

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson Elder: Frank Radichel

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

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

Church Cleaners: Hein

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

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

Church Cleaners: Hein

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., May 26: Summer Worship Schedule Begins
9:00 am – Worship Service (Graduation/Easter 6)
10:00 am – Hospitality (Last One of Season)

Wed., May 29: 6:30 pm – Grams Move-in

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

Sat., June 1: 1:00-5:00 pm – Dave and Norma Rust Anniv. Celebration

Sun., June 2: 9:00 am – Worship Service (Easter 7) w/Lord's Supper

Thu., June 6: Spring Lake Park Tower Days Parade

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

Sun., Aug. 25: Opening Service at Immanuel Lutheran (Eau Claire, WI)

Mon., Aug. 26: Opening Day at Grace Lutheran School

Last Week's Stats: May 19 Sun.: 136 Exam: 75?

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,571*	CLC:	\$230
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,000	CLC:	1,000
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,429	CLC:	-770
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$79,344**	CLC:	\$18,221
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	80,000	CLC:	20,000
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-656	CLC:	-1,779
GLC Other: 20	Living Faith: 110	Tuition Aid: 60		
SAF Endowment: 0	MDF: 10	Kinship: 20		
ILC Student Aid: 0	ILC Bldg. 100	IIF: 0	CEF: 0	

Current Balances: Tuition Aid: \$1,613

* Includes \$0 in school tuition ** Includes \$4,350 year-to-date school tuition



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 6/Graduation

Phone: 763-784-8784

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Date: May 26, 2019

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 29: Through All the Changing Scenes of Life
TLH 429: Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart
TLH 292, st. 1-4,8-9: Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide
CDS and Alumni: Go Now in Peace
Shine, Jesus, Shine

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 65, TLH p. 136

Liturgy:

WS, p. 1 (Projected)

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 1

Rev. 21:10-14,22-23

Sermon: John 14:23-24

²³ Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. ²⁴ "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me." (NKJVTM)

Love and Cherish God by Living in His Word



✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

◆ **Graduation Recognition:** Today we recognize our graduates from our Christian Day School. What a marvelous Christian foundation our congregation has been able to provide all the children who attend Grace Lutheran School. We also congratulate and wish the Lord's richest blessings upon the other graduates in our midst:

- ★ Aki Holmberg – Grace Lutheran School
- ★ Rachael Onyinge – Grace Lutheran School
- ★ Simeon Rinne – Grace Lutheran School
- ★ Natalie Story – Grace Lutheran School
- ★ Julianna Hein – Immanuel Lutheran High School
- ★ Olivia Lentz – Eagle Ridge Academy
- ★ Jack Maki – St. Francis High School
- ★ Emily Hein – Univ. of Minnesota, B.S. Biomedical Engineering
- ★ Adam Wales – Univ. of Wisconsin, B.S. Business
- ★ Isaiah Bergstrom – Bridges Transition Program

◆ **Grace Lutheran School** staff is beginning to plan for the 2019-20 school year. If you are interested in enrolling your child in our school, please speak to one of the teachers for an enrollment form.

◆ **Volunteers Needed:** This coming Wednesday evening (May 29) help is needed to move Rick and Gloria Grams' belongings to their new apartment in New Brighton. Start time is 6:30 pm. With 6-8 volunteers, work should be completed in 2-3 hours. Please let Bill Rust (c. 763-443-1818) know if you're able to help out or want more details.

◆ **Ascension Worship:** 40 days after Jesus' resurrection He ascended into heaven visibly from His disciples. Knowing that He was now seated at the right hand of the Father in full glory and ruling over all things, they worshipped Him with great joy. Our opportunity to worship Him is this Thurs., May 30, 7 pm.



◆ **Parade:** The Spring Lake Park Tower Days parade is Thursday, June 6. It's a fun event that allows us to get our name out into the community. We encourage all of our families to come and walk in the parade. We will meet at 6 pm in the parking lot of Woodcrest School and together we walk down Able St. to the parade site. The parade starts at 6:30 and usually lasts a little more than an hour. Please speak with James Bomber for more details.

◆ **Vacation Bible School:** On July 22-26, 9:00-11:30 am, we will be having our VBS. This includes children age 4 years, to children going into eighth grade. Please register your children on the sheet by the guest book. In preparing for VBS, we will need to put together a staff, including teachers and coordinators for crafts and music. Please consider this labor of love and let Pastor know of your willingness.



