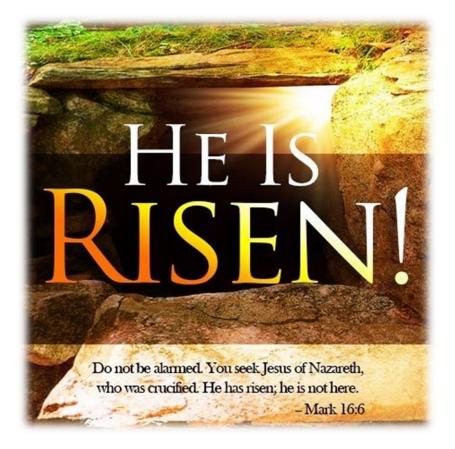
Grace Lutheran Church & School





Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635) School Phone: 763-784-6340 Church Year: Easter Sunday **Phone:** 763-784-8784 **Grades:** Kindergarten-8th **Date:** April 12, 2020

WORSHIP INFORMATION

Hymns:

TLH 191: Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia! WS 733: This Joyful Eastertide TLH 200: I Know that My Redeemer Lives

TLH 199: Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!

Sun. School: Mark 16:1-8; TLH 208, st. 1, 8-10 (opening) Choir: A Gaelic Easter Celebration (after Absolution) Day School: LSB 479 (after Scripture readings)

Sermon: Mark 16:1-8

¹ Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary *the mother* of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. ² Very early in the morning, on the first *day* of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³ And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" ⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away-- for it was very large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶ But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. ⁷ "But go, tell His disciples-- and Peter-- that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." ⁸ So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. (*NKJV*TM)

EYES ON JESUS: Angel Eyes

Worship Prep:

Psalm 118, TLH p. 148 f. <u>Liturgy</u>: TLH 192: TLH 207

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 12:1-6 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

ት The Announcements ት

Events at Grace: Due to the President's recommendations and the Governor's stay-at-home order, the Elders are continuing the suspension of worship services and events until May. This will be reviewed on a weekly basis. For now, we will be continuing to share an online package of spiritually edifying materials by email, also posted on Grace's website at <u>FridleyLutheran.org</u>:

- 1. A Sunday morning worship service from the archives
- 2. A brief family devotion recorded by Pastor
- 3. A brief children's devotion recorded by Pastor
- 4. Materials for a Sunday School lesson
- 5. A Bible Class from the archives

In addition, the following church events are postponed as well:

- Bible Class and Sunday School
- Lord's Supper during public worship services
- o Hospitality and choir

Pastor is willing to serve private communion upon request. Instruction classes are being conducting online so long as each individual desires to do so. Also, please feel free to communicate with Pastor regarding any spiritual need you may have. His number is 612-408-1635.

2 Corinthians 5:15 ... and [Christ] died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

This Weekend's Service: The liturgy and hymns today are from our previous Easter service on March 27, 2016. However, there is a new sermon inserted into the sermon spot on the video. This concludes our Lenten theme: Eyes on Jesus.

Online Fellowship: Join Pastor and other Grace members on Easter Sunday, April 12, 10 am, via a Zoom conference. This will be informal, so come as you are. You can even brew a cup of coffee beforehand. Pastor will be sharing a short devotion and prayer, followed by him moderating an informal visit with those who are present. Here's the link:

https://us04web.zoom.us/j/981325695?pwd=OExDUW9YMUY5bUtFam5rZmtRMUNXdz09

Meeting ID: 981 325 695/ Password: 017431

Or call with phone: 1-312-626-6799 (same meeting ID & password) Zoom can be used on your computer or on your mobile device by downloading the Zoom app via Google Play or Apple App Store. Keep in Touch: Even though we are not seeing each other, life is going on for our members. We need to pray for each other, even though we may not be aware of how this is impacting each one of us and our families. Each of us reacts to these kinds of situations in his or her own way. Some may seem to deal with these things just fine. In my contact with various members, I've noticed that the stress level of some is certainly increasing. With our lives changing so drastically, this is understandable as we live in a sinful world. However, the LORD is still in control and knows and understands His children. His love surpasses our understanding, something we need to rely upon during troubling times.

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

➡ Among Us: As reported by email, the member who began exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 did test positive for it. The individual is doing better, but still is bearing some burden. While the person wishes to remain anonymous, please keep your fellow Christian in your prayers as they will be sincerely appreciated. Pastor has been in touch with the individual who has certainly exhibited a sincere child-like faith in God's promises.

