

Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Fridley, MN 55432

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Home Page: www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635)

Phone: 763-784-8784

Principal: Ryan Libby (Ph. 763-784-6340)

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Easter 6

Date: May 9, 2010

✠ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 145, TLH p. 155 f.*

Hymn: *WS 742: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

Liturgy: *WS, p. 12 ff. (Pastor sings Lord Have Mercy, top of p. 13)*

First Reading: *Acts 13:44-52*
Even in rejection, Paul and Barnabus joyfully preached God's Word.

Responsive Psalm: *Psalm 118:19-29*

P: Open to me the gates of righteousness;

C: I will go through them, And I will praise the LORD.

P: This is the gate of the LORD,

C: Through which the righteous shall enter.

P: I will praise You, For You have answered me,

C: And have become my salvation.

P: The stone which the builders rejected

C: Has become the chief cornerstone.

P: This was the Lord's doing;

C: It is marvelous in our eyes.

P: This is the day the LORD has made;

C: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

P: Save now, I pray, O LORD;

C: O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.

P: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

C: We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.

P: God is the LORD, And He has given us light;

C: Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.

P: You are my God, and I will praise You;

C: You are my God, I will exalt You.

P: Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good

C: For His mercy endures forever.



Alleluia!
He is alive!

Second Reading: *Revelation 21:1-6*

John's vision of the Church experiencing the joy of heaven.

Alleluia: *WS p. 14 f.*

Confession of Faith: *Apostles' Creed, WS p. 15*

Hymn: *TLH 624: O Blessed Home Where Man and Wife*

Sermon: *John 13:31-35*

(31) So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. (32) "If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately. (33) "Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you. (34) "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. (35) "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

God's Easter Resolutions:

1. That Jesus lives in glory
2. That we live in love



Offertory: *WS p. 16*

Hymn: *WS 732: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

Offering, Prayers, Benediction:

Hymn: *TLH 186, st. 1, 5-6: Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!*

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 speak with you.

A blessed Mother's Day to our mothers among us today. May our Lord bless you with a spirit of determination to continue in your valuable role of training the generation to come. How blessed we are to have mothers that consider their greatest fulfillment that in seeking their children's eternal welfare in Christ Jesus!

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **A Blessed Mothers Day** to all our mothers in the congregation. We thank the Lord for the Christian care and concern that you have imparted to your children through the Word of God. May that same Word strengthen you for the times in which we live, knowing the comfort you receive through God's gracious promises.
- ◆ **Reminder:** Our Council would like to extend the reminder that many of our members enjoy devotional time prior to the worship service. Please kindly respect that. Habakkuk 2:20: But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.
- ◆ **Ascension:** This Thursday evening will be our Ascension service at 7:00 pm. Join us as we ponder the glorification of our Savior!
- ◆ **CLC 50th Anniversary Service:** Next Sunday, May 16, there will be a special service commemorating the 50th Anniversary of our church body, the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC). Pastor Daniel Fleischer will be our guest speaker who served as Grace's pastor and as the CLC President, both for 20 years. Pastor Fleischer was a seminary student at the time that the CLC was formed. Following the worship service a congregational potluck will be held. Please bring a dish to share.
- ◆ **School Program:** On May 20, 7 pm, the children of our day school will be putting on their play, Porky Pies. All members and friends of Grace are invited to show support of the children's efforts and of our school. Refreshments will follow the program.
- ◆ **Mr. Libby Farewell:** The Board of Education is planning a farewell for Mr. Ryan Libby for his years of service here at Grace Lutheran School. This will follow the school program on Thurs., May 20. All our members are welcome to come! A purse is being collected for Mr. Libby.
- ◆ **Box Tops:** Our school thanks those who have contributed to the Box Tops for Education program. We recently received a check for \$276.00. We are already collecting for next year's submission.
- ◆ **Confirmation:** Confirmation will be Sunday, May 23. Examination will take place at 9 am followed by the worship service. The parents of the confirmands are inviting the congregation to a luncheon following the service in place of the normal hospitality hour. The students are Rachel Eichstadt, Jacob Rhinesmith, Adam Wales, and Brandon Wendland. May the Lord bless their preparations.
- ◆ **Graduation Recognition:** On May 30 we will be recognizing the graduates from the congregation. If you are graduating from high school or college, please list your name (and degree if in college) on the sheet by the guest book.

