

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Benno Sydow

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

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Roger Ochsner; Bob Maki; Jack Maki; John Maki;
Joel Stifter

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

Hospitality Team 5: Andrea Dahl; Pat & Dawn Paplow;
Frank & Ann Radichel

Church Cleaners: Volunteer? School: Kanneh

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

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

Wed., Apr. 5: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
6:00 pm – Soup Supper
7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship

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

Sun., Apr. 9: **PALM SUNDAY**
8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Palm Sunday)
11:15 am – Hospitality
11:30 am – Dorcas Guild Meeting; 12:00 pm – Council

Thu., Apr. 13: **MAUNDY THURSDAY** (No Worship)

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

Apr. 28-29: 7:30 pm – Immanuel Play, "Harvey"

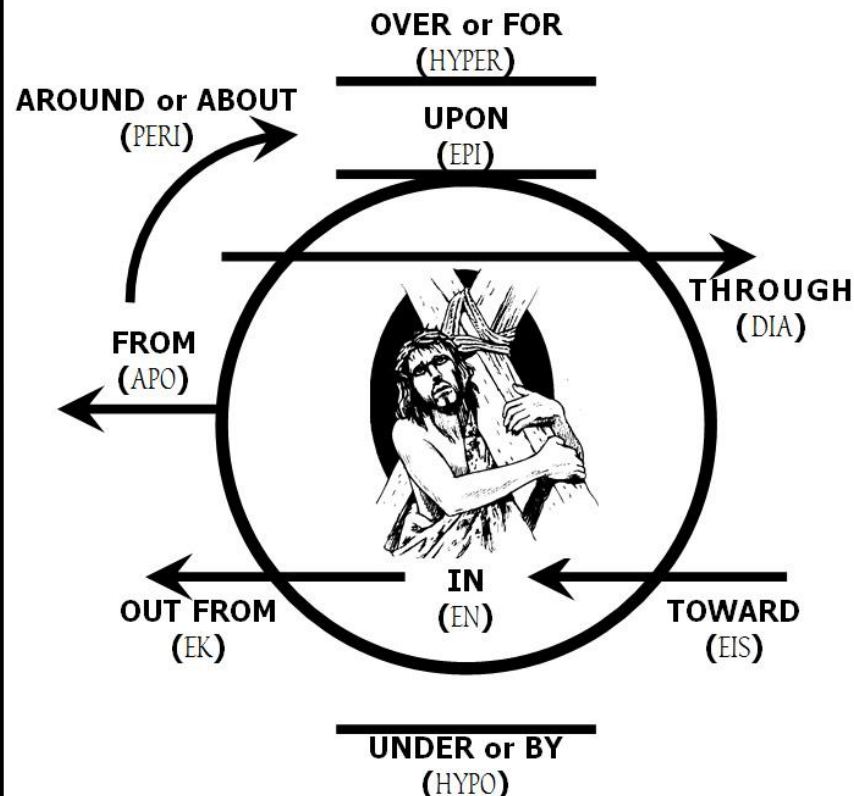
Sat., Apr. 29: 9:00 am – Work Day at Grace

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 5

Date: April 2, 2017

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 153: Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

TLH 383: Seek Where Ye May to Find a Way

TLH 473: The Church's One Foundation

Communion: TLH 163

TLH 179: On My Heart Imprint Thine Image

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 116, TLH p. 148

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 15 (Communion)

Gloria: TLH 245:1,6

Scripture Reading:

1 Corinthians 3:5-15

Passion Reading

Sermon: Ephesians 2:19-20

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ... (NKJVTM)

Powerful Propositions
through Prepositions:
"Built UPON the Foundation"

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Midweek Lenten Services:** Our midweek services conclude this Wed., April 5, 7 pm. Our theme is "Christ, Our Great High Priest," meditations from the Book of Hebrews. This week our focus will be, "His More Excellent Ministry: He Established a New and Better Covenant," our preacher being Pastor Emeritus Daniel Fleischer. Everyone is also invited to the soup supper beginning at 6 pm.
- ◆ **Student Fair:** This Friday evening at 7 pm will be the Grace Lutheran student fair. Come and show your support of our Christian Day School!
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Immanuel Visitors Day:** Students in grades 7 and up are invited to Immanuel Lutheran High School Visitor's Day in Eau Claire, WI, on Fri., April 28, 2017, starting at 8 am. Students will have an opportunity to experience firsthand what it would be like to attend Immanuel. Activities will include a campus tour, classroom experience, sports and co-curricular experience, Q & A time, team activities, band concert, and a musical theater performance of Harvey. Speak with Pastor about your interest in this. You can also contact Prof. Joel Gullerud at 715-544-8446 or joel.gullerud@ilc.edu with any questions.
- ◆ **India Update:** This past Wed., March 29, 21 men graduated from the Martin Luther Bible School in Nagalapuram, AP, India, and were ordained as pastors in the BELC. You can read more about it and see photos here: <http://evensen.lutheranmissions.org/2017/03/30/the-lord-has-sen...into-his-harvest/>. Join me in praising God for bringing in these works and praying for God's blessing as they being to serve congregations here in southern India. Missionary Peter Evensen
- ◆ **CLC News:** Teacher Claire Abbas of Peace Thru Christ Lutheran in Middleton, WI, has received the call to be the second full-time teacher at Gethsemane Lutheran in Spokane Valley, WA. ✠ Teacher Paul Tiefel III of Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, has received the call to be teacher and principal for the new school at Grace Lutheran in Sleepy Eye, MN.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Easter Recitation and Hymn