➡ Reminder: Since the materials for the online experience are altogether, a couple of things may get overlooked. The Sunday School lessons have been purposely chosen for ease of instruction by the parents with their children. This is a wonderful opportunity to utilize your role as what Martin Luther once coined "the house pastor." This term was applied specifically to the fathers so that they would be aware of their responsibility to lead their families in God's Word. Also, please watch the children's and family devotions together as a family. Our current circumstances are providing you with an opportunity to really show your children how important the Word of God is. This will greatly impact them for the rest of their lives as they look back at this trying but memorable time.

Ephesians 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

School: While perhaps not as optimal as teaching the students in-person, our teachers are still doing their best to provide a Christian education given the circumstances. Thanks to the parents for their assistance, understanding, and support of what the teachers are trying to do. May the Lord continue to bless our children with an enriching Christ-rendered education!

- Daily Rest: Daily Rest is a daily devotion book printed quarterly by the CLC. It is time to renew subscriptions or get a new subscription if you would like to receive this edifying material. The deadline to subscribe is May 1. Norma Rust has graciously offered to collect the \$15 payments. Please mail your payment in her name to her address: Norma Rust; 5735 Quincy St. NE; Fridley, MN 55432. Please contact her (sew410@att.net/763-571-5735) for instruction if you wish to submit your payment electronically through Zelle. One change this coming year is that the issues will be mailed directly to each subscriber.
- ◆ Offerings: During this time when services are suspended, the Lord is still doing all His work to keep our souls and bodies in His keeping. His Gospel work never ends, even as our pastor and teachers continue to function in their divine calls. Therefore, our gratitude continues for the Lord's boundless and bountiful blessings. Please remember this by giving a thank offering to Him. These may be sent by mail directly to the church at:

Grace Lutheran Church 460 75th Ave NE Fridley, MN 55432

The Council will ensure these are accounted for and deposited.

- ➡ Immanuel Update: Due to circumstances surrounding COVID-19, all ILC academic calendar events for May 1-2 are cancelled. These include ILHS Visitors' Day, the May 1 band concert, the May 2 student performances, and the Jungle Book theater performances of May 1-2.
- S.S. Memory Work: #23 Baptism, Parts 1 & 2

Job 19:23 "Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book! ²⁴ That they were engraved on a rock With an iron pen and lead, forever! ²⁵ For I know *that* my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; ²⁶ And after my skin is destroyed, this *I know*, That in my flesh I shall see God, ²⁷ Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. *How* my heart yearns within me!"

MINISTRIES FOUND ONLINE

www.FridleyLutheran.org

Some website links:

- → Grace Lutheran Church: <u>www.FridleyLutheran.org</u>
- → Grace on Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/CLCGraceLutheranChurch</u>
- → Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC): <u>www.clclutheran.org</u>
- ➔ Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, & Seminary (ILC): <u>www.ilc.edu</u>
- → CLC Missions: <u>www.lutheranmissions.org</u>
- → The CLC Book House (CLC book store): <u>www.clcbookhouse.org</u>
- ➔ The Lutheran Spokesman (CLC publication): <u>www.lutheranspokesman.org</u>
- → The Branches (women's publication): <u>www.thebranchesonline.info</u>

Check out the following online devotional materials:

- ➔ Weekly video of the Grace Lutheran Church sermon: <u>www.clcgracelutheranchurch.org/category/sermons/</u>
- ➔ Weekly CLC "Ministry by Mail" sermon: <u>www.clclutheran.org/ministrybymail</u>
- ➔ Daily email devotions from The Bread of Life (The Lutheran Spokesman): <u>www.glcdailydevotion.wordpress.com</u>
- ➔ Daily email devotions from CLC pastors: <u>www.redeemerclc.info/devotional.html</u>
- ➔ Daily email for a CLC Three-Year Bible reading program: <u>www.threeyearbiblereadingplan.wordpress.com</u>
- ➔ Daily audio of the chapel address from our Immanuel campus: <u>www.ilc.edu/chapel.htm</u>

Also, check out the Grace Lutheran Church on Google Play for Android devices.

Facebook Page: If you're on Facebook, be sure to like or share items that are on the Grace Lutheran Church page. This can help promote the page to others, along with events that we publicize there.



