures me I will bodily arise and live with Him.
- In an age of self-reliance, that Jesus' resurrection reveals that only He can hold me securely.
- In an age of anxiety, that Jesus' resurrection blesses me with His perfect peace.
- In an age of politics, that Jesus' resurrection establishes His Church under the rule of His Word alone.

— From the Lutheran Spokesman

“IT’S JUST NOT THE SAME”

The title appeared as a subhead in the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* (4-12-2020) in an article regarding church Easter celebrations.

Presently, under executive order of the governor there is no physical presence at worship during the pandemic. Since closing churches (with some stipulations—less than 10 in a gathering) applies to all religious gatherings in the community this is, we trust, not a covert attack against Christianity which is increasingly under attack in society. Whether we agree with the government closure order is not the issue. It is our responsibility in accord with Romans 13 to be subject to the governing authorities who are “minister[s] to you for good.” If, however, the presently gloating devil inspires authorities, or anti-Christian forces to stifle public worship to satisfy some personal, political, anti-Christian agenda, the Word says, “We ought to obey God, rather than men” (Acts 5:29). That was the reaction of Peter and the other apostles to the council and the high priest who had said, “Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this [Jesus’] name? In the latter circumstance there may be a price to pay for following the Word. But so it must be.

While we have closed our churches to *physical* presence at worship, the Word is not bound. The message of the Word continues to go forth. While it is not the optimal way, with modern technology pastors and teachers in the church have been able to share the Gospel in various ways. While the personal fellowship so important to us as individuals in the church as well as to the life of the church is lacking, there have been ways of communicating family to family, face to face, through technology. For this we thank the Lord above all, and we thank our pastors, teachers, and responsible leaders in the church for their ingenuity and faithfulness in providing service as best they can.

Faithful Christians miss being able to attend the Lord’s Supper with each other. On the other hand, a lack of understanding of the need as well as a lack of respect for the Word and Sacrament and the blessings that issue therefrom are manifest by *neglecting and despising* the Sacrament. The present inability to receive the Sacrament, however, is *not* a consequence of neglect. At the same time, though faithful Christians desire the Sacrament, we must be careful that we do not make attendance at the Sacrament a *sine qua non* (an essential condition or a thing absolutely necessary) for salvation. The Lord has not left us

without the comfort of forgiveness of sins and assurance of eternal life in as much as the “preached” Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. Yet despite the present circumstances, our pastors have been available to serve members who desire and request the Sacrament.

At the same time, bizarre and flippant practices of what to many passes for communion during this time of lack and inability to congregate have arisen, practices which reveal a lack of understanding of the meaning and blessing of the Sacrament. One local church “put together a Holy Week Kit consisting of a piece of palm, a tea light candle, and an individual serving host and juice cup.” These could be picked up at the church. The *Pioneer Press* quoted a Methodist pastor as encouraging the people to find “juice, water, or whatever’ and some type of bread for communion.” Some churches have resorted to “drive by communion” akin to the drive-up window at the local McDonald’s. The female bishop of the St. Paul Area Synod of ELCA, however advises not to attempt such distribution “in order to err on the side of caution.” Another ELCA pastor said, “We have invited our worship participants to commune along with us while watching our worship videos, using whatever elements they bring to their table—wine, bread, juice, crackers, coffee, donuts, etc.”

Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted the Sacrament. That is why it is called the “Lord’s Supper.” At the conclusion of the Passover on the night on which He was betrayed the Lord instituted the covenant of the New Testament. As He gave the bread and the wine to the disciples, He said, “‘Take, eat; This is my body.’ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins.’” (Matthew 26: 26-28). The Spirit confirmed these words when He moved the apostle to write, “For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, “‘Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ In the same manner *He* also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes” (1 Corinthians 11:23- 26).

"Do this *in remembrance of Me*, for as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, *you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*" "The Lord's Supper is a memorial celebration. However, the Sacrament is *more* than a memorial. "It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, for us Christians to eat and to drink, instituted by Christ Himself", the benefit of which is "shown us by these words, 'Given and shed for you for the remission of sins'" (Martin Luther: *Small Catechism*). The believing communicant is not a meritorious doer, but a penitent receiver.

The Lord's Supper was not instituted by the Lord for us to treat and change as we choose. It is not to be distributed indiscriminately to the world physically or by video. The Sacrament is given for the comfort and strengthening of those who confess their sins and desire to amend their sinful lives. Simply put, it was instituted for the comfort and strengthening of the penitent sinner.

Furthermore, only they are to be received to the Sacrament who, having confessed their sins, believe in the REAL PRESENCE. The body and blood of Christ is present under the form of bread and wine. **This is my Body...This is my blood.**" Real presence describes a supernatural, sacramental, union.

It is what it is because the Lord said it is what it is. Paul wrote, "Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep" (1 Corinthians 11:27-30).

Unworthy reception of the Sacrament is eating and drinking of the Sacrament without "discerning the Lord's body." One who denies the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament does not abuse bread and wine but the body and blood of Christ and invites judgment.

Both the call to confession of sins and confession of the real presence are reasons for the practice of "Close communion." Another is that communing together reflects the union and unity of faith and confession of those who have made public confession of their faith and are of one faith, one hope, and one confession.

