

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Ryan Mueller Elder: Frank Radichel

Ushers: Benno Sydow, Gary Gunther, Larry Nelson, Jeff Stifter, Bill Rust

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

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

Church Cleaners: Sandhoefner School: Ecker

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Benno Sydow, Gary Gunther, Larry Nelson, Jeff Stifter, Bill Rust

Counting Team 3: Brian Eichstadt; Phil Flesner; Chad Hestekin; Benno Sydow

Hospitality Team 7: Jan Davis, Chad & Amanda Hestekin; Ryan & Mikey Oman; Eli & Laura Wales

Church Cleaners: D. & N. Rust School: Kanneh

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Apr. 10: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality
12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Mon., Apr. 11: 10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study Club @ Mankato, MN

Wed., Apr. 13: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Confirmation Preparation

Sun., Apr. 17: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality
11:30 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

Fri., Apr. 29: Immanuel High School Visitors Day @ Eau Claire, WI

April 29-30: 7:30 pm – Immanuel Musical: Enchanted Sleeping Beauty

Sat., Apr. 30: 9:00 am – Work Day

Thu., May 5: 7:00 pm – Ascension Day Worship

Fri., May 13: Field Day (5th-8th grade, by Berea in Inver Grove Hts.)

Fri., May 20: 3:00 pm – Immanuel Class Day; 7:30 pm – Immanuel Concert

Sat., May 21: 10:00 am – Immanuel Graduation

Sun., May 22: Confirmation Sunday (Trinity Sunday)

Thu., May 26: 7:00 pm – Grace School Spring Program

Fri., May 27: 12:00 pm – School Year Dismissal

Sun., May 29: 9:00 am – Summer Schedule Begins (Graduation)

Sun., June 5: 3:00 pm – MN Delegate Conference @ Mankato, MN

June 23-26: CLC Convention in Eau Claire, WI

July 25-29: 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School

Grace Lutheran Church & School



The
LORD,
your God,
is in your midst, a
WARRIOR
who gives
VICTORY.

ZEPHANIAH 3:17



Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Fridley, MN 55432

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Home Page: 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-8th

Church Year: Easter 3

Date: April 10, 2015

✠ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 67, TLH p. 137*

Hymn: *TLH 1: Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

Liturgy: *TLH, p. 5 ff. (Also available on laminated sheet in pew)*

Introit (followed by Gloria Patri, The Kyrie): *TLH, pp. 6-7*

P: You will fill me with joy in Your presence,

C: With eternal pleasures at Your right hand.

P: I will exalt You, O Lord, for You lifted me out of the depths

C: And did not let my enemies gloat over me.

P: O Lord, You brought me up from the grave,

C: You spared me from going down into the pit. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 193, st. 1,6*

Christ the Lord is risen today, Sons of men and angels say.

Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing, ye heavens, and, earth, reply.

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Praise to Thee by both be given!

Thee we greet triumphant now: Hail, the Resurrection Thou!

First Reading: *Philippians 4:4-7*

The answer to our struggles with anxiety in our lives is to look to the Lord.

Gradual:

P: Christ has risen from the dead.

C: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

P: He has made Him ruler over the works of His hands;

C: He has put everything under His feet.

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen ...

C: And yet have believed. Alleluia.

Second Reading: *Luke 7:18-28*

Jesus commends John the Baptist, assuring all that the Messiah has come.

Confession of Faith: *Apostolic Creed, TLH p. 12*

Hymn: *TLH 444: Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You*

Sermon: *Zephaniah 3:14-20*

¹⁴ Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; You shall see disaster no more. ¹⁶ In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak. ¹⁷ The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." ¹⁸ "I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly, Who are among you, To whom its reproach is a burden. ¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal with all who afflict you; I will save the lame, And gather those who were driven out; I will appoint them for praise and fame In every land where they were put to shame. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you back, Even at the time I gather you; For I will give you fame and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I return your captives before your eyes," Says the Lord. (NKJVTM)

It's All a Matter of God's Perspective

I. Our Victory in Christ Has Been Won

II. Our New Life in Christ Has Begun

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 210: The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done*

Offering, Prayers, Benediction: *TLH p. 14*

Hymn: *TLH 613: Jerusalem the Golden*

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!

♦ **Retirement Gift:** Professor John Pfeiffer has announced his retirement effective the end of the current academic year. Upon graduation from Immanuel Lutheran Seminary in 1967, he served in the pastoral ministry until November 1994 when he began his service at Immanuel. Prof. Pfeiffer's time at Immanuel includes 21 years of teaching as a professor and 15 years of administration as ILC President. His faithful service to our church and our school will be acknowledged during the ILC Class Day/Graduation festivities on May 20-21, 2016. Our custom is to present a monetary gift to Prof. Pfeiffer as a token of our appreciation. CLC members are invited to contribute to a monetary gift which will be presented to him at Graduation (May 21). Please make your checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran College and indicate: "Prof. Pfeiffer Retirement." Send your gift to: Immanuel Lutheran College, 501 Grover Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701.

