

Grace Lutheran Church & School – Fridley, MN (USA)

460 75th Ave NE; Fridley, MN 55432

www.FridleyLutheran.org

Pastor: John Hein (john.p.hein@gmail.com/612.408.1635)

Grace Evangelistic Lutheran Church – Paynesville, Liberia (LIBR)

Pastor: Joseph Kwiwalazu (libclctraining@gmail.com/0775 282 659)

Affiliation: *CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION*

January 7, 2024: Welcome to today's combined worship between our two congregations. Given that this is the first time this is attempted, please be patient as we try to make things go smoothly. Who worships when is indicated by USA in contrast to LIBR. The service is intended to honor the LORD who has made it possible for GELC to have its own worship facility. We join in them in this joyous occasion!



Psalm 122:1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD."

✠ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

Welcome (USA):

Hymn (USA): *TLH 465: Christ Is Our Corner-Stone*

- 1. Christ is our Corner-stone, On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone The courts of heaven are filled.
On His great love Our hopes we place
Of present grace And joys above.**
- 2. Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise The three in One to sing
And thus proclaim In joyful song,
Both loud and long. That glorious name.**
- 3. Here, gracious God, do Thou Forevermore draw nigh;
Accept each faithful vow And mark each suppliant sigh.
In copious shower On all who pray
Each holy day, Thy blessing pour.**
- 4. Here may we gain from heaven The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once given, Be with us evermore
Until that day When all the blest
To endless rest Are called away!**

Liturgy: *TLH, p. 15 ff.*

USA: (standing)

P: In the name of the Father, And of the Son, And of the Holy Ghost.

C (♩): Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C (♩): Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C (♩): And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

LIBR (kneeling):

C: O almighty God, merciful Father, I a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

C: Amen.

Introit (USA):

P: Surely God is my help; the LORD is the one who sustains me.

C: Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD.

P: From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets ...

C: The name of the LORD be praised, both now and forevermore.

P: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts up the needy from the ash heap;

**C: Surely God is my help, the one who sustains me.
Glory be to God!**

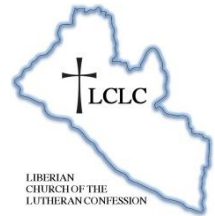
Gloria in Excelsis (LIBR): *TLH 68, st. 6*

**C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.**

LIBR musical interlude

Brief Brotherly Greetings (USA & LIBR):

- Elderly Member (USA): Dave Rust
- Elderly Member (LIBR): Alfred Gayflor
- President (USA): Eli Wales
- President (LIBR): Johnny Monibah
- Pastor (USA): Pastor John Hein
- Pastor (LIBR): Pastor Joseph Kwiwalazu



First Scripture Reading (USA): *Colossians 3:12-17*

Note: The Word of God binds together as fellow Christians.

¹²Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷ 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. (NKJVTM)

Second Reading (LIBR): *John 4:19-26*

Note: Jesus Christ is the focus of our worship, done in spirit and truth.

¹⁹ The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰ “Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.” ²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² “You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ “God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵ The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming “ (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” ²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am *He*.” (NKJVTM)

Confession of Faith (USA):.....*Nicene Creed, TLH p. 22*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe only holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn (LIBR):.....*Language: Loma*

Jesus, come and cleanse me so that I can work for You.

Sermon (USA):.....*1 Kings 8:6-13*

⁶ Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy *Place*, under the wings of the cherubim. ⁷ For the cherubim spread *their* two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. ⁸ The poles extended so that the ends of the poles could be seen from the holy *place*, in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day. ⁹ Nothing *was* in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made *a covenant* with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. ¹⁰ And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy *place*, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, ¹¹ so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD. ¹² Then Solomon spoke: "The LORD said He would dwell in the dark cloud. ¹³ I have surely built You an exalted house, And a place for You to dwell in forever." (NKJVTM)



A House for the LORD to Dwell with His Word

Offertory (USA):.....*TLH p. 22 f.*

C (♩): Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Hymn (USA):*TLH 292: Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide*

1. Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
For round us falls the eventide;
Nor let Thy Word, that heavenly light,
For us be ever veiled in night.
2. In these last days of sore distress
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That pure we keep, till life is spent,
Thy holy Word and Sacrament.
3. Lord Jesus, help, Thy Church uphold,
For we are sluggish, thoughtless, cold.
Oh, prosper well Thy Word of grace
And spread its truth in every place!
4. Oh, keep us in Thy Word, we pray;
The guile and rage of Satan stay!
Oh, may Thy mercy never cease!
Give concord, patience, courage, peace.
8. A trusty weapon is Thy Word,
Thy Church's buckler, shield and sword.
Oh, let us in its power confide
That we may seek no other guide!
9. Oh, grant that in Thy holy Word
We here may live and die, dear Lord;
And when our journey endeth here,
Receive us into glory there.

