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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Home Page: www.CLCCGraceLutheranChurch.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: Lent 5

Date: March 25, 2007

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 13, TLH p. 124*

Hymn: *TLH 358: Lamb of God, We Fall Before Thee*

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

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

P: I love the Lord, for He heard my voice;

C: He heard my cry for mercy.

P: Because He turned His ear to me,

C: I will call upon Him as long as I live.

P: For You, O Lord, have delivered my soul from death,

C: My eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 377, st. 10*

All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God that saved us by His grace, - All glory to His merit!

O Triune God in heaven above, Who hast revealed Thy saving love,
Thy blessed name be hallowed.

First Reading: *Isaiah 43:16-21*

The Lord shall bring great change, refreshing His people with the waters of mercy to sustain them through the desert of this world.

Gradual:

P: Oh, come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

C: The author and finisher of our faith,

P: Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning the shame,

C: And sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

P: The Son of Man did not come to be served,

C: But to serve and give His life as a ransom for many.

Second Reading: *Passion History*

Jesus turns His attention to Mary and John.

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

Hymn: *TLH 175: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Sermon: *Philippians 3:7-14*

(7) But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. (8) Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ (9) and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; (10) that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, (11) if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. (12) Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. (13) Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, (14) I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (NKJVTM)

We Rejoice in the Righteousness That Comes from God!

Righteousness that is ours through faith in Christ.

Righteousness with which we press on to the prize

Guest Speaker: Seminarian Ed Starkey

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 371: Jesus Thy Blood and Righteousness*

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

Hymn: *TLH 179: On My Heart Imprint Thine Image*

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 †

- ◆ **Thanks** to Seminarian Ed Starkey for presenting the Gospel to us today. Ed Starkey is father of Grace member Melissa Starkey. He joined the CLC after leaving the ministry in the Church of the Lutheran Brethren. He is currently at Immanuel Lutheran Seminary in Eau Claire, WI, going through the colloquy process. May the Lord bless His studies of His holy Word.
- ◆ **Midweek Lenten Services:** This Wed. at 7 pm we will conclude our midweek services that have been based from Isaiah 53, "God's Suffering Servant – Sent for Us." This week we will focus on His Heavenly Purpose. Please come and enjoy the Lenten soup suppers at 6 pm.
- ◆ **Teacher Call:** Mr. Ryan Libby has received the call to Our Savior's Lutheran in Jamestown, ND. He will prayerfully consider this call as he seeks the Lord's will regarding where he should be. Please keep his considerations in your prayers and offer constructive guidance should you feel it necessary to do so.
- ◆ **Among Us:** Tina and Brian Roelofs were blessed with the birth of a son, Henry Ruben on Thursday, March 22. Grandparents are Benno and Barb Sydow. Mother and baby are doing just fine.
- ◆ **Easter Breakfast Signup:** Those men interested in helping out for the Easter breakfast are asked to signup for various duties. The list is on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. We appreciate those willing to help.
- ◆ **Easter Lilies:** Should anyone desire to bring an Easter lily for the altar area, please bring them on Good Friday, April 6, so that they can be setup for Easter morning. Your name on the container will be most helpful in ensuring that your plant will be returned. Jackie Radichel is willing to purchase lilies for those who would rather not do this on their own. Please speak with her should you be interested.
- ◆ **Softball Signup:** By the guest book is a signup sheet for this upcoming summer's softball team. If you have any interest, please sign your name.
- ◆ **Pictorial Directory:** Anyone who did not get their picture taken and would like to submit a picture should give their picture to Jenny Squires no later than April 1st. The picture should be printed and no larger than 4x5. If it is a professional picture you will need to obtain written permission to use by Olan Mills in the church directory. Also, if there is anyone interested in helping with the layout please contact Jenny Squires 763-263-2237.
- ◆ **Youth Conference 2007** will be held at Como, CO, August 7-12. This provides a way for young Christians from across the CLC to gather for study in God's Word. Recreation and fellowship are additional blessings. Youth Conference is open to 8th grade graduates through young adults of 2nd year college age. Coach bus transportation will originate in Mankato. Scholarships are available to assist with the cost (\$275). Information may be found in the brochures by the guest book and at www.ilcactivities.org/yc/home.htm.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Teacher Ryan Libby has received the call to Our Savior's in Jamestown, ND. † Pastor Wayne Eichstadt has returned the call to St. Stephen in Mountain View, CA (San Francisco area). † Mrs. Amy Mielke, member of Grace in Valentine, NE, has accepted the call to teach lower grades at Messiah in Hales Corners, WI (Milwaukee area).
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #23: Baptism 1 & 2

