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Grace Lutheran Church & School

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Fridley, MN 55432
Email: jphein@clclutheran.com
Home Page: www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.org
Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

Pastor: John Hein (Ph. 763-784-8784) Organist: Janelle Hein
Principal: Ryan Libby (Ph. 763-784-6340) Grades: Kindergarten-8th
Church Year: Trinity 8 Date: July 17, 2005

As with all gifts from God, prayer is one that is beneficial for our well-being. We have a line of communication with the Lord which is always open and always functional. The Holy Spirit provides us this access, even when we are speechless before God. May the Holy Spirit communicate with your heart this morning as you listen to the Word of our Lord.



† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 18, p. 125 f.*
Hymn: *TLH 234*
Liturgy: *TLH, p. 5 ff.*
Introit:

P: Your Word is a lamp to my feet
C: **And a lamp to my path.**
P: Teach me Your way, O Lord, and I will walk in Your truth;
C: **Give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name.**
P: I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart;
C: **For great is Your love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave. Glory be to God!**

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 237, st. 1: All Glory Be to God on High*
P: All glory be to God on high, who hath our race befriended!
C: **To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended. God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; Oh, thank Him for His goodness!**

First Reading: *Joel 3:12-16*
The harvest of the Last Day is prophesied even in the Old Testament.

Gradual:
P: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
C: **His greatness no one can fathom.**
P: I will meditate on Your wonderful works,
C: **And I will proclaim Your great deeds.**
P: Alleluia. Alleluia. My Word that goes forth from My mouth ...
C: **It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Alleluia.**

Second Reading: *Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*
The Lord Jesus tells a parable about the great harvest that will occur at the end of the world. Jesus then explains that this harvest will occur when He comes again. The tares (weeds) are those doomed to eternal punishment, the grain are those reserved for eternal life. The warning here is to watch out lest one lose his faith. The comfort here is the Lord takes home those who are His.

Confession of Faith: *Apostolic Creed, TLH p. 12*

Hymn: *TLH 457: What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Sermon: *Romans 8:26-27*
(26) Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (27) Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

***SPEECHLESS BEFORE GOD?
THE GREAT COMMUNICATOR STEPS IN!***

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: ... *TLH 226, st. 1, 4-7: Come, Oh, Come, Thou Quickening Spirit*

Offering, Prayers, Benediction: *TLH p. 14*

Hymn: *WS 792: Let All Things Now Living (See Insert)*

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!

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Today:** The chair of the Building Committee has requested that its members meet shortly after worship service for a brief meeting. At 10:30 the Voters and the Dorcas Guild will convene. By being informed with the business of the congregation, you'll be well equipped in your prayers and stewardship for its well-being. Please take up your Christian role and responsibility by taking part in these meetings.
- ◆ **Vacation Bible School:** The time for VBS is quickly approaching, August 1-5. Our teachers are lined up, many thanks for their willingness to serve. Please be sure to sign-up your children on the registration form by the guest book. This will help in planning for lessons and with materials for crafts.
- ◆ **Sunday School:** Those interested in teaching Sunday School this year may speak with this year's superintendent, Michael Ude.
- ◆ **The Branches:** It is the time of year to renew one's subscription to The Branches, the CLC women's magazine. Cost is \$12 per year. For further information consult the handouts by the guestbook. You may place your registration and check in Norma Rust's mailbox.
- ◆ **Men's Retreat:** Our outing will occur the weekend of Sept. 24. Men of all ages are invited to attend. Cost is \$40. Signup is by the guest book.
- ◆ **Phone Change:** Once again there was a goof in Pastor Ude's phone number (a demonstration that your current Pastor is not the Great Communicator ☺). It is 715-955-4127.
- ◆ **Work Day at ILC:** Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN, is organizing a work day at ILC in Eau Claire, WI, only July 20. Among the projects will be shingling the roofs of two professorages, siding one house, painting inside and outside of buildings, various yard work, carpet shampooing, other cleaning, plus miscellaneous electrical work. Those interested in participating may speak with Pastor.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Jennifer de Leon has accepted the call to teach at Holy Cross in Phoenix.



Look at God's Word and Promise: Learn, therefore, that there can be no real prayers without this faith. But do you feel weak and fearful? Your flesh and blood is always putting obstacles in the way of faith, as if you were not worthy enough or earnest enough to pray. Or do you doubt that God has heard you, since you are a sinner? Then hold on to the Word and say: Though I am sinful and unworthy, still I have the commandment of God, telling me to pray, and His promise that He will graciously hear me, not on account of my worthiness but on account of the Lord Christ. In this way you can chase away thoughts and doubts, and you can cheerfully kneel down to pray. You need not consider whether you are worthy or unworthy; all you need to consider is your need and His Word, on which He tells you to build. – Martin Luther

STRICT, or FAITHFUL?

