

Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432



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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: Palm Sunday

Date: April 2, 2023

✝ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✝

Hymns:

TLH 161: Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

CDS: Dear Christians One and All Rejoice,
Antiphonal Hosanna, The Lord's Prayer

TLH 162: Ride On, Ride On, in Majesty

Communion: TLH 163

TLH 361, st. 3-5: O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

Worship Prep:

Psalm 24, TLH p. 128

Liturgy:

WS p. 12 (Communion)

Scripture Readings:

Zechariah 9:9-10

Matthew 21:1-11

Sermon: **Philippians 2:5-11**

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (NKJVTM)

**WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND
DURING HOLY WEEK?**

✝ **THE ANNOUNCEMENTS** ✝

- ➔ **Grace Lutheran School Concert:** Today the students of our Christian Day School will be presenting a concert after the Scripture readings: TLH 387: Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice; Antiphonal Hosanna; and The Lord's Prayer. We thank all involved – children, teachers, and parents – for sharing this today.
- ➔ **Roads:** The President of the United States will be visiting Fridley tomorrow. We are not sure of the time, but please be aware that this may impact travel to or from church if roads are blocked off.
- ➔ **Good Friday:** This Friday, April 7, at 7 pm, we will be holding our Good Friday service. The Lord's Supper will also be celebrated. The Day our Savior died is very precious for us as redeemed sinners. Let's honor it by pondering His profound love for us.
- ➔ **Easter Day:** Next Sun., April 9, we will be having our Easter breakfast at 7:30 am, followed by our Easter worship service at 9 am. What an opportunity we have to gather in worship on the day we commemorate our Lord's glorious resurrection from the dead!
- ➔ **Easter Breakfast:** Those men interested in helping with the breakfast are asked to sign up for various duties. The list is by the guest book.
- ➔ **Easter Flowers:** A sign-up sheet is out by the guest book for anyone interested in purchasing Easter lilies or decorative flowers for Easter Sunday. Please see Mikey Oman for any questions.
- ➔ **Lenten Soup Suppers:** Thank you to all the hosts for their generosity in providing the soup suppers during our Lenten season.
- ➔ **Appreciation:** Dear members of Grace, Thank you so much for your support in our academic studies and our growth in God's Word here at ILC. We are incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to go to a Christian school where we are able to hear the Word of God every day. Thank you for contributing to our education expenses. They are greatly appreciated. God be with you. Sincerely, N. & N. Story.
- ➔ **Kindergarten:** Children entering Kindergarten next fall are invited to Kindergarten Round Up in Mrs. Nelson's classroom on Friday, April 28, 8 am-12:30 pm. Talk to Mrs. Nelson for more details and to RSVP.
- ➔ **ILHS Visitors' Day:** Students in grades 7-11 are invited to attend Immanuel Lutheran High School Visitors' Day in Eau Claire, WI, on Fri., April 28. Those interested, please speak with Pastor Hein as he needs to register by April 21. More info. can be found at www.ilc.edu.



- ➔ **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, individual student grants, scholarships, and work study. 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 Youth Camp:** Registration is now open! Camp takes place from June 11-17 at Camp JIM in Pillager, MN, for students 6th-12th grade. For more information and to register your camper between now and May 31: youthcampclc.wixsite.com/camp. Email Amber Casto and Sam Rademacher at youthcamp.clc@gmail.com with any questions.
- ➔ **Christ's Explorers Camp:** Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran of West Columbia, SC, will be hosting Christ's Explorers Camp July 20-23 in Sevierville, TN. Camp is open to students entering grades 3-9 for the 2023-24 school year. Register online at christsexplorerscamp.com.
- ➔ **Invitation:** CLC members are invited to a special worship service observing the 50th Anniversary of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Madison Heights (Detroit), MI, on Sun., Aug. 6, 4 pm. A catered meal will be provided following the service. Please RSVP to Pastor Tom Naumann at 920-266-5387 or tomnaumann.pastor@gmail.com.
- ➔ **CLC News:** Pastor Chad Seybt of the quad parish of the CLC churches in Onalaska, Fairchild, Millston, and Melrose, WI, has received the dual parish call at Redemption Lutheran in Lynnwood, WA, and Ascension Lutheran in Tacoma, WA. † Pastor Norman Greve has accepted the call to serve as Vacancy Pastor at Calvary Lutheran in Marquette, MI. † Mrs. Leah Ude of Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, has returned the Teacher call to Peace Thru Christ Lutheran in Middleton, WI.
- ➔ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Easter Recitation & Hymn

Last Week's Stats: Mar. 26, 2023 Sun.: 76 S.S.: 12 B.Cl.: 41 Wed.: 55

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$7,965*	CLC:	\$795	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	\$893	CLC:	\$570	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,500	CLC:	1,080	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+4,358	CLC:	+285	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$51,969	CLC:	\$11,580	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	58,500	CLC:	14,040	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-6,531	CLC:	-2,460	
GLC Other:	157	Living Faith:	56	Tuition Aid:	175
SAF Endowment:	1	MDF:	11	Kinship:	185
ILC Student Aid:	15	ILC Bldg.	0	IIF:	0
Current Balances:		Tuition Aid:	\$480		
* \$3,700 in non-member school tuition					

UNION OR UNITY?

