

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Dale Enns

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: Kanneh

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Dale Enns; Larry Nelson;
Ryan Oman; Pat Paplow; Phil Radichel

Hospitality Team 4: James & April Bomber; Rachelle
Kanneh; Heidi Nelson; Bob & Suki Vandever

Church Cleaners: Enns School: Holmberg

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Mar. 26: 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

Wed., Mar. 29: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
6:00 pm – Soup Supper
7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship

Sun., Apr. 2: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Lent 5) w/Lord's Supper
11:15 am – Hospitality

Fri., Apr. 7: 7:00 pm – Grace Student Fair (Music theme)

Sun., Apr. 9: **PALM SUNDAY**
11:30 am – Dorcas Guild Meeting

Thu., Apr. 13: **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Fri., Apr. 14: **GOOD FRIDAY**
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

Sun., Apr. 23: 11:30 am – Voters Meeting (week later due to Easter)

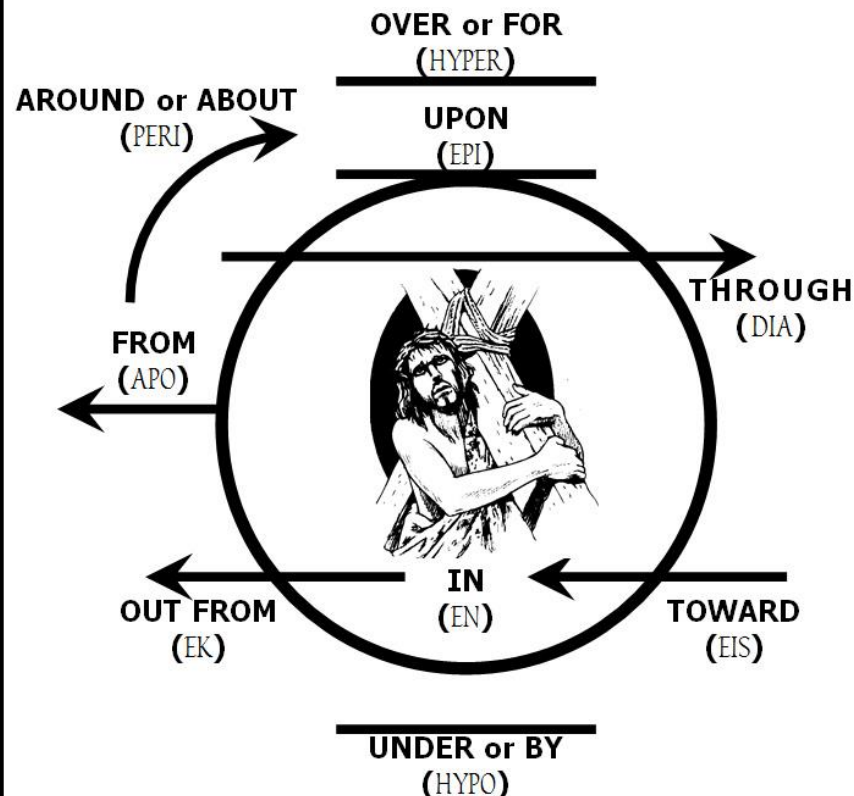
Fri., Apr. 28: Immanuel High School Visitors' Day @ Eau Claire, WI

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: jphain@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 4

Date: March 26, 2017

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 374: Grace! 'Tis a Charming Sound
TLH 373: By Grace I'm Saved
WS 776: Lord, 'Tis Not that I Did Choose You
WS 777: Amazing Grace – How Sweet the Sound
Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 42, TLH p. 133

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)
Gloria: TLH 245:1,6

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 2:1-10
Passion Reading

Sermon: Ephesians 1:8

⁸He made [grace] abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, ... (NKJVTM)

Powerful Propositions
through Prepositions:
"Grace TOWARD Us"

