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Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432

Email: jphein@clclutheran.com

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: Trinity 23

Date: October 30, 2005

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Hymn:..... TLH 296: *Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth*

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

Introit (followed by Gloria Patri, The Kyrie):..... TLH, pp. 6-7

P: I will extol the Lord at all times, His praise will always be on my lips.

C: My soul will boast in the Lord, let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

P: Glorify the Lord with me;

C: Let us exalt His name together.

P: I sought the Lord, and He answered me;

C: He delivered me from all my fears.

P: The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;

C: He delivers them from all their troubles. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis:..... TLH 244, st. 1,4

C: Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son,

Glory be to God the Spirit: Great Jehovah, Three in One!

Glory, glory, While eternal ages run!

Glory, blessing, praise eternal! Thus the choir of angels sings;

Honor, riches, power, dominion! Thus its praise creation brings.

Glory, glory, Glory to the King of kings!

First Reading:..... Romans 5:6-11

Even as we were enemies toward God, He demonstrated His love for us.

Gradual:

P: These are they who have come out of the great tribulation;

C: They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

P: Blessed are those whose strength is in you,

C: Who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. This is the Lord, we trusted in Him;

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation. Alleluia.

Choir & CDS Children:..... *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

Second Reading:..... Luke 6:27-36

Jesus teaches us to love our enemies even as they may despise us.

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

Hymn:..... TLH 395 vs.1-4,6,8: *O God, Thou Faithful God*

Sermon:..... 2 Kings 5:1-3

(1) Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, *but* a leper. (2) And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. (3) Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master *were* with the prophet who *is* in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy." (NKJV™)

IF ONLY YOU WERE WITH THE PROPHET

I. BECAUSE OF YOUR DISEASE

II. BECAUSE HE HEALS

GUEST SPEAKER: SEMINARIAN CHAD SEYBT

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

Hymn:..... TLH 180: *Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes*

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

Hymn:..... TLH 231: *We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost*

Silent Prayer:

Overcome by Patience: "In quietness and confidence shall be your strength" (Isa. 30:15). Would you learn how to overcome the great, most terrible, and harmful enemies who otherwise may well devour one and injure body and soul, enemies against whom one may well buy all sorts of weapons and spend all one's money to learn the art of defense against them? Then know that the secret lies in a sweet, delightful little plant called *patience*. Indeed, you say, how can I get this remedy? The answer is: Look to faith, which assures you that no one can harm you without the will of God. If, then, you are harmed, it has happened because of the kind, gracious will of God, so that your enemy harms himself a thousand times more than he harms you. This consideration makes love spring up within me – love which says: Then I will do good to him for the evil he has done me; I will gather coals of fire upon his head. *These* are the weapons by which enemies are defeated who seem as mighty mountains which cannot be overthrown or won by iron or steel. Love teaches patient suffering. – Martin Luther



† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Thanks:** to Seminarian, Chad Seybt, son of Trudy Wales, for stepping in for preaching today. Chad is a 2nd year student in the seminary. May the Lord bless his studies at Immanuel in Eau Claire, WI. The Elders determined to have someone preach today due to Pastor Hein recovering from his ear surgeries. This past week's surgery was quite successful in bringing significant pain relief. Pastor wants to thank the congregation for being supportive, understanding, and patient during this time in which he was recuperating. God-willing, he will be building up strength to take up the ministerial opportunities before us.
- ◆ **Hospitality:** As always everyone is invited to the weekly hospitality in the fellowship hall. Please bear with the clutter as efforts are being made to upgrade the kitchen and fellowship hall.
- ◆ **Work Day:** Many thanks to all who participated in yesterday's work day. A lot of raking was completed along with some of the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen project.
- ◆ **Among Us:** Cliff Schwieger has been released from the hospital and is now temporarily at a rehab center. Marion thanks the congregation for all their prayers.
- ◆ **ILC Play:** This coming weekend is the ILC play in Eau Claire, WI. This year's play is a comedy based on the Mark Twain work, "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court." It will be performed both Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Seminary Graduate Eric Libby has received the call to Our Savior's in Jamestown, ND. † Pastor Bruce Naumann and Larry Hansen, both from the CLC Board of Missions, departed for Nairobi, Kenya this past week. They are traveling to our missions in Tanzania and in Congo. If you would like to read more about this trip you can go to www.clclutheran.org and click on "October 2005 Mission Trip" in the upper right hand corner of the screen.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Sixth Commandment



WHAT IS WRONG WITHIN LUTHERANISM?

