

Grace Lutheran Church & School



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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)

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School Phone: 763-784-6340

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 26/Last Sunday

Date: November 26, 2023

✠ **WORSHIP INFORMATION** ✠

Hymns:

TLH 656: Behold a Host, Arrayed in White

WS 766: Sing with All the Saints in Glory

LSB 686: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

TLH 463, st. 1,3,5-8: For All the Saints

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 125, TLH p. 153

Liturgy:

WS p. 1 (Projected)

WS p. 41, Psalm 146

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 62:1-5

Luke 19:1-10

Sermon: James 1:9-12

⁹ Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, ¹⁰ but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. ¹¹ For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits. ¹² Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. (NKJVTM)

Our Crown of Life Eternal

- 1. Equalized in our position**
- 2. Promised by our Lord**

God is Our Refuge and Strength

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 10/2023

Dear Father, Son, and Hbly Ghost,
We thank You for abundant grace,
Whereby You've claimed us as your own,
And bid us lay our cares on You.

Before we speak what's on our heart,
We recognize our many sins,
Our sinful thoughts, and words, and deeds
O, Father, please forgive them all.

We thank you, God, that in Your Son,
You have prepared a home for all,
Who through the Spirit trust in Him
Who died for us and rose again.

Patriarchs, apostles, prophets,
In times and eons long before us
Though tried and tested as they preached,
Still boldly stood fast in Your Word.

Now here's our plea as on the earth.
We live midst sorrow, sin, and death,
While waiting for our homeward call
Within a world that loathes Your name:

You know our weaknesses and fears.
As in this world of sin and death,
We often hear Your name defamed.
By those who mock us without shame.

As the world goes evilly on
The path to condemnation.
Both Satan and the godless world,
Tempt us to follow on their path.

Lord Jesus, keep Your Church alert
To Satan and the world's mad schemes.
Help us repel the swelling tide
That daily seeks our overthrow.

If You, Lord, were not on our side.
We could not in Your Word abide.
Help each You've called to live in light.
To broadcast Christ, the Light of life

As surely as Your Word is true,
We firmly trust Your promise, Lord
"I am your shield, your great reward,"¹
We know you'll ne'er forsake Your own.

So, as we walk the path of life
Though our flesh and heart may fail,
The truth is: "God is the strength of
My heart, my portion forever."²

Amen and may it never be
That God is e'er ashamed of us.
And when at length He calls us home,
We'll be there where we longed to be.

1) Genesis 15:1

2) Psalm 142:5

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Season Worship Schedule

Midweek Advent Services:

Wed., Dec. 6 – 7:00 pm
Wed., Dec. 13 – 7:00 pm

“From the Paradise of Eden to the Paradise of Heaven.”
Special meditations to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.



Candlelight Service:

Wed., Dec. 20 – 7:00 pm
A service of readings & hymns along with the lighting of candles to celebrate the light of Christ's rule in our hearts.
Preceded by Congregational Christmas Meal @ 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service:

Sun., Dec. 24 – 6:00 pm
“Paradise: Paradise Lost and Paradise Regained.”
A service in which the children present the timeless and treasured Christmas message.

Christmas Day Service:

Mon., Dec. 25 – 10:00 am
A service in which we ponder the fulfillment of Christ being born as True Man and True God in order to bring us salvation.

**FROM THE PARADISE OF EDEN
TO THE PARADISE OF HEAVEN**

† **THE ANNOUNCEMENTS** †

- ➔ **The Christmas Tree:** will be set up and decorated in the sanctuary on Sat., Dec 2, 10 am. Anyone who would like to help is welcome!
- ➔ **Hospitality:** Please note that there will be regular hospitality (instead of luncheons) on December 3, 10, and 17.
- ➔ **Midweek Advent Worship:** Next Wednesday, Dec. 6, 7 pm, begins our Midweek Advent worship services with the theme: "From the Paradise of Eden to the Paradise of Heaven." These services will focus on how the original paradise that God created was ruined by sin. And yet the LORD was merciful by immediately promising how paradise would be restored through the work of the coming Messiah. Our last one on Dec. 20 will be our annual candlelight service preceded by the congregational Christmas meal at 6 pm. Join us during this precious time of year to ponder our Savior's coming.
- ➔ **Christmas Meal:** Please join us for a fellowship meal at 6 pm prior to the Candlelight service on Dec. 20. Those attending may bring something to share. Dorcas Guild committee #1 is hosting.
- ➔ **Christmas Eve Rehearsals:** This is the rehearsal schedule:
 - Sun., Dec. 3: 11:30-1:00 pm (hospitality after worship)
 - Sun., Dec. 10: 11:30-1:00 pm (hospitality after worship)
 - Sun., Dec. 17: 11:30-1:00 pm (hospitality after worship)
 - Sun., Dec. 24: 8:45-9:45 am (please be here at 8:45 am so that we can start promptly)