The more shares, etc., the more Facebook promotes our church page to others.



MESSAGE OF HOPE

In the pandemic that now sweeps the world, "What message can you give to the American people?" is the question put to the President, to governors, to health care workers, and to "experts." Among them not all agree on how to protect against the virus or how long it will last. Many try to reassure the people. But what can they say? We do not doubt their sincerity when they say, "We will get through this together." But tell that to the fearful, the frightened, or those who are infected, or those separated from loved ones as the virus spreads, the healthcare system is stressed, some hospitals in some states or cities are swamped, and death rates increase. Tell it to those on life support, or "tell" it to the thousands that have succumbed. What message can they give other than to repeat the protocols to stay safe, observe health advisories, care for yourself, and for one another?

In many cases the efforts to reassure have a ring of desperation. It is therefore not surprising that a sense of panic has overtaken many in this country as it is substantially being shut down. Contributing to the panic is the haymaking of some who use the circumstances to push political agendas.

Many people have opinions. Whatever one's political or social persuasion, Christ-believers will agree that it is a time (When isn't it the time?) to engage in prayer to the Lord that this virus reaches closure. Such Christians will pray for those who are ill, or in danger of death. They will pray for those who have lost loved ones, pray for and express appreciation to the medical people and first responders who put themselves at risk, and pray as well for their families. They will pray for our leaders and people of science who feel the pressure of their responsibility, as well as suffer emotional trauma. Finally, prayer to the gracious, heavenly Father will invoke His care upon oneself and family, asking Him as we do in the Lord's prayer to preserve all from every evil of body and soul.

Everyone can speculate, but none can know for sure how or when the present affliction will end. For many, if not all, there may be personal, emotional, and economic consequences after it passes. We are not diminishing the seriousness, the significance, or the physical pain and suffering that is being visited upon many when we say we need to look at this from another perspective than politicians and health providers do -a *spiritual perspective*.

The medical field addresses the immediate cause, as it seeks a cure. Within the spiritual realm, ignored by most and mocked by more, we find the cause and cure. The cause and the cure, though on opposite ends of the pole are interrelated. The "spiritual" addresses the underlying cause of every physical or social ill of mankind. The Word of God does not heal an illness. We are not speaking of "faith-healing" as some erroneously promote it. The Word of God heals the pangs of the heart and removes panic as it heals the soul.

So what is the cause of social and physical ills, the cause of epidemics, pandemics, and ultimately death? The answer makes us all uncomfortable and elicits scorn and mockery of many. Nevertheless, the truth is the truth. It is a plain, simple, inarguable fact that *before sin entered* into the world there was no deadly virus, no hunger, no pain, no suffering, no illness, no

tension, no war, no death. At the conclusion of creation, the Creator "saw everything that He had made and indeed it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). God did not create man to suffer and to die. The ills we endure in this world are a consequence of sin (Genesis 3)!

Since the fall into sin "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). All means all! The *cause* of sin was disobedience (a rebellion) to God's Word. The *consequence* of the fall into sin was death: spiritual, temporal, eternal. We are all in this together. No one can pass the buck and blame another—**No one!** Acknowledge reality and listen to Jesus who calls all to repentance and warned against putting off repentance (Luke 12:54-59). When challenged about the death of the Galileans who died at the hands of Pilate, and the death of those who died when the tower of Siloam fell on them, Jesus said:

"Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? <u>I tell you, no;</u> but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:2-5).

Repentance is not simply remorse over some misdeed, or over a transgression of some civil law. Repentance does not mean one will never sin again. Repentance (a daily exercise in the life of a Christ-believer) is a heartfelt recognition that one has by his thoughts, words, and deeds offended the holy God, and earned His wrath. It is the function of God's Law to expose sin and bring one to recognize that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). In other words, there is no true repentance unless worked by the Holy Spirit through the divine Word. Repentance is a confession: "I have done wrong. I have sinned (Luke 15:18), and I deserve punishment."

