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# Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Home Page: [www.CLCCGraceLutheranChurch.org](http://www.CLCCGraceLutheranChurch.org)

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

Pastor: John Hein (Ph. 763-784-8784)

Organist: Susan Nelson

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

Grades: Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup>

Church Year: Trinity 9

Date: July 24, 2005



The LORD in His grace has blessed us with countless material gifts in our age. While this is intended for our good, the devil will do everything he can to get us to set our hearts on these things rather than the Giver. Today let us again refocus on where our eyes of faith are to be set: our LORD God.

## † THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: ..... *Psalm 139, TLH p. 154 f.*

Hymn: ..... *TLH 394: My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

Liturgy: ..... *TLH, p. 5 ff.*

### Introit:

P: Rise up, O God, and defend Your cause;

**C: Remember how fools mock You all day long.**

P: Do not let the oppressed retreat in disgrace;

**C: May the poor and needy praise Your name.**

P: Hasten, O God, to save me;

**C: O Lord, come quickly to help me. 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:** ..... *Colossians 3:1-11*

The Christian's life is about setting one's mind on things above.

### Gradual:

P: Oh the depths of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

**C: How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!**

P: For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

**C: To Him be the glory forever! Amen.**

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, ...

**C: Piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, ... and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Alleluia.**

**Second Reading:** ..... *Luke 12:31-40*

Faith is setting our heart on the things of God.

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 347, st. 1,4-6: Jesus, Priceless Treasure*

**Sermon:** ..... *Genesis 13:1-18*

## "Lift Up Your Eyes to the LORD"

1. The consequences of one's appeal based on greed

2. The blessedness of one's appeal based on faith

**Offertory:** ..... *TLH p. 12 f.*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 430, st. 1-4, 7-8: What Is the World to Me*

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

**Hymn:** ..... *WS 793: Sing to the Lord of Harvest (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 visit with you!*

"To God this world is only a preparation and scaffolding for yonder world. A wealthy builder must have much scaffolding for a house. When the house is finished, he tears the scaffolding down. An artist must first rub and mix his colors and clean his brush. A barber must first wash his hands and strop his razor. These activities are nothing but preparation. In like manner, God has made this whole world as a preparation for yonder life. There matters will for the first time really go according to the power and will of God." – Martin Luther

## † THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Hospitality Sign-Up:** The Elders have decided to have a new sign-up sheet for those who are willing to be added to a hospitality team. This may help create an additional team or two in order to spread the load. Should you have any questions about this, please consult one of the Elders: Ed Lentz, Mike Dick, or Al Rosendahl. Thanks for considering this as an opportunity to express your love for your Savior.
  - ◆ **Vacation Bible School:** VBS is now just a week away, August 1-5. 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. Pastor would like to briefly meet with the volunteers after worship to see if there is a time we can meet to do further organizing.
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- ◆ **Sunday School:** Those interested in teaching Sunday School this coming 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.
  - ◆ **Grace's Men's Retreat:** Men of all ages are invited to this retreat for the weekend of Sept. 24. Cost is \$40. Signup is by the guest book.
  - ◆ **Berea Golf Open:** Berea of Inver Grove Hts. is sponsoring a 4 person best ball scramble golf tournament to which we are invited. It is slated for Sat., Aug. 27, 12:00 pm, south of Hastings, MN. Details and entry forms are located by the guest book.
  - ◆ **This Week:** Yesterday some men began electrical work for the kitchen remodel project, primarily focusing on preparation for sheet rocking. Pea gravel was also delivered this week for the playground area. Also initiated this week was the setup of a server for Grace's computer network, along with setup of a wireless access point. This will help the computers share and store information.
  - ◆ **Work Day at ILC:** Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN, is organizing a work day at ILC in Eau Claire, WI, on July 30. Those interested in participating may speak with Pastor.
  - ◆ **Mission Helper Return:** The web site for the CLC missions has been updated to include some of the reports from the Mission Helpers in India. They returned home safely this past Wednesday. The reports may be found at: [clclutheran.org/missions](http://clclutheran.org/missions) (first item under "What's New"). A photo album will also be included in a few more days.
  - ◆ **CLC News:** Rev. Jay Hartmann has returned the call to St. Stephen in Hayward, CA (Oakland area).

## **CONFESSING THE TRUTH IN LOVE:**

Sometimes our faithfulness to the Scripture is interpreted as being too "strict" by people who do not share with us the same respect for the Word of God. It is however, "not 'strict' to stand in the truth and confess it against everything that is contrary to it. It is called being faithful."

As we confess the truth of God's word we do so with no illusions of perfection in our selves. We are people of flesh, people who sin, people with weakness inherent in all humans. We do not claim to be better students of the Word than others. We make no claim to being better interpreters of God's Word than others. Indeed we do not believe that we are the interpreters of God's Word. Scripture is its own interpreter. It is our responsibility only to study the Word with due respect for the Word as the message from God. As we study the Word we are to do so with the attitude that God knows what He said, and we are only studying to learn what He said, and then be silent.

