

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: Pentecost/Confirmation

Date: May 23, 2021

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

WS 739: Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling
TLH 337: Our Lord and God, Oh, Bless This Day
Hymns for Sermonettes
CDS: LSB 727: On Eagles' Wings
Shine, Jesus, Shine
Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 145, TLH p. 155f.

Liturgy:

WS, p. 1 (Projected)
WS p. 42, Psalm 121

Scripture Readings:

Acts 2:1-11
John 14:25-27

Sermonettes: Confirmation Memory Passages

Alexandra Rose Baker:

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

WS 769: Lift High the Cross

Sienna Scarlet Boe:

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

TLH 370: My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Naomi Jo Story:

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

TLH 400: Take My Life and Let It Be

✝ *THE ANNOUNCEMENTS* ✝

COVID-19 Pre-Cautions: If anyone is high risk, vulnerable, recently exposed to a COVID-19 patient, or has symptoms of illness (esp. high temp. and cough), the individual along with any others in that person's household are urged to stay home for one's own well-being and the well-being of others. Online worship is still available at FridleyLutheran.org. Face coverings are optional. Thank you for being mindful of your fellow Christians, understanding that there are differing sensitivities about the pandemic.

➔ **Confirmation:** Congrats! We congratulate Alexandra, Sienna, and Naomi for completing their catechetical instruction so that they understand all the foundational doctrines revealed in Scripture about our Triune God. We also welcome them as communicant members at Grace. May the Lord continue to faithfully guide and direct them during their time of grace as they have promised to make faithful use of the Means of Grace. After worship there will be hospitality outside the church to which everyone is invited.



➔ **Among Us:** Larry Nelson had successful surgery the past Tuesday to remove his cancerous prostate. He is healing at home. In addition, Jyothi Benjamin, our seminary teacher in India, has had a serious battle with COVID. He is recovering slowly. The LORD bless these men with rejuvenated health, both physically and spiritually.

➔ **School Program:** This Thursday, May 27, 7 pm, the children of our school will put on a play. For space purposes, only immediate family members. The event will be live-streamed at Grace's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCSiRrWC-R9H-hgJ1NVR2DJA.

➔ **Grace Lutheran School** staff is planning for the 2021-22 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 2021) on the sheet on the tract rack table. Include the school's name and the degree. Our Graduation Sunday is May 30. Alexandra Baker will also graduate from Grace School that day.



➔ **Graduation Invitations:** The bulletin board by Pastor's office includes some invitations from this year's graduates.

➔ **Summer Worship Schedule:** Next Sunday, May 30, the summer schedule will begin with worship service held at 9 am. Bible Class and Sunday School will be suspended for the summer.



- ➔ **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.
- ➔ **Daily Rest:** *Daily Rest* is a daily devotion book printed quarterly by the CLC. It is time to renew subscriptions or get a new subscription if you would like to receive this edifying material. The deadline to subscribe is June 1. Norma Rust has graciously offered to collect the \$15 payments. You may give this payment to her directly or mail your payment in her name to her address: Norma Rust; 5735 Quincy St. NE; Fridley, MN 55432. Please contact her (sew410@att.net/763-571-5735) for instruction if you wish to submit your payment electronically through Zelle.
- ➔ **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. If you are not receiving *The Branches* now is the time to add your name to the list. The congregation pays for the subscription.
- ➔ **Vacation Bible School:** On July 19-23, 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.



Last Week's Stats: May 16, 2021 Sun.: 73 Bible Cl.: 32 S.S.: 12

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$4,114	CLC:	\$190
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,125	CLC:	1,000
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-11	CLC:	-810
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$78,267	CLC:	\$16,785
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	82,500	CLC:	20,000
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-4,233	CLC:	-3,215
GLC Other: 180	Living Faith:	5	Tuition Aid:	90
SAF Endowment: 0	MDF:	10	Kinship:	17
ILC Student Aid: 15	ILC Bldg.	0	IIF: 0	CEF: 0
Current Balances:	Tuition Aid:	\$784		

The Evangelical Lutheran Church

We trust many evangelical Lutherans were upset and dismayed to read: “Evangelical Lutherans abandon the Bible, elect first transgender bishop” (Western Journal online, May 2020). The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) ordained a “he” who became a “she,” as a bishop. First of all, it is presumptuous of the ELCA to suggest that *it is the* evangelical Lutheran Church *in* America. Secondly, it is wrong to paint all evangelical Lutherans with the same brush as the press frequently does. The ELCA *does not* speak for or represent evangelical Lutheranism in America.