What is the difference between union and unity? Is there any difference? Union is the activity of coming together. Unity is harmony, agreement, concord, singleness of heart and mind, expressive of mutually shared goals and purposes.

Think of marriage. Holy Scripture defines marriage as the union of one man [*male*] and one woman [*female*] (Genesis 2:22) living in that union until death parts them (Matthew 19:6). As we look at our own marriages, is the union always a manifestation of unity? Look at the disunity that fractures the marital union which disrupts the family and often ends in divorce. Union does not of itself equate with unity.

How shall we define the union of states in what has been historically called the *United States*? Exactly how united is the union of states we still identify as united?

What about the churches within Christendom? Throughout the world there are many Christian denominations, distinctively different from non-Christian bodies or religions. Within those who identify as Christian, there are differences of doctrine that separate different denominations from one another. Further, within Christian denominations which claim the Bible as their sole source of doctrine (teaching), and therefore in which it could be expected there is unity of doctrine, there are differences of doctrine. In other words, *they tolerate disunity within congregations* and among clergy that compose the body. Such union without unity is called in the church, *unionism*.

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LC-MS) of old (1932) said of union without unity: "Since God ordained that His Word only, without the admixture of human doctrine, be taught and believed in the Christian Church, 1 Pet. 4:11; John 8:31, 32; 1 Tim. 6:3, 4, all Christians are required by God to discriminate between orthodox and heterodox church-bodies, Matt. 7:15, to have church-fellowship only with orthodox church-bodies, and, in case they have strayed into heterodox church-bodies, to leave them, Rom. 16:17. *We repudiate unionism*, that is, church-fellowship with the adherents of false doctrine, as disobedience to God's command, as causing divisions in the Church, Rom. 16:17; 2 John 9, 10, and involving the constant danger of losing the Word of God entirely, 2 Tim. 2:17-21" (*Brief Statement*-1932). That is still the position of any Lutheran Church that identifies itself as orthodox.

It is also the challenge that every orthodox church faces in a day when the attitude prevails that getting along is more loving and appealing than

contending for the truth which exhorts, if necessary, "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:17-18).

Union is of man. Unity is of God.

"Thus the Church tolerates no division. The high standard of Scripture is clear. All members of the Church are to confess the same thing in all matters of faith. This is stated by St. Paul in just so many words in 1 Corinthians 1:10, 'Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment'" (*Concerning Church Fellowship*, para.7, p.7 Church of the Lutheran Confession). This speaking is restricted to the Scriptures.

In marriage and in the country, union without unity is failure waiting to happen. In the Church, union without unity in the Word of God is living a lie.

The Holy Christian Church is not denominational. It is spiritual. The Holy Christian Church, the Body of Christ, is composed of believers only. It is a fruit of Gospel preaching through which the Lord claims for His own everyone who believes. It is the Lord's will that believers gather in worship and ministry. Such a union of believers gathers, not on the basis of faith which cannot be seen, but on the basis of the *confession* of faith. Consequently, within the visible church, there may be some hypocrites in the visible fellowship, such as put on airs of being Christian, but do not believe in the Lord Jesus. Within the external fellowship of Christian churches, the Lord knows those who are His (2 Timothy 2:19). He will do the sorting on judgment day.

The union of Christians where agreement in the Word exists is a beautiful gift of the Spirit and mirrors the unity within the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints. Thus, the Lord has reasons for instructing that union of churches or church bodies be based on *agreement in all matters of faith and doctrine*. Besides the danger of false doctrine to souls (Romans 16:17-18), compromise in matters of faith for the sake of union disrupts the unity which reflects the essence of the Body of Christ. It is the Lord's will that the unity of His Body be reflected on earth within the external fellowship of believers.

During his imprisonment in Rome, the Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Philippi. The congregation was the first one in Europe established by the Spirit through the Gospel ministry of Paul. It is clear from the tenor of the letter that the congregation was close to the heart of Paul. He encouraged

them as members of the Body of Christ, the Holy Christian Church, to reflect the spirit and mind of the Lord Jesus (Philippians 2:5-8), Who is both the Head of the Church, and the Savior. We do not read, "Fulfill my joy by being *likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind*" (2:2), as a rebuke or reprimand, but an evangelical encouragement. Apparently, word had come to the Apostle of some tension in the congregation that was disturbing the unity of the congregation. Some were exhibiting "selfish ambition or conceit" (2:3, 4:2). Backsliding Christians were also a danger (3:17-19). False teachers and supporters of error sow dissension. Even in fellowships where the Word is taught in its truth and purity as the Lord wills and exhorts, tensions can arise over issues of a material or temporal sort. Being of one mind and spirit was important for the internal life of the congregation as well as for its ministry.