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Midweek Lenten Services:** Our midweek services will continue this Wednesday, March 29, 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 True Humanity: The Seed of Abraham," our preacher being Pastor Emeritus Paul Fleischer. These midweek services can deepen our appreciation of the redemptive work our Savior, Jesus Christ, accomplished in our behalf. Everyone is also invited to the soup supper beginning at 6 pm.
- ◆ **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:** Those men interested in helping with the breakfast are asked to sign up for various duties. The list is by the guest book.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Dorcas Guild Meeting:** The quarterly meeting date has been moved up to April 9. Please remember that there will be election of officers to serve for the next two years. Please join us and help in the decisions about ways the Dorcas Guild can serve the congregation.
- ◆ **Voters Meeting:** Due to Easter falling on its normal date, the quarterly Voters meeting will be on April 23.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Teacher Sherman Carstensen of Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI, has accepted the call to teach and counsel youth at Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN. ✠ Pastor Neal Radichel of Luther Memorial in Fond du Lac, WI, has received the call to Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN. ✠ Pastor David Schaller of Redeemer Lutheran in Sister Lakes, MI, has received the call to Immanuel Lutheran in Winter Haven, FL. He has also received the call to be interim pastor at Rock of Ages Lutheran in Grand Rapids, MI. ✠ Teacher Ann Sprengeler of Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI, has received the call to teach K-8 at Redeemer Lutheran in Cheyenne, WY. ✠ Teacher Joshua Ohlmann of Holy Cross Lutheran in Phoenix, AZ, has returned the call to Grace Lutheran in Sleepy Eye, MN, while Mrs. Debra Mayhew has accepted the call for pre-school there. ✠ Mrs. Amy Mielke of Messiah Lutheran in Hales Corners, WI, has returned teaching call from Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Easter Recitation and Hymn

CLC E-Devotion – Saturday, March 11, 2017

Matthew 27:54; Luke 23:47 So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!" ... [The centurion] glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!"

IT HAPPENED ON GOOD FRIDAY: THE CENTURION MARVELED

As a soldier of Rome he had no doubt supervised many crucifixions. What happened on Golgotha was in itself nothing out of the ordinary. So why did the centurion fear greatly? He had witnessed the remarkable events that had transpired earlier that day: the unusual proceedings in the court of Pilate, the governor's inexplicable action of sentencing an innocent Man to die, the calm demeanor Jesus had shown. His uttering not a single curse word at His foes. When Jesus did speak, it was to utter a prayer of forgiveness for His foes and to promise Paradise to a dying thief. Then there was the extraordinary way He expired. Usually crucifixion victims would hang on the cross for days before dying finally from exhaustion. Jesus had hung on His cross for just six hours. The centurion noticed how Jesus did not die from exhaustion. He commended His soul into the hands of His Father ... voluntarily! Then there were the strange phenomena in nature: the earthquake, darkness, and splitting rocks. All the centurion had seen and heard caused him to recognize: the Person we have just crucified is no ordinary human. And it made him afraid.

But his fearing took a wonderful turn. He also experienced something within his heart that had never been there before: true peace and joy! By the grace of God the centurion came to recognize that the Crucified One was his Savior. This moved him to marvel and glorify God and say: "Certainly this was a righteous Man and the Son of God!"

May we join the centurion in praising the Lord. May we see Jesus as our sin-bearing Substitute, come from heaven to dispel our fear. Clothed in the garment of holiness He obtained for us, which has become ours through faith in Jesus, may we joyfully confess: "O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt You and praise Your name, for in perfect faithfulness You have done MARVELOUS things, things planned long ago" (Isaiah 25:1). "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is MARVELOUS in our eyes" (Mark 12:11). Let us look forward eagerly to the time when the crucified and exalted Savior shall come "to be glorified in His holy people and to be MARVELED at among all those who have believed" (2 Thessalonians 8:10).

Last Week's Stats: Mar. 19, 2017 Sun.: 109 S.S.: 12 B.Cl.: 44 Wed.: 48

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,939.01	CLC:	\$920.00
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	674.06	CLC:	0.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	950.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+313.07	CLC:	-30.00
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$39,562.03	CLC:	\$10,965.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	39,600.00	CLC:	11,400.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-37.97	CLC:	-435.00
GLC Other:	Living Faith:	10.00	Tuition Aid:	185.00
SAF Endowment:	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:	Parking Lot:	22,020.25	Tuition Aid:	1,111.12
	Tour Choir:	2,024.00	(Attendance: 187)	

SPIRITUAL, but not RELIGIOUS?

Many claim to be spiritual because they believe in a god or a universal spirit. Some claim to be *less* religious and *more* spiritual. Perhaps you have heard someone say, "I am not religious, but I am spiritual."

As believers in Christ Jesus and through Him children of the Heavenly Father, Christ-believers are born of the Spirit. Through the Gospel the Spirit of God has breathed new life into our dead heart. "But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel" (2 Thessalonians 2:13). "But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:11). Were it not for the Spirit of God we would not and could not believe in the Lord Jesus (1 Corinthians 12:3). The Spirit of glory and of God rests upon us (1 Peter 4:14).

Further, reborn of the Spirit from our lost estate we live not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit (Romans 8:5). "For to be carnally (of the flesh) minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Romans 8:6). The Christian life is a consequence of the Spirit's work in our heart. Scripture addresses us as spiritual. "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1).

