

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Benno Sydow

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

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

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

Church Cleaners: Sydow School: Middleton

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

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

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

Church Cleaners: Sydow School: Nelson

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Apr. 23: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality
11:30 am – Voters Meeting

April 24-28: Grace School – Iowa Basics Testing

Wed., Apr. 26: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

Wed., Apr. 26: CLC Coordinating Council Meeting @ Eau Claire, WI

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

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

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

Fri., May 19: 12:00 pm – Grace School Dismissal
3:00 pm – Immanuel Class Day @ Fieldhouse
7:30 pm – Immanuel Spring Concert @ Messiah Lutheran

Sat., May 20: 10:00 am – Immanuel Graduation Service @ Fieldhouse

Sun., May 21: Confirmation Sunday

Wed., May 24: 7:00 pm – Grace School Spring Program

Thu., May 25: 12:00 pm – Grace School Dismissal for Summer
7:00 pm – Ascension Day Worship

Sun., May 28: 9:00 am – Summer Worship Schedule Begins (Graduation)

Sun., June 4: 3:00 pm – Minnesota Delegate Conference (New Ulm, MN)

June 13-15: CLC General Pastoral Conference (Eau Claire, WI)

July 24-28: 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 2

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: April 23, 2017

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 202: Welcome, Happy Morning!
TLH 194: Abide with Us, the Day is Waning
TLH 457: What a Friend We Have in Jesus
TLH 200, st. 1,5-8: I Know that My Redeemer Lives

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 16, TLH p. 125

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)
Gloria: TLH 193:1,6

Scripture Reading:

Jonah 2:2-9
John 21:15-19

Sermon: Ephesians 6:18

¹⁸[Pray] always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints -- (NKJVTM)

Powerful Propositions
through Prepositions:
"Prayer CONCERNING the Saints"

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Voters Meeting:** We will meet today following hospitality.
- ◆ **Among Us:** Deb Ude was with a specialist this week who thinks she may have either Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease or a very rare form of ALS that presents with Frontotemporal Dementia, likely the latter. Both are fatal and fast progressing. Please keep her and the Ude family in your prayers. Please pray for Samuel Baker, son of Bonnie and Alex, who was hospitalized this week with pneumonia-like symptoms. Due to repeated outbreaks, he will be seeing a specialist.
- ◆ **Grace Lutheran School** staff is already beginning to plan for the 2017-18 school year. If you are interested in enrolling your child in our school, please speak to one of the teachers for an enrollment form.
- ◆ **Immanuel Visitor's Day** is this Friday. This is when the 7th and 8th graders will be going to visit Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire. They will be leaving with Pastor early that morning (6 am) and returning late that night. It's not too late to register, so speak with Pastor of your interest. Classes in Grace School will be as usual for the rest of the school. The kindergarten will be visiting Mrs. Hein's classroom for a while as well.
- ◆ **Landscaping:** Interested in helping make the church grounds beautiful with plants and flowers this spring and summer? Planting will take place in May, along with watering throughout the summer. If you helped last year and would like to help again, or if you'd like to join the Flower Committee for this year, please speak with Heidi Nelson. This is a great opportunity to serve!
- ◆ **Devotional Book:** Pastor Mark Weis of Grace Lutheran Church (CLC), Cape Coral, Florida, has published an excellent new devotional book, "One Thing Needful: For All the Distractions, Stresses and Worries of Life." It is available for \$3.99 as an e-book on Amazon, and can be read on any computer, tablet or cell phone with the free Kindle Reader. If you go to Amazon.com and search "Weis" and "Needful," you will easily find the book.
- ◆ **Lutheran Spokesman Damage:** Years ago there was a problem with Lutheran Spokesman's arriving damaged at churches and homes. Recently the problem seems to have recurred. If your Lutheran Spokesman has arrived damaged -- particularly if they were so damaged as to be unusable - please contact Prof. Paul Naumann at pnaum@aol.com.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Matthew Hanel of St. Matthew Lutheran in Dallas, TX, has received the call to Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN. ✠ Mr. Benjamin Hanel has accepted the call to teach Social Studies at Immanuel's school. ✠ Immanuel Lutheran of Mankato, MN, will be hosting a farewell service and meal for Pastor Paul Nolting on Sun., May 14 at its 9:30 am service. ✠ Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church in the Houston area now has a new permanent address: 414 4th Street, Humble, Texas 77338.