The present situation where communion is not readily accessible because of the ban on gatherings weighs heavily upon the faithful Christian. We pray that when the ban is lifted we all will appreciate more deeply the rich blessing of faithful and regular reception of the Sacrament. In the meantime, we thank God that His Word is available in our on-line services, and we can nourish our faith through it, through private devotion and Bible reading at home. Adults with their children will also be nourished as they fulfill their parental responsibility toward their children by teaching and sharing the Word with them. God's Word will not be bound.

"It is just not the same" in our society and may not return to what we knew, which in some ways and sense would be a benefit. We do not presume to speak for other churches, nor even for the Lutheran Church in the world. But if we have been neglecting Word and Sacrament we pray that the present trial and hiatus would open hearts and minds to return to faithful use of the means of grace. Perhaps the Lord is moving to reawaken in us an appreciation of the Gospel, as well as to a recommitment to our doctrine and life anchored in Scripture, and manifest in our Reformation heritage, "By Scripture alone, By Grace alone, By Faith alone," which to many within Lutheranism has become an empty slogan. We must reject without apology the compromise of God's truth, the trivialization and abuse of sacred things. In matters of doctrine, we must resist the path of least resistance as it leads down the road of apostasy.

One thing—GOD'S WORD—does remain the same. By the power of the Spirit, may our appreciation of our Father's love in Christ, and our desire to gather together diligently and faithfully to search the Scriptures remain the same. In demonstration of our resolve, "Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way *is*, and walk in it." In doing so, our Lord promises, "then you will find rest for your souls" (Jeremiah 6:16).

May God in His grace preserve to us the Gospel in Word and Sacrament, for without them there is no ground of faith and hope. Though things are not the same in many ways, God's faithfulness and His Word remain forever true, and so we pray:

O, Lord Christ, help us to cherish
Your precious Word and Sacrament.
Whate'er our status in this life-
Pain or sorrow, health or pleasure -
Our faith increase and comfort give
Through Your saving Means of Grace.

"Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it (treasure) it"
(Luke 11:28).

MINISTRIES FOUND ONLINE

www.FridleyLutheran.org

Some website links:



- Grace Lutheran Church: www.FridleyLutheran.org
- Grace on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CLCGraceLutheranChurch
- Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC): www.clclutheran.org
- Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, & Seminary (ILC): www.ilc.edu
- CLC Missions: www.lutheranmissions.org
- The CLC Book House (CLC book store): www.clcbookhouse.org
- The Lutheran Spokesman (CLC publication): www.lutheranspokesman.org
- The Branches (women's publication): www.thebranchesonline.info

Check out the following online devotional materials:

- Weekly video of the Grace Lutheran Church sermon: www.clcgracelutheranchurch.org/category/sermons/
- Weekly CLC "Ministry by Mail" sermon: www.clclutheran.org/ministrybymail
- Daily email devotions from The Bread of Life (The Lutheran Spokesman): www.glcailydevotion.wordpress.com
- Daily email devotions from CLC pastors: www.redeemerclc.info/devotional.html
- Daily email for a CLC Three-Year Bible reading program: www.threeyearbiblereadingplan.wordpress.com
- Daily audio of the chapel address from our Immanuel campus: www.ilc.edu/chapel.htm

Also, check out the Grace Lutheran Church on Google Play for Android devices.

Facebook Page: If you're on Facebook, be sure to like or share items that are on the Grace Lutheran Church page. This can help promote the page to others, along with events that we publicize there. The more shares, etc., the more Facebook promotes our church page to others.



† OUR SCHEDULE †

Please keep in mind that this schedule is tentative given the circumstances. Stay tuned by the email announcements.

- Sun., May 3:** Online Worship Service
Wed., May 6: 7:00 pm – Online Midweek Bible Class (Zoom)
Thu., May 7: 1:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students (Zoom)
Sun., May 10: Online Worship Service
Sun., May 17: Online Worship Service
Thu., May 21: **ASCENSION DAY**
Grace School Official Dismissal for Summer
7:00 pm – Ascension Worship Service (Tentative)
Sun., May 24: Summer Schedule Scheduled to Begin
9:00 am – Worship Service (Tentative)
June 8-10: CLC Boards & Coordinating Council
Sat., July 11: 10:00 am – MN Delegate Conference @ Mankato, MN
July 20-24: 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School (Tentative)
July 30-Aug. 2: CLC Convention @ Eau Claire, WI
Sun., Aug. 23: 3:00 pm – Opening Service at ILC
Mon., Aug. 31: Opening Day for Grace Lutheran School (Tentative)

Last Week's Stats: Apr. 26, 2020		Sun.: Online	S.S.: Online	B.Cl.: Online
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$1,580	CLC:	\$470
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,000	CLC:	950
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-2,420	CLC:	-480
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$73,677	CLC:	\$15,950
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	68,000	CLC:	16,150
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+5,677	CLC:	-200
GLC Other:	40	Living Faith:	0	Tuition Aid: 50
SAF Endowment:	0	MDF:	0	Kinship: 0
ILC Student Aid:	0	ILC Bldg.	100	IIF: 0 CEF: 0
Current Balances:		Tuition Aid: \$920		



John 10:27-28 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.²⁸ “And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”