

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)

Phone: 763-784-8784

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 10

Date: August 9, 2020

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 651: Be Still, My Soul

TLH 435: My Spirit on Thy Care

TLH 521: What God Ordains Is Always Good

WS 785: Children of the Heavenly Father

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 119 II, TLH p. 149

Liturgy:

WS, p. 1 (Projected)

Offering: Plate at organ

Scripture Readings:

1 Kings 3:5-12

Matthew 13:44-52

Sermon: Romans 8:28-30

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. (NKJVTM)

All Things Work Together for Good!

And we know that in

ALL THINGS

GOD WORKS FOR THE

Good of those who
LOVE HIM

WHO *have been called*

>> ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE. <<

✝ ***THE ANNOUNCEMENTS*** ✝

- ➔ **Caution:** If anyone is high risk, vulnerable, recently exposed to a COVID-19 patient, or has symptoms of illness (especially high temperature and cough), the individual along with any others in that person's household are strongly urged to stay home for one's own well-being and the well-being of others. If any member remains uncomfortable about returning to worship, online worship is still available at [FridleyLutheran.org](https://www.fridleylutheran.org).
- ➔ **Masks:** Due to the Governor's executive order, face coverings or masks are now required during worship at Grace. Children under the age of 2 are exempt. Ages 2-5 "are encouraged to wear a face covering when in public if they can do so reliably ..." Also, pastor does not need to wear one while leading the worship service.
- ➔ **Physical Distancing:** The pews are set up to be alternating, post-its on the pews that are to be used. Our ushers are asked to be proactive when ushering people in so that distancing between household units can be better accomplished. Also, please remember to do your visiting outside away from the building before and after worship, ensuring that the doorway isn't blocked by a group. Thank you for being mindful of your fellow Christians.
- ➔ **Fire Update:** Preliminary cleaning in the garage began this week.
- ➔ **Church Picnic:** The Elders cancelled the church picnic for this year.
- ➔ **Mission Festival:** Pastor Mark Bernthal will be our guest speaker on Sun. Oct. 11. This year there will be no potluck meal.
- ➔ **Invitation:** Prince of Peace Lutheran of Hecla, SD, will have its Harvest Festival today at 4 pm. For more information, contact pastor_daub@hotmail.com or (605) 994-2145.
- ➔ **ManUp Retreat:** The ManUp! Men's Retreat will be held Sept. 24-27, 2020, at Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI. This is for men 18 and older. The cost is \$75, including lodging and meals. Register: www.tinyurl.com/manup-2020. Website: www.manup.clclutheran.org.
- ➔ **Trip to Israel:** A group trip to Israel is still scheduled for January 13-22, 2021 with a possible three day extension to Jordan for those who are interested. The trip will include visits to Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, En Gedi and more. It will include visits to the traditional sites of many of the events in the ministry of Jesus as well as those of the prophets and apostles. For more information, contact Pastor Nathanael Mayhew (404-729-4602 or nnmayhew@sleepyeyelutheran.com).

- ➔ **Book Available:** Deborah Ude's third book, "Sunshine in Shadows," is now available. Amazon link: tinyurl.com/SunshineinShadows. The digital version is \$2.99 and the printed paperback is \$11.99. All three of Debi's books are also available in printed form at the CLC Bookstore or directly from Prof. John Ude, john.ude@ilc.edu.
- ➔ **Immanuel's Opening Service:** Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary is opening its academic year with in-person learning. Much planning is in the works as we learn to live in the midst of the current pandemic. The opening service will be on Sun. Aug. 23, 3 pm. This will also include the installation of ILC President Daniel Schierenbeck and Professor Mark Weis. Some precautions will be necessary for this service given mitigation and local guidelines, e.g., physical distancing, collecting contact information, gathering size, etc. For those who aren't students, parents, or staff, we encourage you to virtually attend the service through livestream to help ensure that our gathering size is manageable and compliant with local guidelines. For details about livestreaming and the opening weekend schedule, see ilc.edu. Please keep the staff and the students in your prayers during these challenging times. May the Lord richly bless the upcoming year as the students grow in the truth of God's saving Word!
- ➔ **CLC News:** Pastor Luke Bernthal of St. Stephen Lutheran in Mountain View (San Francisco area) and St. Stephen Lutheran in Hayward, CA (Oakland area) has been called by Living Savior Lutheran in Eden Prairie, MN. † Pastor Ben Libby of Ascension Lutheran in Tacoma, WA, has received the call to Redeemer Lutheran in Bowdle and Zion Lutheran in Ipswich, SD. † Pastor Emeritus Robert List has asked to be relieved of his vacancy work at Trinity Lutheran in Spokane, WA. Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Gethsemane Lutheran in Spokane Valley, WA, is now serving the vacancy.

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 Pastor Hein. He would be delighted to visit with you!

SAFE AT HOME -- ASSURED

Frequently we hark back to the “good” old days. Old days of course are relative. To speak of the old days suggests to the younger generation that one is engaging in a sentimental longing or wistful affection for the past when in elderly minds times were better. The younger generation today has the same reaction that we, who now wax nostalgic, had when our parents or grandparents spoke of the old days. Were the old days better?

