

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Dale Enns

Ushers: Roger Ochsner; Paul Lentz; Bob Maki; Jack Maki;
John Maki

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

Church Cleaners: Wales

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Roger Ochsner; Paul Lentz; Bob Maki; Jack Maki;
John Maki

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

Church Cleaners: Wales

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., July 14: 9:00 am – Worship Service (Pentecost 5)
11:00 am – Council Meeting

Sun., July 21: 9:00 am – Worship Service (Pentecost 6)
10:15 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

July 22-26: 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School

Sun., July 28: 9:00 am – Worship Service w/VBS Review

Sat., Aug. 10: 9:00 am – Grace School Work Day

Mon., Aug. 12: 7:00 pm – Grace School's Ice Cream Social

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

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

Sun., Sept. 8: 8:30 am – Choir Practice Begins
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School Begin
10:00 am – Worship Service (Regular Schedule Resumes)

Last Week's Stats: July 7 Sun.: 92

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,612*	CLC:	\$1,488
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,000	CLC:	1,000
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-388	CLC:	+488
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$107,349**	CLC:	\$25,672
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	108,000	CLC:	27,000
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-651	CLC:	-1,328
GLC Other: 700	Living Faith: 0	Tuition Aid: 52		
SAF Endowment: 0	MDF: 157	Kinship: 160		
ILC Student Aid: 3	ILC Bldg. 100	IIF: 0 CEF: 0		

Current Balances: Tuition Aid: \$1,813

* Includes \$0 in school tuition ** Includes \$6,024 year-to-date school tuition

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9

Grace Lutheran Church & School



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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-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 5

Date: July 14, 2019

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 354: In the Cross of Christ I Glory
TLH 421: Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake
TLH 423: Jesus, I My Cross have Taken
TLH 644: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 22, TLH p. 127 f.

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)
Gloria: TLH 16:4

Scripture Readings:

Zechariah 13:7-9
Galatians 3:23-29

Sermon: Luke 9:18-24

¹⁸ And it happened, as He was alone praying, *that* His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"
¹⁹ So they answered and said, "John the Baptist, but some *say* Elijah; and others *say* that one of the old prophets has risen again." ²⁰ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said, "The Christ of God." ²¹ And He strictly warned and commanded them to tell this to no one, ²² saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day." ²³ Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. ²⁴ "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it." (NKJVTM)

Traveling the Road of Sacrifice

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Today:** Council meeting and boards following worship.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **VBS Staff:** At this time we have teachers in place. However, we still do not have an adult craft coordinator or an adult music coordinator. It might also be helpful to have an assistant for the youngest group of children. Please consider this labor of love and let Pastor know of your willingness.
- ◆ **VBS Snacks:** Those who are willing to provide snacks for the children at VBS, please sign up on the sheet by the guest book. Thanks!
- ◆ **Among Us:** This past Tuesday Jenettie Miesen suffered a stroke and was hospitalized for a few days. She is undergoing therapy to help with her recovery. While she is having trouble speaking, there are clues that she understands most of what is said to her. As a testimony of her faith, she is able to pray most of the words of the Lord's Prayer as pastor prays with her. She is likely to be temporarily at Good Samaritan Society Ambassador; 8100 Medicine Lake Rd., Room 407; Transitional Care Building; New Hope, MN. Pray for our sister-in-Christ as the Lord meets her spiritual and physical needs. Marion Schwieger, former member of Grace, passed away recently. Those who would like details about a memorial event, speak with Pastor.
- ◆ **Summer Hospitality:** If anyone wishes to host any of the Sundays in summer, they may sign up on the fellowship hall's bulletin board.
- ◆ **Book:** Pastor Dale Redlin's Volume II of "God's Promise Kept" is now available. This book of 450 pages begins with "Israel Deserts God for a Golden Calf" and ends with "Joseph-Mary-the Christ Child." Those who want the book may ask Pastor for a copy. The cost of \$15 is to be mailed directly to Pastor Redlin with a slip of paper in the book that has payment directions.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Jim Albrecht of St. John's Lutheran in Okabena, MN, has received the call to Prince of Peace Lutheran in Loveland, CO.



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!

CLC E-Devotion – June 24, 2019

Psalm 42:4 I had gone with the multitude ... to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise.

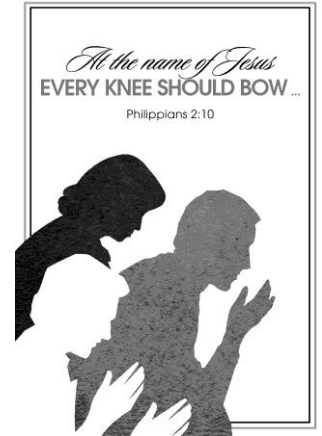
THE NEW SONG: A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE

In order to convince us once and for all how edifying and beneficial Christian singing is, today let us hear what a well-known preacher of the 19th century had to say:

"When the old Christianity was still active among men, and people truly loved the Lord Jesus and were joyful in the Lord, then this showed itself also with the desire to sing. In the morning every house resounded with the sounds of the morning devotion, and in the evening was the evening devotion consisting of beloved spiritual songs which all members of the family joined together in singing. At the table, prayers were sung both before and after the meal. And that was not enough. The farmer sang behind the plow, the servant sang out in the field, the maid sang as she went about her duties. And when several of them were together, for example, on the way to church, or when harvesting hay or grain, there was seldom a time that there was no singing. The people sang happily and merrily in the midst of their hard work, and then got back to work with renewed strength and vigor."

