

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

710 4th Ave SW, Sleepy Eye, Minnesota 56085

A member congregation of the
Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)



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April 10, 2016

Second Sunday after Easter

Welcome, all, in the name of Jesus, the only hope for sinful mortals!

We are happy to share with you the good news of salvation our world sorely needs. This one message of salvation through Jesus – the Word made flesh – brings peace to believing hearts, joy each day, and hope for every tomorrow. **“O sing to the LORD**



a new song, for He has done wondrous things!” (Psalm 98:1).

If you are visiting us this morning, we pray that the Word of Grace makes a lasting, life-giving impression on your heart and we invite you to come again. Please sign our Guest Book at the entry of the church and if you would like to know more about our confession, please speak to the pastor.

Pre-service Devotion: Psalm 30 (p.129 in the front of the red hymnal)

Note: We will be following the order of service found on the colored bulletin.
The hymns and readings for the service can be found inside this bulletin.

Servants of Grace Today:

Organist: Kristen Friedrichs

Ushers for March: Joel Schauman, Howard Engholm, Andrew Geiger,
Ron Geiger, Charles Lendt, Ryan Maher, Tony Schauman

Today's Hymns: 190; 735; 367; 344

Scripture Reading: Acts:9:1-22

1 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. 4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" 5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." 6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." 7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. 8 Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. 10 Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." 11 So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. 12 And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight." 13 Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." 15 But the Lord said to

him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." ¹⁷ And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. ¹⁹ So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰ Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. ²¹ Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?" ²² But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

Gospel Reading: John 21:1-14 (NKJV)

¹ After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself: ² Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. ⁴ But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No." ⁶ And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish. ⁷ Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about

two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. ⁹ Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught." ¹¹ Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?" — knowing that it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. ¹⁴ This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

Sermon Text: Revelation 5:1-14 (NKJV)

¹ And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. ⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." ⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. ⁸ Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the

throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" 13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!" 14 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

Theme: The Risen Savior Turns our Sorrow into Joy

Introduction

Last week: Jesus lives and reigns for His church

Part 1 - Jesus alone has opened the Door to Heaven

The Lamb -

Jesus alone was worthy, through His death and resurrection

The Scroll -

Part 2 - With Joy believers eagerly declare to the World His Victory

The 24 elders -

Paul's Conversion; The commissioning of the disciples

We confess, sing, worship, and praise the risen Lord

† This Week at Grace †

Today - 4/10	8:00 A.M.	Sunday School (<i>Israel Disobeys God</i>)
	8:00 A.M.	Bible Class (<i>Resurrection Appearances</i>)
	9:00 A.M.	Family worship service at Grace
	10:00 A.M.	Grace worship on TV channel 8
	10:45 A.M.	Family Worship at Faith, New Ulm
	7:00 P.M.	Church Council Meeting
	Wednesday 4/13 -	3:15 P.M.
4:00 P.M.		Confirmation
7:00 P.M.		Sunday School Teachers' Meeting
7:00 P.M.		Grace worship on TV channel 8
Thursday 4/14 -	9:30 A.M.	Countryside Bible Study (<i>Genesis 2</i>)
Friday 4/15 -	10:00 A.M.	Ross Park Bible Study (<i>Genesis 2</i>)
Saturday 4/16 -	6:00 P.M.	Outreach Meeting
	7:00 P.M.	Fellowship Night
Sunday 4/17 -	8:00 A.M.	Sunday School (<i>God Uses Gideon</i>)
	8:00 A.M.	Bible Class (<i>Synergism</i>)
	9:00 A.M.	Family worship service at Grace
	10:00 A.M.	Grace worship on TV channel 8
	10:45 A.M.	Family Worship at Faith, New Ulm



Serving Us This Coming Week:

April Ushers: Joel Schauman, Howard Engholm, Andrew Geiger, Ron Geiger, Charles Lendt, Ryan Maher, Tony Schauman

Organist: Laura Heinze; **Church Cleaning:** Geiger

April Tellers: Jon Riederer and Shaun Nason

Announcements

Private Communion - Last Sunday we celebrated the Lord's Supper in our worship service. If you were unable to attend our service last weekend and would like to receive communion please speak to the pastor. He will be glad to provide communion privately at a time that would be convenient for you during the coming week. Please contact him to request a visit or a time to meet. †