But repentance is incomplete (Judas) without faith. Faith is born of the Gospel. It is the Gospel that draws, and assures, a troubled sinner (Peter) to believe that there is hope. "God, be merciful to me, a sinner" (Luke 18:13). The Gospel is the message which declares that for Jesus' sake the Father has forgiven one's sins and remembers them no more (Hebrews 8:12). Forgiveness is won for us through Christ's life and death, sealed to us through His resurrection, transmitted to us through the Gospel, and made our own through the Holy Spirit. The believer does not put his confidence unto salvation in the intensity of his sorrow, but he trusts implicitly in Christ, and in the Father's promise, "Your sins are forgiven you" (Matthew 9:2). Indeed the confidence of salvation is in the Word, "By grace are you saved through faith ... it is the gift of God ... (Ephesians 2:8)

Repentance also involves a change of heart and mind. It is accompanied by the desire to put away the sinful life and glorify the Lord in one's daily walk (Fruits meet for repentance). Confidence of the Father's love and the forgiveness of sins, as well as the will to serve Him, is a fruit of the Spirit.

Christ-believers do not diminish or make light of suffering in life. We pray earnestly for deliverance from plague and pandemic, from war and evil, from storm and tempest, from pain and sorrow. But in the midst of it all, *children* of God look at life, even in the present distress and uncertainty, as more than this present existence. Regardless of when or how, Christians and heathen alike know that one day all are going to put off this mortal body. All are going to die. For the Christ believer, as distinct from the unbeliever who has no anchor, *hope built on Jesus Christ bears us through the evil days:*

"When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds with the veil.

On Christ the solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand" (TLH 370).

The ultimate fear of illness (cause of panic) is death. **The cure to panic is the Gospel.** Children of God suffer the tragedy of separation in death as do all. We weep tears of sorrow but not tears of despair, for we know in Christ we have a future. A pastor, professor, mentor, and friend of our acquaintance said that he was not going to die. That causes an eyebrow to raise until one understands he was not speaking of departing mortal life. He was speaking his faith in Christ Who said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die" (John 11:25-26).

The Savior Who gave His life to redeem ours said in an oft misapplied passage, "I have come that they [disciples, believers] may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Jesus was not speaking of an abundance of material, temporal, delights. He was speaking of the life *in* Christ, that translates into life *with* Christ Who said, "Because I live, you shall live also" (John 14:19). In that same chapter Jesus spoke words that speak to the confidence and hope we have while we traverse this world with all its uncertainties. "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also" (John 14: 1-3).

In view of the victory over sin, death and the devil, and in view of the Savior's promise, and in view of His call to repentance, the Lord's question to Israel still reverberates: "Therefore you, O son of man, say to the house of Israel: 'Thus you say, "If our transgressions and our sins *lie* upon us, and we pine away in them, how can we then live?"' Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel'" (Ezekiel 33:10-12)?

This we know, when this siege diminishes or is over some other cause of concern will arise. That is the way it is in this sinful world. Then as now, however, the **Gospel of God's grace and love and His promises will endure.** Whatever grief, trouble, or tribulation we are subjected to, focus on Jesus. The Author and Finisher of our faith, by His Spirit, fans the flame of hope for all who look beyond the here and now. To as many as call upon Him in faith He will answer. All who believe in Him will have eternal life.

In the world we shall have trouble. It's a given (John 16:33). "But rejoice in hope, [be] patient in tribulation. Continue steadfastly in prayer ..." (Romans 12:12). Come what may, "Surely there is a hereafter, and your hope will not be cut off" (Proverbs 23:18). Jesus' resurrection is the guarantee!

BORN AGAIN TO A LIVING HOPE (1 Peter 1:3-9)

Blest be the God and Father Of our Lord Jesus Christ. He offered His own Son, As payment for our sin

In His abundant mercy He sent His Son to die. His purpose was of grace, To rescue us from death.

Jesus came as long foretold--He died and rose again, And conquered sin and death, Restoring life and hope.

Dead in sin, we were reborn. As Jesus rose from death And left the tomb behind, Each day inspires new hope.

An inheritance most grand, Is kept in hea'vn for us. This treasure we'll receive, When life on earth is done.

The treasure He has promised, The faith to know it's ours, E'en in the tests of life, Makes us rejoice with song.

We thank the Holy Spirit For faith that does endure. The faith the Spirit works, Delights the heart of God.

Though tried and sore afflicted, Or overcome with tears, Our Father's love in Christ Fills hearts with hope and joy.

O Father, Who does love us, And Christ, our Savior too--Our hearts o'erflow with thanks, Because You've loved us so!