- ◆ **Summer Hospitality:** If anyone wishes to host any of the Sundays in summer, they may sign up on the fellowship hall's bulletin board.
- ◆ **Lutheran Spokesman & Branches:** If you no longer wish to receive, please cross out your name. If you don't receive and would like to, please sign up. The congregation covers the cost.
- ◆ **Michigan Bible Camp:** CLC young people, ages 6th-12th grade, are welcome to attend the Lower Michigan Bible Camp. This is tent camping at Pigeon Creek Park near Lake Michigan. The cost is only \$50.00/camper. The dates are July 29 - August 1. Call Pastor David Schaller for more information: 269-424-3035.
- ◆ **The 2019 Arise and Shine Retreat** is approaching quickly! 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 Him and His Word. Presenting this year are Pastor Sam Rodebaugh, Aaron and Shannon Gullerud, Jeremy and Beth Gurgel, Drew Naumann, and Pastor Neal Radichel. 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. Be sure to sign up by May 31, and you will receive a retreat t-shirt. For more information, visit our website: <http://ariseandshineretreat.com>.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Teacher Graduate, June Schmid, has returned the call to Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI.

Candidates for Immanuel Professor Call:

The Board of Regents for Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary invites "all pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession" (CLC Constitution) to nominate an individual or individuals to fill the vacancy which will be created by the retirement of Professor Paul Sullivan at the end of the 2019-20 academic year. The position would require the ability to teach in a variety of areas, which may include high school and college courses in religion, social sciences, and church history. To fill a current need on campus, this individual would need to be able to provide spiritual counsel and encouragement to students in the Word of God, understanding and addressing the particular challenges that students often face today, and someone who is seminary trained. The position would, God-willing, commence with the 2020-21 academic year. Those submitting nominations are strongly encouraged to verify that the individual would be willing to be nominated and would need to include information regarding their nominee's educational background and teaching and/or professional experience, also indicating how the person might help our school in supervising extracurricular activities or serving in administrative positions. Nominations are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight July 15, 2019 (letters postmarked July 1, 2019) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com.

Frequently we are challenged by critics (occasionally by genuinely interested folks) about matters of faith, church practice, and life (most likely it will be to question what we believe and teach about homosexuality, same sex unions, abortion, role of women in the church or some other hot topic social issue). They ask, "What does your church teach about...? Frequently our response is, "Our church teaches..."

That is the wrong answer to the wrong question. Unless a (my) church teaches "all Scripture" faithfully and practices according to the Spirit inspired pure Word received and recorded by the apostles and prophets, what a (my) church teaches is at best suspect, and at worst wrong. Truth is not what man thinks it is. Neither is something false or wrong because one thinks it is. Teaching or practice is not true or right because the church says it is. Conversely, something is not false on the authority of the church. Most certainly, society is not the arbiter of what is true or false, right or wrong in matters of faith and life. The correct answer to the wrong question is, "*The Bible teaches...*". *What a church teaches is correct only if it teaches what the Bible teaches!*

On every issue of faith and life, of teaching and practice, the question is not, "What does the church teach?" The question is "What does Scripture teach? What does God say?" "He who is of God hears God's Word..." (John 8:47, 1 John 4:6).

Where a pastor and church are bound by the Bible, thank the Lord. Hear God's Word gladly and praise the Lord by word and deed. On the other hand, if any pastor or church teaches contrary to the Word of God, Scripture says, "Avoid them." (Romans 16:17-18). No less than one's eternal salvation is at risk if one sits at the feet of teachers who teach otherwise than what the Bible says of itself or teaches. As the Bible is God's Word, *it is the final authority in matters of faith and life. They who teach otherwise are those of whom the Savior warns in Matthew 7:15: "Beware of false prophets."*

If it is not Scripture, it is not Lutheran. Period. We ask no one to believe what we believe simply because our church teaches it. We invite and urge everyone who hears us to *search the Scriptures* daily to find out whether what we preach is so (Acts 17:11).

***The Bible IS the Word of God! His Word is truth.
That is what we preach.***

*) Luther, Martin - *Small Catechism*, expl. to the 5th Petition of the Lord's Prayer

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 5/2019

The Bible does not contain the Word of God. **The Bible IS the Word of God!**

The source of Christian teaching is the Bible, commonly referred to as Holy Scripture (sacred writings). "Bible" itself is used occasionally in common usage in a broader sense than the sense in which Christians use it. In the Christian sense the Bible, meaning books, is the collection of 66 sacred writings (39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament). Though consisting of 66 books, the Bible is unique in that it is a testament with a unified purpose and message.



Contrary to generally held views that the Bible is the work of multiple authors, there is *one Author of the Bible*. "**All** Scripture is given by inspiration of God..." [Literally, "All Scripture is God-breathed"] (2 Timothy 3:16). The eternal, holy God is the Author of the Bible.