Offering (USA & LIBR): *Meditative Music by Organist (USA)*

Prayer (LIBR):

P: To the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever! We pray for the needs of all people in the name of our one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. By His ransom we approach Your throne, O God, in confidence.

We urgently implore that You, O LORD, who desires all men be saved, would send out Your message of salvation to all people. Let Your truth be known to the ends of the earth so that Your Spirit would grant to us and all people the knowledge of sin leading to death and of your grace through Christ leading to life everlasting. Grant peace and quietness to both our nations that we may live in godliness and attend to the needs of those in need with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Keep safe the blessings of marriage, children, and family, while upholding our freedom that the mission of the Church would be unhindered and more would come to know Your saving name.

For those who are in need, extend Your mercy. For Jesus sake, comfort those who mourn, grant healing to those who suffer, uplift those who have been brought low, and steady the weak.

We give You heartfelt thanks for the countless blessings You give day by day. For the blessing of church and the ministry of the Gospel to serve us with that which is most needful, we give thanks. For the fellowship our two congregations share around the revealed truth of Your Word, we give You thanks. For the facilities we both are using to honor your Saving name and whereby You are present as Your Word is taught and proclaimed, we give You thanks. For the blessing of godly parents, fathers and mothers who care for the spiritual welfare of their children, we give thanks. For the needs of body – food, shelter, clothes, and medical care, we give You thanks. For the needs of soul – forgiveness, righteousness, and the hope of heaven, we give You our utmost thanks. Accept our prayers and offerings for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Liturgy for the Lord's Supper:..... TLH p. 24 ff.

LIBR:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

USA:

C (♩):

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabāōth;
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory;
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, Blessed is He,
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

LIBR:

P: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

USA:

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C (♩): Amen.

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us!
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us!
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace! Amen.**

Communion Distribution: Musical Interlude (LIBR)

*Note: At both Grace Lutherans, we practice close communion.
Communicants at Grace or another CLC/LCLC congregation may approach at the direction of the ushers.*

Nunc Dimittis, Prayer, Benediction: TLH 29 ff.

USA:

C (♩): Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

LIBR:

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

C: And His mercy endureth forever.

P: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled to serve You constantly; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

USA:

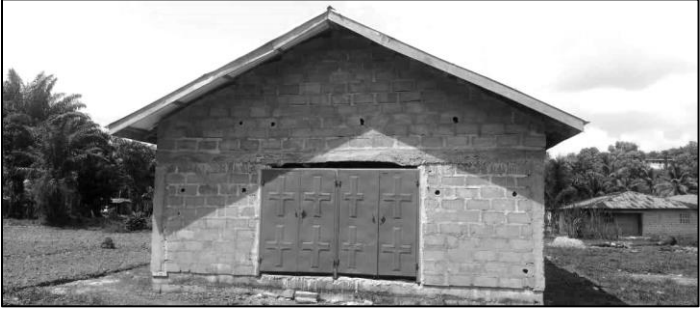
*P: The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you;
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.*

C (♩): Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn (LIBR): Language: Loma

The road was blocked, but Jesus has cleared the way for me.

Some Pictures of Grace Evangelistic Lutheran Church Paynesville, Liberia



✝ ***THE ANNOUNCEMENTS*** ✝

- ➔ **TODAY:** We are holding a special worship service in which we are jointly live streaming with our sister congregation, Grace Evangelistic Lutheran Church (GELC) of Paynesville, Liberia. GELC is constructing a new facility in which to worship and, while unfinished, they are going to start using it. They have asked Pastor Hein to preach for this occasion. The idea developed to switch worship segments between the two congregations. Should the technology fail during the service, we would proceed by doing the remaining worship at Grace. Otherwise, follow the directions in the bulletin by doing the USA portions and then by listening during the LIBR (Liberia) portions. The words are in the bulletin to assist in understanding the differences in dialect. While some portions will be in Loma, one of the tribal languages of Liberia, the people do speak what's called Sour English, basically with fewer verbs and abbreviated nouns. Also, Pastor Joseph Kwiwalazu often leads his congregation in the liturgy by first speaking the initial words and the congregation following. Obviously the differences in Western and African cultures will be noticeable.
- ➔ **Among Us:** Barb Crandall is continuing to receive hospice care at Lake Ridge in Buffalo. Please keep Barb, Ben, Cindy, and the family in your prayers as the LORD keeps His promises for His children. This past Friday, David Hein had an accident at work requiring surgery to retain his left arm. He lost his thumb. All three major bones in the arm were broken and repaired through plates. Recently Pastor began a new medication for his cancer. This can have "chemo-like" reactions, so his energy levels and well-being may be diminished at times. May Jesus as our Great Physician tend to His people's cares and challenges.
- ➔ **Appreciation:** I would like to thank everyone for their well-wishes, cards, and especially their prayers. The surgery was successful and I am getting stronger week by week, thanks be to God. Tom Graham
- ➔ **2024 Cleaning:** The 2024 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ➔ **2023 Offering Statements** have been completed and are in your mailbox. With the new church management software system that Grace now uses the statements have a different look. Please look them over. Any questions, contact Benno Sydow.
- ➔ **CLC News:** Retired professor, Paul Schaller, suffered a mild stroke on Tuesday evening and spent 24 hours in the hospital. The stroke symptoms went away with no apparent lasting effects. He is at home with medications and close monitoring. Please keep him and his family in your prayers during his recovery.

