

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Dale Enns

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

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

Church Cleaners: Oman School: NA

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

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

Church Cleaners: L&S Nelson/Kirkham School: Rinne

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

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

Tue., Apr. 23: Grace School Resumes after Easter Break

Wed., Apr. 24: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

Fri., Apr. 26: Kindergarten Roundup at Grace Lutheran School
Immanuel Lutheran High School Visitors' Day

Apr. 26-27: 7:30 pm – Immanuel Play, "The Beverly Hillbillies"

Sat., Apr. 27: 9:00 am – Grace Work Day

Sun., Apr. 28: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service (Easter 2)
11:15 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild (week later due to Easter)

Apr. 29-30: CLC Boards Meet @ Eau Claire, WI

Wed., May 1: CLC Coordinating Council @ Eau Claire, WI

Fri., May 10: Field Day @ Inver Grove Hts. (Grades 5-8) (K-4 No School)

Fri., May 17: 3:00 pm – Immanuel Class Day @ ILC Fieldhouse
7:30 pm – Immanuel Spring Concert @ Messiah Lutheran

Sat., May 18: 10:00 am – Immanuel Graduation Service @ Fieldhouse

Sun., May 19: Confirmation Sunday

Wed., May 22: 7:00 pm – Grace School Spring Program

Thu., May 23: 12:00 pm – Grace School Dismissal for Summer

Sun., May 26: Graduation Sunday & Summer Worship Schedule Begins

Thu., May 30: 7:00 pm – Ascension Day Worship

Sat., June 8: 10:00 am – MN Delegate Conference @ Okabena, MN

June 18-20: CLC General Pastoral Conference @ Eau Claire, WI

July 22-26: 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

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: April 21, 2019

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

SS – TLH 210: The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

TLH 203: Morning Breaks Upon the Tomb

CDS – TLH 193: Christ the Lord is Risen Today

TLH 188: Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!

TLH 199: Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 118, TLH p. 148 f.

Liturgy:

TLH 202; TLH 190;

TLH 207:2 (offering)

Scripture Readings:

John 20:1-10; 11-18; 19-23;

1 Corinthians 15:12-26

Sermon: John 20:4-8

⁴ So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. ⁵ And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying *there*; yet he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*, ⁷ and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. (NKJVTM)

Mementos of Our Savior's Passion: A Burial Shroud



✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

Welcome: We welcome our visitors on this most joyous of Christian holidays. Please sign our guest register located by the entrance of the church. You are certainly welcome to talk with our Pastor to learn more about Grace Lutheran and what we believe Scripture teaches. We cordially invite you to come again, and please let us know how we may provide spiritual ministry to you!

◆ **Easter Greeting:** As the world around us changes and as many of our members face personal challenges, the one consistent and the only thing that holds fast our bearings is the message of Christ crucified. As we gather today to celebrate the resurrection of Christ, may its message ring loudly in our hearts and lives. To have a living Savior means that we all enjoy the vast blessings He continues to extend to each of us by His grace. Our Lord lives indeed! May each of you have a blessed Easter season. - Pastor & Mrs. Hein



◆ **Easter Thanks:** Thanks to all those who contributed to the gathering of Easter flowers at the front of the church. Those who purchased flowers may speak with Mikey Oman about picking them up following worship. Another thanks to all who helped make the breakfast a special occasion.

◆ **Among Us:** Nicole Best continues to be hospitalized at Mercy for treatment of AML. May we all go boldly before the Lord's throne of grace by keeping Nicole, Joey, and Thea in our daily prayers.

◆ **Visitor's Day:** Immanuel Lutheran High School Visitor's Day will be this Friday, 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.

◆ **Arise and Shine Retreat:** Registration is now open! Our theme for this year is "Confidence!" In this post-truth age that we live in, so many have a hard time knowing what to believe. The Lord does not want us to have uncertainty but rather calls us to be confident in His Word and the salvation which He has won. If you are in your 20's or 30's and are looking for a relaxing getaway weekend of fun and fellowship, consider signing up for this retreat. The cost is \$140 per adult and \$100 per child. The retreat will be held June 13-16 in Pillager, MN. For more information, visit our website: ariseandshineretreat.com.

