

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Al Rosendahl

Ushers: Larry Brandt; Jeremiah Boe; Nick Duehlmeier;
Dale Enns; Duane Enns

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

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

Church Cleaners: Anderson/P&J Radichel School: Ecker

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Larry Brandt; Jeremiah Boe; Nick Duehlmeier;
Dale Enns; Duane Enns

Counting Team 3: Brian Eichstadt; Duane Enns; David Hein;
Chad Hestekin; Benno Sydow

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

Church Cleaners: Volunteers? School: LaDue

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Apr. 8: 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper (Easter 2)
11:00 am – Hospitality; 12:00 pm – Council Meeting
Apr. 9-10: CLC Boards Meet @ Eau Claire, WI
Wed., Apr. 11: CLC Coordinating Council @ Eau Claire, WI
Catechism and Bible Class Suspended
Thu., Apr. 12: 7:00 pm – Grace School Book Fair
Sun., Apr. 15: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service (Easter 3)
11:00 am – Hospitality; 11:30 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild
Mon. Apr. 16: 10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study Club @ Inver Grove Hts., MN
Wed., Apr. 18: 4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class
Fri., Apr. 20: Women's Retreat @ Winona, MN
Apr. 27-28: 7:30 pm – Immanuel Play, "Ask Any Girl," @ ILC Fieldhouse
Fri., Apr. 27: Immanuel Lutheran High School Visitors Day @ Eau Claire, WI
Sat., Apr. 28: 9:00 am – Grace Work Day
Thu., May 10: 7:00 pm – Ascension Day Worship Service
Fr., May 11: Field Day (5th-8th grade, by Berea in Inver Grove Hts.)
Fri., May 18: 3:00 pm – Immanuel Class Day @ ILC Fieldhouse
7:30 pm – Immanuel Spring Concert @ Messiah Lutheran
Sat., May 19: 10:00 am – Immanuel Graduation Service @ Fieldhouse
Sun., May 20: Confirmation Sunday
Thu., May 24: 7:00 pm – Grace School Spring Program
Fri., May 25: 12:00 pm – Grace School Dismissal for Summer
Sun., May 27: Graduation Sunday & Summer Worship Schedule Begins
Sat., June 9: MN Delegate Conference @ Grace Lutheran
June 21-24: CLC Convention (Eau Claire, WI)
July 23-27: Vacation Bible School

Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432

Email: john.p.hein@gmail.com

Home Page: www.FridleyLutheran.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 8, 2018

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 193: Christ the Lord is Risen Today

TLH 205: The Day of Resurrection

WS 759: These are the Facts

Communion: TLH 206

TLH 207, st. 6: Like the Golden Sun Ascending

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 118, TLH p. 148 f.

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 15 (Communion)

Gloria: TLH 200:1,8

Scripture Readings:

Acts 4:8-12

Luke 24:36-49

Sermon: 1 John 1:1-2:2

^{1:1} That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-- ² the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- ³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. ⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. ^{2:1} My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. (NKJVTM)

Listen to the Eyewitness News!

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

♦ **School Book Fair:** This Thurs., April 12, at 7:00 pm the children of the Day School will be presenting a school fair with the theme centered on books and authors. Each child will have a booth and will make an individual presentation. Come and listen to our students who, along with the teachers, have prepared extensively for this event.



♦ **Among Us:** Pat Paplow has had some complications with his knee replacement, including a chemical reaction from the bandage. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

♦ **Address:** Florence LaCroix; Edgewood; Room #130; 14890 Beaver Dam Road; Brainerd, MN 56401.

♦ **Church Cleaning:** There are currently no volunteers signed up for church cleaning during the months of April, May, and November. Please consider serving the Lord who has need of you.

♦ **Immanuel High School Visitors Day:** Young people grades 7 and up are invited to attend Immanuel Lutheran High School Visitors Day in Eau Claire, WI on Friday, April 27. Students will have an opportunity to experience firsthand what it would be like to attend Immanuel. The Immanuel Band will perform a concert in the gym at 7:00 pm, followed by a theater performance of Ask Any Girl at 7:30 pm. Students and chaperones may register at www.ilc.edu by Friday, April 20.

♦ **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, scholarships, and work study. While the scholarships are automatically applied based upon academic performance, these other items are provided upon application made by the responsible party. In order to be as helpful and as equitable to all, these forms need to be submitted by the deadline which is May 1, 2018, for the 2018-19 academic year. If any student is giving any potential interest in attending Immanuel, applying now ensures that you will be considered for financial assistance. While applications have already been provided to the families of current students, you may still find them at ilc.edu/resources/ under the heading "Financial Assistance Forms & Info."

