

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Dale Enns

Ushers: Brian Eichstadt; Kevin Baker; Dan Degnan;
Brandon Paplow; Pat Paplow

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

Hospitality Team 2: Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Janelle
Hein; Jenny Kleifgen; Chris Lentz

Church Cleaners: Oman School: Ecker

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Brian Eichstadt; Kevin Baker; Dan Degnan;
Brandon Paplow; Pat Paplow

Counting Team 4: James Bomber; Brad Kitzman; Paul
Lentz; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust

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

Church Cleaners: Oman School: Volunteer?

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Mar. 19: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Lent 3)
11:15 am – Hospitality
12:00 pm – Council Meeting
7:00 pm – Immanuel Tour Choir Concert @ Grace

Wed., Mar. 22: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
6:00 pm – Soup Supper
7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship

Sun., Mar. 26: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Lent 4)
11:15 am – Hospitality
6:30 pm – Immanuel Tour Choir Concert @ Eau Claire
7:00 pm – Grace Student Fair (Music theme)

Fri., Apr. 7: PALM SUNDAY

Sun., Apr. 9: MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thu., Apr. 13: GOOD FRIDAY

Fri., Apr. 14: 7:00 pm – Good Friday Worship

Sun., Apr. 16: EASTER (S.S., Bible Class, Hospitality Suspended)
7:30 am – Easter Breakfast
9:00 am – Easter Festival Worship

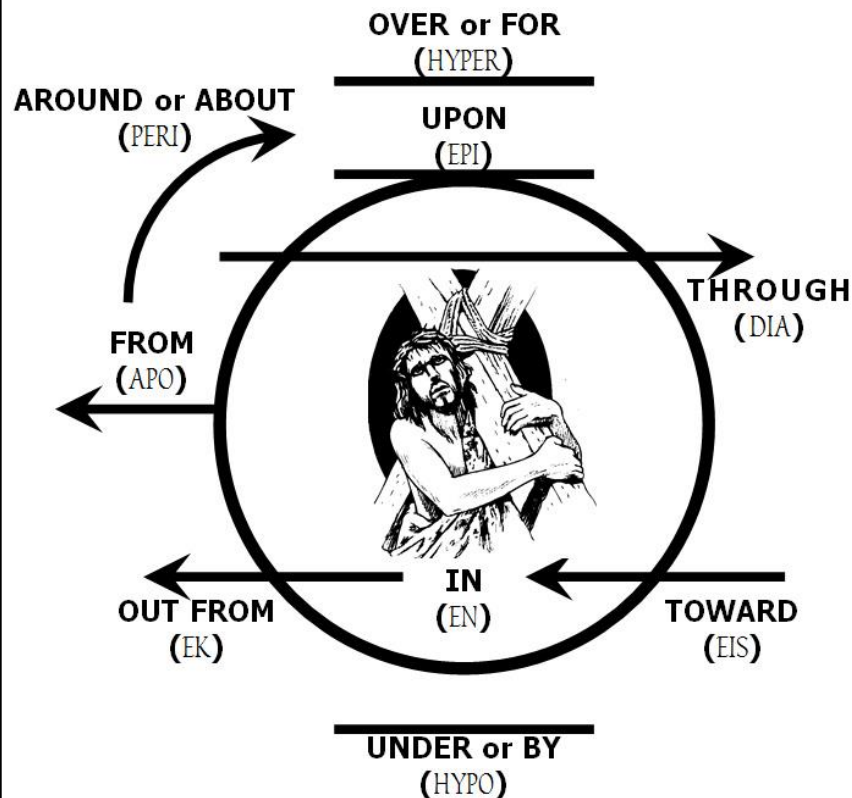
Fri., Apr. 28: Immanuel High School Visitors' Day @ Eau Claire, WI

Fri., May 12: Field Day (5th-8th grade, by Berea in Inver Grove Hts.)