◆ **Traveling Vacation Bible School Help:** The TVBS committee has finalized our list of trips for this summer. We will be going to California, Michigan, Nebraska, Washington, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We are now in need of volunteers to ensure we can make these trips possible. If you are interested in volunteering and would like more information please go to our website: www.clctvbs.org/tvbs. You will find information about the trips, this year's theme, and a registration form. If you have any questions you may use the 'contact us' link or email us directly at the email address below. Please let us know if you would like more information or have any questions. Thank you for considering!

◆ **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, 2019, for the 2019-20 academic year. If any potential student is giving any 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:** Pastor Paul Krause of Trinity Ev. Lutheran in Watertown, SD, and Zion Ev. Lutheran in Hidewood Township, SD, has returned the call to Resurrection Lutheran of Corpus Christi, TX.

◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Break

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Last Week's Stats: Apr. 14 | | | |
| Sun. Offering: | Grace: | \$5,203* | CLC: \$895 |
| Fri. Offering: | Grace: | \$843 | CLC: \$45 |
| Weekly Need: | Grace: | 4,000 | CLC: 1,000 |
| -Under / +Over: | Grace: | +2,046 | CLC: -60 |
| Year-to-Date Offering: | Grace: | \$60,959** | CLC: \$14,293 |
| Year-to-Date Need: | Grace: | 60,000 | CLC: 15,000 |
| Year-to-Date (+/-) | Grace: | +959 | CLC: -707 |
| GLC Other: 118 | Living Faith: 150 | Tuition Aid: 115 | |
| SAF Endowment: 0 | MDF: 15 | Kinship: 620 | |
| ILC Student Aid: 50 | ILC Bldg. 100 | IIF: 0 | CEF: 0 |

Current Balances: Tuition Aid: \$758
 * Includes \$800 in school tuition ** Includes \$2,850 year-to-date school tuition



The Bible is Our Basis ...

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ... for a foundation | <i>For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:11</i> |
| ... for strength | <i>God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1</i> |
| ... for guidance | <i>Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. Psalm 119:105</i> |
| ... for salvation | <i>Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12</i> |
| ... for eternal life | <i>And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3</i> |
| ... for doctrine | <i>All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16</i> |
| ... for fellowship | <i>Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. Romans 16:17</i> |
| ... for forgiveness | <i>In [Jesus] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:14</i> |
| ... for love | <i>In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10</i> |
| ... for wisdom | <i>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9:10</i> |
| ... for truth | <i>Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. John 17:17</i> |
| ... for peace | <i>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7</i> |

EVEN WHEN STEEPLES ARE FALLING

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 4/2019

Many people across the world watched with amazement and disbelief as the cathedral of Notre Dame fell victim to a devastating fire. As an historical work of architecture, it has been recognized across the world, and by Catholics as a religious icon, perhaps the most iconic religious and historical symbol of Paris. While much of the building remains, much of it collapsed, as flames destroyed a good part of the structure, including the recognizable center spire that fell to the floor in flames.

The cathedral of Notre Dame was constructed over 200 years, from 1163-1345. In it was a huge 18th century still functional pipe organ. The organ with its 8,000 pipes remained intact, though its condition has not been determined. The much-photographed Rose window, said to be the largest glass window in the world, dating back to the 13th century is still intact. If walls could talk what vast amount of history, it could tell-- the coronation of Henry VI in 1431 and that of Napoleon in 1804. It stood through the French revolution (1787-1799) and Nazi occupation (1940) during which Paris was bombed with large loss of life.

It contained many church artifacts, ancient paintings, as well as relics that Catholicism venerates. Reportedly saved was the crown of thorns, in Catholic lore claimed to be the one placed on Jesus' head. Also saved were what Catholics claim to be a fragment of Christ's cross, a nail from Jesus' cross, and the "Blessed Sacrament, a name for the body and blood of Christ in the form of consecrated bread and wine." The latter reflects the Roman teaching of transubstantiation. The altar and cross in the front as well as some pews withstood the fire.