CLC President's Letter – April 2017

Dear fellow witnesses of Christ's victory over death and the grave:

It's been said that the stock market doesn't like uncertainty. Investors hesitate to buy stock if they feel unsure of what the future might bring in the political and financial world. We can relate. Generally, we like to know what's coming tomorrow or what the next week has in store. We save various dates on our calendar for vacations and other special events. We even look years down the road toward retirement and try to anticipate what it will be like.

Yet despite all the planning and preparation, the one thing we can be always be certain of is uncertainty. Friction between nations can erupt into a fighting war overnight. Terrorism turns a tourist spot into chaos. Closer to home, what you anticipated would be a quiet week suddenly changes when a congregation member is admitted to the hospital for emergency surgery, someone calls at midnight and needs to talk, and the water heater decides to start leaking.

Uncertainty leaves one off-balance and fearful of what might happen next. One could understand if Abraham had felt that way. His life was filled with uncertainties. The Lord told him to pack up and move, but didn't specify the location. He promised Abraham and Sarah a son, but the date of the baby's arrival was uncertain to them. Then came the day when the Lord commanded Abraham to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering. How could God's order possibly fit with His promise to make of Abraham a great nation?

But through all the uncertainties, Abraham was absolutely sure of one thing, that God was faithful to His Word. If God said so, it would be so. Abraham trusted that all the uncertainties would be resolved in God's time according to His saving will. And they were. Abraham was ready to plunge the knife into his son's chest when the Lord called and said, "Do not lay a hand on the boy Now I know that you fear God" (Gen. 22:12). Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in a thicket which he sacrificed in place of Isaac. He named the place "The LORD will Provide." Why worry about uncertainties when we know that the Lord will provide all that's needed to meet them?

During this Lenten season we have led our congregations to the cross of Jesus to see how incredibly the Lord provided all that was needed for the salvation of the world. "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:19). The message of Christ crucified and risen is exactly what people in an uncertain world need. It is the Word of life we are sent out to preach.

The Lord who provided the perfect sacrificial Lamb to spare us from eternal death will provide for every unexpected, unforeseen situation which may arise. "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?" (Rom. 8:32). We don't know what will happen on the world's stage in the next twenty-four hours, but we do know that the triumphant, risen Christ is at the right hand of the Father directing all things for the good of His Church.

We can't possibly anticipate all the challenges and hurdles which lie ahead for our church families, but we know that Christ lives and promises, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matt. 28:20). Our sister congregations in the process of calling a pastor or teacher are uncertain of just how and when the Lord will provide, but He will provide, just as He did for Abraham. Uncertainties to us are accomplished reality for our Lord. In all things, large and small, let us trust Him to transform fear into blessed assurance.

BUT IT ISN'T FAIR

From childhood we all perhaps have felt one time or another we were treated unfairly, particularly if we did not receive some benefit accorded to another. It is not uncommon for a sibling to feel he has been treated unfairly if he did not receive a benefit from parents that another received. In school, students frequently feel they have been treated unfairly. "That is not fair. How come I have to (fill in the blank) when no one else has to?" This obsession with fairness carries over into adult life. It occurs in marriage, the business world, in politics, and even in the church. Of course, what is fair or not can be and frequently is a subjective opinion.

In a world populated by sinners, decisions perceived to be fair or unfair are a reality of life. Decisions in the home, in school, and in society may not always appear to be fair and perhaps may not be. Fallible human beings as perpetrators of the alleged unfairness do not always read situations or circumstances correctly. Sometimes snap judgments are made without full knowledge of circumstances; other times favoritism plays a part; still other times the inequality is calculated. Another conveniently forgotten fact is that we *all* have been either the benefactors or the victims of what is considered fair or unfair. On the other hand, it is unlikely that anyone has ever complained about being treated *more fairly* than the neighbor.

But now consider this worn-out refrain from another perspective. Consider the fairness issue as it relates to our Lord's behavior. The whole issue of fairness or unfairness was not an issue before sin was introduced into the world. Satan introduced the concept of fairness or lack thereof when he suggested the Creator God was withholding something from Adam and Eve. In Eden Satan planted the seed when he said, "For God knows that in the day you eat of it [the forbidden tree] your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:5). To this day, the concept of unfairness is rooted in the idea that something good or something one feels he deserves is being withheld. In Eden Satan suggested that Adam and Eve were not able to attain their full potential because God was jealously withholding the possibility from them. In disobedience they ate, and received the just reward of their deed. They sinned and *earned* the wages of sin which is death (Romans 6:23)—spiritual, temporal, and eternal.