Sun., May 21: Confirmation Sunday

July 24-28: Vacation Bible School

Powerful Propositions through Prepositions



Lent 2017
Grace Lutheran Church — Fridley, MN

Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE
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)

Phone: 763-784-8784

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Lent 3

Date: March 19, 2017

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 157: There is a Fountain Filled with Blood

TLH 372: Through Jesus Blood and Merit

TLH 371: Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

WS 779: Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 143, TLH p. 155

Liturgy:

WS, p. 12 (Projected)

Scripture Reading:

Hebrews 9:11-15

Passion Reading

Sermon: Ephesians 1:7

⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ... (NKJVTM)

Powerful Propositions
through Prepositions:
“Redemption THROUGH His Blood”

Immanuel Tour Choir TONIGHT:

Grace is hosting the Immanuel Tour Choir for an evening concert today at 7 pm. Our Sunday School and Christian Day School children will be singing, “Jesus is Lord,” with them as well, so they are asked to be here by at least 6:30 pm. This year’s tour went west to Washington. To support the choir’s trip, you may designate “Tour Choir” on your offering. Dorcas Guild committee #2 will be hosting a meal for the choir beforehand. Please speak with Heidi Nelson about coordinating food for this meal. Following the concert there will be a time to fellowship with the choir and visitors. All members are invited to bring a dessert to share.

Council Meeting Notes – March 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order with prayer. The February Council meeting minutes were read and approved. The February treasurer’s report was read and approved.

Pastor’s Report

- Motion passed to transfer Ryan Mueller to St John’s in Okabena, MN.
- A seminar related to the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation is being discussed between the pastors.

Board of Elders Report

- Next Sun., March 19 at 7 pm the ILC Tour Choir will be at Grace.
- Easter breakfast planning is underway.
- Working with the Board of Ed. on what backgrounds checks need to be made via the abuse prevention policy.

Board of Education Report

- Applications for enrollment at Grace School for next year will be available soon.
- April 7 is the student fair at Grace School.
- The children of Grace will be singing on Palm Sunday and next Sunday with the ILC Tour Choir.
- The tuition cost to attend Grace school has been frozen for next year.

Board of Trustees Report

- A strong box for storing important documents is being addressed.
- A professional will be inspecting the roof for leaks and repairing flashing on the building.
- Various options for the parking lot repair were solicited.

Other Business

- The non-working refrigerator has been removed from the school. A replacement has not been obtained yet.
- Roger Ochsner and Phil Radichel will pursue options for the storage of online computer permanent documentation for Grace.
- It is being considered to utilize some of the Marvin Wagner memorial donation of \$20,000 for updating church flooring, lighting, and painting.

Adapted from minutes submitted by Secretary Roger Ochsner

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Midweek Lenten Services:** Our midweek services will continue this Wednesday, March 22, 7 pm. Our theme is "Christ, Our Great High Priest," meditations based on various sections from the Book of Hebrews. This week our focus will be, "His Sympathizing Compassion: He is Touched by Our Weaknesses." These midweek services can deepen our appreciation of the redemptive work our Savior, Jesus Christ, accomplished in our behalf.
- ◆ **Lenten Soup Suppers:** These fellowship gatherings are each Wed. at 6 pm as a way for people to eat between work and worship.
- ◆ **Good Friday:** On April 14, at 7:00 pm, we will be holding our Good Friday service. The Lord's Supper will also be celebrated. The Day our Savior died is very precious for us as redeemed sinners. Let's honor it by pondering His profound love for us.
- ◆ **Easter Day:** Easter is on Sunday, April 16. We will be having the Easter breakfast at 7:30 am, followed by the Easter worship service at 9:00 am. What an opportunity we have to gather in worship on the day we commemorate our Lord's glorious resurrection from the dead!
- ◆ **Easter Breakfast Signup:** Those men interested in helping with the Easter breakfast are asked to sign up for various duties. The list is on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. We appreciate those willing to help.
- ◆ **Easter Lilies:** There is a signup sheet for Easter flowers (lilies or decorative plants) by the guest book in the entry.
- ◆ **School Frig:** The refrigerator used by the school children recently failed. Before purchasing one, the Council wanted to see if there was a member who may be willing to donate a used one. Please speak with one of the Trustees: Pat Paplow, Ryan Oman, or Kevin Baker.
- ◆ **Youth Camp:** Camp (and Pre-Camp) registration is open TODAY at 2 pm. Register online at youthcamp.clclutheran.net. Camp is June 18-24 and costs \$135/camper. The camp will be for grades 6-9 this year. However, we have decided to add 5th graders to the Pre-Camp program. Pre-Camp will be \$60/camper. The Theme for this year's camp is "Back to the Future," thanking God for the Reformation 500 years and beyond. Feel free to email any questions you have to us over at youthcamp.clc@gmail.com. Thanks! - Jonathan Gamble & Jocelyn Gamble
- ◆ **CLC News:** Miss Claire Abbas at Peace Thru Christ Lutheran in Middleton, WI (Madison area), has returned two teaching calls: Messiah Lutheran in Hales Corners, WI, and Redeemer Lutheran in Cheyenne, WY. ✠ Pastor David Reim at St. Paul Lutheran in Vernon, BC, has returned the call to St. Luke's Lutheran in Lemmon, SD. ✠ Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer at Trinity Lutheran in Spokane, WA, has returned the call to Immanuel Lutheran in Winter Haven, FL.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Easter Recitation and Hymn