"God's call is a call to unity, to the denial of self in the zealous pursuit of unity, to the utilization of the varied gifts bestowed by the exalted Christ for the full realization of this unity, that the church may be the mature and perfectly functioning of the body of Christ, Who is its Head." (*Concordia Bible with Notes*, Franzmann, Martin, CPH, 1971, p. 361) Church union is honest, peaceful, and joyful *when unity exists* in doctrine and in interaction within a congregation or a church body.

What Paul wrote to the Philippians of unity, he wrote also to the Ephesians, exhorting them to reflect the true unity that exists in the Body of Christ, the unity of which He is the Author, and the Spirit is the power. In Ephesians 4:1-6 he wrote:

"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is **one** body and **one** Spirit, just as you were called in **one** hope of your calling; **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism; **one** God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

There is not and cannot be division or disunity in the Body of Christ. Paul was not writing of what the Ephesians should become, but what they were and what they had. The unity of which Paul spoke was descriptive of what was theirs as members of the Church through faith in Christ. He wrote to them (and to us), therefore, to preserve and retain such unity which reflects the status of Christ-believers in the Holy Christian Church. Both in doctrine and in relationship to one another, Christ-believers are called to reflect their relationship to Him.

On one hand, we gladly acknowledge the Church is found, "not only in those external church communions which teach the Word of God purely in every part, but also where, along with error, so much of the Word of God still remains that men may be brought to the knowledge of their sins and to faith in the forgiveness of sins which Christ has gained of all men, Mark 16:16, Samaritans: Luke 17:16, John 14:25." (Brief Statement, p.12) That the Lord God has His children in such fellowships where error is present does not diminish the danger of error, nor revoke the Lord's command to avoid error. What it does show is the power of the Word and the grace of God toward His elect though they are in heterodox churches.

On the other hand, the presence of the Church is evident where unity and harmony in the Word and doctrine exist--where there is evidence of unity of faith in "**one** God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Therefore, believers are called to walk worthy of their calling, and in teaching, practice, and life, to show themselves to be faithful Christians.

Union or unity? "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren [those who are of like heart and mind] to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1). While it is pleasant to enjoy unity in marriage and when citizens live together in peace and with a single purpose, in context, the Psalm's emphasis is on *religious unity* that is manifest among those who are of one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all. How blessed is the union of all who have come to the "unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but speaking the truth in love may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ ..." (Ephesians 4:13-16).

Lord, keep us faithful to the truth
Through which You've claimed us as Your own.
May our whole life, and worship too,
Reflect our faithfulness to You.
May all we think and say and do
Reflect our unity with You,
Until we bid this world adieu,
And spend eternity with You.



✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Dale Enns

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

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

Hospitality Team 4: Bonnie Baker; Kevin & Sandy Hulke; Jenny Kleifgen; Pat & Dawn Paplow

Church Cleaners: A. Baker

School: Snyder

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Eli Wales; Alex Baker; Kevin Baker; James Bomber; Dan Degnan; David Hein; Ryan Oman; Bob Vandever

Counting Team 3: Duane Enns; Tom Graham; Kevin Hulke; Dan Degnan; Benno Sydow

Church Cleaners: A. Baker

School: Ude

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Apr. 2:

PALM SUNDAY

9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School

10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper

11:00 am – Hospitality

12:00 pm – Council Meeting

4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

Wed., Apr. 5:

Thu., Apr. 6:

Fri., Apr. 7:

MAUNDY THURSDAY (No worship)

GOOD FRIDAY

Grace School – No School, Easter Break (resume April 11)

7:00 pm – Good Friday Worship w/Lord's Supper

Sun., Apr. 9:

EASTER DAY

7:30 am – Easter Breakfast

9:00 am – Easter Festival Worship

11:30 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

CLC Coordinating Council (Eau Claire, WI)

Wed., Apr. 19:

April 24-27:

Fri., Apr. 28:

Grace School – Iowa Basic Tests

Grace School's Kindergarten Roundup

Immanuel Lutheran H.S. Visitors' Day @ Eau Claire, WI

7:00 pm – ILHS Band (Fri.) & Student Performances (Sat.)

7:30 pm – ILC Play, "The Westing Game"

Apr. 28 & 29:

Sat., Apr. 29:

9:00 am – Grace Work Day

Fri., May 12:

Thu., May 18:

Fri., May 19:

Field Day @ Inver Grove Hts. (Grades 5-8) (K-4 No School)

7:00 pm – Ascension Day Worship

3:00 pm – Immanuel Class Day @ ILC Fieldhouse

7:30 pm – Immanuel Spring Concert @ Messiah Lutheran

10:00 am – Immanuel Graduation Service @ ILC Fieldhouse

Sat., May 20:

Sun., May 21:

Thu., May 25:

Sun., May 28:

Sat., June 10:

June 20-22:

July 24-28:

Grace Confirmation Day

7:00 pm – Grace School's Spring Program

9:00 am – Worship (Summer Schedule Begins, Grace Graduation)

Minnesota Delegate Conference (Inver Grove Hts., MN)

CLC General Pastoral Conference (Eau Claire, WI)

9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School