Outreach Meeting Invitation - Anyone interested in participating in this month's Outreach meeting is invited to meet on Saturday night at 6:00 pm. The Outreach Committee was involved in last weekend's marriage presentation, and has been working on a variety of other projects, including getting ready for VBS. We are always looking for additional ideas to discuss, and we would love to have you join us to share your thoughts. Please join us this Saturday. †

Marriage Workshop/Presentation - Thanks to everyone who helped with our marriage workshop last weekend. The fellowship hall was full as twenty one couples participated from five different CLC congregations. Thanks to those who helped with food, preparation, cleanup and other needed tasks as well as the Grace Outreach Committee which invested quite a bit of time and effort into its planning. We are looking into the possibility of building on this presentation and offering similar presentations in the future. †

Thanks

Join us for Fellowship Night - You are invited to join us for some games and good company on Saturday night at 7:00pm. We generally play card games of different kinds, but feel free to bring your favorite group game as another option. Bring a snack to share if you want, and join us for an enjoyable evening! †

Thank you for all you do! - The Bible compares the church to a body, being made up of many different functioning parts, but working for the same purpose (1 Corinthians 12). Over the past year and eight months as your pastor I have had the privilege of seeing this in action here at Grace. It has been a great blessing to me to see the members of Grace give of their time and talents in the work of His church in so many ways. Here are some of the ways that you and your fellow members use your gifts to serve Christ and your neighbor. We thank those who:

Volunteer their time and talents to decorate the church throughout the year; keep the church clean every week; assist with spring and fall property clean up; remove snow at the church and parsonage; work on church and parsonage maintenance and remodeling; beautify our worship with their musical talents (with instrument or voice); serve our congregation as Council Members, Church Officers, and Committee Chairmen; serve as Officers and leaders of the Women of Grace; serve as Sunday School, VBS, and After School Bible Study teachers and assistants; visit and send cards to members of our congregation throughout the year; set up and prepare communion ware; supply food and prepare meals for church related activities and events; organize and plan events for our children and adults; support and encourage fellow members in many ways; and much more. In addition, in the past few months several members and families have volunteered to help out by taking on a variety of office tasks. We would like to express our thanks to those to have volunteered to do typing and editing and data entry on various projects; fold and stuff bulletins; assemble reports and booklets; edit video of our Bible Classes and worship services, burn them to DVD's for TV and for other who have requested them, and upload them to our YouTube page; and post bulletin information, pictures and announcements to our Facebook page; and even more.

Thank you for using your time and God-given talents in the service of our risen Lord and Savior and in the work of His kingdom here on earth! May we eagerly look for ways that we can give back to the Lord from the abundance that He has given to us! †

The Christian Citizen - Life Issues

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” The right to life is the first right listed by Jefferson and is without doubt the most important right we possess as American citizens.

The right to life is the most important right we possess. (It) has a biblical foundation. God wants us to respect His gift of life!

The right to life has a biblical foundation. God created life at the beginning of time and continues to create life every time a child is conceived (cf. Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:13-14). God wants us to respect His gift of life, and He Himself protects life by forbidding murder (cf. Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:13). God gives us life as a time of grace, for He wants all people to have an opportunity during their lives on this earth to come to know Him and gain everlasting life through faith in Jesus Christ (cf. Isaiah 55:6-7; 1 Timothy 2:3-4). God alone, not man, has the right to end life (cf. Deuteronomy 32:39).

The right to life, unfortunately, is being ignored and undermined within several areas of American culture today, as our country moves away from its biblical moorings. Among those areas are abortion, stem cell research, and mercy killing.

Since the legalization of abortion in the United States in 1973, over 40 million unborn children have been murdered in our country by means of legal abortion. Abortion is sin, for it violates the expressed will and commands of God. Those who support abortion, knowingly or unknowingly, choose to deny or to ignore the fact that God creates life at conception. In their desire to defend what they perceive to be a woman’s right to end an unwanted pregnancy, supporters of abortion fail to respect God’s gift of life within the womb. They thereby advocate the violation of God’s 5th Commandment, which is intended to protect life. The right to life of the unborn is thereby violated, and the unborn remain unprotected in our society. While we

Christians will want to assist those facing difficulties when pregnant, we will want to remain consistent advocates for life. As Christians we ought to promote adoption rather than abortion when a mother does not want to or is unable to keep her child.

