

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Dale Enns

Ushers: Benno Sydow; Gary Gunther; Larry Nelson; Bill Rust; Jeff Stifter

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

Hospitality Team 4: Jan Davis, Ryan & Mikey Oman; Laura Wales

Church Cleaners: Bomber School: Onyinge

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Michael Ude; James Bomber; Ryan Oman; Al Rosendahl; Eli Wales

Counting Team 3: Brian Eichstadt; Duane Enns; Dan Degnan; Benno Sydow

Church Cleaners: Bomber School: Pearson

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

**Sun., Apr. 7:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
9:00 am – Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper (Lent 5)  
11:00 am – Hospitality

**Mon., Apr. 8:** 10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study Club @ Mankato

**Wed., Apr. 10:** 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
6:00 pm – Lenten Soup Supper  
7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship

**Sun., Apr. 14:** **PALM SUNDAY**  
8:30 am – Choir Practice  
9:00 am – Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Grace School Mini-Concert  
12:00 pm – Council Meeting

**Fri., Apr. 19:** **GOOD FRIDAY**  
7:00 pm – Good Friday Worship Service w/Lord's Supper

**Sun., Apr. 21:** **EASTER** (S.S., Bible Class, Hospitality Suspended)  
7:30 am – Easter Breakfast  
9:00 am – Easter Festival Worship Service

**Fri., Apr. 26:** Kindergarten Roundup at Grace Lutheran School  
Immanuel Lutheran High School Visitors' Day  
7:30 pm – Immanuel Play, "The Beverly Hillbillies"

**Apr. 26-27:** 9:00 am – Grace Work Day

**Sat., Apr. 27:** Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings (week later due to Easter)

**Sun., Apr. 28:** Field Day @ Inver Grove Hts. (Grades 5-8) (K-4 No School)

**Fri., May 10:** 3:00 pm – Immanuel Class Day @ ILC Fieldhouse

**Fri., May 17:** 7:30 pm – Immanuel Spring Concert @ Messiah Lutheran  
10:00 am – Immanuel Graduation Service @ Fieldhouse

**Sat., May 18:** Confirmation Sunday

**Sun., May 19:** 7:00 pm – Grace School Spring Program

**Wed., May 22:** 12:00 pm – Grace School Dismissal for Summer

**Thu., May 23:** Graduation Sunday

**Sun., May 26:** 7:00 pm – Ascension Day Worship

**Thu., May 30:** Vacation Bible School

## Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75<sup>th</sup> 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)

**Phone:** 763-784-8784

**School Phone:** 763-784-6340

**Grades:** Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup>

**Church Year:** Lent 5

**Date:** April 7, 2019

## ✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

### Hymns:

TLH 245: God Loved the World So that He Gave

TLH 170: O Perfect Life of Love!

WS 758: Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Communion: TLH 144

TLH 179: On My Heart Imprint Thine Image

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

### Worship Prep:

Psalm 75, TLH p. 139

### Liturgy:

TLH, p. 15 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 377:10

### Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 43:16-21

Passion Harmony

### Sermon: Luke 20:9-19

<sup>9</sup> Then He began to tell the people this parable: "A certain man planted a vineyard, leased it to vinedressers, and went into a far country for a long time. <sup>10</sup> "Now at vintage-time he sent a servant to the vinedressers, that they might give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the vinedressers beat him and sent *him* away empty-handed. <sup>11</sup> "Again he sent another servant; and they beat him also, treated *him* shamefully, and sent *him* away empty-handed. <sup>12</sup> "And again he sent a third; and they wounded him also and cast *him* out. <sup>13</sup> "Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son. Probably they will respect *him* when they see him.' <sup>14</sup> "But when the vinedressers saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.' <sup>15</sup> "So they cast him out of the vineyard and killed *him*. Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do to them? <sup>16</sup> "He will come and destroy those vinedressers and give the vineyard to others." And when they heard *it* they said, "Certainly not!" <sup>17</sup> Then He looked at them and said, "What then is this that is written: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone' ?" <sup>18</sup> "Whoever falls on that stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder." <sup>19</sup> And the chief priests and the scribes that very hour sought to lay hands on Him, but they feared the people-- for they knew He had spoken this parable against them. (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

## Christ, the Magnetic Cornerstone

**1. The unfaithful are repelled in apostasy**

**2. The faithful are attracted in appreciation**

## ✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

♦ **Midweek Lenten Services:** Our midweek services will conclude this Wed. at 7 pm with a soup supper at 6 pm to which all are invited. The theme of our series is "Mementos of Our Savior's Passion."