- ◆ **Man Up Weekend:** The weekend is intended to offer strength and encouragement for men 18 and older for their personal faith, family, and fellowship at church. The theme: "Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). The weekend will include Bible Study, Fellowship, Leadership Training, Team and Relationship Building and Worship, as well as several outdoor activities. The retreat will be held Sept. 22-24 at Wyalusing State Park near Prairie Du Chien, WI, south of LaCrosse. For more information and registration, see www.manup.clclutheran.org. The cost is \$75 for the weekend and includes lodging, meals, and activities. Registration deadline is August 1. If you have any questions please speak to your pastor or contact Nathanael Mayhew (ndmayhew@juno.com/404-729-4602).
- ◆ **Financial Aid Applications:** Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary has a financial aid program that helps students to attend by assisting with loans, multi-student grants, college and seminary grants, and scholarships. While the scholarships are automatically applied based upon academic performance, these other items are provided upon application made by the responsible party. While in the past some have viewed the deadline as flexible, this has created problems managing the available funds which are particularly limited this year based upon recent reports. In order to be as helpful and as equitable to all, the Regents need to have these forms submitted by the deadline which is May 1, 2017, for the 2017-18 academic year. Late applications will not be considered. If any student is remotely considering Immanuel and needs financial assistance, it is recommended that an application be submitted by this deadline. The applications have been provided to the families of current students. If anyone needs an application, you may find them at ilc.edu/resources/, under the heading "Financial Assistance Forms & Info."
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #23 – Baptism 1 and 2

Last Week's Stats: Apr. 16, 2017 Sun.: 130

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,820.25	CLC:	\$765.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	950.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-479.75	CLC:	-185.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$53,647.17	CLC:	\$14,805.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	52,800.00	CLC:	15,200.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+847.17	CLC:	-395.00	
GLC Other:	299.50	Living Faith:	10.00	Tuition Aid:	210.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	40.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00
Current Balances:		Parking Lot:	23,261.25	Tuition Aid:	1,636.12

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!

CLC E-Devotion – Friday, April 21, 2017 (Martin Luther)

Romans 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

LIVING OUR EASTER FAITH

The question now arises: If Christ has taken away death and our sins by his resurrection and has justified us, why do we then still feel sin within us? For our sins torment us still, we are stung by our conscience, and this evil conscience creates the fear of hell.

To this I reply: I have often said before that feeling and faith are two different things. It is the nature of faith not to feel, to lay aside reason and close the eyes, to submit absolutely to the Word, and follow it in life and death. Feeling however does not extend beyond that which may be apprehended by reason and the senses, which may be heard, seen, felt and known by the outward senses.

For this cause feeling is opposed to faith and faith is opposed to feeling. For if we would see Christ visibly in heaven, like the visible sun, we would not need to believe it. But since Christ died for our sins and was raised for our justification, we cannot see it nor feel it, neither can we comprehend it with our reason. Therefore we must disregard our feeling and accept only the Word, write it into our heart and cling to it, even though it seems as if my sins were not taken from me, and even though I still feel them within me.

For although we feel that sin is still in us, it is only permitted that our faith may be developed and strengthened, that in spite of all our feelings we accept the Word, and that we unite our hearts and consciences more and more to Christ. Thus faith leads us quietly, contrary to all feeling and comprehension of reason, through sin, through death and through hell. Then we shall see salvation before our eyes, and then we shall know perfectly what we have believed, namely, that death and all sorrow have been conquered.

CLC E-Devotion – Wednesday, April 19, 2017 (Martin Luther)

Romans 4:25 Christ was raised for our justification.

THE LORD LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF US ALL

Here Paul turns my eyes away from my sins and directs them to Christ, for if I look at my sins, they will destroy me. Therefore I must look to Christ who has taken my sins upon himself, crushed the head of the serpent and become the blessing. Now these sins no longer burden my conscience, but rest upon Christ, whom they try to destroy.

Let us see how they treat him. They hurl him to the ground and kill him. O God; where is now my Christ and my Saviour? But then God appears, delivers Christ and makes him alive; and not only does he make him alive, but he translates him into heaven and lets him rule over all.

What has now become of sin? There it lies under his feet. If I then cling to this, I have a cheerful conscience like Christ, because I am without sin. Now I can defy death, the devil, sin and hell to do me any harm. As I am a child of Adam, sin does indeed lead to my death. But since Christ has taken my sins upon himself, has died for them, has suffered himself to be slain on account of my sins, they can no longer harm me; for Christ is too strong for them. They cannot hold him. He breaks forth and overpowers them, ascends into heaven, taking sin and sorrow captive, and rules there over all throughout eternity.

Now I have a clear conscience, am joyful and happy and am no longer afraid of this tyrant, for Christ has taken my sins away from me and made them his own. But they cannot remain upon him; what then becomes of them? They must disappear and be destroyed. This then is the effect of faith. He who believes that Christ has taken away our sin, is without sin, like Christ himself, and death, the devil and hell are vanquished as far as they are concerned and they can no longer harm us.

“THE FACTS OF THE RESURRECTION”

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The Bible states plainly and unapologetically that Jesus Christ rose from the dead on Easter morning.

The warning was clear. **“You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die,”** Genesis 2:16-17. In Hebrew, “you will surely die” is more literally “dying you will die.” With the fall into sin, mankind’s existence became a dead, dying existence.