What beautiful and blessed times those must have been! Who will now choose to follow their good example?

Lord, strengthen us, that we may continue with prayer and with giving of thanks. Amen.



Psalm 92:1-5: *It is good to give thanks to the LORD, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; ² To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, And Your faithfulness every night, ³ On an instrument of ten strings, On the lute, And on the harp, With harmonious sound. ⁴ For You, LORD, have made me glad through Your work; I will triumph in the works of Your hands. ⁵ O LORD, how great are Your works! Your thoughts are very deep.*

sinners to whom he speaks. He is one of them! A congregation does not know how often a pastor is conscience stricken over his own sins as he brings the word to them, or how *he personally* craves the comfort of the gospel.

As a faithful shepherd and caretaker tends the flock with the healing gospel through which he himself is comforted, he feeds them with the knowledge and understanding of God's love in Christ Jesus, how that the Lord Jesus paid the price of redemption and received the wages of sin in their place. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in His stead, he pronounces absolution, the forgiveness of sins. He assures the stricken conscience that God for Jesus' sake has forgiven the most heinous sins, as well as those which Satan keeps dredging up in one's memory. He declares the reconciliation of the sinner to the Heavenly Father, through Jesus' death, and His resurrection unto life. He assures the penitent sinner that the gift of eternal life is just that: a gift! A faithful shepherd delights to paint the picture of heaven from Scripture to all who believe in the Lord Jesus—no more sin, pain, sorrow, tears, hunger, or death (Revelation 7:13-17; 21:4, 27).

The faithful shepherd mourns, laments, and is troubled in heart when sheep absent themselves from hearing the Word, or only haphazardly nourish their souls through reception of the Sacrament. They are endangering their soul, and risking the loss of eternal life.

A faithful shepherd preaches the Word, feeds the lambs, strengthens the weak, seeks the lost, searches for the straying, visits the sick, comforts the dying. He serves the Lord by serving those for whom the Lord Jesus died.

Much more could be said. Suffice it to say that a faithful shepherd commits the welfare of the flock to the Lord of the Church, to the Good Shepherd Who gives the sheep rest in the green pastures and daily leads them beside the quiet waters (Psalm 23), and who laid down His life for the sheep. He says, "And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:28).

So which shall it be—a servant or a shepherd? A pastor is both, but that pastor serves best who faithfully serves the Lord and helps the sheep to recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd (John 10:27). How blessed are pastor and congregation who join in singing from the heart:

So may we when our work is done
Together stand before Thy throne
And joyful hearts and voices raise
In one united song of praise,
With all the bright celestial host,
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen (TLH 493, st.4).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 7/2019

SERVANT OR SHEPHERD?

"IT IS GOD'S WILL AND ORDINANCE THAT CHRISTIANS PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OF THE KEYS. THIS IS ACHIEVED THROUGH THE CALLING OF QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE THUS PLACED IN CHARGE OF THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OF WORD AND SACRAMENT AND PERFORM THIS TASK IN BEHALF OF THEIR FELLOW CHRISTIANS [...] SUCH SERVICE IS REFERRED TO AS THE PUBLIC MINISTRY; AND ITS DUTIES ARE TO BE EXERCISED ONLY BY THOSE WHO ARE PROPERLY CALLED TO IT BY THE CHURCH" (*Concerning Church and Ministry, Thesis II, p.28* — Church of the Lutheran Confession).

When a Christian congregation exercises its right and responsibility under the Ministry of the Keys committed to the Holy Christian Church and calls a man to serve in the public ministry in its midst, how shall it look upon him? Among us, he is respectfully called *pastor*.

The original word in Hebrew translated pastor in the King James version (KJV) means "to tend the flock; to pasture, to shepherd." The KJV translates the original with the word *pastor* 8 times, once in the plural, and seven times in the singular, all in Jeremiah (Newer translations translate shepherd). Through Jeremiah the Lord spoke of some pastors (shepherds) who abused the flock and their office. He spoke of them as "brutish" (New King James Version--NKJV--dull-hearted) (Jeremiah 10:21). Some, He said, "have destroyed My vineyard" (12:10). He pronounced judgment on the pastors (NKJV-shepherds) that "destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture" (23:1-2). By way of contrast to the abusers, scatterers, and fleecers of the flock, the Lord promised, "I will give you pastors (NKJV-shepherds) according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding" (3:15). To this day, the latter are those who are shepherds after the heart of the Good Shepherd, our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the New Testament, *pastor(s)* is used once, in Ephesians 4:11. The Greek word means herdsman or shepherd. It is akin to another which means "to protect."