- ◆ **Funeral Invitation:** Carol Coleman, former member here at Grace, went away to be with her Lord this past Monday, May 3. Although Carol was a member at Faith Lutheran in New Ulm, her funeral will be held at Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato where she grew up. It will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 15, with visitation from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. that same day, a meal to follow the service. Pastor Bruce Naumann will be officiating.
- ◆ **Lutheran Spokesman:** The Lutheran Spokesman is a publication by the CLC which is dedicated to sharing rich, devotional messages for our spiritual edification. Those who currently receive the publication are listed on a sheet by the guestbook. If you no longer wish to receive it, please cross out your name. If you don't receive it and would like to, please sign up for a copy. The congregation will cover the cost.
- ◆ **CLC Women's Luncheon 2010:** In years during which the CLC holds its Convention, the ladies of Messiah, Eau Claire sponsor a CLC Women's Luncheon. This June, the luncheon will be on Wednesday, June 23, from 11:00 a. m. to 2:30 p. m., on the campus of ILC. \$5 will cover the expenses for the lunch. The program will feature a historical tour of Ingram Hall, and an optional architectural tour of old town Eau Claire. To register, or for more information, please contact Lynette Roehl by email at lynette.roehl@ilc.edu, by phone at (715) 831-8306, or by mail at 509 Ingram Dr., Eau Claire, WI 54701.
- ◆ **Immanuel Athletics:** Three camps are now planned for this summer:
 - ⇒ Boys Basketball – June 4-6; Grades 5-12; \$30
 - ⇒ Girls Basketball – June 25-27; Grades 5-12; \$30
 - ⇒ Girls Volleyball – July 18-21; Grades 9-12; \$35



Cost includes food and lodging. Details are found at www.ilc.edu.

- ◆ **Vacation Bible School:** This is scheduled for August 2-6.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Richard Kanzenbach has accepted the call to Morning Star in Fairchild, WI. † Pastor Mark Gurath of Berea in Sioux Falls, SD, has returned the call to Our Redeemer's in Red Wing, MN.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #34, The Lord's Prayer

Last Week's Stats: May 2, 2010 Sun.: 110 S.S.: 10 B.Cl.: 29

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,264.00	CLC:	\$1,433.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,015.00	CLC:	960.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+249.00	CLC:	+473.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$57,311.75	CLC:	\$17,005.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	54,270.00	CLC:	17,280.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+3,041.75	CLC:	-275.00
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	42.00	Tuition:	70.00
GLC Other:	MDF:	42.00	Kinship:	115.00
CLC 50th:	ILC Bldg.	66.00	IIF: 15.00	CEF: 15.00

THE CLC, and the GREAT COMMISSION - (II)

As the Church of the Lutheran Confession embarks on a second half century, there comes to mind the word of the Lord: “**Commit your way unto the Lord; trust also in Him ...**” (Psalm 37:5). It is not for us to try to read the future, but to turn our will, our future and our hope for ourselves as well as for our church body over completely and without reservation to Him. Committing our future to the Lord does not mean that we can drop out “because the Lord will look after it.” When our Lord committed the exercise of His prophetic office to the apostles they took the charge seriously—they continued steadfastly in the doctrine, “And they went out and preached everywhere ...” (Mark 16:20). As members of the a confessional Lutheran church body known as the Church of the Lutheran Confession—and this by God’s grace and unmerited favor—we are to stand fast in the doctrine no less than the apostles did. Furthermore, as confessing Christians we are to be engaged in every facet of the work to which the Lord has called His Church.

The Lord can make known His will for the salvation of the sinner miraculously and without means. However, He chooses to win hearts by working through the *means of grace*, the Gospel in word and sacrament. He has committed the means of grace to the Church, and has chosen to minister these means through His people who are to be bearers of the Word of salvation to the entire world. To the accomplishment of His saving will our Father in Christ Jesus commands that His Word be taught faithfully. Whether His Word is spoken by an individual or whether it be the witness of the Church, it is to be spoken faithfully.

As members of Christ’s Church who have been brought into the fellowship of a confessional church, we of the CLC have assumed a responsibility. By the power of the Spirit our fathers declared that they were committed to preach the Scriptures faithfully and to confess without reservation the doctrines of Scripture set forth in the Book of Concord of 1580. Only by such commitment could they justify the formulation of a new church body.

We recognize that with thanksgiving to the Lord 50 years later. But even as we do, we can do no less than to **recommit** ourselves in this generation to the cause that gave them purpose! We dare not adopt a *laissez faire* attitude. We dare not become indifferent in matters of faith, or become neglectful of the responsibility that He has laid upon us as His representatives on earth. We have asked the question many times. “Will there be a confessional church such as the CLC 10 years from now, to say nothing of 50 years from now,” and more pointedly, “Do we care?” Though we know that whatever our Lord wills will serve to our good, a thousand woes upon us if we don’t care!