♦ **Porkies Youth Camp-out:** August 10-14 (Wed-Sun), 2016. For kids entering grades 8-12. Total camp fee \$85. We'll camp at the Union Bay group campsite right on Lake Superior (near Ontonagon, MI). We'll have devotions, group discussions, hiking, swimming, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, and beach football. It's okay if you've never camped. We do everything together and we'll help you learn. For more information about the trip, and how to register, pick up an information/registration form in the entryway of the church.

♦ **CLC News:** Pastor Neal Radichel of Luther Memorial Lutheran in Fond du Lac, WI, has received the call to Rock of Ages Lutheran in Grand Rapids, MI. † Missionary Matthew Ude has resigned from his call as foreign missionary to India and the African countries of Nigeria, Togo, Ghana, Congo, and Zambia. He plans to serve until the end of 2016 as he is able. † Teacher Neil Bernthal of Immanuel Lutheran in Winter Haven, FL, has received the call to Gethsemane Lutheran in Spokane Valley, WA. † The CLC Call Committee on Graduates has extended the call of the newly-named Living Savior Lutheran Church of Eden Prairie, MN, to Joseph Naumann, and the call of Ascension Lutheran in Tacoma, WA, to Benjamin Libby.

♦ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #23 – Baptism Parts 1 & 2

Last Week's Stats: Apr. 10, 2016 Sun.: 111 S.S.: 14 B.Cl.: 38

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,925.65	CLC:	\$732.20
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-374.35	CLC:	-267.80
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$45,435.96	CLC:	\$14,024.35
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	46,200.00	CLC:	14,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-764.04	CLC:	+24.35
GLC Other: 360.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	80.00
SAF Endowment: 0.00	MDF:	170.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid: 40.00	ILC Bldg.	180.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	12,587.50	Tuition Aid:	1,164.12

DELIVERANCE — GOD'S WAY

(And it is good)

When Joseph was in Egypt, he brought his father and brothers to Egypt to escape famine. During this time the Lord blessed Israel and made of them a great nation, one feared by the Egyptians who had forgotten Joseph. They enslaved Israel, But the Lord heard their cries and sent nine plagues upon the Egyptians. Pharaoh still refused to let Israel go. The Lord then sent the last and most devastating plague upon the land. The first born in every home in Egypt where blood of an unblemished lamb was not found on the doorpost of the home would die. Hence the institution of the Passover (Exodus 12). At the same time, no one would die in the home of those who followed the word of the Lord and believed His promise. The Passover was a prophetic picture of our Lord Jesus, "The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29). They who reject Him shall die; they who believe in Him shall live.

With the death of the first-born in every Egyptian home, Pharaoh relented and let Israel go. But then he reneged and pursued them. But the Lord is true to His Word. He would lead Israel by the hand of Moses to the Promised Land. The Lord provided a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to lead and protect them. After 430 years of slavery in a foreign land they were free; the pursuing Egyptians died in the Red Sea through which the Lord miraculously had led His people. "So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians ..."

(Exodus 14:30). Moses and the children of Israel sang a song of praise to the Lord for their deliverance. It began: "I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously!" It concluded: "The Lord shall reign forever and ever" (Exodus 15).

But the nature of sinful humans is to ask, "What have you done for me lately?" God had led them and cared for them with tender and compassionate care, but after about 30 days out of Egypt they, not unlike ourselves, began to complain and murmur against Moses and against the Lord. They said, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full. For you have brought us out into the wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger" (Exodus 16:3). Here is the origin of the saying when people forget the goodness of God in delivering them from some circumstance, "They yearned for the fleshpots of Egypt." Israel had pleaded to be delivered from Egypt. The Lord heard their cry. But soon thereafter they wanted to return. Does this perhaps sound a bit familiar to us? Are we often an echo of Israel?

Surely this was a people ripe for punishment. But the Lord had a plan. To the fulfillment of His plan He treated the people with tenderness and kindness, hardly what they deserved. Such is the grace of God, rich in mercy and kindness. He gave them water to drink, bread in the morning, and meat in the evening. Their diet consisted of manna and quail. "And you shall know that I am the Lord your God" (Exodus 16:12). For 40 years Israel ate manna, a wafer-like bread with the taste of honey that could be prepared by baking or boiling.

There was another expression of God's care for them. When they left Egypt He did not lead them by the most direct route. Bearing the bones of Joseph they

were led to avoid warlike nations, “lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt” (Exodus 13:17).

