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## ✝ TODAY AT GRACE ✝

Organist: Maureen Ochsner     Elder: Frank Radichel

Ushers: Pat Paplow, Alex Baker, Kevin Baker, Dan Degnan,  
Brian Eichstadt, Ryan Oman, Brandon Paplow

Counting Team 4: Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl;  
Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner

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

Church Cleaners: A. & K. Baker     School: Gillenwater

## ✝ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✝

Ushers: Pat Paplow, Alex Baker, Kevin Baker, Dan Degnan,  
Brian Eichstadt, Ryan Oman, Brandon Paplow

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

Hospitality Team 4: Mark & Trudy Wales; Karen Auel; Bob &  
Suki Vandever

Church Cleaners: Volunteer ???     School: DeBoer

## ✝ OUR SCHEDULE ✝

**Sun., Apr. 27:** 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School

10:00 am – Worship Service

11:15 am – Hospitality

11:30 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

**Wed., Apr. 30:** CLC Coordinating Council @ Eau Claire

4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

**Fri., May 2:** Immanuel High School Visitors Day

7:30 pm – Immanuel Musical "Annie Jr." (Eau Claire, WI)

**Sat., May 3:** 7:30 pm – Immanuel Musical "Annie Jr." (Eau Claire, WI)

**Sun., May 4:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice

9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School

10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper

11:15 am – Hospitality

**Fri., May 9:** Field Day (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, by Berea in Inver Grove Hts.)

**Thu., May 22:** 7:00 pm – Grace School Program

**Fri., May 23:** 12:00 pm – School Dismissal (Last Day)

3:00 pm – Immanuel Class Day @ Eau Claire, WI

7:30 pm – Immanuel Concert @ Messiah Lutheran

**Sat., May 24:** 10:00 am – Immanuel Graduation @ Eau Claire, WI

**Sun., May 25:** 9:00 am – Summer Worship Schedule Begins

**Thu., May 29:** 7:00 pm – Ascension Worship Service

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# Grace Lutheran Church & School

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He has  
given us a new  
birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection  
of Jesus Christ  
from the dead.

# Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Fridley, MN 55432



Email: [jphein@clclutheran.com](mailto:jphein@clclutheran.com)

Home Page: [www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.org](http://www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.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:** Easter 2

**Date:** April 27, 2014

## ✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

### Hymns:

TLH 198: He's Risen, He's Risen  
TLH 208, st. 1-7: Ye Sons & Daughters of the King  
TLH 427: How Firm a Foundation  
TLH 208, st. 8-10: Ye Sons & Daughters of the King

### Worship Prep:

Psalm 16, TLH p. 125

### Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)  
Gloria: TLH 193, st.1,6

### Scripture Readings:

Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
John 20:19-31

### Sermon: 1 Peter 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, <sup>9</sup>receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls. (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

## "Faith Tested by Fire"

## ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Among Us:** Recently Beverly Wales has been receiving God's Word from our pastoral ministry to her. She has happily received the Good News of her salvation through Jesus Christ, especially as family members have tenderly cared for her. Some may know that she is the mother of Ryan Oman, Nicki Best, and Adam Wales. Because of cancer, her health is limiting her mobility so that she needs care at a facility. It is also getting increasingly difficult for her to articulate her thoughts. Speaking with her today, I know that she happily receives cards and well wishes at: Maranatha Care Center; 5401 69th Ave. N.; Brooklyn Center, MN 55429. She also has a CaringBridge site with which Nicki is giving updates (there is also a guest book): <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/beverlywales>. Please keep Beverly and her family in your prayers!
- ◆ **Liberian Collection:** Alvin Jask has shared a list of items he would like to send over to Liberia for aid. These will be collected in the blue barrel in the fellowship hall. Here are some examples of what he says he would like to collect: casual & light weight clothing for people of all ages; bedding, black low heel shoes for school children, socks, hair grease, used clippers for haircuts, disposable razors, over-the-counter pain relief.
- ◆ **Church Cleaning:** There is a need for cleaning volunteers for May.
- ◆ **Work Day:** Thanks to all who helped out yesterday!
- ◆ **Thank You:** The Dorcas Guild provided care package bags to the residents of the Immanuel dorms. We received the following: "Thank you for the "Beat the Blahs" bags. We all really enjoyed them and they were a terrific 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter pick-me-up. Thanks again! ILC Girls Dorm" // "God shows His love through the warmth and kindness of special people like you. Thank you, and God Bless, ILC Boys Dorm."
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Matthew Hanel of St. Matthew in Dallas, TX, has received the call to Berea in Sioux Falls, SD. ✠ Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane in Saginaw, MI, has returned the call to Grace in Sleepy Eye, and Faith in New Ulm, MN.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #26, Sacrament of the Altar 1

**Last Week's Stats:** Apr. 20, 2014 Sun.: 166

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,169.02	CLC:	\$955.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,200.00	CLC:	1,040.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-30.98	CLC:	-85.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$54,792.63	CLC:	\$16,019.50	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	51,200.00	CLC:	16,640.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+3,592.63	CLC:	-620.50	
GLC Other:	125.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	175.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Projection:	+148.07	Tuition Aid:	+2,832.42	