Being born of the Spirit (and spiritual) in the context of faith, salvation, and the Christian life, is *always* connected to the divine and reflects the divine love and power of God in our lives.

It is impossible for those who are born again of the Spirit of God not to be religious. Religious means holding belief in and reverence for God or in the case of the heathen, a deity of some sort. Religiousness manifests itself through a concern for teaching of religion. But there is *no similarity* between the religiousness of the Christian and that of the heathen. The Christ-believer worships the Triune God: the Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. The object of heathen worship is a self-made god of many names who is dead, whose molded image is wind and confusion (Isaiah 41:29). Those who claim to be spiritual, but not religious, are speaking a different language than we speak.

Spirituality to the not-religious spiritual person is the seeking within oneself a connection to a divine being. Such spirituality celebrates self-authority.

We do not endorse the following definitions of religion, but note how the spiritual but not religious compare the two:

“Religion is for those who are asleep.

Spirituality is for those who are awake.

“Religion threatens and terrifies.

Spirituality gives you inner peace.

“Religion is not *God*.

Spirituality is infinite consciousness and all that is—it is *God*

“Religion continues the teachings of a sacred book.

Spirituality seeks the sacredness in all the books.

“Religion is cause for division.

Spirituality is cause for union.

“Religion believes in the eternal life.

Spirituality makes you conscious of all that is.

“Religion is based on humanity, an organization with rules

Spirituality questions everything.

“Religion gives you promise for the after-life.

Spirituality gives you the light to find God in your inner self ...” (*)

Spiritual but not religious people see religion (including Christianity) as restrictive. They feel bound by having to adhere to what they call rules, or to doctrinal tenets. Someone described their philosophy thus: “If I have religion, then I am obligated to obey someone else’s will. But if I am spiritual, there are no demands upon me other than to follow my own sense of ‘this is what I currently prefer.’” They are perfectly comfortable doing what is right in their own eyes, for they answer to only themselves, and the answer could be different tomorrow than it is today. Basically, they become a god unto themselves for which reason one critic said “spiritual but not religious is just another form of idolatry.” The same critic said the claim to be spiritual but not religious is like saying, “I am a scholar, but I don’t read.” In this context the spiritual see no need for the Word.

The “spiritual but not religious” speak of finding peace, solace, and “closeness with God” sitting on the lake, or in the forest, or on a mountain. Now, Christians like to go to the lake, to the forest, and to the mountains to relax and get away from the rat race and raucousness of the busy world. As we believe that God is the Creator of the world, we can appreciate the beauty of what He has made. But there is no fellowship or communion with

God apart from His Word through which He speaks to us of His love in Christ, and through which He affirms and confirms that we are His children. He Who formed us says, “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine” (Isaiah 43:1).

If spirituality is god and gives the light to find god in one’s inner self where is the comfort? When the burdens of life weigh one down, or when death approaches where is the comfort? It is mindful of the dying atheist who when told by a friend, “hang on brother, hang on,” said, “I am trying to, but what is there to hang on to?”

Of course, religion in and of itself saves no one, and of itself does not elevate the religious person above those who claim to be spiritual. The guarantor of our salvation is One outside of us. He says to us, “Your sins are forgiven you” (Mark 2:5). Faith in Christ Jesus saves. The believer in Christ, who acknowledges his sin and recognizes that without Christ he has no hope believes the invitation of the Savior, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). And while he waits for the ultimate deliverance to heavenly glory, he finds solace in “casting all [his] care upon Him for He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7). Whether on the lake, in the forest, in the mountains, or in his bed, the believer finds comfort in the Savior’s invitation, “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you ...” (Psalm 50:15). Not within self, but in the solid, enduring and everlasting Word is the assurance, “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13). Immanuel promises, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

To the Christ-believer the Word of the living God is the foundation of faith and hope and anticipation. For the spiritual but not religious person whose god is as nebulous as the blowing wind, a passing cloud, or how he feels at the moment, there is nothing to hang on to, no hope.

There is no God-pleasing, much less true spirituality, apart from Christ, and the Spirit of God. However pious the “spiritual-but not religious” people may sound, spirituality centered in self is a devil hoax. Furthermore, pious sounding spirituality does not take the place of faith, and without faith in Christ there is no salvation.

“And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You ...” (Psalm 39:7). “My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us” (Psalm 62:5-7).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 3/2017

*) Religion vs. Spirituality: What’s the Difference, Sept 29, 2010 from Prevent Disease Website