FATHER, FORGIVE THEM ...

In the garden of Gethsemane Judas came "with a great multitude with swords and clubs" to capture Jesus. Before Pilate the chief priests and officers cried out "Crucify Him, Crucify Him." They said, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God" (John 19:7). Pilate could find no fault with Jesus but the chief priests were "the more fierce saying, 'He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place.'" (Luke 23:5). The chief priests also stirred up the crowd to ask for Barabbas, an incarcerated criminal, to be released to them, and Jesus to be crucified.

On Palm Sunday crowds welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem with palm branches, and spread their clothes on the road before Him. They cried out: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest" (Matthew 21:9). By week's end, many of the crowd were persuaded by the chief priests to cry for Jesus' crucifixion. Fickle mobs are easily persuaded.

At the cross people walked by and blasphemed Jesus, mockingly shaking their heads and challenging Him. The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked and reviled Him for His claim that He was the Son of God, and for His trust in His Father (Matthew 27).

Such was the scorn and hatred that was hurled at Jesus. Unbelief is irrational. It is as intellectually shallow as it is spiritually corrupt. Hatred earns the same condemnation as murder (1John 3:15).

But Jesus bore it all. The Scriptures were fulfilled, and Jesus redeemed our souls from destruction and everlasting death. He endured the hatred of the very ones for whom He died and did not respond in kind, but said, "**Father, forgive them because they do not know what they do**" (Luke 23:34). With incomprehensible love Jesus interceded for the transgressors and His abusers.

Given the nature of human corruption, Jesus was hated and reviled because His haters did not know the truth, did not believe the truth, or because they were uncomfortable being confronted by the truth. Further, He was hated because He was not, nor did He act like, the one they wanted or were waiting for. He did not bend or cave to their whim or fancy, nor did He satisfy their agenda. In the upper room on the night of His betrayal Jesus told His disciples what to expect so they would not be surprised when they incurred the wrath of the same haters of truth, and "to keep them from falling away" (John 16:1). Our Lord is honest about what it means for His people in the world. "They will put you out of the synagogues. Yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think he offers God service. And **these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father, nor me**. But these things I have told you, that when the time comes you may remember that I told you of them" (John 16:2-4).

He told them other things concerning the crosses they would bear for Him and their witness to Him. "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, **but I chose you out of the world, therefore**

the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they keep My Word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, **because they do not know Him Who sent Me ...** He who hates Me hates My Father also” (John 15: 18-23).

“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this Word, it is **because there is no light in them**” (Isaiah 8:20). Jesus, the Son of God, is the Light that came into the world (John 1), but the world rejected the Light. They who do not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, are under condemnation, “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed” (John 3:19-20). They who love sin, hate light as the criminal hates light that exposes his deeds. Since Christ is the Light of the world they hate Him, as well as the truth, and finally they hate those who confess Christ and speak the truth.