- ➔ **Call for Nominations:** The deadline is March 31 for nominations to CLC offices at our upcoming synod convention, June 20-23, 2024. Pastors, professors, male teachers, and voters of congregations within the Church of the Lutheran Confession are invited to nominate individuals for the following synodical offices: CLC President; CLC Vice-President; CLC Moderator; CLC Secretary; Called Servants for the Board of Trustees, Regents, Missions, and Education; Lay Members for the Board of Trustees, Regents, Missions, and Education. An online nomination form and accompanying information is available: Nominations.CLCLutheran.net. Nominations may also be sent by regular mail at this address: Moderator Paul D. Nolting, 810 W 3rd St, Valentine, NE 69201. U.S. mail must be postmarked no later than March 31.
- ➔ **ILC Tour Choir:** For many years the ILC Tour Choir has been granted a special rate for using a charter bus during their yearly tour in holding concerts at various CLC congregations. This year that rate is being discontinued. After comparing the cost of using various bus companies, the common rate would be approximately \$11,000 higher than expected for budgetary reasons. Normally an offering is collected during the tour which will still happen. But this year CLC President Michael Wilke is authorizing this synod-wide announcement to allow others to share in their support of the Tour Choir. This offering would help offset the extra expense needed for the bus. Therefore, if members of CLC congregations wish to support this, please designate your offering to "ILC Tour Choir."
- ➔ **BELC Cyclone Aid:** In early December, Cyclone Michaung struck the eastern coast of India and damaged and flooded churches of the BELC as well as the Martin Luther Bible School (MLBS) pastor training center. Eleven of the fourteen districts of the BELC were affected. A total of 55 churches, as well as the MLBS, were damaged by the cyclone and are in need of repair. The Board of Missions has approved \$12,000 of disaster relief to be sent from Kinship to assist with building repair and reconstruction. Please remember our brethren of the BELC in your prayers, and consider supporting this effort through offerings to Kinship.
- ➔ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #11 – 9th and 10th Commandments

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 the Pastor. He would be delighted to visit with you!

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: **Janelle Hein**

Elder: **Benno Sydow**

Ushers: **Eli Wales; Alex Baker; Kevin Baker; Dan Kelley; Dan Degnan; David Hein; Ryan Oman; Uriah Wales; Bob Vandever**

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

Hospitality Team 4: **Bonnie Baker; Kevin & Sandy Hulke; Jenny Kleifgen; Pat & Dawn Paplow**

Church Cleaners: **Anderson**

School: **Roche**

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: **Gary Gunther; Daniel Hein; Alieu Kanneh; Bob Maki; Bill Rust; David Stifter; Jeff Stifter; Joel Stifter**

Counting Team 3: **Duane Enns; Tom Graham; Kevin Hulke; Dan Degnan; Benno Sydow**

Church Cleaners: **Anderson**

School: **Snyder**

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

- Sun., Jan. 7:** 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship w/Liberia & Lord's Supper (Epiphany 1)
 11:00 am – Hospitality
- Wed., Jan. 10:** 4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
- Thu., Jan. 11:** 9:45 am-2:45 pm – MN Pastoral Study Club (Inver Grove Hts.)
- Sun., Jan. 14:** 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship (Epiphany 2)
 12:00 pm – Council Meeting
- Sun., Jan. 21:** Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 31, 2023 Sun.: 49

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|------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------|--------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Sun. Offering: | Grace: | \$1,875 | CLC: | \$360 | | | |
| Weekly Need (est.): | Grace: | 4,800 | CLC: | 1,080 | | | |
| -Under / +Over: | Grace: | -2,925 | CLC: | -720 | | | |
| Year-to-Date Offering: | Grace: | \$251,622 | CLC: | \$55,832 | | | |
| Total Budget for Year: | Grace: | 249,000 | CLC: | 56,000 | | | |
| Difference from budget (+/-) | Grace: | +2,622 | CLC: | -168 | | | |
| GLC Other: | 210 | Living Faith: | 0 | Tuition Aid: | 50 | Sanctuary: | 830 |
| SAF Endowment: | 0 | MDF: | 0 | Kinship: | 125 | EduK8: | 250 |
| ILC Student Aid: | 0 | ILC Bldg. | 0 | IIF: | 0 | CEF: | 0 |
| Current Balances: | Tuition Aid: | | \$1,917 | Sanctuary: | | \$-1,600 | |
| Tour Choir: | \$100 | | | | | | |



For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9