♦ **CLC News:** Prof. Paul Schaller of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary has announced his retirement from the full time public ministry effective at the end of the 2018-19 academic year.

♦ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #21 – Third Article, Part 3.

CLC E-Devotion – Saturday, April 7, 2018

John 11:26 He that lives and believes in Me shall never die.

EASTER JOY

Easter! It is the oldest of Christian festivals. It is the most joyous for those who are well grounded in the knowledge of Christ. The early Christians were often in sadness because they were persecuted and in danger for their lives; but on Easter day they lifted up their heads. Their hearts were filled with joy. They embraced each other, crying out to one another: "The Lord is risen!" -- "He is risen indeed!"

Martin Luther wrote on the wall of his room "He lives! He lives!" to remind himself daily that Jesus, the promised Messiah, had come and fulfilled the will of His Father. He suffered and died, but lives as our Savior, King, and Advocate with the Father. When the morning sun was rising and chasing away the shadows of night, Jesus rose from the dead and chased away the shadows of death. He promises in His Word, "Because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:19).

Christ's resurrection, itself an attested historical event, is conclusive evidence that God has reconciled the world unto Himself. It is the foundation of the Church, the life and breath of each believing heart that pilgrims through this life but yearns for something better. "Here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come" (Hebrews 13:14).

That is the Christian faith. The event of Easter makes it real and guarantees that the believer in Jesus shall come to the better life.

Human existence is in reality one long procession to the cemetery. That is reality. But for those who are alive in Christ, the procession is but a rite of passage, for Jesus says, "He that lives and believes in Me shall never die" (John 11:26).

-- From the "Lutheran Spokesman"

Last Week's Stats: Apr. 1, 2018 Sun.: 134

Last Week's Status: April 1, 2016						Sum: 101	
Sun. Offering:		Grace:	\$4,455.00	CLC:		\$701.00	
Weekly Need:		Grace:	3,700.00	CLC:		1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:		Grace:	+755.00	CLC:		-299.00	
<hr/>							
Year-to-Date Offering::		Grace:	\$45,500.00	CLC:		\$12,765.00	
Year-to-Date Need:		Grace:	48,100.00	CLC:		13,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)		Grace:	-2,600.00	CLC:		-235.00	
<hr/>							
GLC Other:	1,450.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	230.00		
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	50.00	Kinship:	0.00		
ILC Student Aid:	10.00	ILC Bldg.	300.00	IIF:	0.00	CEF: 0.00	
<hr/>							
Current Balances:		Parking Lot: \$45,037		Tuition Aid:		\$1,501	



EASTER DAY IS PAST—THE MESSAGE ENDURES

There are different explanations for the origin of what we know as Easter, including the premise that the Christian Church simply usurped some pagan celebrations. There are scholars, however, who reject that idea. Nevertheless, detractors and opponents of Christianity continue to raise the argument of pagan usurpation to cast doubt on the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord.

Whatever spin deniers and detractors put on the origin of Easter, it is sad that commemoration of the Savior's resurrection has become commercialized and mixed with non-Christian traditions like the Easter Bunny, Easter parades and hunting for Easter eggs, all of which have nothing to do with the resurrection of our Lord. The celebration of Christmas has suffered the same fate. Subtly, Satan undermines and creates distraction and confusion. To refocus attention on the real meaning of the day, someone suggested that instead of speaking of Easter Sunday, a more appropriate description would be *Resurrection Sunday*.

According to some church historians, the origin of the day as a festival likely dates to the middle of the second century, though festivals commemorating the resurrection of Messiah were presumably observed by at least some Christians from much earlier times.

Except for the connection of the Passover with the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Who was sacrificed for us (The Passover preceding the deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage (Exodus 12) was a type of our deliverance from sin, death, and power of the devil, through the atonement of our Savior), whether the Church usurped a heathen celebration, is of no consequence. Neither is the establishment of an exact date of the origin of the celebration. To be obsessed with peripheral conjectures that titillate the mind is getting lost in the jungle. Such obsession serves no useful purpose. What is important is the fulfillment of divine prophecy, the historical reality and its meaning--our Lord Jesus lived, died for the sins of the world, and rose again, thus defeating Satan. The resurrection, the restoration of life intended for all, is possessed by penitents who believe and trust in the word and promise of the Lord of Heaven.

We know that the Savior rose on the third day after His crucifixion. The third day was the first day of the week as we are told, "On the first day of the week very early in the morning" (Luke 24:1) the women went to the tomb and found the stone rolled away. They were told by the angel, "He [Jesus] is not here, but is risen." The Church, the body of believers in Christ, confesses in the Apostolic Creed without qualification or evasion: "On the third day, He rose again from the dead."