Except for the corruption of the human heart, the pervasive nature of sin, which has afflicted mankind since the fall, in *some respects* the days were better. Do you remember when families were relatively safe in their home? Doors were left unlocked as one went to the store or the family went to church; windows were left unlocked or even open without fear that someone would come in and steal or rape. It was not unusual to leave the keys in the car. Children riding their bicycle delivered the daily paper and made weekly collections without fear of being robbed or kidnapped. What fun it was when children gathered on the spur of the moment to play ball on the nearby vacant lot. If one lived on a farm, it was not unusual for the family to “go to town” for an evening. Interactions between farm families were not unusual. Much of the interaction revolved around the church. People respected marriage and property. How about getting the news on the phone party line? Those days are gone.

Today the quality of life is largely measured by access to conveniences, wealth, and opportunities unknown in the good old days. Medical science and technology has advanced. Furthermore, as much as we complain about the misuse, abuse, and insecurities of modern means of communication – cell phone, email, texting, instant social interaction (not always edifying), very few would prefer to go back to operators, party lines, radio, and dependence on snail mail. We prefer our furnaces over wood stoves, refrigerators over ice boxes, and air conditioners over table fans. The consensus today is that these days are better – even though they are more sterile, impersonal, and dangerous than days of yore.

As recognized above, one thing has remained common through the ages. Human nature has not changed. The natural heart is still laden with sin. Solomon wrote, “And there is nothing new under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:9). Jeremiah prophesied the ruin of Judah, writing: “Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed, nor did they know how to blush...” (Jeremiah 8:12). Of these sorts, the apostle Peter wrote, “[They will] utterly perish in their own corruption” (2 Peter 2:12).

“No matter how men may change their environment and place the newest achievements of science and invention into their service, the misery and the toil of life is ever the same, and the abuse of God’s gifts and the transgression and the dissatisfaction of man’s heart are ever the

same" (Kretzmann, *OT Popular Commentary of the Bible*, Vol II, p.262, CPH, 1924). There is no new *sin* under the sun!

Paul warned the Ephesians, "But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting which are not fitting... and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those which are done by them in secret" (Ephesians 5:3). Today "what is done by them" is not any longer done in secret, but openly, boldly, and without shame. Common discourse is salted with abuse of the name of the Lord, and with vulgarities.

Regularly today the news tells of some crime on the street. If a cause is deemed just, crimes are committed against communities, often without fear of punishment from authorities charged with protecting the citizenry. It does create nostalgia for the day when such behavior was called to account. Today we cannot be sure we are safe in our own home. We were reminded of this recently as an arsonist tried in the middle of the night to set fire to the parsonage at our church. Besides fire damage, heavy, dangerous smoke filled the house.

But the Lord's hand was obvious in that by His grace He protected the occupants. He is true to His Word, "For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, 'Fear not. I will help you...'" (Isaiah 41:13). But do bad things happen to God's people? Indeed. As foreigners in this sinful environment we are not immune. We have aches, pains, sorrows. We suffer loss. Has God reneged on His promise to us? By no means! All God's ways, His manner, His oversight of our life has a purpose. All His ways serve to the ultimate benefit of His children, in time, to prepare us for eternity. Apart from faith in Christ no one can understand that "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). Indeed, in times of difficulty and loss, when bad things happen, we weep. But there is a difference. ***We do not weep as others who have no hope.*** God's ways are good, just, and purposeful.

His purpose may come as a test to move us to call more earnestly upon Him. It may be to awaken us from spiritual lethargy. It may be to rescue us from the path of evil that beckons us. It may be to refocus our attention on heaven rather than on the earth. If death is our lot, His purpose is fulfilled as He takes the believer to Himself.

As the Spirit of God has called us to faith in Christ, we have a safe haven as we walk through a dangerous world to our safe home in heaven. Our Heavenly Father has reconciled us unto Himself through the atonement wrought in our behalf through the crucified and risen Lord Jesus. As we are called to faith by the Spirit, we have a privilege and blessing afforded only to those who believe in Christ: "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe" (Proverbs 18:10). Each night we pray that the Lord forgives us our sin and that He will keep us and our families safe

from all evil and harm to body and soul. The safety we crave is anchored in our hope of heaven, that safe home promised to us by our Lord before His ascension (John 14:1-3). None less than Jesus is our Advocate before the Father. "Father, I desire that they also whom You have given Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me... (John 17:24). Our safety is in Him Who 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). We are safe in the Savior's arms. Our future is secure in Him!

The eternal Word, our Lord Jesus Christ, is the safe tower in which during times of trouble we find refuge, and safety. But Satan and his minions perpetually shoot at the foundation of that tower to bring it down. But Satan will not succeed! Christ, Who conquered sin, death, and the devil, and left the witness of His Word for our comfort and strengthening holds and shields us in His strong arm. Neither He nor His Word will be undone by Satan's efforts. Christ-believers dwell in safety until ultimately they are delivered from this veil of tears to Himself in Heaven – *our safe, eternal home*.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus described our safe home. Heed His Word and appreciate the security heaven affords. Jesus said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up treasure for yourself in ***heaven where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal***" (Matthew 6:19-20).