December is a busy month, but please remember the importance of these rehearsals for a successful Christmas Eve service. The last rehearsal on December 24 is the most critical as it is the dress rehearsal. It is quite helpful for the children to know their individual parts by the first rehearsal and all parts by the second rehearsal. The three "Luke 2" parts are all together as a group. Parents are encouraged not to have your children formally memorize Luke 2, but to simply say it with the children once or twice a day. By the time Christmas Eve comes around, they will know these well. The children have a wonderful opportunity to express the Good News of our salvation through Jesus Christ. The parents' help is greatly appreciated to make everything go well.

➔ **Christmas Worship:** Our Christmas Eve service will be held on Sun., Dec. 24, 6 pm with our children presenting the Christmas Gospel. The theme this year is: "Paradise: Paradise Lost and Paradise Regained." The kids are asked to be here ½ hour prior to the service so that we can take a group picture and run through things. Christmas Day worship will be held Mon., Dec. 25, 10 am. May the love of this Child be the gift you open up your heart to on Christmas Day!



➔ **Northtown Concert:** This year the Grace School children will be singing at the Northtown Mall on Fri., Dec. 15, 2:00 pm. They will be located at the inside-of-the-mall entrance to Best Buy. Everyone is encouraged to come attend as it is always an experience greatly appreciated. If you haven't ever come to this, you may be pleasantly surprised at how well received it is. Come support the school!

➔ **Poinsettia** signup sheet is in the narthex by the guest book. Poinsettias are \$8 each. They will be purchased in stages throughout the Advent Season. Please see Laura Wales for payment.

➔ **2023 Cleaning:** Any volunteers for the remaining weeks of 2023?

➔ **2024 Cleaning:** The 2024 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.



➔ **Parking Reminder:** For those members who are able, please park further away to permit those with physical impairments to be able to park closer to the church.

➔ **Large Print Hymnals:** As a reminder, there are three copies of The Lutheran Hymnal in large print. These are by the guest book. Feel free to use these and return at the end of the worship service.

➔ **From the Elders:** This time of year is when a collection is taken for our "Called Workers Gift." All such designated offerings and any loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.

➔ **Local Special Funds:** Just to highlight a few of our local funds ...

- 1) Liberia Fund: supports special projects related to work in Liberia
- 2) Sanctuary Improvement Fund: supports the current sanctuary project
- 3) Tuition Aid Fund: supports Grace students who attend Immanuel Luth. H.S.
- 4) Living Faith Fund: supports people who are in need, particularly members
- 5) Dorcas Guild Fund: supports projects by our women's group

- ➔ **Sunday School Teachers:** Perhaps something to consider this Christmas is extending our Sunday School teachers an expression of gratitude for what they do for our children each week.
- ➔ **Stock Donations:** The Voters of Grace have provided a process for members to donate equities to the Congregation. Anyone interested in doing this can get information from Phil Radichel. Such a donation spares the donor from being taxed on any capital gains.
- ➔ **Qualified Charitable Distribution:** For those over 70½ it may be beneficial for you to send your offerings directly from an IRA fund to the church. The advantage of this procedure is those amounts are NOT considered as income and your adjusted gross income is less. For more information see Phil Radichel or Benno Sydow.
- ➔ **ILC Recital:** The ILC Piano/Organ Recital will be held Sun., Dec. 10, at 3:00 p.m. in the ILC Fieldhouse.
- ➔ **ILC Christmas Concert:** The choirs of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will be presenting "The King in the Cradle: A Choral Christmas Service," Dec. 15, 7:30 pm at Messiah Lutheran Church, 2015 N Hastings Way, Eau Claire, WI. The service will include anthems, hymns, and Scripture devotions. Worshipers will be led to celebrate Jesus, the "King in the Cradle," as King Incarnate, King of Glory, King of Love, King Returning, and King of Kings. Music will include classic works by J. S. Bach, G. F. Handel, and John Rutter. Christmas carols will be presented in settings by Dan Forrest, Elaine Hagenberg, David Willcocks, and others. The band and flute choir will present several songs prior to the choral service.
- ➔ **Nominations for ILC Professor and ILC President:** The Board of Regents announces the following nominations to fill the professorship vacated by the impending retirement of Professor Mark Kranz at the end of the 2023-24 academic year: Neil Bernthal, Jeff Karnitz, Joshua Ohlmann, Dan Roehl, Seth Schaller, Steve Sydow, Matthew Thurow, Paul Tiefel III, and Matthew Ude. In addition, the following and only person has been nominated for the office of President of Immanuel Lutheran College: Daniel Schierenbeck. The term of the ILC President's call is for two years, extending to the end of Academic Year 2026. All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding these candidates are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight January 2, 2024 (letters postmarked December 23, 2023) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com.