The resurrection of the Lord Jesus was the Father's exclamation mark to Jesus' declaration on the cross: "It is finished" (John 19:30). It confirmed Jesus' work: "Everything has been accomplished which by the appointment of the Father as revealed in the Scripture I must do and bear." Our sin is forgiven, Jesus reconciled the world unto the Father, and all who by faith believe in Him bask in the assurance of "It is finished." Jesus meant exactly what He said. He fully accomplished our salvation. No works on our part, no penance, no penitent tears, no blood, no money, not our sanctified life to which we are called and which is empowered by the Spirit through the Gospel—nothing—is needed or can be added to what Jesus has done. He alone has taken our sins away and prepared a place for us in heaven. If we believe that Jesus died and rose again (1 Thessalonians 4:14), we too shall rise to live with Him forever. That is confirmed by the Word of the Lord Who cannot lie!

Did the apostolic church celebrate resurrection day? There is no record in Scripture or history that they celebrated it by dedicating a specific day to it as we do. But, yes, *they celebrated it*. Recognizing the Lord Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, recognizing Him as the Passover Lamb sacrificed for us, seeing in Him the fulfillment of the brass serpent prophecy on the pole (Numbers 21), remembering Jesus' words concerning Jonah who was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish (Matthew 12:40), having heard the angelic pronouncement of His resurrection, having laid their eyes on Him for 40 days after the resurrection, having been with Him on the

mount of ascension, remembering Him at each reception of the Sacrament (do this in remembrance of Me) and believing that they were justified, reconciled, and heirs of eternal life, they went about preaching Christ and eternal life in and through Him. *Their ministry was a celebration of His resurrection*. Furthermore, they gathered with fellow believers on the *first* day of the week (Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2) to worship the Lord. In their new freedom from the Law they demonstrated their liberty to worship on the day they chose, and what better day than on the day their Savior rose from the dead!

Easter as the world celebrates "Happy Easter," whatever that means to the majority who don't know it or observe it as the day of resurrection, *is over* until next year when the charade is repeated. What about us?

Not by law, but by free choice the Christian Church has chosen to worship on the first day of the week. Consumed by the mundane activities of life, however, and out of simple indifference and neglect we seldom think about it. However, every Sunday worship at which faithful Christians gather around the Word and Sacrament, confess our sins and hear the absolution, are nourished by the Gospel and are dismissed with the benediction, is an acknowledgment of the resurrection of our Lord. For that reason, faithful Christ-believers delight in regularly coming to the house of the Lord. *Every Sunday is resurrection day!* Think about it. Had Christ not risen from the dead, we would still be in our sins and under condemnation, and our faith would be futile. Had Jesus not risen from the dead, there would be nothing to celebrate. Our future would be only bleakness, death, and hell.

It would be appropriate to open every Sunday service through the year with:

"Christ the Lord is ris'n today," Sons of men and angels say.

Raise your joy and triumphs high; Sing, ye heav'ns, and, earth reply. (TLH-193)

Furthermore, as the atoning, redemptive work of our Lord is finished, and sealed, the resurrection of the Lord is the power, the energy, and the catalyst that enlivens the redeemed child of God to live the sanctified life, which is the will of God (1 Thessalonians 4:3). "We were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just *as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father*, even so *we also should walk in newness of life*. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly *we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection...*" (Romans 6:4-5). A Christian walk is a witness to the power and blessing of Jesus' resurrection.

When Jesus said, "It is finished," He was not finished with us. "Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you" (Isaiah 49:15). Our life does not measure up to the Lord's standard of sanctification. We frequently forget Him. We sin. Yet as He made the acceptable sacrifice confirmed by His resurrection, He is our Advocate before the Father. We witness to His resurrection when we go in repentance to Him, confess our sins, and go away in the assurance of faith that our—my—sins are forgiven. We—I—have life through my Savior Who is the resurrection and the life. We—I—by grace am reconciled unto the Father.

Contemplation of our Savior's resurrection makes every day a day upon which we can say, even in the darkest of hours, and in the hour of death, "Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Easter Day as the world observes it is past until next year—*The message of Resurrection Day is through time to eternity!*

The day of resurrection We shout with joy and gladness.

It is the seal of life To all who are in Christ.

O, may our hearts e'er focus, On Jesus' resurrection.

He's risen from the dead, That we may live with Him.

We pray to our Lord Jesus, "Oh, keep us by Thy Spirit
Firmly in faith and hope Unto eternal life." (df)

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 4/2018