Redeemed, caring children of God look forward to the heavenly inheritance purchased at the price of Christ’s blood. Surely we will gladly commit and recommit ourselves to the Lord and His Word to the benefit of our own souls as well as for the welfare of the congregation and church body in which we are privileged to hear the Word of God proclaimed faithfully and regularly. We will manifest this commitment through prayer, faithful attendance at worship and sacrament, steadfast confession of the Word before the world, as well as through the financial support of our congregation as the Lord blesses us, and through financial and physical support toward those things that we have agreed upon as brethren within the church body.

But this leads to some hard personal questions. If we are indeed mindful of the Lord’s grace and promise in Christ Jesus, if we are thankful for the gift of eternal life, why on a given Sunday is half of the congregation missing from worship? If we truly believe that God’s Word is truth and that all the Bible is the Word of God, how can any among us consider leaving a confessional church—or drop out completely—to become part of a fellowship—whether a congregation or a church body—in which there is not the same respect for God’s Word? If we are truly committed to the Word and faith, how can anyone even entertain selling his principles on the altar of expediency to gain the favor of the world, or to advance a personal agenda? How can anyone who honestly committed himself to the Lord and His Word in confirmation, buy into the idea of compromising churches that promote the idea that the formal exercise of religion by itself is more important than the substance of what is taught or believed?

Believers in Christ through the ages have been mocked and ridiculed. Jesus told the apostles it would be so (Matthew 10). The history of the Church in Acts bears out the words of the Lord. Believers who are part of a confessional church fellowship such as ours must expect to endure mockery and ridicule even from some within the pale of the Christian church. However, our exhortation and encouragement to commitment (recommitment) is not driven by desire to guarantee perpetuation of the CLC, but rather by a desire to encourage individual self-examination of what one believes. The godly intent and prayer is that personal commitment (recommitment) to the Word and faith will be reinvigorated and translate into activity in the faith life of each of us. We pray that honest self evaluation will lead to recommitment to the Word and the witness of our church body.

Jesus said, “Whoever confesses Me before men, him will I also confess before My Father in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father Who is in heaven” (Matthew 10:32, 33). An individual’s commitment is to be measured in the light of the Word, which says, “If you abide in My Word, then you are my disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).

The by-product of the Christ believer’s personal commitment (or recommitment) to the Word and faith—born out of personal concern for his salvation and thankfulness for the gift of eternal life through the atonement of Jesus—is that such a person will want to be an active and faithful member of a congregation and church body in which his faith is strengthened. He will pray for, support, and thank the Lord for the faithful congregation and church body of which he is a member because he cares that for those who come after us there will continue to be a haven of truth such as we presently are blessed with in the Church of the Lutheran Confession.

Christ gave all for us, that we might live *for* Him here and *with* Him in heaven. They who believe that will not be troubled when they are encouraged to “**Commit (or recommit) your way unto the Lord; trust also in Him ...**” for they also believe the promise that whatever the cause, as it glorifies the Lord, He “**shall bring it to pass.**” The Lord will preserve His Word. May we unqualifiedly recommit ourselves to Him that His Word of salvation continues among us!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 5/2/2010

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Al Rosendahl

Ushers: Paul Lentz, Brad Kitzman, Rick Nelson, Keith Radichel, Bob Vandever, Matthew Vandever

Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel; Pat Paplow

Hospitality Team 6: Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt Wendland

Church Cleaners: Sandhoefner School Cleaners: Ferris

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Paul Lentz, Brad Kitzman, Rick Nelson, Keith Radichel, Bob Vandever, Matthew Vandever

Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker; Mark Wales

Hospitality Team 1: Bye - Potluck

Church Cleaners: D. Rust

† OUR SCHEDULE †

- Today:** 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Easter 6)
11:15 am – Hospitality
- Wed., May 12:** 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:30 pm – ILC Piano & Organ Recital
- Thu., May 13:** 7:00 pm – Ascension Worship Service
- Sun., May 16:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (CLC 50th Anniversary)
11:15 am – Potluck Meal
- Wed., May 19:** 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
6:30-8:00 pm – Confirmation Prep for Confirmands
- Thu., May 20:** 7:00 pm – Grace School Spring Program
- Fri., May 21:** Last Day of School @ Grace and ILC
3:00 pm – ILC Class Day; 7:30 pm – Spring Concert
- Sat., May 22:** 10:00 am – ILC Graduation
- Sun., May 23:** 9:00 am – Confirmation Examination
10:00 am – Worship Service (Confirmation)
- Sun. May 30:** Summer Schedule Begins (9 am Worship)
Graduation Recognition
- June 21-25:** CLC Convention
- Sun., June 27:** Annual Church Picnic
- August 2-6:** Vacation Bible School

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