How did the Bible come to us? The divine Author transmitted the very thoughts and words (verbal inspiration) through the pens of holy men. They are described as holy, not because they were without sin, but because they were men redeemed and washed by the blood of Christ. They were men of faith through the working of the Spirit of God. What they wrote is inerrant and infallible and without contradiction, not because the writers were incapable of erring but because the *Author is holy and cannot err or contradict Himself*. "... no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:20-21). The holy writers of the Old Testament and the New Testament were not mindless robots. Frequently the Holy Spirit made use of the writers' own experiences-- their faults, their fears, their lack of understanding. What the holy men wrote was written because the Holy Spirit moved them to write and gave them the words and utterances they should write. Not a word or thought appears in the Bible except the Holy Spirit moved the writers to write it. The Bible from Genesis to Revelation is the eternal, unchangeable word of God; if it isn't who decides what is? To those who question the divine of inspiration of Scripture we say: "Read the Bible without bias and see where the Spirit leads."

To suggest that God's Word changes to fit the times and whims of corrupt mortals contradicts the Lord Who said, "The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations" (Psalm 33:11). Jesus Who

changes not (Hebrews 13:8), is the Word of God made flesh (John 1:14). Not some of the Word, not part of it, but all of it is described through Isaiah who wrote what the Spirit gave him to write: “The Word of our God stands forever” (Isaiah 40:8). To teach otherwise makes of God a liar, and they who teach so are deceivers to be avoided forthwith (Romans 16:17-18).

Not only is the Word unchangeable, it is clear. The Word of God is “a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105). The Bible declares in human language the will of God, primary of which is His will for our salvation. Whether Old Testament or New Testament, it brings to us in clear, understandable words the message of our salvation. Whether prophecy of the Old Testament or fulfillment of the New Testament, Scripture is written to make us wise unto salvation (2 Timothy 3:15). To say that God is not clear in what He says is to accuse the Author of being unable or unwilling to be clear.

There *are* difficult passages and concepts in Scripture. What man cannot understand of Scripture is not the fault of the Spirit, or of those who wrote what He inspired. In our fallen state, we cannot comprehend the depth of the mysteries of God. If it were possible to understand with our reason His unsearchable judgments and “His ways past finding out” (Romans 11:33), we would be God. For example, who can grasp the depth of God’s love that would move Him to sacrifice His own Son for such wretches as we? Nevertheless, the way of salvation is abundantly clear – we are saved by grace through faith in Christ, without works (Ephesians 2:8). We believe it because the Spirit has worked faith in each believer’s heart through the Gospel, the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes (Romans 1:16).

Apart from the mysteries of God that stymie our reason, inability to understand often occurs because of an unwillingness to search the Scriptures. Frequently, also, the reason lies in the sinner’s dislike of what God has said.

The ultimate reason for lack of understanding and unbelief is the corrupt heart and mind of man who ignorantly and boastfully thinks he can set himself up as an authority over God. “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Corinthians 2:14).

The acceptance of the inspiration of Scripture as well as faith and confidence in the Word is not a product of scientific proof. The Word of

God is its own convincer and converter, as well as interpreter. The responsibility of the Church is to proclaim the Word of God, neither adding to nor subtracting from it, trusting that His Word will bear fruit according to His promise (Isaiah 55:11). Furthermore, the Lord declared through the prophet Jeremiah that His Word—law and gospel—is to be preached faithfully (Jeremiah 23:28). Every pastor (under-shepherd) should read Ezekiel 34. Thank the Lord for a pastor who faithfully preaches the Word of the Divine Author. Do not expect a faithful pastor to bend or accommodate his preaching to the whims and fancies of society.

We grieve that we must ask, “How shall we witness in a world where churches are forsaking the truth and are letting the world into the church?” To doubt, question, or deny, the Bible or any part of the whole, casts doubt on all of it, including the message of, and our confidence in, our salvation. If God did not, could not, would not, tell the truth in the Bible, who decides where He did? Such arrogance that denies the Bible as the Word of God is blasphemy.

Witness to the truth begins with honest and forthright confession of our own sins, “for we daily sin much and indeed deserve nothing but punishment.”(*) As we confess our sins, the Lord assures us personally, “Son (daughter), be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you” (Matthew 9:2). Who else can witness to the truth of God and His love than that one who believes the Scripture, has been comforted by the Savior’s words, and in faith embraced the promises of the Lord? And finally, “Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him” (Colossians 3:15-17).

Many churches within Christendom deny all the Bible is the Word of God. They opt for a pick and choose attitude toward Scripture. Many teach differently than Scripture concerning the way of salvation; many deny the means of grace, the gospel in word and sacrament; many teach differently than, or make optional, what Scripture teaches concerning divine creation of the world; some deny original sin; some teach differently than Scripture on the end of the world. Some are more interested in social gospel. In today’s corrupt world some have accommodated themselves to what God calls sin as they teach what is right in their own eyes.