True evangelical Lutherans in America have not abandoned the Bible. In its doctrine and practice the ELCA as a church body has.

Today many words and names have little meaning, subjectively defined as they are by whoever chooses to define them. For example, what is a Christian? What does evangelical mean? What is evangelical Christianity? What is the Church? What is an Evangelical Lutheran?



What is a Christian? A Christian is a follower of Christ. The name was not chosen by Christ-believers in an attempt to boast of themselves. It was a name assigned to them. “The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch,” Acts 11:26, cf. Acts 26:28). The name was applied to them by outsiders, by people who did not follow Christ. In effect, Jesus defined the name when He says, “If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed” (John 8:32). The disciples wore the name as a privilege and a witness to their faith. The apostle Peter said, “If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you ... Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter” (1 Peter 4:16)

What does Evangelical mean? Evangelical defines individuals or a church that proclaim the Evangel, the Good News, the Gospel. An evangelist proclaims the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. The Gospel in Word and Sacrament is the means of Grace -- the means through which the Spirit of God calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies, souls lost in sin (Luther’s *Small Catechism*- 3rd Article)

Through the Gospel the Spirit gives and seals unto them through faith the blessings of forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation. Jesus commissioned Christians, to “go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:19-20 - “*teaching them to observe all things* that I have commanded you...”). Said He, “...repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations...” (Luke 24:47). “The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16).

What is evangelical Christianity? In contrast to the above, many churches in our society have reduced the Gospel to nothing more than “social gospel,” devoid of the preaching of sin and grace (Law and Gospel). Evangelical Christianity has become more socially oriented as it presents itself as a political bloc and an economic force. It has jettisoned the Spirit and the Holy Gospel which is the power of God unto sanctification. It preaches what the apostle Paul called “another gospel” (Galatians 1:8). Its “social gospel,” promoting deeds, not creeds, makes a mockery of the Apostolic (Apostles’) Creed.

What is the Holy Christian Church? The holy Christian Church is the Body of Christ. No denomination or visible church can lay claim to being the Holy Christian Church. The Holy Christian Church is the body of Christ, that is the sum total of all Christ-believers who confess their sins in thought, word, and deed and believe and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. Wherever the Gospel is taught, and the Sacraments administered according to their institution by Christ, there will be true believers. In other words, believers in Christ exist within the visible church, though the visible church itself is not identical to the Holy Christian Church. They who hold faith in Christ in their heart are known to the Lord. He alone reads the heart and separates the true Christians from the hypocrites.

What is an Evangelical Lutheran Church?

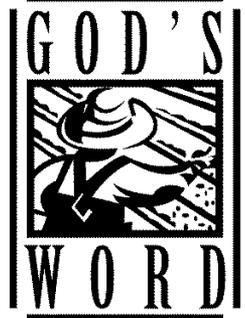
a) Evangelical – see above. At the time of the Reformation, evangelical was the preferred nomenclature of those who were bound by the Word of God. Interestingly, the title page of the Augsburg Confession (1530), the chief confession of the Lutheran Church says simply, “The Confession of Faith which was submitted to His Imperial Majesty Charles V at the Diet of Augsburg.” The name Lutheran is not used.

b) Lutheran – Martin Luther did not want the evangelicals called by His name. Here again, the name was not chosen by Luther’s supporters. As in Antioch where mockers of the disciples assigned them the name “Christian,” the name Lutheran was first used by John Eck when he published a Bull (document) against Luther. Pope Hadrian VI (1522) used the name as a term of reproach. They who identified with the teaching of Luther accepted the name. Luther acceded but said, “Luther will have nothing to do with Lutheranism except as it teaches Holy Scripture purely.” The King of Sweden said, “We do not call ourselves Lutherans, but are so styled by our enemies, and we *permit* it as a token of our consent with the pure teaching of the word which Luther set forth.” (Krauth, CP 1823-1883-- *Conservative Reformation of the Lutheran Church,*)

c) Church – the visible assembly of like-confessing believers, who make up the visible entity as distinguished from other church denominations such as Roman Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, etc.

