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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Home Page: www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



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

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

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Epiphany 4

Date: January 29, 2006

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 62, TLH p. 136*

Hymn: *TLH 426: The Lord My Shepherd Is*

Liturgy: *TLH, p. 5 ff. (Also available on laminated sheet in pew)*

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

P: The Lord watches over the way of the righteous,

C: But the way of the wicked will perish.

P: Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked

C: Or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

P: But his delight is in the law of the Lord,

C: And on His law he meditates day and night.

P: He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit
in season and whose leaf does not wither.

C: Whatever he does prospers. 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: *Jonah 3:1-5, 10*

We may remember well the Biblical account of Jonah being swallowed by the whale. He had tried to run away from the work that the LORD had committed to him, preaching to the people of Nineveh. Jonah feared what would happen to him if he went there. However, we see from this reading that the LORD accomplished great things: repentance of great proportions!

Gradual:

P: Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol Him, all you peoples.

C: For great is His love toward us; and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

P: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name;

C: Bring an offering and come into His courts.

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, ...

C: Because He has anointed Me to preach Good News to the poor. Alleluia.

Second Reading: *Mark 1:14-20*

Repentance is a work of God that silently works in the heart through the power of the Gospel. As Jesus preached the Good News of salvation, there were those who turned from their former ways. The disciples, in particular, were so moved by the message Jesus preached, they left all behind to follow Him and become fishers of men.

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

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

Sermon: *1 Corinthians 7:29-31*

(29) But this I say, brethren, the time *is* short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none, (30) those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess, (31) and those who use this world as not misusing *it*. For the form of this world is passing away. (NKJV)

“WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD”

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 430, st. 5-8: What Is the World to Me*

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

Hymn: *TLH 36: Now Thank We All Our God*

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!

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Flower Arrangement:** In memory of Tollof Shellum who passed away last week. Tollof was Fred Dauer's cousin and Sue Nelson's uncle.
- ◆ **Reminder:** Please let Jackie Radichel know if there are any changes for the annual membership directory.
- ◆ **Cleaning List:** The beauty of the LORD is shown through the preaching of the Gospel from His house. His house itself should reflect this beauty. Please consider participating in ensuring this by signing up on the 2006 cleaning list located by the guest book.
- ◆ **Women's Retreat:** The "CLC Women's Retreat" is set for April 21-23 at the Schwan Retreat and Conference Center, a facility outside of Trego, WI. Brochures are available by the guest book.
- ◆ **Mission Helper:** The next Mission Helper trip is slated for the summer of 2007. Workers are being sought for teaching English and Bible stories to children in the orphanage, teaching one-day VBS to children in Hindu villages, teaching seminary level classes, preaching and teaching, hands-on construction and painting. For more information request a brochure from Pastor Hein.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Paul Naumann has returned the call to St. Stephen in Hayward, CA (Oakland area). † Missionary Koenig and his wife, Mary, departed for India this past Monday, Jan. 23. Their address is: D-7 Alsa Deer Park; 108 Velachery Road; Chennai, India 600032. Email: dnmkoenig@yahoo.com.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** First Article (2nd Time)



"Temporal possessions are for hands, not hearts: Even if riches were to come to you in a rightful way, from God, do not rely on them and make mammon your God; for possessions are not given that we may rely on them and glory in them, which is futile and foolish, but that we may use and enjoy them and share them with others ... Our possessions should be in our hands, not in our hearts. Thus St. Paul tell the Corinthians (1 Cor. 7:31) that we should use the world as though we used it not ..." Martin Luther

WHEN IT'S A MATTER OF CONFESSION:

The word "confession" is a big word in the life of the church. But what does it mean? Frequently people do not understand us when we use the word because they do not know what the word means and/ or how it is used.

"Confession" is used with reference to the acknowledgment of sin. Scripture uses it in that fashion often, "If we confess our sins ..." (1 John 1:9). "Confess your faults, one to another ..." (James 5:16). The word is also used in Scripture in the sense of acknowledging what one believes. "Every tongue should confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:11). The Apostolic Creed is a confession of what we believe. In Matthew 10:32 we have the word used with reference to the believer's acknowledgment of Christ, and Jesus' acknowledgment of the believer before the Father. "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." Jesus' acknowledgement of us before the Father is predicated on our confession of Him as God and Savior, for the next verse says, "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." (33).

Our concern now relates to acknowledging and declaring our faith. There is never a time when a child of God can legitimately cease confessing his faith. Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:13-16). We may of necessity have to choose the place where we confess with words what we believe, but our life is to be a continual testimony and confession of what and who we are.

Scripture tells us, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer [apologia – verbal defense) to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). The world ridicules Christ, demeans the Gospel, and mocks our hope. We should be ready to make a vigorous defense of our hope, not rudely, but through a steadfast confession of the Word and of our Lord Jesus. We are called

upon to take a stand for what we believe. While we must stand and speak out against that which is contrary to the faith, confession of our faith is not primarily a declaration of what we are against, but of what and Whom we are for and of what God has done for us!