♦ **Good Friday:** On Friday, April 19, at 7 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:** On Sun., April 21, we will be having the Easter breakfast at 7:30 am, followed by the Easter worship service at 9 am. What an opportunity we have to gather in worship on the day we commemorate our Lord's glorious resurrection from the dead!

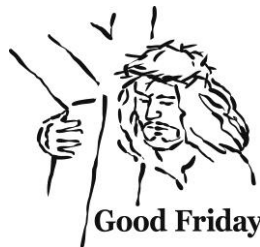
♦ **Easter Breakfast:** Those men interested in helping with the breakfast are asked to sign up for various duties. The list is by the guest book.

♦ **Easter Flowers:** A sign-up sheet is out by the guest book for anyone interested in purchasing Easter lilies or decorative flowers for Easter Sunday. Please see Mikey Oman with any questions.

♦ **Daily Rest:** *Daily Rest* is a new daily devotion book printed by the CLC. The first issue is provided to all Grace mailbox holders at no charge. Paid subscriptions will begin with issue #2, available at \$15/year for four issues. To subscribe, write your name on the signup list and give your payment (check made out to "CLC"), to Norma Rust. Issues will be delivered to the church.

♦ **Visitor's Day:** You are invited to attend Immanuel Lutheran High School Visitor's Day on Fri., April 26 starting at 8 am. Students (grades 7 and up) will have an opportunity to experience firsthand what it would be like to attend Immanuel. Please speak with Pastor regarding your interest as he will be bringing students to campus that day.

♦ **Summer Camp at ILC:** If you plan on sending your 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grader or pre-camper (ages 5-10) to summer camp, registration is still available for females. This is the year that the camp is held on the ILC campus. Spots fill up very quickly, so if you intend to register it is best to do it today: [youthcamp.clclutheran.net/register.html](http://youthcamp.clclutheran.net/register.html).



♦ **Retirement Gift:** CLC members are invited to contribute to a monetary gift which will be presented to Prof. Paul Schaller at Graduation (May 18). Please make your checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran College and indicate: "Prof. Schaller Retirement." Send your gift to: Immanuel Lutheran College, 501 Grover Rd., Eau Claire, WI 54701.

♦ **CLC News:** Pastor George Dummah of Salem Lutheran in Eagle Lake, MN, has returned the call to Bethel Lutheran in Morris, MN. ✠ Pastor Paul Krause of Trinity Ev. Lutheran in Watertown, SD, and Zion Ev. Lutheran in Hidewood Township, SD, has the call to Resurrection Lutheran of Corpus Christi, TX. ✠ Teacher Quinn Sprengeler of Redemption Lutheran in Lynnwood, WA (Seattle area), has the call to serve as Principal and to teach grades 6-8 at Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI. ✠ Teacher Matt Thurow of Berea Lutheran in Inver Grove Heights, MN, has the teacher/principal call to St. John's Lutheran in Okabena, MN. ✠ Teacher Paul Tiefel III of Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, has returned the call to St. John's Ev. Lutheran in Clarkston, WA. ✠ Teacher Neil Bernthal of Immanuel Lutheran in Winter Haven, FL, has returned the call to Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI. ✠ Mrs. Johanna (Ohlmann) Michalek has accepted the call to serve as Director/Teacher of the Preschool at Grace Lutheran in Valentine, NE, where she is a currently a member.

♦ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Easter Recitation and Hymn

**Last Week's Stats:** Mar. 31 Sun.: 85 S.S.: 17 B.Cl.: 40 Wed.: 60

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,790*	CLC:	\$645	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	\$347	CLC:	\$50	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,000	CLC:	1,000	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-863	CLC:	-305	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$51,110**	CLC:	\$12,602	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	52,000	CLC:	13,000	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-890	CLC:	-398	
GLC Other:	23	Living Faith:	45	Tuition Aid:	130
SAF Endowment:	0	MDF:	100	Kinship:	90
ILC Student Aid:	0	ILC Bldg.	200	IIF: 0	CEF: 0

Current Balances: Tuition Aid: \$483

\* Includes \$0 in school tuition \*\* Includes \$2,050 year-to-date school tuition

*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 the Pastor. He would be delighted to visit with you!*

## The Lord's Supper Preparation

As a reminder, communicants are to examine themselves prior to communing. 1 Corinthians 11:27: "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup."