Another word applied to the pastor is *minister*. To minister means to serve. The word is also used in secular parlance. In the context of our present discussion, our concern is its use in the Church. The word can mean subservience to another, such as ministers of Christ in 1 Corinthians 1:4. A pastor is a servant of Christ. He is an under-shepherd, an ambassador. An ambassador does not speak his own word, but the word of the one whom he serves, or of the one in whose service he comes. Thus, a faithful

ambassador of Christ speaks Christ's Word. He speaks in Christ's behalf (2 Corinthians 5:20). A pastor, as a servant of Christ, serves the flock of the Lord Jesus Christ under the call he has from God through the congregation to whom the Lord has given the Keys and the authority to call a pastor.

At the same time, in exercise of the "royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9), there are a variety of ways a Christian can minister to a brother or sister in the fellowship without usurping the authority of the called servant. One does not have to be a pastor to bring (minister) gospel comfort to a troubled soul. While likewise limited to the responsibilities assigned to the office by the congregation, church council men are also ministers of Christ; they serve the cause of the gospel, as do Christian Day School teachers and Sunday School teachers and other servants of the congregation. Such is the scope of the priesthood of believers that as Christ-believers minister to one another, "God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister" (Hebrews 6:10).

So then is a pastor a servant or a shepherd? He is both. It is important that pastor and congregation understand the role of a servant. The pastor is first a servant of God, through whose call he is also a servant of the congregation, to serve them with the Word and Sacraments. He is their servant to advise, counsel, and encourage the flock, individually or collectively, in matters of faith and life – and to pray for them as they will for him. Though he is a servant, he is not subservient to the congregation as though he should jump at their every whim. A congregation should not expect the servant of Christ to do or teach anything contrary to the Word of God.

On his part, the pastor will not forget (or should not) that a servant is not master of the congregation. It is not his role to make the congregation over in his image. His primary, and ultimately only, authority in the congregation is the authority of the Word as in "Thus saith the Lord." He is interested in and participates in the *temporal affairs* of the congregation, but his role is not to dictate, order, command, or otherwise coerce the congregation to his way of thinking. Unless given the authority by the congregation, the time and manner of service as well as business affairs are not his to dictate. As with the congregation, so the pastor should not expect the congregation to jump at his every whim! Again, His only authority is the divine Word.

Where pastor and congregation as the redeemed of God remember that a pastor is first a servant of God and then of the congregation, they will live and minister in their respective roles to the praise and glory of God Who, as they serve in singleness of heart and mind, will bless them richly in Christ.

Faithful shepherds (under-shepherds) are caretakers of the owner's flock. The Owner is the Lord. They tend the Lord's flock. The flock is the shepherd's only in the sense that he is by divine assignment responsible for them. He is answerable to God for how he tends the flock. On the other hand, as a pastor faithfully brings the Word of God and Sacrament, they are blessed who submit to the shepherd who watches for their souls, because the shepherd keeps watch **over** the flock as one who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to **you**. **Submission here is submission to the Word of God which the shepherd brings.**

Concerning shepherding, the apostle Paul said to the elders of Ephesus, "Therefore take heed to **yourselves** and to **all the flock** over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to **shepherd the church of God** which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). To the shepherds, Peter wrote, "**Shepherd the flock of God** which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, **but being examples to the flock**; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away" (1 Peter 5:2-4).

The task of a shepherd in the Bethlehem fields was to lead the sheep to green, fertile pastures, to fresh water. He was to protect them from wolves who sought out the sheep to make fodder of them. Occasionally he had to discipline a straying sheep. Shepherding the flock of the Lord is a privilege; it is a blessing. It is not always easy. Blessed is the congregation that has a shepherd-servant who truly loves them in the Lord and manifests careful tending, both nourishing them and protecting them.

As the called shepherd of God's flock is to oversee the welfare of the flock, he is to preach the law of God to identify and uncover sin. It is his responsibility to warn the flock of the consequences of sin. He is to alert and protect the flock from the evils that lurk in a godless world, and to warn against those who arise within the church, speaking perverse things, false doctrine, that destroys the flock, and ruins the Lord's vineyard (Acts 20: 29-30). He is to seek out the lost and straying sheep, even those who prefer not to be found. This is shepherd work! If he is a true servant of God, he has no choice, nor does he want to be anything less than a faithful shepherd.

A faithful shepherd brings the Word of God as an ambassador of God, speaking the truth as God gave it, not what he *thinks* God meant to say, much less denying or changing what God said. A faithful shepherd preaches the law speaking first to himself. Only as he sees himself as a lost sinner can he bring the comforting gospel in all its richness to the congregation of