As what we learn in our study under the Spirit enlightens us, we are compelled to speak the truth. And since truth and error cannot occupy the same stage we must come down on the side of truth, confess it, and reject what is contrary to it. Confessing the truth necessarily means pointing out the prevalent errors contrary to the Word, and means we must alert God's people to those whose teaching and practice promotes error.

Love for God's Word demands such honesty. Love for the sheep in our care demands it. And yes, love for our neighbor demands that we be honest in this regard. We do not ask that those who teach or believe differently than we agree with us unless they have compared what we teach and believe to Scripture, and are convinced in their own heart. In other words, we ask only that they judge our teaching on the basis of Scripture.

In our witness, we will remember Whom it is that we represent. We are representatives of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are representatives of the Savior of our soul Whose love for those to whom we speak is as deep as His love for us. He desires their salvation no less than ours. Our confession and firmness in the truth serves a purpose only as it is in the cause of the Gospel! Therefore in firm confession of the truth, we will want to let our "speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt" (Colossians 4:6). Defending the faith and speaking the truth is serious business, but in so doing we will guard against heavy-handedness. Our purpose is to win the one in error; therefore we will not want to undo our witness to the truth by antagonizing the hearer by an attitude of self-righteousness or an air of superiority. We cannot control how others will hear us; we can control what we say and how we say it. Speaking the truth in which we stand calls for a firm and unyielding resolve, yet if the hearer is "turned off" and rejects our testimony, let it be because of the truth which we have spoken, and not the manner in which we spoke the truth.

Our Savior spoke the truth to the rich young ruler. Mark tells us, "Then Jesus, looking at him loved him..." (Mark 10 21). It was the young man's loss that he ultimately rejected the truth.

In exposing and rejecting error and in our confessing the truth we are confronted with many challenges. One is that we study the Scriptures faithfully so that we know the truth and can confess it. A second is that we ourselves stand in it and not waver from it. A third is that we be bold – the Spirit of God helping us - to speak the truth in love. We are not up to the challenge in any way of ourselves, therefore we pray as Luther ended his prayer, "Only do Thou not forsake me, for if I am left to myself, I will certainly bring it all to destruction."

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the world of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer; 7247/2005

## **† VOTERS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS †**

Opened with prayer and followed by roll call. Motion for acceptance of Pastor John Hein as a voting member, accepted. Acceptance of the first 6 months of council meeting highlights. Treasurer's report, with corrections, accepted.

Pastor's report: The pastoral transition will take time for trust to be built up between Pastor and members. Pastor prays that the change will go as smoothly as possible. In the meantime, he intends to visit the members in the coming year to get better acquainted. Pastor also reported the great blessings when members work together, such as what happened during the parsonage update project.

Elders report: Looking at furniture in pastor's office. Medical insurance was acquired for pastor and family. Setting up health savings account for Pastor and Mr. Libby. Looking into having a Bible Class from Pastor Jeremiah of our mission in Tanzania. Pastor Joel Fleischer (of Marquette) was asked to be guest speaker at mission festival on Oct. 23. The membership of Phil Flesner and his son Cole, was terminated. A letter of Christian concern from the Voters was read and will be sent out.

Education report: Field day, went well. Spring end of school program. Canvassing for VBS and school. Playground still needs to be wrapped up before school. Working on updating computers and software. Cleaning and painting needs to be done in the school, likely next summer. School desks in garage attic, may go to help out at Berea. School needs storage. VBS Aug 1-5. Aug 20 school clean up. Looking at 12 students for next school year.

Trustees report: Lots of project on going with lots of help still needed

Building committee: Looking at more bids for counter tops. Starting electrical work in storage room and kitchen. Looking in to putting in suspended ceiling instead of carpet in fellowship hall

## † TODAY AT GRACE †

Elder: **Mike Dick**

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: **Ed & Verona Lentz**

## † NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

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

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

Hospitality Team 6: **Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick; Omar Kurtz**

Cleaners: **No Volunteers for next 6 weeks**

## † OUR SCHEDULE †

**Today:** 9:00 am – Worship Service  
10:00 am – Hospitality in Fellowship Hall  
VBS Volunteer Meeting

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

**August 1-5:** 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School

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

**Sun., Aug. 7:** 9:00 am – Worship Service  
Church Picnic

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

**Sat., Aug. 20:** Church/School Cleanup Day

**Tue., Aug. 23:** Christian Day School Begins

**Sat., Aug. 27:** 12:00 pm – Berea Golf Tournament

**Sept. 24:** Grace's Men's Retreat

**Note:** Offerings will be reported in the future once the process is in place.



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# Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

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For  
where your  
treasure is,



there your  
heart will  
be also.

Matthew 6:21