EMOTION:

Lutherans have historically been characterized as emotionless and old fashioned, not real exuberant in their worship and faith-life. Our worship is liturgical and controlled within the context of the liturgy. Some see this as constraining and void of joy. There is a wave that is sweeping the church today. Its intent is to bring more emotion and "life" into the worship, to make Lutherans more "alive," if you will. Surely nothing wrong with that on the surface. Unfortunately this new wave frequently brings with it excesses like the trash on the gulf beach: new forms, directions, and qualities that diminish respect for the Word of God as well as new emphasis that undermines the solid foundation of substantive worship, as well as faith itself. The mail regularly brings information of the same, with its special appeal to youth.

Today people to a great extent want to be entertained; with the growing influence of television news and other programming that comes to us in short snippets, even the commercials are short and snappy because attention spans are short. For many it is difficult to sit for a focused hour in a worship service if there is not something to stimulate the sensory emotions. There is a reason why church growth churches are so well attended or TV evangelists preach to hundreds if not thousands. Never mind that the people seldom have heard the way to heaven when they leave, so long as they have been emotionally stimulated and whipped into a frenzy, even a frenzy for Christ!

A faithful pastor has an obligation to do his best in sermon preparation, and to bring the Word in a way that stimulates the hearer, and nourishes the soul. But what about emotion? Do we have something against emotion? Not at all! What we are concerned about is what creates and stimulates emotion, and the mindset that promotes the idea that creating an emotional response is a necessary component of meaningful worship. Many factors of course enter into creating emotion, but in the context of Christian worship the first and foremost factor should be the Word of God!

The preaching of the whole counsel of God – His Word – does create emotion. Who is the Christian that is not emotional when he is confronted with the reality of sin, the reality of his separation from God and the consequence of it? Think of David in the 51st Psalm. Was Peter emotional when he went out and wept bitterly? We think so. Think of Paul when he spoke to the elders of Ephesus, as well as those who thereafter "wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him" (Acts 20:37).

Have our emotions not been stimulated when we follow the Savior from Gethsemane to the cross as we bear in mind that He was carrying the sins of the world – our sins – on His shoulders? Can we be cold, emotionless stones when we hear Jesus bemoan His forsakenness of God while hanging on the cross for us and in our place? Are we not touched with

emotion when we hear how He rose again from the dead according to the Scriptures and remember that His resurrection is our guarantee of life everlasting? This is emotion based on and rooted in sound, absolute truths of Holy Scripture. *Emotion that is a result of the Word and faith is far different than emotion which becomes a substitute for faith!*

Years ago a woman in this pastor's confirmation class told of how she was emotionally charged and excited by her worship experience in a charismatic church. The enthusiasm and the music stimulated her – until she said, she got out of the doors. There was no substance. The air went out of the balloon. "Touchy-feely" religions do that. Charismatic preachers with their sweating brows and designer Armani suits carrying their Bible in the bright lights of the stage can do that. People without theological substance can be moved to emotion as well as by emotion. Think of the people who in an emotional outburst sang hosannas to Jesus on His entry into Jerusalem. *Enthusiasm does not equate with faith, and emotion is no substitute for faith.* Many of the same people days later were whipped into mad mob frenzy by the chief priests and elders (Matthew 27:20), and called for the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus.

The Word of God through the Law uncovers sin and condemns the sinner. The Word of God through the Gospel creates faith in the heart so that that one in whom faith resides has the confidence of forgiveness of sins, life and salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel regenerates the heart so that they who live in the hope of heaven bear the fruit of sanctification while walking heavenward. The Word indeed creates emotion within the believing heart, an emotion which manifests itself variously within Christians.