The Lord had and still has His reasons for leading His people as He does. All His ways are good and gracious, though we may not at the time understand them. By testing us He strengthens us. He never leads His children along a path but that He will show the way. He never lays a burden upon His children that He will not help them bear. His children confidently trust in Him and believe with the burdened apostle, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9). There is no one who in reality is weaker than that one who trusts in himself, who thinks that he is master of his own fate, and in that delusion thinks he has no need for God.

David wrote, “Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God. They have bowed down and fallen; but we have risen and stand upright. Save Lord! May the King answer us when we call” (Psalm 20:6-9). Occasionally the Lord will let us fall so we learn that our strength is not in ourselves. Paul learned through testing where his strength lay. It is confident faith that waits on the Lord in times of trial. Paul learned through trial and affliction to say, “When I am weak then am I strong” (2 Corinthians 9). “I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and fortress; my God, in Him I will trust’” (Psalm 91:2).

God’s plan for Israel had one goal. It was to lead them safely and surely to the Promised Land. He has a plan for us. It is to lead us through the trials and tribulations of life to the Promised Land. Two things sustain us through the long, bumpy journey which we call life. It is the remembrance of the past, that is of the blessings which have been showered upon us from our conception to this very moment. It is the promise that He has made to bring us ultimately to the better country, the fullness of life with Him in glory. This is sealed to us through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

Israel frequently forgot both the past grace and the promised future. So do we. Yet our Father in Christ Jesus is true. “For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed says the Lord, Who has mercy on you” (Isaiah 54:10). Given our forgetfulness and our frequent murmuring and complaining that is a magnificent expression of God’s love. We can trust it for “God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:9).

God’s ancient people passed through many trials and afflictions, many brought on them by their own folly and unbelief. It is also true of us. But as we return to our Lord in penitence and faith we shall reap the blessing of His plan for us: “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 hope” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Lord, lead us on the path, The path You’d have us walk.
And when the path is hard and long Or we cannot comprehend,
Help us to trust that where You lead, Is to our Home in heaven.

* Daniel Fleischer, 2016

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ♦ **Today:** Thanks to Seminarian Joseph Naumann for preaching the Word today. He is graduating from Immanuel Lutheran Seminary in Eau Claire, WI. Just this week he received the call to serve at Eden Prairie (see below). Pastor Hein is preaching there today.
- ♦ **Among Us:** Benno Sydow had successful cataract surgery this past Thursday. This past Wednesday Kaylee Ude, daughter of Missionary Matthew Ude, had surgery to relieve pressure on the brain caused by an infection. Please keep the Ude family in your prayers.
- ♦ **Confirmation:** This is the time of year our confirmands are focused on preparing for their examination and their confirmation vows. Please keep them in your prayers as they are led by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. The following are intending to get confirmed this year: Patrick Baker, Sarah Eichstadt, Victoria Kitzman, Bea Lentz, Jessica Maki, and Kylee Yang.
- ♦ **SW Metro Changes:** Our SW Metro worshipers in Eden Prairie have for some time sought to move toward independence and an increased level of “resident ministry.” After extensive planning and meetings (including a meeting last weekend with the CLC Board of Missions chairman), they applied last Sunday to the CLC Call Committee on graduates for a 2016 ILC Seminary graduate. The call would include serving in a part-time ministry while also working part-time secularly. Last Wednesday night the call was assigned to former Berea vicar Joe Naumann. May the Lord guide him in his consideration of this call to service in the Lord’s Kingdom. The group has also determined to name themselves Living Savior Lutheran Church and is applying for membership in the CLC at this summer’s CLC Convention. Worship services are still being held Sunday mornings at 9 am at Huber Funeral Home (16394 Glory Lane, Eden Prairie, MN).
- ♦ **Immanuel Lutheran High School Visitors Day:** Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, WI, invites the young people of your congregation (grades 7 and above) to attend our annual Visitors Day on Friday, April 29, 2016, starting at 8:00 am. The purpose of the day is to give students an opportunity to experience what it would be like to attend ILHS. The day will conclude with a concert by the ILC Band at 7:00 pm, and a musical performance of Enchanted Sleeping Beauty at 7:30 pm. Please register your students and chaperones at www.ilc.edu by Friday, April 22. Please contact Prof. Joel Gullerud with questions at joel.gullerud@ilc.edu, 715-544-8446.
- ♦ **Liberia Video:** Pastor has put together an hour-long video of the Liberia trip at: youtu.be/Po3ktPJZNAo. There is also a longer video with more detail at: youtu.be/B9hbAYIoF4I.
- ♦ **2016 Cleaning List:** Thanks to all those who signed up last weekend! With all the volunteers there are now about 6 weeks left to fill.