A true evangelical church consists of sinners who, by the power of the Spirit, confess the Christian faith drawn from the Bible. They confess without qualification or compromise the Holy Trinity as confessed in the *Apostolic Creed*, the *Nicene Creed*, and the *Athanasian Creed*. They confess all the doctrines, drawn from the Scriptures, set forth in those creeds. Their faith is in Christ Jesus as their only Savior and they look for His return in the judgment, at which time they will by grace alone be received into glory.

What distinguishes the true Evangelical Lutheran Church from impostors? Their *subscription without qualification to the authority of Scripture!* The Evangelical Lutheran Church does not say, nor dare it say, if it abides in the truth, “We believe the Bible, but...unless... however...!” Luther would not recognize the Lutheran Church today. Within the ELCA there are precious people of God who rejoice



in Christ and are saved. We reiterate -- if, when, and where the Gospel is taught the Lord has His children. But can the ELCA legitimately lay claim to being an evangelical Lutheran church if it denies any doctrine of God’s Word? Denial of *any* Scripture doctrine, for example, ordaining transgender bishops, gives lie to the claim. What is taught or practiced contrary to Scripture is neither evangelical nor Lutheran.

Christ redeemed every sinner in the world. The fruit of His redemption is appropriated by and through faith, born of the Spirit through the sure, certain, and authoritative word of God. Every single Christian, redeemed by the blood of Christ, can relate to the struggles against sin and temptation. There is none among us who by reason of our flesh has not been tempted to wish, more than we care to admit, that Christianity was what he or she wanted it to be. As Christ-believers who profess to be members of a truly evangelical Lutheran Church as defined by the Reformation we must speak the truth, not with a “holier than thou” attitude, but with godly sorrow and in love toward those who have strayed. We will engage in prayer for souls deceived and for the church that it comes back to the authority of Scripture. Such witness begins within our own heart with, “God be merciful to me, a sinner.” With Luther we pray, “Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word!”

Every individual believer in Christ has the certainty of God’s promises recorded in His Word. “No one will snatch them out of My hand” (John 10: 28-29). Every member of a professing Christian church has the promise, “Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them (Matthew 18:20). Every member of the Holy Christian Church has the assurance, “The gates of hell shall not prevail” against the Church (Matthew 16:20). Our Heavenly Father is faithful. He cannot lie.

As we traverse this world tried, tested, and tempted, the Lord promises to be with us and strengthen us who bear His name – follower of Christ - and whom He knows by personal name. And He has given us the watchword by which each of us can and must measure his own heart, *“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples* indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32).

The Lord warns against prophets (by extension the church) who scatter and deceive the sheep through false teaching. “Let Him who has My Word, speak My word faithfully” (Jeremiah 23:28). The Lutheran Church ***is truly evangelical only so long as it bows uncompromisingly to the authority of the divine Word! It remains the true evangelical Lutheran Church only as it is solidly committed to Scripture as the final authority in all matters of faith and life, and by its practice reflects, “Thus saith the Lord.”***

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 5, 2021

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Dave Rust

Ushers: Larry Brandt; Jeremiah Boe; Nick Duehlmeier;
Dale Enns; Duane Enns; Brandon Paplow; Pat Paplow

Counting Team 1: Dale Enns; Larry Nelson; Ryan Oman; Pat
Paplow; Phil Radichel

Church Cleaners: Sandhoefner School: Wales

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Larry Brandt; Jeremiah Boe; Nick Duehlmeier;
Dale Enns; Duane Enns; Brandon Paplow; Pat Paplow

Counting Team 1: Dale Enns; Larry Nelson; Ryan Oman; Pat
Paplow; Phil Radichel

Church Cleaners: Volunteers? School: Wales

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Sun., May 23: Confirmation Sunday

9:00 am – Confirmation Examination

10:00 am – Worship Service (Confirmation/Pentecost)

11:00 am – Confirmation Reception (outdoor)

Thu., May 27: 7:00 pm – Grace School Spring Program (immediate family)

Fri., May 28: 12:00 pm – Grace School Dismissal for Summer

Sun., May 30: Summer Worship Schedule Begins

9:00 am – Worship Service (Graduation/Trinity Sunday)

Mon., May 31: Memorial Day

Sat., June 5: 10:00 am – MN Delegate Conference (Mankato, MN)

Sun., June 6: 9:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper (Pentecost 2)

June 24-27: CLC Convention (Eau Claire, WI)

July 19-23: 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School

Sun., Aug. 22: 3:00 pm – Immanuel Opening Service

Mon., Aug. 30: Opening Day of Grace School

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!