It is a sad commentary on the state of the church in general, and Lutheranism in particular, that on this day when we celebrate the restoration of the pure Gospel to the church, we must ask, "What is wrong within Lutheranism?"

To be sure the Turkish or Muslim scourge was threatening the church at the time, but it was the abuses of the pope and the Catholic Church that inspired Martin Luther to take a stand. Luther, an instrument in the hand of God, stood up for the purity of the Gospel. Initially he did not nail the 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg because he desired to free himself from papal control. His desire was "to liberate the Gospel of free grace in Christ." He said, "We are asking for nothing more, nor have we ever asked for anything more, than the free Gospel" (WLS, III: 3778, p.1184). It however became clear very quickly that a "free Gospel" was not possible without breaking with the pope. The heavy hand of papal heresy has not changed in our day, but protestant heterodoxy, which reared its head during and shortly after the Reformation, has spread like a ground fire enveloping even the Lutheran Church. It is a threat to us all! The more we try to ignore or deny the possibility of heterodoxy rearing its ugly head among us, the more susceptible we are. Fewer and fewer within Lutheranism can honestly make the claim today as Luther did, "Not from men have I received my Gospel, but from heaven alone, through my Lord Jesus Christ" (III: 3767, p. 1179). Let us in our church state unequivocally today: **If we cannot honestly say that, we have no right to call ourselves Lutheran, much less exist.** Luther said, "The perfectly pure, the only, and the certain Word of God must be the foundation of our faith" (II: 2693, p. 863). Luther saw already in his day "that as time goes on, more and more sects and erroneous opinions arise and that the frenzy and the fury of the devil knows no end." He was concerned that during his lifetime and after, some "future heretics" would "assume the sanction of my name and falsely quote my writings in support of their errors" (III: 4436, p.1375). Fortunately he left behind copious writings so that honest students can refute the heretics.

At the center of Scripture and therefore true Lutheran teaching is Jesus Christ and His cross. What does not revolve around Christ and His cross and the central teaching of the cross, justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, is hay and stubble. How much hay and stubble there is today!

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.

One of the problems within Lutheranism today is that many who decry the slide of their Lutheran church into heterodoxy, themselves cannot take decisive action that is commanded by the Lord through the Apostle (Romans 16:17-18) for the protection of the faith, and the glory of God. Thus while many wring their hands, they stay in their heterodox church and start splinter groups within. We do not know exactly to what they are moving, but the *Lutheran Commentator* published by a dissident group within the ELCA since 1999 is giving up. In the latest issue we read, "Reform is no longer realistic...Therefore we are moving on... Our next issue, October-December 2005, will be our last issue" (August/September 2005). They have grown weary and discouraged with a church in which a female (!) bishop who led a homosexuality Task Force said that within its report "the ambiguity was intentional, to give discretion to local congregations." Another bishop said, "We can live with ambiguity around these questions...It's a way not to make sexuality a church dividing issue" (Ibid). Apart from the issue which itself is hay and stubble, the bishops are trying to stave off a split by allowing sin! Luther said at Worms: "Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise." The working principle in the ELCA is ambiguity! This is Lutheran? No. It is unbelief!

The same issue of the *Lutheran Commentator* suggests the need for a "Centrist Lutheran Future," whatever that means. In so doing it underscores what is wrong within Lutheranism. For one thing, we of the Church of the Lutheran Confession are too far out for these handwringers. The *Lutheran Commentator* says, "The ELCA has left the Reformation for unity with the hierarchical, gay Episcopal Church. The Lutheran Church Missouri-Synod is caught in a wooden Biblicism, including among other things refusing to ordain women." LC-MS, caught in wooden Biblicism? Tell that to the liberals in the LC-MS!

Then it goes on and says, "The US needs a seminary and a church that stands with Luther in the radical center." May I remind you what Luther said about future heretics assuming the sanction of his name?