In course of our history as a church body, the Church of the Lutheran Confession, or of our individual congregations, it has been suggested by some from the outside that we are too strict. In the context of this characterization the meaning is that we are a church that is against everything. At the risk of sounding presumptuous to some, we emphatically declare that if we are "against" something, it is because we are "for" Christ. The fact is that if we say what we are for it is implicit that we are against the opposite. In response to those who think we are too strict we are not going to apologize for what we are and what we teach. Nevertheless we are ourselves going to ask a few questions.

If God says that He is triune, and we insist on confessing that to the exclusion of identifying with those who deny the Trinity, are we too strict?

If the Bible is the Word of God, and we believe the Bible are we too strict if we will not identify with those who do not know what the Bible is, or even worse, who reject its claim for itself?



If we believe that the Word is eternal and is therefore timely in every age, are we too strict when we reject the idea that God's word changes with the times?

If we believe that going beyond Scripture is as wicked as denying any part of Scripture, is that being too strict?

If the Bible says that God created the world in 6 days, are we being too strict when we deny evolution in whole or in part?

If God calls a certain thought, word, or deed sin, are we too strict to call sin what God calls sin?

If we believe from Scripture that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, miraculously conceived by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, are we being too strict when we insist on believing and teaching what Scripture teaches?

If we believe that all people are born in sin and are under the wrath of God unless delivered from death by the merits and substitutionary atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, are we too strict?

If we believe that we are saved by grace alone through faith in Christ, without works as Scripture teaches, are we too strict in calling the teaching of salvation by grace through faith plus works contrary to Scripture?

If we believe that he who believes and is baptized shall be saved and he who does not believe shall be damned, are we beyond Scripture?

If we believe what Scripture teaches when we believe that there will be one judgment at the end at which time God will separate the believers in Christ from the unbelievers, are we too strict?

If we believe that we are to live as people transformed by the Gospel rather than being conformed to the world are we too strict?

If we believe that we are not to sit at the feet of false teachers, or that we are not to join in worship with, study with, or prayer with those who teach contrary to Scripture whether in the church or outside of it, in other words if we believe that we are to "avoid" false teachers and that we are not to lend credence or support to those who teach falsely, are we too strict?

If we believe that we cannot be neutral in what we believe as compared to those who believe that compromise of faith is an acceptable way of life are we too strict?

Enough! Finally, we will not be dissuaded by what people think. Rather, let those who think we are too strict prove their assertion from Scripture! We maintain and shall continue to do so that as Christ believers it is our duty, yea, our privilege to speak up in defense of what we believe. With the exception of those who know nothing for sure, no one is to be pitied more than those who once knowing the truth have lost it, and who in their loss equate faithfulness to the Word with being too strict!

For our part God help us to stay in the faith against every accusation or temptation to compromise. C. P. Krauth wrote (if only his heirs still believed it), "Faith makes men Christians; but Confession alone marks them as Christians. The Rule of Faith is God's voice to us; faith is the hearing of that voice, and the Confession, our reply of assent to it. By our faith, we are known to the Lord as His; by our Confession, we are known to each other as His children. Confession of faith, in some form is imperative. To confess Christ, is to confess what is our faith in Him" (*Conservative Reformation*, page 166).

We cannot confess the truth and confess Christ by speaking out of both sides of our mouth. It is not "strict" to stand in the truth and confess it against everything contrary to it. It is called being faithful! Scripture tells us, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer; 7/17/2005

† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

Elder: **Mike Dick**

Ushers: **Al Rosendahl; Arnold Gehrls; Scott Baker, Lyle Trulin; David Stifter; Michael Ude; Ryan Libby**

Counting Team 5: **Mike Dick; Brad Kitzman; Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner**

Hospitality Team 4: **Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Fred & Pal Dauer**

Cleaners: **Ed & Verona Lentz**

† **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** †

Ushers: **Al Rosendahl; Arnold Gehrls; Scott Baker, Lyle Trulin; David Stifter; Michael Ude; Ryan Libby**

Counting Team 1: **Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Rick Nelson; Phil Radichel; Ryan Libby**

Hospitality Team 5: **Mark & Trudy Wales; Brandt Wendland; Al Rosendahl; Karen Auel**

Cleaners: **No Volunteers**

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †

Today: 9:00 am – Worship Service
10:00 am – Hospitality in Fellowship Hall
10:30 am – Quarterly Voters Meeting
10:30 am – Dorcas Guild Meeting
7:00 & 8:00 pm – Softball Games

Sat., July 23: Wiring of Kitchen Project

Sun., July 24: 9:00 am – Worship Service

Sun., July 31: 9:00 am – Worship Service

August 1-5: Vacation Bible School

August 4-7: Arise and Shine Retreat near St. Louis, MO

Sun., Aug. 7: Church Picnic

August 9-14: CLC Youth Conference at Como, CO

August 23: Christian Day School Begins

Sept. 24: Grace's Men's Retreat



*Grace Evangelical Lutheran
Church & School*



The Spirit also helps in our weaknesses ...

Romans 8:26
