

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: Christmas 1/New Years

Date: December 31, 2023

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

WS 715: Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

TLH 434: O God of Jacob, by Whose Hand

After Sermon: WS 776, st. 3

LSB 813: Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng

TLH 54: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 90, TLH p. 142

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 102:3-4

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 46:1-7

Hebrews 11:13-16

Sermon: Genesis 47:1-12

¹ Then Joseph went and told Pharaoh, and said, "My father and my brothers, their flocks and their herds and all that they possess, have come from the land of Canaan; and indeed they *are* in the land of Goshen."² And he took five men from among his brothers and presented them to Pharaoh.³ Then Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What *is* your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants *are* shepherds, both we *and* also our fathers."⁴ And they said to Pharaoh, "We have come to dwell in the land, because your servants have no pasture for their flocks, for the famine *is* severe in the land of Canaan. Now therefore, please let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen."⁵ Then Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, saying, "Your father and your brothers have come to you."⁶ "The land of Egypt *is* before you. Have your father and brothers dwell in the best of the land; let them dwell in the land of Goshen. And if you know *any* competent men among them, then make them chief herdsmen over my livestock."⁷ Then Joseph brought in his father Jacob and set him before Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.⁸ Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How old *are* you?"⁹ And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage *are* one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage."¹⁰ So Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh.¹¹ And Joseph situated his father and his brothers, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded.¹² Then Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with bread, according to the number in *their* families. (NKJVTM)

The Years of My Pilgrimage

✝ ***THE ANNOUNCEMENTS*** ✝

- ➔ **Among Us:** Barb Crandall is now receiving hospice care back at Lake Ridge in Buffalo. Please keep Barb, Ben, Cindy, and the family in your prayers as the LORD keeps His promises for His children.
- ➔ **Special Worship Service:** On January 7, 10 am, we will, Lord willing, be holding a special worship service in which we will jointly livestream our sister congregation, Grace Evangelistic Lutheran Church (GELC) of Paynesville, Liberia. GELC is constructing a new facility in which to worship and, while unfinished, they are going to start using it. They have asked Pastor Hein to preach for this occasion. While still in development, the idea is to switch worship segments between the two congregations.
- ➔ **2024 Cleaning:** The 2024 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ➔ **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.
- ➔ **Walk with the Apostle Paul:** A group trip to Greece and Turkey is planned for May 27-June 5, 2024 with a possible three day extension to Rome for those who are interested. For more info., contact Nathanael Mayhew (nnmayhew@sleepyeyelutheran.com).
- ➔ **ILC Tour Choir:** For many years the ILC Tour Choir has been granted a special rate for using a charter bus during their yearly tour in holding concerts at various CLC congregations. This year that rate is being discontinued. After comparing the cost of using various bus companies, the common rate would be approximately \$11,000 higher than expected for budgetary reasons. Normally an offering is collected during the tour which will still happen. But this year CLC President Michael Wilke is authorizing this synod-wide announcement to allow others to share in their support of the Tour Choir. This offering would help offset the extra expense needed for the bus. Therefore, if members of CLC congregations wish to support this, please designate your offering to "ILC Tour Choir."
- ➔ **CLC News:** This weekend Pastor Neal Radichel is being installed at various services at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. ✝ Pastor Thomas Schuetze of St. Paul Lutheran in Lakewood, CO (Denver area) has received the calls from Calvary Lutheran in Marquette, MI, and St. Peter's Lutheran in Iron River, MI. ✝ Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Rapid City, SD, has received the call to Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN.

Council Meeting Notes – December 17, 2023

Meeting opened with prayer. November Council meeting minutes were read, edited, and approved. November Treasurer's Report was presented and approved.

Pastor's Report

- John Maki and Maddie Olson plan to be married August 31, 2024.
- Pastor & Elders are trying to contact inactive members. Letters to be sent in January to C. Davis, V. Vandever, and S. Yannarely if they continue to be inactive.
- Dorothy Hammond is using the hearing assistance during the service.
- Motion approved to set the 2024 account reimbursement at \$4800.
- Motion approved to set the 2024 parsonage exclusion at \$2400.
- Motion approved to set the 2024 fair rental value at \$9600.
- Pastor is not planning to go to Liberia because of the progression of his cancer. Todd Ohlmann will go in Pastor's place and Joel Kraft of the Mission Board might go with him. They would attend the district conference of the small independent Methodist group and also visit Global Village.
- Joseph's congregation Grace Evangelistic Lutheran Church has a new building. They are asking Pastor to preach a sermonette digitally in January. It might be possible to have that coincide with Grace Bible class. If possible there might be a two-way video so that both groups could see and hear each other.

Board of Elders' Report

- Formally thank Heidi and Rick for purchasing the Christmas tree and setting it up.
- There will be compensation to Rev. Fleischer for his midweek Advent sermon.

Board of Education Report

- The board will provide payroll info. to the Treasurer each year, including: Federal & state withholding, any withheld HSA, any withheld retirement.
- The state legislature passed a Sick and Safe Time rule about the need to allow time off. The board is of the opinion that it does not apply to Grace because we are clergy teaching in a school. Consensus in the council agrees.
- Motion approved to recommend to voters to increase tuition by \$250 per student next year for all of the tuition categories. This change will result in:
 - First student \$2800, Second student \$2600, Third student \$2350, Fourth student \$2200, Kindergarten \$1750
 - 2024 calendar year expected revenue is \$27,100 with current non-members.
- Christmas bags for children will contain fruit and candy.
- Dec 22 is the school Christmas party. Christmas break will be Dec 24 – Jan 2.