Lutheran liturgical worship and faithful preaching within the framework of such a service is not intended to titillate the emotions. Customs and forms may change since there is no divinely instituted form of service. However when we gather in worship we should expect that the hearer is led to the foot of the cross – through the liturgy, the songs, as well as the preaching.

What emotions this inspires is a fruit of the Word. If it is not the Word that creates the emotions what is taught is nothing more than meaningless fluff. Unfortunately a case can be made that today's religious fervor is to a great extent more fluff than substance.

The bottom line is simply this that there is no substitute for the Word of God!

Abiding, steadfast, firm, and sure
The teachings of the Word endure.
Blest he who trusts this steadfast Word;
His anchor holds in Christ, the Lord.



Written by Rev. Daniel Fleisher, 3/25/2007

Council Meeting Notes

March 11, 2007

Meeting opened with a prayer at 12:06 PM. Roll was taken. The February minutes were read and approved. The February treasurer's report was approved. There was discussion of the soup supper proceeds going to the floor fund. It is Dorcas money, so they can do as they see fit.

Pastor's Report

- Lenten series on Isaiah 53.
- Great fellowship at CLC basketball tournament.
- The call tree worked well when used for the snowstorm.
- A non-member baptism is coming up.
- Andrea Sydow's wedding is May 19.
- The Dean of the Seminary wants to place a vicar at Grace. We will provide the opportunity if we are chosen. Approved.

Board of Elder's Report

- Ed Starkey will preach at Grace on March 25.
- Received the transfer of Jeremiah Smith from Markesan, WI.
- 90th birthday for Ruth Sydow on May 20. Heads up for hospitality to expect extra efforts.
- Requested changing of council meeting from May 20 to May 6. Passed.
- Buying 3-4 microphones for use at confirmation, Christmas, etc.
- Must do something about pre-service noise. Don Auel trying new things.

Board of Education Report

- Ann Radichel wants kindergarten full time, 5 full days per week, from March 19 to the end of the year. Approved.
- The board wants to update the Education portion of the handbook. This does not need council approval.

Board of Trustees Report

- Ordering new pew signs.
- Create a letter of thanks to Riccar Heating.

Other Business

- Discussed part-time maintenance job. Will be further discussion.
- Proofs of the handbook with church policies and procedures were distributed.
- Constitutional changes for Article VI (3-year terms for all officers) were approved and will be presented to the voters in April.
- Constitutional changes for Article VII (council member makeup) failed in council after much discussion.
- There are some glitches with the call list, bad phone numbers.

New Business

- Bi-fold doors for the kitchen counter are ordered.

Meeting adjourned with a prayer at 1:43 PM.

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Janelle Hein

Elder: Dave Rust

Ushers: Mark Wales; Joshua Benzer; Pete Fleischer; Jack Kirkham; Ole Olmanson; Clint Welker; Brandt Wendland

Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Ole Olmanson

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

Church Cleaners: M. & T. Wales School: Vandever

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Mark Wales; Joshua Benzer; Pete Fleischer; Jack Kirkham; Ole Olmanson; Clint Welker; Brandt Wendland

Counting Team 4: Paul Lentz; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner; Jeff Radichel

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

Church Cleaners: M. & T. Wales

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Lent 5)
11:00 am – Hospitality

Wed., Mar. 28: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
6:00 pm – Lenten Soup Supper
7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Service

Fri., Mar. 30: 7:00 pm – Grace School Science Fair

Sun., Apr. 1: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Palm Sunday)
11:00 am – Hospitality

Fri., Apr. 6: 7:00 pm – Good Friday Worship Service

Sun., Apr. 8: 7:00 am – Easter Morning Sunrise Service
8:00 am – 9:45 am – Easter Breakfast
10:00 am – Easter Festival Worship Service

Last Week's Stats: Mar. 4, 2007 B.Cl.: 41 S.S.: ?? Sun.: 131 Wed: 75

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	3,002.82	CLC:	845.00	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	502.06	CLC:	111.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,030.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+474.88	CLC:	-4.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	35,042.25	CLC:	11,088.24	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	30,300.00	CLC:	10,560.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+1,712.25	CLC:	+528.24	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	3.00	Tuition:	0.00	
GLC Other:	254.75	MDF:	7.00	Kinship:	55.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	26.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 26.00

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