Therefore, we should not be surprised in our generation when confessors of Christ and His Holy Word are hated by those who choose to live in sin, particularly if we speak the truth about sin. We should not be surprised if we and what we believe and teach from Scripture are despised and mocked by those who have no clue about what Scripture teaches. But for Jesus, one of the unkindest cuts was when He was betrayed by Judas Iscariot, one of His own. Jesus said to Judas in Gethsemane, “Friend, why have you come” (Matthew 26:50)? As Judas approached Jesus to kiss him, thus indicating whom the soldiers should capture, the Savior sought to touch the conscience, saying, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss” (Luke 22:48)? We expect that the world will hate and persecute Christ-believers in some fashion today. Their actions and unbelief may be a consequence of ignorance. Some are incited by such as the chief priests in Jesus’ day. But to what shall we attribute the hateful actions and subtle persecution by those who profess to believe in Christ and who, akin to Judas, appear to follow Him? Ordinarily from the church we do not expect violent physical persecution, but the kind of which Paul spoke when on the way to Jerusalem he spoke to the Ephesians. In Jerusalem, he had to be rescued by soldiers “because of the violence of the mob” (Acts 21:35). To the Ephesians he said, “I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after themselves” (Acts 20:29-30).

We should expect no less today, and certainly not be surprised at the vehemence directed at Christ, His Word, and His children.

In our American society, we are seeing subtle government, economic, media, and social pressure being used to silence Christians. Rights and privileges to confess the faith are denied, that otherwise are being accorded to heathen religions in the name of religious rights and political correctness. We have not yet suffered death for the faith, but can the day be far behind given the nature of violence fueled by unbelief, ignorance of the Word, or unwillingness to be confronted by truth? In some countries heads of Christians have rolled at the hands of those who believe that they should have rights in this country that are denied to Christians in their country of origin.

In our unregenerate state, we were once of “them,” even as Paul was before his conversion. He wrote to the Ephesians, “And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others (Ephesians 2:1-3).

But our Lord in His grace effected a change as “now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ” (Ephesians 2:13). Peter also wrote, “You were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Peter 1:18-19).

By the Spirit of God, we who believe in the merit of the Lord Jesus Christ, sit with other believers at the foot of the cross. Our Father calls us to be on the alert to every threat to our faith. He gives us the privilege to call upon Him in trouble when we are threatened. We do not know what our fate is on this earth. Whatever it is, we do know the Word of the Lord shall endure forever (1 Peter 1:25). And when we bear the cross after the Lord for the faith, we know that His grace is sufficient for us. He never asks us to bear more than He is willing and able to help us bear. And by the grace of God whatever befalls us, we have our home in heaven with our Lord.

In the meantime, we pray for strength of faith to resist in kind reaction to those who hate the Lord or us; we pray for faith to reflect the Lord’s demeanor on the cross, “**Father forgive them because they do not know what they do.**” We ought not question the power of such a prayer. As Stephen was stoned to death, the stoners laid their clothes at the feet of “a young man named Saul,” who by his own admission did “many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth” (Acts 26:9), including persecuting Christians. Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not charge them with this sin.’ And when he had said this, he fell asleep” (Acts 7: 55-60). One of those for whom Stephen prayed was “a young man named Saul,” whom we know as the Apostle Paul.

Last Week's Stats:		Mar. 12, 2017	Sun.: 92	S.S.: 10	B.Cl.: 34	Wed.: 61
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,416.40	CLC:	\$965.00		
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	463.30	CLC:	50.00		
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	950.00		
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-420.30	CLC:	+65.00		
Year-to-Date Offering:.	Grace:	\$35,948.96	CLC:	\$10,045.00		
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	36,300.00	CLC:	10,450.00		
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-351.04	CLC:	-405.00		
GLC Other:	501.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	135.00	
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	60.00	Kinship:	100.00	
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00	
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	21,690.25	Tuition Aid:	926.12	
		Tour Choir:	390.00			