The loving Father graciously provided the antidote to counter the consequences of man's destructive behavior. He promised the Savior from sin and sin's consequences. In the *prot-evangel* (the first gospel promise) the Father by way of both judgment upon the devil, and promise to Adam and Eve said, "I will put enmity, between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel" (Genesis 3:15). In the fearsome confrontation between the devil, and the promised Seed who is Christ, Satan would suffer a fatal, mortal wound. Jesus' wound, though real, was superficial.

The honesty, the integrity, and the faithfulness of God was on the line. Sin had to be dealt with, and the pronounced judgment upon the sinner had to be

meted out. In due time, the Father carried out His plan as the promised Seed was born. The fulfillment was announced first to shepherds. “There is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

What the Father planned, to human reason, was the grossest exercise of unfairness. *Upon Jesus*, “Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth” (1 Peter 2:22), *was laid the sin of the world*. “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way; and the Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6). The Father, offended by our sin but desiring not our death, “made Him Who knew no sin to be sin for us ...” (2 Corinthians 5:21). *Jesus “bore our sins* in His own body on the tree ...” (1 Peter 2:24) and by His stripes we are healed, as *He was wounded for our transgression, and bruised for our iniquities* (Isaiah 53:5).

Our redemption and salvation, a gift of God (Romans 6:23) to all, but possessed only by those who in faith believe and trust in the Lord Jesus, *did cost Jesus*. Jesus “redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil ... with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.” The source of Luther’s explanation is the apostle who wrote that we are redeemed “with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Peter 1:19).

In His ministry on earth He endured poverty, contempt, hatred, and persecution. He was betrayed by one of His own, and denied by another. He endured severe agony in the Gethsemane. The Sanhedrin and the high priest called Him worthy of death. He was accused by false witnesses, was spit upon, whipped, struck, mocked, and made sport of. Given the choice, His accusers preferred a criminal instead of Him. He was delivered for crucifixion by Pontius Pilate. He bore His own cross of execution, and suffered the indignity of having Simon carry the cross for Him. Then they crucified Him, between two thieves no less.

Now ask yourself. *You*, whose sin He bore and who caused Him to endure such treatment— “*Was that fair?*” Would He not have been justified in asking, “Why me? Why am I suffering for something I did not do?”

But what are we told? “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He *opened not* His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so *He opened not His mouth*” (Isaiah 53:7). Before Pilate He was accused of many things, “*but He answered them nothing*” (Mark 15:3). Not once did Jesus seek or appeal for sympathy.

Along the way to Golgotha, the women were weeping and lamenting. He said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!’ Then they will begin ‘to say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!”’ For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry” (Luke 23:28-31)?

At the cross, He was further mocked. He had His person and relationship to the Father challenged. But He said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know

what they do” (Luke 23:34). Upon the cross, He was forsaken by His Father in heaven so that He cried out, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me” (Matthew 27:46)? Innocent in His own person, He died because He bore our sins, and paid our penalty.

Was that fair? As humans obsessed with fairness, the answer is no. But in the Father’s plan for our salvation, it had to be. The Scriptures had to be fulfilled or we would in fact have suffered the due rewards for our sin, not only on the earth, but eternally.

Our Lord Jesus went as it was prophesied. Was there no way out? Yes. When Peter would have defended Him with the sword, Jesus said, “Do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus” (Matthew 26:53)? Another time He said, “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour” (John 12:27).

This is not fair as we count fairness. But thanks be to God. Jesus does not think as we do. What was fair was not an issue, much less a thought that crossed His mind. When they challenged Him to prove Himself by coming off the cross, as well as to save Himself (Mark 15:30), He could have done so. He did not. Stronger than the nails which held Him was His love for mankind whom He came to save. Louder than the raucous voices of unbelief were the penitent souls through time who pleaded, “Do not come down.”

Consequently, we have the promise of forgiveness and eternal life sealed by Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).

We thank you, Lord, for Your deep resolve
Your willingness to die.

Now we can say with joyful heart:
“I’m saved! Thank God, *I’m saved!*”

Yes, thank the Lord! Consider the alternative if Jesus had balked and said: “But it’s not fair.”

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 3/2017

Last Week's Stats: Mar. 26, 2017					
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,813.00	CLC:	\$870.00	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	691.40	CLC:	75.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	950.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+204.40	CLC:	-5.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$43,066.43	CLC:	\$11,910.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	42,900.00	CLC:	12,350.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+166.43	CLC:	-440.00	
GLC Other:	225.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	0.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	150.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF:	0.00
				CEF:	0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	22,245.25	Tuition Aid: 1,111.12	