As the roof and the center spire of Notre Dame built with human hands collapsed, thoughts turned to the Church not built by human hands. It is the Church whose roots are in eternity. The foundation of this Church is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11), also the Head of the Church which is His body (Colossians 1:18). It is the holy Church in which perfect unity exists under one Shepherd (John 10:16). It is the glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, without blemish or spot (Ephesians 5:27). It is the Church in which a blessed diversity exists, consisting of Christ-believers "of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues" (Revelation 7:9). All are children of God through faith in Jesus Christ who in one faith and confession, and in united heart and voice sing, "Salvation belongs to our God Who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb" (Revelation 7:10). This Church is imperishable. The gates of hell cannot prevail against it (Matthew 16:18). So long as the world stands it shall increase as the Gospel is taught and the Sacraments are administered in accord with the Lord's institution. By the power of the Spirit, the Lord gathers it and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. Its numbers and persons are known to God alone (2 Timothy 2:19). It is the **Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints**. Of it we sing:

**Built on the Rock the Church doth stand,
Even when steeples are falling.** (TLH, 467)

Baptized into the Body of Christ, “begotten again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” every believer in Jesus waits for the unknown day when the Lord will call. While waiting, children of God live under the gracious promise that the Lord will guard and keep them in the faith. Among them we count ourselves.

But it behooves us not to jeopardize this assurance through neglect and indifference toward the Lord and His Word. “All the promises of God in Him [Jesus Christ] are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God...” (2 Corinthians 1:20). All God’s promises are good as He is faithful and will not deny Himself; but His promises are always in association with our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, Who prays for us. He is our Advocate with the Father (1 John 2:1-2). Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand” (John 10: 27-28). Jesus’ word clearly tells us that security unto eternal life belongs to those who hear His voice and follow Him.

On the other hand, the Lord tells us, “If your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, I announce to you today that you shall surely perish...” (Deuteronomy 30:17-18). Therefore, we read, “Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown” (Revelation 3:11).

The potential for greater loss and damage to the believer than the falling of a church or cathedral steeple lies in turning from the Lord. The faithful child of God who takes God’s Word to heart and who recognizes the challenges to the faith perpetrated by the devil will guard against the attitude of Felix who said to Paul, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you” (Acts 24:25). Do not keep the Savior out in the cold to warm your hands around the fire of worldly pleasures.

“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, while it is said: ‘Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion’” (Hebrews 3:12-15).

Besides personal neglect and indifference another danger lurks. It lies in the temptation for God’s people to become overly impressed with the history, artifacts, icons, social action, and impressive steeples of churches and cathedrals which in the process of time have lost the solid foundation of divine truth. Under the increasing pressure to adopt the diversity mantra of society, it is easy to become more impressed with common religion that allegedly fits all than to abide in divine truth.

Paul said to the Athenians, “I perceive that you are very religious” (Acts 17:22). He proceeded to tell the heathen of the true God, the “Lord of heaven and earth,” Who “does not dwell in temples made with hands.” It is not much of a leap from not knowing the true God, to the modern apostasy that promotes the idea that all gods are the same, which in the end suggests that it makes no difference what one believes as long as one believes something. The heterodoxy of churches within Christianity who claim to speak for God but speak the thoughts of their own heart and mind in contradiction of His truth make it imperative that God’s people be on guard and avoid false teachers who by their smooth words and fair speeches, deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting (Romans 16:17-18).

Isaiah in the Old Testament and the apostle Peter in the New Testament wrote, “The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the Word of the Lord endures forever” (Isaiah 40:8, 1 Peter 1:25). Every holy man and every god of man’s imagination is dead and dies, but the Triune God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier has lived from eternity.

The Holy Scriptures, the Holy Christian Church collectively and individually have been under as vehement attack through the ages as they are today. Nevertheless, as surely as the Lord of Heaven and Earth is eternal, His Word has endured. God’s truth endured against the deceit of scribes and pharisees, the philosophy of the Greeks, the persecutions of Rome, and every other attack from within the church and outside of it. It will endure through the secularism of our day.

Steeple fall, but the message of the incarnate Son of God, crucified for the sins of the world, and risen again for our justification, translates His love unto salvation for all who believe in Him. In the darkest times His word endures to the comfort of all who cling to His Word, “‘The mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed’ says the Lord, Who has mercy on you” (Isaiah 54:10). By grace you are saved.

The devil fights, but in vain. As surely as they failed who crucified the Lord, so shall the Savior’s enemies fail today. Literally and figuratively, steeples fall, but the Holy Christian Church shall remain and increase until it is delivered from this present world. God says of the Word that goes forth from His mouth: “It shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10). “Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word.”

To the faithful, the watchful, the waiting, the Lord says:

**“I know mine own, My own know Me;
Ye, not the world, My face shall see,
My peace I leave with you. Amen”** (TLH, 467)