

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson Elder: Frank Radichel
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

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

Counting Team 4: James Bomber; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust

Hospitality Team 1: Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice Sandhoefner

Church Cleaners: A. & B. Baker School: Kanneh

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

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

Mon., Apr. 18: 10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study Club @ Mankato, MN

Wed., Apr. 20: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Confirmation Preparation

Sun., Apr. 24: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality

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



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Fridley, MN 55432

Email: jphein@clclutheran.com

Home Page: www.JustifiedByGrace.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635)

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Church Year: Easter 4

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: April 17, 2016

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 634, st. 1,5-7: Come, Jesus, from the Sapphire Throne

CDS: Jesus, Tender Shepherd Hear Me

TLH 436: The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

TLH 656: Behold a Host, Arrayed in White

TLH 648: I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 23, TLH p. 128

Liturgy:

WS, p. 12 (Projected)

Scripture Reading:

Acts 13:15-16a,26-33

John 10:22-30

Sermon: Revelation 7:9-17

⁹After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *Be* to our God forever and ever. Amen." ¹³Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" ¹⁴And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. ¹⁶They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (NKJVTM)

"Our Living Lord: The Church's Shepherd"

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Housing Needed:** A member from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato, Michael Perez, is seeking housing. Pastor Nolting recommends him highly. Housing is also being sought for our vicar, Sam Rodebaugh. This would need some flexibility with hours and such as the ministry can be rather unpredictable. He would be here from about mid-August to about the 3rd week of September, including a week or two near the end of July. We are still working on exact dates. Location near church would be preferable, but not required. Please let Pastor know if you would be willing to help with either of these situations.
- ◆ **Appleton News:** The CLC group in Appleton, WI, has closed on a church building this week. They are holding their first service there today at 9 am. A dedication is planned for sometime this summer. Praise the Lord for providing a permanent place for them to call upon His name! The new address for Living Hope Lutheran Church is 3100 East Calumet Avenue, Appleton WI 54915.
- ◆ **North Port, FL:** To accommodate a ministry in both the North Port and Cape Coral/Ft. Myers areas, CLC North Port has officially changed its name to "Grace Lutheran Church." We will begin to use our new name immediately, so we wanted to share the news with all of you. Please keep our new outreach efforts in your prayers.
- ◆ **Caring for God's Servants:** One of the blessings that comes from the ascended Savior is the gift of teachers for our Immanuel campus. One gift (Prof. John Pfeiffer) is moving on even as another gift (Prof. Paul Naumann) is getting ready to move in. Providing housing is one way we care for these gifts to our fellowship. The Immanuel Professorage Committee (IPC) has compiled a list of projects that need to be done while the professorage is vacant. We are looking for volunteer help immediately before or after Convention, or anytime in June and early July convenient for you (in teams or individuals). Projects include: installing new windows & siding, installing new carpeting/vinyl, installing a new kitchen, painting inside, and fencing in the back yard. If you are able to help with any of these projects or would like more details, please contact Pastor Paul Tiefel (715-829-2000/tiefels@hotmail.com).

- ◆ **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 David Pfeiffer of Ascension Lutheran in Batavia, IL (Chicago area), has received the call to Holy Trinity Lutheran in West Columbia, SC. ✠ BELC Chairman, Pastor Moses Raghu from the Nellore district in India, has been hospitalized with heart problems and has had three heart valves replaced. Pray for Moses' recovery and for his family during this difficult time.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work: #24 – Baptism Parts 3 & 4**

Last Week's Stats: Apr. 10, 2016 Sun.: 103 S.S.: 15 B.Cl.: 36

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,052.25	CLC:	\$780.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,247.75	CLC:	-220.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$47,488.21	CLC:	\$14,804.35	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	49,500.00	CLC:	15,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-2,011.79	CLC:	-195.65	
GLC Other:	243.50	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	95.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	120.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	12,827.00	Tuition Aid:	1,259.12

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!

GOD-PLUS ONE

God's servant, Moses, led Israel to the doorstep of the Promised Land. The Lord told him, "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel ..." (Number 13:2). Twelve men (one from every tribe) "went and spied out the land" (v. 21). The spies returned after 40 days. They brought back fruit of the land and said that it was truly a land flowing with milk and honey. "Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong: the cities are fortified and very large ..." (v. 28). One of the spies, Caleb, quieted the people and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it" (v. 30). But others responded saying they could not conquer the land because the inhabitants were too strong (v. 31). The people wept and cried, and complained, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in the wilderness!" (Numbers 14:2). They sought to replace Moses and "select a leader and return to Egypt" (v. 4).