The issue of stem cell research has arisen, because some researchers within the medical field believe that stem cells can be used to create various types of body tissues. These tissues, it is hoped, can then be used to combat debilitating diseases or ultimately to replace diseased organs. This issue is not as difficult to resolve as it may appear, if we keep the biblical principles concerning the right to life in mind. There are two types of stem cells—fetal stem cells and adult stem cells. To obtain fetal stem cells, embryos must be destroyed, which means destroying life created by God. To obtain adult stem cells no life is destroyed. The option we as Christians should advocate is further research using adult stem cells, which up to this point has already proven much more successful in laboratory testing.

Mercy killing, also called euthanasia, is advocated by those who want our society to recognize a right to die. Advocates claim that individuals should be able to die with dignity, which means choosing their own time and means of death, thereby avoiding what is viewed as unnecessary pain and suffering. However, the advocates of a right to die fail to recognize once again the basic biblical principles of the right to life. God alone, not man, has the right to end life. He is in control of our lives, and no good will come from our attempts to wrest that control from His hands. There is no right to die within our U.S. Constitution. Such a concept usurps God’s authority and opposes biblical principle.

As Christian citizens, we will want to bear these thoughts in mind as we consider the various candidates seeking our support for political office. While no candidates may, in fact, follow biblical principles in all areas of concern, we will want to vote whenever possible for those candidates whose views best reflect these principles, and whom we believe will best serve our country.

—Pastor Paul D. Nolting

Porcupine Mountains Youth Camp-out: August 10-14 (Wed-Sun), 2016. For kids entering grades 8-12. Total camp fee \$85. We'll camp at the Union Bay group campsite right on Lake Superior (near



Ontonagon, Michigan). We'll have devotions, group discussions, hiking, swimming, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, and beach football. It's okay if you've never camped. We do everything together and we'll help you learn. For more information about the trip, and

how to register, pick up an information/registration form in the table in the church entry. If you would like to coordinate a ride, please speak with Pastor Mayhew. †

Retirement Gift: Professor John Pfeiffer has announced his retirement effective the end of the current academic year. Upon graduation from Immanuel Lutheran Seminary in 1967, he served in the pastoral ministry until November 1994 when he began his service at Immanuel. Prof. Pfeiffer's time at Immanuel includes 21 years of teaching as a professor and 15 years of administration as ILC President. His faithful service to our church and our school will be acknowledged during the ILC Class Day/Graduation festivities on May 20-21, 2016. Our custom is to present a monetary gift to Prof. Pfeiffer as a token of our appreciation. Members of CLC congregations are invited to contribute to a monetary gift which will be presented to him at Graduation (May 21). Please make your checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran College and indicate: "Prof. Pfeiffer Retirement." Send your gift to: Immanuel Lutheran College, 501 Grover Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701. †



SW Metro Changes: Our SW Metro worshippers in Eden Prairie have for some time sought to move toward independence and an increased level of "resident ministry." After extensive planning and meetings (including a meeting last weekend with the CLC Board of Missions chairman), they applied last Sunday to the CLC Call Committee on graduates for a 2016 ILC Seminary graduate. The call

would include serving in a part-time ministry while also working part-time secularly. Last Wednesday night the call was assigned to former Berea vicar Joe Naumann. May the Lord guide him in his consideration of this call to service in the Lord's Kingdom. The group has also determined to name themselves Living Savior Lutheran Church and is applying for membership in the CLC at this summer's CLC Convention. Worship services are still being held Sunday mornings at 9 am at Huber Funeral Home (16394 Glory Lane, Eden Prairie, MN). †

CLC Call News - Rock of Ages Lutheran, Grand Rapids Michigan, has called Pastor Neal Radichel, of Luther Memorial Lutheran, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. † Gethsemane Lutheran, Spokane Valley Washington, has called Teacher Neil Bernthal of Immanuel Lutheran School, Winter Haven Florida. † The CLC Call Committee on Graduates has extended the call of the newly-named Living Savior Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie Minnesota, to Joseph Naumann, and the call of Ascension Lutheran, Tacoma Washington, to Benjamin Libby. †

Responding to God's Grace at Grace

Sunday, April 3, 2016

Worship: 88

Bible Class: 23

Communion: 62

Local Purposes

Grace General Fund	\$ 1,719.00
Grace School Fund	\$ 180.00
Grace Building Fund	\$ 100.00
Grace Student Aid Fund	\$ 60.00
Plate Offerings	\$ 41.00
Total Local	\$ 2,100.00

Synodical Purposes

CLC Mission Development Fund	\$ 190.00
ILC Building Fund	\$ 25.00
Total Synodical	\$ 215.00
Overall Total	\$ 2,315.00