### Prayer before the Lord's Supper:

Lord God, You invite all who are burdened with sin to come to You for rest. In the sacrament of Holy Baptism You called me to be Your child by the Holy Spirit. I now come at Your invitation to receive the holy body and blood of my Savior, Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Prepare my heart, Lord, to receive this precious meal with a repentant heart: sorry for my sins and recognizing they deserve punishment, but also rejoicing in the full forgiveness You have granted me by grace through Jesus' holy and precious blood shed for me at the cross. Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope in You, and assure me of Your blessed peace. Hear me for the sake of Jesus, my dear Savior. Amen.

### Prayer after the Lord's Supper:

Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to me in this holy sacrament. Thanks and praise be to You for Your divine tenderness and love shown to me, Your child. I humbly ask you, now that I've received Your body and blood in the Sacrament, continue to fill me with the power of Your Holy Spirit. May I be led to ever embrace by faith the treasures of Your grace imparted to me, especially the forgiveness of sins and fellowship with You. Keep me in Your faith and favor that I may live in You and You may live in me. Let the love that You have shown me enable me, with a forgiven and tender heart, to love You and my neighbor. Preserve me in the true faith until everlasting life. Hear me, O Jesus, for the sake of Your dear name. Amen.

### TLH 306

1. Lord Jesus Christ, Thou hast prepared  
A feast for our salvation,  
It is Thy body and Thy blood;  
And at Thy invitation  
As weary souls, with sin opprest,  
We come to Thee for needed rest,  
For comfort and for pardon.

4. We eat this bread and drink this cup,  
Thy precious Word believing  
That Thy true body and Thy blood  
Our lips are here receiving.  
This word remains forever true,  
And there is naught Thou canst not do;  
For Thou, Lord, art almighty.

7. Grant that we worthily receive  
Thy Supper, Lord, our Savior,  
And, truly grieving o'er our sins,  
May prove by our behavior  
That we are thankful for Thy grace  
And day by day may run our race,  
In holiness increasing.

8. For Thy consoling Supper, Lord,  
Be praised throughout all ages!  
Preserve it, for in every place  
The world against it rages.  
Grant that this Sacrament may be  
A blessed comfort unto me  
When living and when dying.

### 1 Corinthians 10:16

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

## **CHRISTIANITY UNDER DURESS** **(From Without and Within)**

When we look at the state of Christianity today, we must recognize that there is not universal understanding even among Christians as to what Christian means. It suffers the same confusion as the name Lutheran. In either case, one is not what he is *because he says he is*. To faithful heirs of the Reformation: "Christianity is entirely outside us: in the righteousness of Christ and in the mercy of God."<sup>(1)</sup> "Christianity consists in faith in Christ, not in man's own moral conduct."<sup>(2)</sup> The foundation, center, and end of Christianity is Christ. Other foundation can no one lay (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Christianity consists of those whose heart and mind are on Christ Jesus the Savior from sin, and whose focus is heaven from which Jesus will come again, as He promised, to take Christ-believers where He is. Such a heart and mind and focus are the creation of the Spirit through the gospel, "the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16).

Redeemed for heaven and sanctified to live to the glory of his Lord, a Christian reflects his Christianity by being socially conscious of his responsibility to love his neighbor with whom he is eager to share the gospel through which the Spirit of God gathers the elect into His kingdom. However, Christianity is more than a socially driven religion as many are trying to make it today. Unlike the socially driven whose focus is on earth, and whose thoughts and actions are subject to the whims and winds of changing customs and cultural morals, the life of the Christian focuses on heaven. The generator of such focus is the objective Word of God.

Nevertheless, however Christianity is defined today, it and Christians themselves are under bitter attack across the globe. This of course, is nothing new. The prophets of the Old Testament (e.g. Elijah, Jeremiah) suffered ridicule and violence from those who rejected them and their divine message. Though much of its pain and suffering was self-inflicted, Israel was the object of heathen wrath.

Before His own betrayal and death, Jesus told His disciples, "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you" (John 15:18). Scripture says:

"Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you" (1 John 3:13).

"I have given them Your Word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world" (John 17:24).

"For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds be exposed" (John 3:20).

"Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12).

"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake" (Matthew 5:11).

And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 10:22).