Board of Trustees' Report

- Altar rails & kneelers are in the garage attic. Book cases have been dealt with.
- Half of the coat rack in fellowship hall was removed. Something will be done to try to prevent bumping into the remaining rack. The wall joint has been repaired.
- There was leak in the water filter canister in the kitchen. The canister was removed and bypassed.

Other Business

- Phil and Benno are working on the accounting system.
- New payroll for 2024 will be set up in time for the January 15 payroll.
- There were a couple of mistakes relating to year-to-date numbers in the Sept. payroll setup. Gusto expects the changes will be made before the W2 forms are generated.
- The Sanctuary committee has come up with three renderings of the sanctuary front area to be displayed after Christmas.

Adapted from minutes submitted by Secretary Frank Radichel

813 Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng



1 Re - joi - ce, O pil - grim throng! Re - joi - ce, give
 2 With voice as full and strong As o - cean's
 3 With all the an - gel choirs, With all the
 4 Yet on and on - ward still, With hymn and



thanks, and sing; Your fes - tal ban - ner
 surg - ing praise, Send forth the stur - dy
 saints on earth, Pour out the strains of
 chant and song, Through gate and porch and



wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.
 hymns of old, The psalms of an - cient days.
 joy and bliss, True rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
 col - umned aisle The hal - lowed path - ways throng.

Refrain



Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce, give thanks, and sing!

5 Still lift your standard high,
 Still march in firm array,
 As pilgrims through the darkness wend
 Till dawns the golden day. Refrain

6 At last the march shall end;
 The wearied ones shall rest;
 The pilgrims find their home at last,
 Jerusalem the blest. Refrain

△ 7 Praise Him who reigns on high,
 The Lord whom we adore:
 The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
 One God forevermore. Refrain

CLC E-Devotion – December 27, 2023

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

He Is Already Here

In Johann Sebastian Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" he sets to music the events of the Scriptures from Christmas Eve to Epiphany. Near the end of the work there is a trio for soprano, alto, and tenor where, in typical Bach fashion, he writes the music to match the text. The soprano and tenor with hurried and anxious flourishes are singing back and forth, "Oh, when will the time be ripe? When will the comfort of His people come?" And then all of a sudden, right between them both, comes an alto voice singing in firm rhythm, "Be still, He is surely already here!"

Oh, blessed Christmas, which assures us once again that Jesus is already here! How often are the moments of our lives when we run about fretting, consumed with anxious worry. "When will Jesus come to me?" we cry. "Isn't He here yet to help me?" The answer of Christmas is, "Yes! He is already here. For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men." Do you thirst for His salvation even today? As you look about your world, do you long for the devil's head to be crushed and the Savior's victory made known? Be still. Be comforted. He is already here.



He is already here to live and die for you. He is already here to be with you in all your need. He is already here to bring light to the darkness and to Shepherd us all out of the valley of the shadow of death. In the midst of chaos and confusion you are invited to hear His infant voice. This is not the voice crying in the wilderness-not the voice of preparation and anticipation-but it is the voice crying in the manger announcing that all is fulfilled. Be still, He is surely already here!

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Eli Wales

Ushers: **Eli Wales; Alex Baker; Kevin Baker; Dan Kelley; Dan Degnan; David Hein; Ryan Oman; Uriah Wales; Bob Vandever**

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

Church Cleaners: **Volunteers?**

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: **Eli Wales; Alex Baker; Kevin Baker; Dan Kelley; Dan Degnan; David Hein; Ryan Oman; Uriah Wales; Bob Vandever**

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: **Anderson** School: **Roche**

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Dec. 31: NEW YEARS EVE

10:00 am – Worship (Christmas 1) (No S.S. or Bible Class)

Wed., Jan. 3: 8:00 am – Grace School Resumes

Sun., Jan. 7: 8:30 am – Choir Practice

9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School

10:00 am – Worship w/Liberia & Lord's Supper (Epiphany 1)

11:00 am – Hospitality

Wed., Jan. 10: 4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

Sun., Jan. 14: 8:30 am – Choir Practice

9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School

10:00 am – Worship (Epiphany 2)

12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Sun., Jan. 21: Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 24, 2023 Sun.: 81 S.S.: 14 B.Cl.: 35 Eve: 88 Day: 56

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,680*	CLC:	\$320			
Christmas Eve Offering:	Grace:	\$335	CLC:	\$0			
Christmas Day Offering:	Grace:	\$1,515	CLC:	\$1,220			
Weekly Need (est.):	Grace:	4,800	CLC:	1,080			
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+730	CLC:	+460			
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$249,747	CLC:	\$55,472			
Total Budget for Year:	Grace:	249,000	CLC:	56,000			
Difference from budget (+/-)	Grace:	+747	CLC:	-528			
GLC Other:	3,247	Living Faith:	0	Tuition Aid:	110	Sanctuary:	0
SAF Endowment:	2,000	MDF:	0	Kinship:	160	EduK8:	250
ILC Student Aid:	0	ILC Bldg.	0	IIF:	0	CEF:	0
Current Balances:	Tuition Aid: \$1,867		Sanctuary: \$-2,430				
Tour Choir: \$1,000	Note: * \$1,300 in non-member school tuition						