Joshua and Caleb counseled otherwise and were threatened with stoning. (v. 6-10). The Lord said, "How long will they [the people] not believe Me, with all the signs I have performed among them" (v. 11)? He threatened to disinherit them, and make of Moses a great nation. But Moses interceded for the people.

In response to Moses' intercession, the Lord pardoned the people. *The Lord can be persuaded by the prayers of a righteous man* (James 5:16). Nevertheless those who rejected and doubted the Lord would not see the land. Except for Joshua and Caleb, no one 20 years old or above would enter the Promised Land. Even righteous Moses, because of an act of disobedience, (Numbers 20) did not enter Canaan, though he was given opportunity to see it from afar (Deuteronomy 34).

The people refused to go in because they accepted the majority recommendation of the fearful spies, and rejected the minority recommendation of Joshua and Caleb who believed the promise of the Lord. They trusted that the Lord would give to His people what He had promised. They said, "The Lord is with us. Do not fear them" (v. 9).

As Israel chose to follow the majority recommendation of the 10 spies who doubted the Lord, He sentenced them to wander for 40 years in the wilderness--one year for each day the spies were in the land. Unbelief reaps its own reward. As they wandered in the wilderness, they suffered pain and heartache. They murmured and complained. *God was true to His word*. But there is another aspect to ponder. In the midst of judgment God is faithful and merciful.

Along the way the people became discouraged (remember, they had brought this on themselves). They again spoke against God and against Moses. So the Lord sent fiery, poisonous serpents who bit the people and many died. This is the Law of God in action. Upon confession of their sin, the Lord told Moses to put a brass serpent on a pole (Numbers 21:4-9). As many as believed the Lord and looked upon the serpent on the pole lived. Those who thought it foolish and doubted and refused to look died. *The power unto salvation from the serpent lay not in the serpent upon which they were to look, but in the Word and promise of God*. As the Passover in Egypt, so here we have a prophecy of Christ. To Nicodemus Jesus said, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, *that whoever believes in Him* should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:14-15). Mercy in the midst of judgment!

The Lord also looked after the physical needs of this often unthankful people. He reminded them, "And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet" (Deuteronomy 29:5). "These forty years the Lord your God has been with you, you have lacked nothing" (Deuteronomy 2:7). Mercy in the midst of judgment!

In remembrance of His promise to Abraham, and to the furtherance of His covenant promise, and ultimately the coming of Christ, the Lord gave them the land under the leadership of Joshua and Caleb. The Lord God was true to His Word, the alleged strength of the people of Canaan, and the fear of the people notwithstanding. To Joshua God said, "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses" (Joshua 1:3). God gave what He had promised.

Those who did not enter the Promised Land were shut out because they followed the majority recommendation. In spiritual matters, we as God's people consider the concept of majority and minority in a different fashion than the world. The Kingdom of God is not a democracy. In His Kingdom He rules. He is the majority by virtue of the fact that He is God. In the Kingdom of God His Word is the ultimate authority. In the Kingdom of God, matters of faith and morals, and doctrinal authority, are not determined by polls or majority vote, but by the Word of God. Though in the world and by outward appearance God's people appear to be the minority, yet as they stand with the Lord *they* are the majority, because *God plus one* is the majority.

The Lord had promised the land to Israel. The people succumbed to the fears of men, rather than trusting the mercy, faithfulness, and power of God. This mentality has overtaken much of Christendom. Rather than listening to the Lord, the opinions of mortals have compromised the churches, and placed entry into the eternal promised land (Heaven) in jeopardy for those who are persuaded by human opinion rather than the Word of God. In the Church no vote or recommendation of men with respect to doctrine and faith is necessary, even less is it valid when such vote or recommendation contradicts the pure word and will of God. With reference to Galatians 1:8, Luther said, "This is the rule: the Word of God is to establish articles of faith, and no one besides, not even an angel." (*)

Israel wandered for 40 years, after which many failed to enter the land God had chosen for them. Today much of Christendom is wandering in spiritual confusion and darkness through this world because "Thus saith the Lord" has been displaced by doctrines and opinions of men.

The Good Shepherd said, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:27-28). May we be counted among them and in this day when the majority is persuaded by other voices, may we be among those who find comfort in the Savior's promise, "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). As we listen to the Lord, we are confident that He will help us in these days of sore distress to "be faithful unto death." As we listen to Him, finally by His grace we shall receive "the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 4/2016