John the Baptist was beheaded (Mark 6:27). Stephen was stoned (Acts 7:59). Paul, the apostle who as Saul was complicit in the death of Stephen, died as a martyr. All the disciples except John died at the hands of persecutors. "Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy" (Hebrews 11:37). In the early Church, Christians were thrown to the lions.

In 2019, heathen rape, shoot, behead, stab, and torture Christians, not only out hatred, but in furtherance and defense of their godless, spiritually bankrupt religion. Christian missionaries and adherents of Christianity are incarcerated. Scripture is being fulfilled. There is no way to diminish or dismiss the personal fear and fright, or the physical pain, and anguish of those who face or personally suffer the venomous, murderous hatred of evil toward Christians and Christianity.

Thankfully, in our country to this point yet, confessors of the Lord Jesus Christ and citizens of heaven have been spared such violent venom. However, Christians have not escaped persecution for the faith, though it is different in scope. In congress recently a representative was taken to task for mentioning the name of Jesus. The Vice-president has been mocked for expression of his Christian faith. Children in school have been reprimanded for letting their faith be heard or witnessed. State laws are being passed that discriminate against Christians who quietly, peacefully and in exercise of their conscience live their faith. For the simple expression of their faith, Christians are being mocked, ridiculed, fined, and threatened with imprisonment. Freedom of speech to express one's faith in word and action is being denied to Christians while the religion of secularism which is unbelief can say whatever the secularists and abusers of our Lord and His people choose to say or teach. Verbal venom, accusation of hate crime for confessing one's faith, ridicule, mockery, and intimidation is rife. This is a Christian nation?

Christians have a right under the law to appeal to authority. When the apostle Paul as a bold confessor of the Lord Jesus Christ had been denied his civil right to fair trial – he had been left in custody for two years -- he appealed to Caesar (Acts 25:11). Yet when verbal venom, accusation of hate crime for confessing one's faith, ridicule, mockery, is made against the child of God, unless the glory of the Lord is at stake, let us pray for even a particle of the wisdom of our Lord Who when He was mocked, when "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). He held His peace. "Pilate said to Him, 'Do you not hear how many things they testify against You?' But [Jesus] answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled" (Matthew 27:13-14). However, when the glory of the Lord was at stake Jesus spoke. "Then they all said, 'Are you then the Son of God?' So He said to them, 'You rightly say that I am'" (Luke 21:70).

Sin of whatever magnitude is sin against the Holy God who will not be mocked. In His way and judgment, He will repay (Romans 12:19). In Psalm 2 we read: "Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, *saying*, 'Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.' He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure ..." Psalm 2 is a Messianic Psalm. Jesus, the Messiah, was very cognizant of its message and the expression of the Father's wrath against those who opposed Him. Yet on the cross our Savior, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance, said concerning those who crucified Him, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34).

If we recognize the nature and wages of sin, we will appreciate the Savior's prayer, for honesty compels us to confess that we are responsible for Jesus' death on the cross. He was praying for you and for me, as well as for those who crucified Him, and for those who this day deny Him and reject Him and His truth. He does not abide their evil, but He still died for His persecutors and those of His Church. Jesus still tried to save the betrayer. And yes, with respect to our continuation in the faith in the face of persecution He says, "I have prayed for you that your faith should not fail" (Luke 22:32), and again to His Father, "I do not pray that you should take them out of the world, but that you should keep them from the evil one" (John 17:15).

If there is one thing more dangerous to souls and to the Church because it has spiritual and eternal ramifications, it is the worldly philosophy and the poison of false doctrine spawned within Christianity and the church. This is the danger within. The satanic "Has God indeed said?" (Genesis 3:1) and/or the attitude that suggests "We know better than God what the world needs," denies the truth to those who do not know it and undermines the foundation of faith in Christ. For all its evil, physical persecution is observable. The damage caused by attacks against the Word of God from within by those who claim to speak for the Lord creates is like an unseen cancer that destroys the soul from the inside unless excised.

May the gracious God lead those who hate Him and His Church to repentance. May He further shield us from all false teaching and teachers who through their lies mislead His children. Further we pray that the Lord will watch over His people in the world wherever they are and protect Christian missionaries who proclaim in the world the gospel of salvation in Christ.

Finally, we pray that He will protect us against any evil that would destroy body or soul and that He will give us strength to stand against the evil until the day that we stand at the throne of God among those who have "come out of great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14).

1) *What Luther Says*, Vol 1, para.753, p. 254.

2) What is Christianity, Pieper, Franz, p. 4