O God the Holy Spirit, Preserve us in the faith. And at the end of life Salvation's song we'll sing.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 4/2020

CLC Financial Report Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2019	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 9 Months	Balance 3/31/2020
General Fund (See below)	0	814,074	801,594	797,175	12,480
ILC Operations (incl CLC subsidy)	0	1,123,085	1,027,230	1,083,060	95,855
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	138,303	59,015	12,055		185,263
ILC Building Projects (AC/Dorm)	17,072	181,967	172,000		27,039
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	45,020	156,484	149,804		51,700
Kinship	56,634	98,309	91,819		63,124
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	1,442,490	648,109	267,964		1,822,635
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	50,707	127,933	108,015		70,625
Reserve Fund	278,088	17,552	0		295,640
Total	\$2,028,314	\$1,289,369	\$801,657		\$2,516,026

CLC Financial Report - March

ILC Building Projects (Academic Center Balance & North Hall)					
Beginning Balance November 1, 2017	\$1,460,931				
Current Balance March 31, 2020	\$1,063,776				
Principal paid to date	\$397,155				

General Fund – March offerings of \$59,849 vs disbursements of \$94,383, resulted in a \$35,000 negative budget impact reducing our current balance to \$12,480. The General Fund needs \$88,575 monthly to fund the ongoing work of our Boards of Missions, Regents, Trustees, & Ed-Pub.
ILC Operations – Revenue of \$97,143 (incl \$47,875 subsidy) vs disbursements of \$111,578.
ILC Building Projects – Offerings of \$3,148 vs the \$8,000 monthly loan payment for the AC loan.
CEF – Revenue of \$27,423 vs disbursements of \$100,171 for note repayment & admin expenses.
MDF – Offerings of \$6,626 vs disbursements of \$20,385, (Mission Helper, Exploratory, Conferences).
SAF – Revenue of \$12,544 (\$10,265 STU loan payments, \$2,280 offerings) vs \$9,819 grants & loans.
Kinship – Offerings \$2,719 vs disbursements of \$16,000 (\$7,710 Orphans; \$8,210 Sem students).

General Fund offerings were down in March, but one month does not constitute a trend. The Trustees are concerned that the need for prolonged use of streaming services due to the COVID-19 mandate to "Shelter at Home," as well as the resulting economic difficulties, could lead to a shortfall in offerings. As the Lord has provided us alternate ways to worship, He has also provided alternate ways to continue to bring our offerings of gratitude for His gracious blessings.

These are historically difficult times, but we have every confidence in the plan of our Lord for us! All of our CLC boards are carefully watching their budgets, looking for ways to hold down or even trim expenses, if needed. However, expenses can only be cut so far without cutting into the fixed costs that need to be met. This work is ongoing, and we will continue to use this bulletin insert to keep you informed. We are confident that you prayerfully consider your giving in support of your local and our synod work. May our good and gracious Lord bless all of our humble, best efforts!

ት OUR SCHEDULE 🕆

Please keep in mind that this schedule is tentative given the circumstances. Stay tuned by the email announcements.

Sun., Apr. 12: EASTER

	Online Worship Service			
Wed., Apr. 15:	4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students			
Sun. Apr. 19:	Online Worship Service (Easter 2)			
	Council Meeting (delayed due to Easter)			
Sun., Apr. 26:	Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings (delayed due to Easter)			
Thu., May 21:	ASCENSION DAY			
	12:00 pm – Grace School Dismissal for Summer			
June 8-10:	CLC Board & Coordinating Council (change of date)			
July 20-24:	9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School			
July 30-Aug. 2	CLC Convention (change of date)			

Last Week's Stats: Apr. 5,	2020 Sun.:	Online	S.S.: Online	B.Cl.: Online
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$4,785	CLC:	\$205
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,000	CLC:	950
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+785	CLC:	-745
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$50,862	CLC:	\$12,270
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	56,000	CLC:	13,300
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-5,138	CLC:	-1,030
GLC Other: 0	Living Faith:	0	Tuition	Aid: 0
SAF Endowment: 0	MDF:	0	Kinship	: 0
ILC Student Aid: 0	ILC Bldg.	100	IIF: 0	CEF: 0
Current Balances:	Tuition Aid:	\$835		

<u>Prayer</u>: O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy. Grant that all our sin be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.