## A RETIRING PASTOR'S POSTSCRIPT TO HIS FLOCK "AT HOME IN THE CEMETERY"

By Pastor Emeritus Paul Fleischer, 4/20/2014 (retired last Sunday)

Dear beloved, please allow me yet a retiring pastor's postscript to his flock:

A few moments ago I suggested that Christians with their Easter faith can confidently "whistle past the cemetery/graveyard." If someone is "whistling past the graveyard," they are trying to remain cheerful in tough times, in difficult circumstances. It's kind of like when a person is trying to ignore a bad situation and we say they are "whistling in the dark." That can have both negative as well as positive connotations. This Easter day I suggest to you that when the unbelieving "whistle" past the graveyard, they are fooling themselves with false hope or with no afterlife hope at all. By contrast, those who believe and confess the Christian faith can, like Job, Paul, all the other apostles and prophets, and countless Christians down through the centuries "whistle a happy tune past the cemetery" for they KNOW that their Redeemer lives, and so shall they also rise triumphantly from the dead.



Anyhow, before donning my retirement mantle, I'd like yet to lay on your hearts how important it is to be "At Home in the Cemetery." What does THAT phrase mean? I recently came upon a quote from a Christian theologian who wrote that he did not know many living people but he 'would feel at home in any cemetery.' Here's how he explained it: *"This is a vivid way of picturing one's possession of the past. To 'feel at home in any cemetery' is one of life's great prizes. More and more people today seem not to be a home in any cemetery. They live in one tense, the present...."* He continues: *"Failure to be at home in the cemetery—that is, living without a sense of the past or knowledge of it—brings dire results. For the home of the truly living is in the cemetery..."* Then adding this insightful comment: *"It is the fashion among many today to be so eager to overtake the day after tomorrow that they have no time to catch up with the day before yesterday. Those who do not know the past are bound to repeat its errors...."*

How would I expand on this? I submit to you, beloved, that the Bible basis for what the man writes is a passage like **"Remember those who have spoken the Word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever...."** (Heb. 13:7f). Here at Redeemer we always have been, without apology, big on remembering, big on anniversaries, big on revisiting the past, big on (if you will) "being at home in the cemetery." Twelve years ago when I first became your pastor, we celebrated together Redeemer congregation's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. That day, like today, all our organists took turns at the organ; we also had a half

dozen or so former pastors return and take part in that glorious celebration. And then four years ago, in 2010, we observed another anniversary, the 50<sup>th</sup> of our CLC synod; on that occasion we celebrated the stand taken by our forefathers to form a Christian fellowship based on God's Word of Truth over against those who sixty years ago already were questioning the clarity and reliability of that Word. To underscore the point I wish to make in this parting Word with you, beloved, I remind that many of those, more and more of those, who took the stands which we the living celebrate in our various anniversaries are "in the cemetery," having gone to their eternal reward ahead of us. And so when we celebrate such anniversaries we are, in effect, "at home in the cemetery."

And you know what, the glorious festival of Easter is, in effect, an anniversary, isn't it?! As the man I quoted earlier suggested, too many people—dear young people, are you in tune with this old retiring pastor?—too many people, he said, rather than having a sense of the past or knowledge of the past are only interested in the present. I say to you, don't let Satan, the god of this fallen, sin-sick, unbelieving world take you down that path of ignoring the past. The first Holy Week—beginning with Jesus' suffering and death and ending with His glorious resurrection—all happened in the past. That which made the first Easter necessary—the fall of man into sin leaving our first parents Adam and Eve and all their descendants in the dire situation of being hopelessly and helplessly condemned creatures—that all happened in the past! Likewise, everything we Bible-believers confess in the Creeds, the Apostles, the 4<sup>th</sup> century Nicene, and 5<sup>th</sup> century Athanasian statements of faith—all took place in the past, except for Christ's Second Coming which is right around the bend! Likewise, the CLC synod and Redeemer congregation continue to treasure our 16<sup>th</sup> century Reformation heritage whose 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary we will, Lord willing, be observing three years hence (2017). In connection with that anniversary we will again be "at home in the cemetery," rejoicing how God raised up Dr. Luther and other reformers to take a firm stand against the false teachings of the Roman church and for the pure gospel of Christ, Him Crucified and risen again, for the complete justification, salvation of all sinners who have been redeemed (past tense!) through His precious blood.

I trust, beloved, that you get my point. As the good man suggested, let us continue to be "at home in the cemetery," never apologizing for that firm religious stance based on what God caused to happen back in the "good old days"—how His Word of Truth teaches us that, far from being products of evolution, He brought about our Creation, our Redemption, our Sanctification through the Spirit in Baptism, and it is He who has preserved us in the faith to this day and hour, and will preserve us in it to that glorious reunion with all the believing saints in the cemetery who have gone before us to eternal glory.

Yes, beloved, remember--remember with holy pride those who are at home in the cemetery, those who spoke the Word of God to you, teaching you the gospel that our faith is NOT in vain for He who was laid in Joseph's tomb in that first century graveyard burst the ugly bands of death, and lives **"the same yesterday, today, and forever"**! Because of Jesus' victory we can "whistle past every graveyard." In His holy name, Hallelujah, and Amen!