Jesus said, "This is the work of the Father, that you believe in Him whom He sent" (John 6:29). To all who believe in Him and seek refuge in Him, Jesus says, "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). There is laid up in heaven an "inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4).

In the midst of the troubles, fears, sorrows, and dangers of the present world, the Lord tells us, "Behold I create a new heaven and a new earth, and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind" (Isaiah 65:17), former things will have passed away (Revelation 21:4). We will not remember the old days, good or bad. Neither will we fear tomorrow! When all the trials and woes of this earth are past, what an indescribable blessing it will be to be in our *eternally safe home* with the Lord and to be in full and eternal possession of the promised treasure in ***heaven where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal***" (Matthew 6:19-20, Luke 12:33). May the Lord keep us until we are truly

**SAFE AT HOME-- "secure, without fear of evil"
(Proverbs 1:33).**

"Even so, come Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen" (Revelation 22:20-21).

Voters Meeting Notes – August 2, 2020

The April 2020 Voters meeting was not held because of Covid-19. Meeting opened with prayer. January 2020 Voters meeting minutes read and approved. First and Second Quarter Treasurer's reports reviewed and approved.

Pastor's Report

- Despite Covid-19, Pastor was able to continue holding instruction classes with Sienna Boe, Grant Wells, Joseph Thomas, and Thomas Graham.
- Motion passed to ratify Joseph Thomas as a communicant member.
- Motion passed to accept Joseph Thomas as a voting member.
- Motion passed to ratify Thomas Graham as a communicant member.
- Motion passed to accept Thomas Graham as a voting member.
- On Sunday, June 21st, Isaiah Wales (son of Laura and Eli) was baptized.
- Both VBS and the ILC Tour Choir visit have been cancelled for this year. Mission Festival is still on the schedule but without the potluck meal.
- This year there will be a total of 5 in catechism; 4 of them in day school.
- Sunday School will start as scheduled; Sunday Bible Class starts Oct. 4, to be held in the church; Choir practice and Hospitality are suspended for now.
- Motion passed to remove the membership of Sarah Eichstadt per her request. Pastor talked with her about the authority of God's Word.

Board of Elders Report

- A new laptop has been purchased for Pastor.
- Pastor's tax bracket changed which has affected his medical premiums. Motion passed to give Pastor a onetime bonus of \$6000.

Board of Education Report

- The 2019-20 school year finished via distance learning.
- Plans are to start the upcoming school year on schedule. Projected enrollment: 24 students total (12 in K-2nd grade, 12 in grades 3-8). Projected revenue of \$20,000 from the 11 non-member students. State and health department guidelines are being considered with these protocols:
 - Check students temp with non-contact thermometers
 - Face masks/shields being considered
 - No water fountain
 - Additional cleaning with parents helping out
- School workday scheduled for Sat., Aug. 8 with no children.
- Ice cream social has been cancelled with the usual info shared via a letter.
- Motion passed to have Ryan Oman serve as Sunday School Superintendent.

Board of Trustees Report

- The Trustees continue working to keep the fire cleanup and repairs on schedule. Pat met with our contractor (24 Restore) to discuss needed work. A thorough list of what the contractor expects needs replacing is being prepared. The insurance company has yet to approve the claim so what exactly will be covered isn't known yet.

Other Business

- An AED has been purchased and installed in the Fellowship Hall. It is located on the wall behind the serving table.

Adapted from minutes submitted by Secretary William Rust

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Eli Wales

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

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

Church Cleaners: Anderson

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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: Oman

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Aug. 9: 9:00 am – Worship Service
11:00 am – Council Meeting

Sun., Aug. 16: 9:00 am – Worship Service

Sun., Aug. 23: 3:00 pm – Opening Service at ILC

Mon., Aug. 31: 8:00 am – Opening Service at Grace Lutheran School

Sun., Sept. 13: 9:00 am – Sunday School Begins
10:00 am – Worship Service

Sun., Oct. 4: 9:00 am – Bible Class Begins

October 6-7: Minnesota Pastoral Conference @ Sleepy Eye, MN

Sun., Oct. 11: Mission Festival (Guest Speaker: Pastor Mark Bernthal)

Last Week's Stats: Aug. 2, 2020 Sun.: 63

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$4,307	CLC:	\$700	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,000	CLC:	950	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+307	CLC:	-250	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$120,987	CLC:	\$28,392	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	124,000	CLC:	29,450	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-3,013	CLC:	-1,058	
GLC Other:	100	Living Faith:	0	Tuition Aid:	315
SAF Endowment:	0	MDF:	0	Kinship:	50
ILC Student Aid:	0	ILC Bldg.	100	IIF: 25	CEF: 0
Current Balances:	Tuition Aid: \$2,331				



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