- ➔ **Basketball:** Our sister CLC church, Berea in Inver Grove Heights, has a basketball team for boys and girls in grades 4-8. They have started practicing in preparation for the Mankato Jamboree in February and the CLC Grade School Tournament in March. A few other games may be scheduled prior. Practices are twice a week. Email Jess Sydow if interested in participating: jess.sydow@gmail.com. General questions can be directed to Heidi Nelson.
- ➔ **CLC News:** Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran in Saginaw, MI, has received the dual parish call from Calvary Lutheran in Marquette, MI, and St. Peter's Lutheran in Iron River, MI. † Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Lutheran in West Columbia, SC, has received the call to Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN. † Teacher Daniel Barthels of Gethsemane Lutheran in Saginaw, MI, has announced that he is retiring from the teaching ministry effective July 1, 2024.
- ➔ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Individual Parts

Last Week's Stats: Nov. 19, 2023 Sun.: 97 S.S.: ?? B.Cl.: 47

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,855	CLC:	\$1,620			
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	\$580	CLC:	\$20			
Weekly Need (est.):	Grace:	4,800	CLC:	1,080			
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-365	CLC:	+560			
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$227,617	CLC:	\$50,262			
Year-to-Date Need (est.):	Grace:	225,600	CLC:	50,760			
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+2,017	CLC:	-498			
GLC Other:	0	Living Faith:	150	Tuition Aid:	550	Sanctuary:	600
SAF Endowment:	0	MDF:	50	Kinship:	235	EduK8:	0
ILC Student Aid:	0	ILC Bldg.	0	IIF:	0	CEF:	0

Current Balances: Tuition Aid: \$1,397 Sanctuary: \$-4,379.65*

* The current balance is now negative given the cost of the carpet.

Martin Luther on Heaven

Eternal life begins here, in our hearts; for when we begin to believe in Christ, after we have been baptized, then, according to faith and the Word, we are liberated from death, from sin, and the devil. Therefore we have the beginning of life eternal and its first fruits in this life, a sort of mild foretaste; we have entered the lobby; but soon, divested of this flesh, we shall fully appreciate all.

Ah, for the glory of heaven awaiting us! This heritage of ours is, as Paul says elsewhere (2 Cor. 9:15), inexpressible. And if anyone could believe with certain and constant faith that he is a child and an heir of God, and could comprehend the magnitude of this fact, he would consider whatever there is of power and wealth in all the realms of the world to be contemptible and filthy in comparison with this celestial heritage of his ... Then, too, he would eagerly desire with Paul to depart and to be with Christ, and nothing more pleasing could happen to him than an early death. He would embrace this as the most joyful peace; for he would know that it is the end of all his evils and that through it he comes to his heritage, etc. In fact, the man who believed this with a perfect faith would not stay alive long but would immediately be consumed by excessive joy.

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Benno Sydow

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

Counting Team 4: David Hein; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl;
Dave Rust

Church Cleaners: Ochsner

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

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

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

Church Cleaners: Volunteers? School: Oman

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

- Sun., Nov. 26:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship (Pentecost 26/Last Sunday)
- Wed., Nov. 29:** 4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
- Sun., Dec. 3:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper (Advent 1)
11:00 am – Hospitality
11:30-1:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
- Wed., Dec. 6:** 4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship
- Sun., Dec. 10:** 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 2)
11:00 am – Hospitality
11:30-1:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
3:00 pm – ILC Piano & Organ Concert (Eau Claire, WI)
- Wed., Dec. 13:** 4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship Service
- Fri., Dec. 15:** 2:00 pm – Grace School Concert at Northtown Mall
7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert (Messiah – Eau Claire, WI)
- Sun., Dec. 17:** 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service (Advent 3)
11:00 am – Hospitality
11:30-1:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
12:00 pm – Council Meeting
- Wed., Dec. 20:** 6:00 pm – Congregational Christmas Meal (Host: Committee #1)
7:00 pm – Candlelight Worship Service
- Fri., Dec 22:** Grace School Christmas Party & Christmas Break Begins
- Sun., Dec. 24:** 8:45 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
9:00 am – Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship (Advent 4)
6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship Service
- Mon., Dec. 25:** 10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship Service