The emphasis on all the issues in which the church involves itself today, together with the debates and arguments is itself a clever ploy of the evil one to steer people away from the Gospel, and the message of justification by grace through faith. The devil will not attack Christ and the Gospel directly, but gains his end by introducing hay and stubble into the life of the church. The Church growth movement with all its schemes and programs, the introduction of social programs into churches, the feeling that we have to make

church more attractive by introducing gender attractive programs, or more attractive to youth or the elderly by introducing age appropriate programs and enticements – all this carries with it the distinct risk to which many have succumbed: Christ and His cross is no longer the center of the churches teaching. What we have ended up with is an emphasis on emotion, feelings, fun and games – all of which do not lead people to ask, "How am I saved?" Even less does it answer the question!

The problem within the church in general, and Lutheranism specifically is far deeper than individual errors. The problem lies in the denial of Scripture! Until there is a return to the principle of "What saith the Lord" there can be no change. Jeremiah tells us, "Stand in the way and see, and ask for the old paths where the good way is, and walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls." But all indications are today that the response will be the same as Jeremiah heard, "We will not walk in it" (Jeremiah 6:16).

Luther said, "I have lived to see the greatest plague, to wit, the contempt of the Word, the most extreme and godless misdeed of the world, upon which must necessarily follow as punishment whatever is horrible in the world..." (III: 4813, p.1489)

Brethren, we can avoid what is wrong in Lutheranism only if we follow the advice of Luther, who said, "It is the duty both of preachers and of hearers first of all and above all things to see to it that they have clear and sure evidence that their doctrine is really the true word of God, revealed from heaven to the holy, original fathers, the prophets and apostles, and confirmed and commanded to be taught by Christ Himself. For we should by no means ever let doctrine be manhandled according to the pleasure and fancy of the individual who adapts it to human reason and understanding. Nor should we let men toy with Scripture, juggle the Word of God, and make it submit to being explained, twisted, stretched, and revised to suit people or to achieve peace and union. For then there could be no secure or stable foundation on which consciences might rely" (III: 4770, p. 1475), and finally, "Learn, yea, learn, I say, what a treasure you have in the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ: that there is no other help and aid against the devil, sin, and eternal death than to cling to the Word of Christ, that is, to believe His promise and to make bold to take Him at His Word" (III: 4763, p. 1473.).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer (10/30/2005)

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Mike Dick

Ushers: Roger Ochsner; Don Dahlin; Bill Rust; Joel Stifter;
Bob Maki; Dave Rust

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

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

Church Cleaners: None

School: Hendrickson

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Roger Ochsner; Don Dahlin; Bill Rust; Joel Stifter;
Bob Maki; Dave Rust

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

Hospitality Team 6: Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick;
Frank & Ann Radichel

Church Cleaners: Sydow

School: Torkelson

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:00 am – Hospitality
11:15 am – Youth Bible Forum

Mon., Oct. 31: Reformation Day

Wed., Nov. 2: 2:30 pm – Chiquettes (Little One's Story Hour, Theme: Autumn)
4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Children

Fri., Nov. 4: ILC College Visitors' Day

Nov. 4 & 5: 7:30 pm – ILC Play "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court."

Sun., Nov. 6: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Reformation Worship Service w/ Lord's Supper
11:15 am – Youth Bible Forum

Last Week's Stats: Oct. 23, 2005		B.Cl.:	42	S.S.:	23	Worship:	80
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	1,728.80	CLC:	1,967.00			
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,933.00	CLC:	846.00			
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,204.20	CLC:	+1,121.00			
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	115,937.55	CLC:	35,651.00			
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	126,119.00	CLC:	36,378.00			
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-10,181.45	CLC:	-727.00			
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	8.00	Tuition:	58.00			
GLC Other:	55.25	MDF:	12.00	Kinship:	62.00		
ILC Student Aid.:	15.00	ILC Bldg.	14.00	IIF:	12.00	CEF:	35.00

Grace Lutheran Church & School

... live in harmony
with one another;
be sympathetic,
love as brothers,
be compassionate
and humble.

1 Peter 3:8