And what words better describe our world than death and dying? Globally, there are 105 deaths each minute; 6,316 deaths each hour; 150,600 deaths each day; and 55.3 million deaths each year. Imagine how many industries are related to death: funeral, medical, insurance, mental health, forensics, armed forces, and more. Even our entertainment industry is riddled with death. By the time a child has finished elementary school, he or she will have witnessed 8,000 murders on TV.

But enough statistics about death. How has death impacted you personally? How many funerals have you attended? How many obituaries have you read? How many loved ones have you lost: grandparents, parents, children, friends. Even the death of a beloved family pet can cause severe grief. Yet, nowhere does the resurrection of Jesus Christ have more meaning than amid the harsh realities of death and dying. And to know the power of Christ’s resurrection and to live in that power we must know, believe, and apply the facts of the resurrection.

Jesus rose from the dead

The historical Jesus of Nazareth, who “was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried” — this Jesus rose triumphantly from the grave on the first Easter morning. Does the world believe this? No. The world assigns the resurrection of Jesus no more credibility than the Easter bunny.

But in God’s inspired word, the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus are not myth but divine fact. The resurrection is referenced in twenty-two of the twenty-seven books in the New Testament. All four gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, John—not only record the fact of the resurrection; but also many resurrection appearances in which the risen Jesus walked, talked, ate, and in one instance, even cooked breakfast for His disciples on the shore of Lake Galilee. Paul wrote that the risen Jesus was witnessed by **“more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time,”** 1 Corinthians 15:6.

The Bible states plainly and apologetically that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. This is a fact.

Jesus was who He claimed to be

Some insist that Jesus never claimed to be God. This is blatantly untrue. In John 8, for example, Jesus told the unbelieving Jews: **“I tell you the truth, before Abraham was, I am.”** This was not poor sentence construction on the part of Jesus. When He said, “I am,” He was claiming the great name of Jehovah for Himself. Jehovah, or more properly YAVEH, is a Hebrew word meaning “I AM.” It was the same as saying, “I am the eternal God.” That the Jews understood this claim is evident from their immediate attempt to stone Jesus for blasphemy.



In John 10:30 Jesus said, **“I and the Father are one.”** One in essence. Once in majesty. One in power and glory. When the pompous high priest demanded of Jesus, **“I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God,”** Jesus answered: **“Yes, it is as you say.”**

Yet, when God the Father raised Jesus from the dead, He vindicated every claim Jesus made about Himself. More than anything else—the miracles, the teaching—the resurrection of Jesus Christ proved that He was exactly who He claimed to be: God the Son, God our Savior.

Jesus did what He came to do

Everything Jesus did, said, and suffered in our place would be meaningless without His resurrection; just as Good Friday would be meaningless without Easter Sunday. This is why Paul wrote: **“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins,”** 1 Corinthians 15:17.

But when God the Father raised Jesus from the dead, He was declaring in unmistakable terms that He had accepted the atonement Jesus made for our sins; that what Jesus proclaimed on the cross, “It is finished!” was in fact true. In resurrecting Jesus, God the Father was assuring each of us: “No matter who you are; what you’ve done; where you’ve been; or how long you’ve been away; I have redeemed you through My Son. And the proof is in His resurrection.”

Jesus told the truth.

Each time Jesus forewarned His disciples of His suffering and death, He also promised His resurrection. Yet, on the first Easter, what were His disciples doing? Not celebrating their living Lord, but mourning their dead Savior. Many were hiding behind locked doors. The women who hurried to the cemetery wondered, “Who will roll away the stone?” Mary Magdalene mistook the risen Christ for the cemetery caretaker. Peter and John equated the empty tomb with body theft instead of bodily resurrection. Thomas refused to accept Christ’s resurrection without forensic evidence. The two disciples shuffling along Emmaus Road lamented of Jesus, “We thought He was the one.”

Significantly, when Jesus appeared to the Emmaus disciples, He did not chide them for failing to recognize Him; but for failing to recognize the truth of the Scriptures—the same Scriptures we have in our possession. **“How foolish you are,”** said Jesus, **“and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken,”** Luke 24:25. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 that **“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”**

God keeps His word, every letter, every syllable. And the resurrection is the proof.

Because Jesus lives, we will live too

On Easter we are often reminded of those we have loved and lost. Are there tears? Yes. But amid the tears and loss, there is also a sense of overwhelming victory. For the same Jesus who rose triumphantly that first Easter also declared in John 14: **“Because I live, you also will live.”** You and I will rise from the dead. You and I will be reunited with those Christian loved ones we lost. These glorious realities are guaranteed by Christ’s resurrection.

The apostle wrote in the closing words of 1 Corinthians 15: **“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”**

How do we know? Because Jesus is alive. And that is a fact.

Written by Pastor Mark Weis, Grace Lutheran Church (CLC), Cape Coral, FL