It is clear from Scripture that we are to stand fast in the Word, reject false teaching – anything contrary to the Word of God – and false teachers – any who teach, defend, and promote false teaching. Frequently faithful Christ believers will have to leave the fellowship in which they are if it tolerates false teaching, harbors false teachers, and promotes and/or defends the error. When error has been demonstrated and exposed through the Word and it is not rejected we are conscience bound to leave that fellowship without delay. Leaving such a fellowship is a clear confession of where we stand. It is the ultimate expression of love for God, for His Word, as well as for the errorist. Our departure is an on going testimony to the truth, made to the glory of our Lord's good name, for the sake of the truth, for the protection of our faith, as well as for a witness to those in error. On the other hand, continuing in a heterodox fellowship is a confession, albeit a wrong one.

In our confessional life we are confronted frequently with situations and circumstances that in themselves are not wrong, not false, and of themselves not contrary to Scripture, which however, call for a clear and unequivocal confession lest we confuse the faithful and the simple (inexperienced). What may have been practiced in all good conscience in the past may not be appropriate in our increasingly "mushy" age of common denominator religion.



Paul said, "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful; all things are lawful for me, but all things do not edify" (1 Corinthians 10:23). Note the "not helpful," and "do not edify (buildup)." Whatever we do and say as Christians should be helpful to one another and build up in the faith, and glorify the Lord. This is surely true in the fellowship. Take for instance the matter of our worship service. There is no divinely outlined form of worship. In this regard we have freedom, except in the substance of the worship service. It is to be faithful to Scripture! But as Christians, and as confessional Lutherans, even though we have the freedom to do so, we should be very careful, and even reticent to adopt certain forms, styles, or hymns that if they do not identify us with the heterodox, nevertheless confuse God's people, or even strangers. If people who are not members walk into our service they should be able to recognize that we are not like the charismatic, or the "church growth"

or "fun and game" or politically correct church down the street. Whether they agree with what was heard and observed is not the issue here. They should not leave wondering where they were, or thinking that there is no difference between what they heard and observed in our Lutheran service as compared to some other worship experience. We hesitate to use the word "service."

This is a two-fold track. Even as we will be careful not to imitate the practice of the heterodox – ok, so they sing and pray, and so do we - we will be just as confessional in maintaining our freedom in the Gospel in the face of those who by attempting to bring us under the Law would deprive us of our joy in the Gospel. Extremes between total disregard for the Word of God on one hand, and legalistic insistence and practice on the other seem to be the norm. Therefore it is imperative that we stay in the Word through faithful worship and study so that we grow in understanding and discernment. Then we will be equipped to make a sound confession of our faith to the glory of God, and in the interest of witnessing to the truth that saves the soul.

When it is a matter of confession of our faith before the world, the issue dare never come down to what makes us comfortable, popular, or attractive to the masses. When it comes to confession the only question is, "What promotes the truth and serves the glory of God?" That goal is greater than, "What can we do to serve the people?" You see, what we do in love in promotion of the truth in word and practice will in fact serve the people. To reverse the order and ask first "What serves the people?" will not necessarily serve the truth or glorify God, or even serve the people. If that shocks some, take an objective look at what is happening where God's Word is subservient to men's "felt needs," and where clergy satisfy "itching ears" (2 Timothy 4:3).

When it is a matter of confession, occasionally we will "give up" what is otherwise appropriate and acceptable. Frequently it may mean insisting on our freedom of expression and practice under the Gospel. May God Who through our Lord Jesus Christ has redeemed us from our sin, by His Spirit give us discernment necessary to make the appropriate confession acceptable unto God, as well as love, wisdom, and courage to confess in word and deed what glorifies Him. Our confession will then be a good confession before the world.

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses" (1 Timothy 6:12).

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Jan Davis *Elder:* Al Rosendahl
Ushers: Mark Wales; Pete Fleischer; Benno Sydow; Brandt
 Wendland; Ole Ohlmanson; Jack Kirkham
Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack
 Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Ole Olmanson
Hospitality Team 3: Dan & Cindy Degnan; Ed & Verona
 Lentz; Angela Valley
Church Cleaners: R. Nelson *School:* Maki

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Mark Wales; Pete Fleischer; Benno Sydow; Brandt
 Wendland; Ole Ohlmanson; Jack Kirkham
Counting Team 4: Paul Lentz; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust;
 Lynn Sandhoefner; Jeff Radichel
Hospitality Team 4: Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Fred, Pal, &
 Scott Dauer
Church Cleaners: R. Nelson *School:* Sandhoefner

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 4)
 11:00 am – Hospitality
 11:15 am – Youth Forum

Wed., Feb. 1: 2:30 pm – Chiquetines (Little One's Story Hour)
 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Children
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Sun., Feb. 5: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship Service with Lord's Supper (Epiphany 5)
 11:00 am – Hospitality

Last Week's Stats: Jan. 22, 2006 B.Cl.: 38 S.S.: 27 Sun.: 142 Wed: 30

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	3,066.35	CLC:	1,045.00	
Weekly Need (last year):	Grace:	2,970.00	CLC:	850.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+96.35	CLC:	+195.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	11,173.69	CLC:	3,329.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	11,880.00	CLC:	3,400.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-706.31	CLC:	-71.00	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	10.00	Tuition:	0.00	
GLC Other:	159.05	MDF:	21.00	Kinship:	20.00
ILC Student Aid.:	20.00	ILC Bldg.	15.00	IIF: 11.00	CEF: 45.00

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