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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Fridley, MN 55432



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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: Pentecost 18

Date: September 30, 2007

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 38, TLH p. 132*

Hymn: *TLH 55: Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come*

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

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

P: How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me?

C: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.

P: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

C: O Lord, truly I am Your servant; you have freed me from my chains.

P: I will sacrifice a thank offering to You

C: And call on the name of the Lord. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 246, st. 1,4: Holy, Holy, Holy*

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

First Reading: *Amos 8:4-7*

A warning against those who falsify things for greedy gain.

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 Lord says, "My grace is sufficient for you,

C: For My power is made perfect in weakness." Alleluia.

Second Reading: *Luke 16:1-13*

The Lord speaks to how much He treasures what He gives us. He will remove what He has given if we misuse it or shower us with more as we faithfully honor Him with the gifts that He gives.

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

Hymn: *TLH 455: Our Heavenly Father, Hear*

Sermon: *1 Timothy 2:1-8*

(1) "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, (2) for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. (3) For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, (4) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (5) For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, (6) who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, (7) for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle -- I am speaking the truth in Christ *and* not lying -- a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. (8) I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." (NKJVTM)



"Pray for a Peaceable Life"

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 576: Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor*

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

Hymn: *WS 738: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

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 †

FROM THE



◆ **Vicar:** Vicar Schiermeister's time among us has come to an end today. He will be returning to Eau Claire, WI, and will begin attending classes tomorrow. He has requested your prayers for his further growth in the tools he will need if the Lord chooses to call him into the public ministry. He also wishes to thank everyone for the love everyone has shown him in Christ. ...

From Pastor Hein: Thank you, Scott, for all the work you've done in serving your Lord in our midst. We pray that the light of His Word will shed direction to your continuing growth. May the Lord Jesus guide you in His love for you and your love for souls.

◆ **Among Us:** Corinne Kirkham returned home from the hospital from her minor stroke. They found a hole in her heart which is being treated by medication. Melissa Starkey's father, Pastor Ed Starkey, has returned home from the hospital after having blood clots in his lung and is doing well. Yesterday Jenny Paplow was united to Charles Kleifgen in holy matrimony. May the love of Christ prevail in their marriage as they are guided by Him.



◆ **Women's Seminar:** The Christian Women Today Seminar will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato on Sat., Oct. 6. The theme this year is "This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Ps. 118:24). Details and registration forms are available by the guest book. The registration deadline is actually today.

◆ **Missions Web Page:** The CLC Missions webpage has been updated www.clclutheran.org/missions. The first item under "what's new" is a photo gallery from the recent Mission Helper Trip to India. There is also a link to an online version of the Mission Helper trip video by Rick Nelson of Gethsemane, Saginaw. This is the same video which is being shown in many CLC congregations for Mission Festival this year. NOTE: We will be showing this video in Bible Class in one of the coming weeks.



◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #5 – Third Commandment.

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC (CCM) and CHRISTIAN WORSHIP:

The church is confronted with an issue today that stirs a great deal of emotion, as well as conflict. It revolves around CCM. CCM is big among "Christian artists" who to their credit prefer to sing and promote different music than the vulgar, extreme, and godless music that is so widely promoted in the music world. But therein is the challenge to the church. Today there is not universal understanding on the definition of "Christian." Something is not "Christian" simply because it mentions the name of Jesus, or even because it promotes Christian themes. What may be "Christian" in intent whether spoken or sung but which lacks in substance and faithfulness to the Word of God does not serve the purpose of edifying and building up in the faith unto salvation, which ultimately is a purpose of Gospel preaching. The heart of the Christian religion was defined by Luther: "We are unable to atone for sin or to blot it out by our works; but we believe that Christ has atoned for it with His blood. This faith, without any works, blots out sin" (WLS. Vol.1 page 247. Para 737). The focus of the Christian message is law and gospel – sin and grace. Further, the Christian life – sanctification in biblical language – is not of the will of man but is a spontaneous fruit of faith, which itself is a fruit born of the Spirit through the Gospel. Finally, God's blessing upon the church and the Christian revolves around the Means of Grace.

The Gospel message is not about emotion. The Gospel message is about Christ. Indeed, it *is* Christ! The Gospel message does stir emotions. How can the sinner who realizes his sin, and who believes the wonderful message of forgiveness and salvation in Christ not be filled with emotion?

Music itself is a gift of God. Different people enjoy different forms of music. In importance and influence, Luther placed music second to theology. They are truly blessed who have the special gift to be musicians – vocal or instrumental. They who have the special gift have a responsibility to use it well, wisely, and to the glory of God whether their use of it be as a sacred or secular nature. Since music influences heart and mind, much harm can be done to society by abuse of this gift! As sanctified Christians we will be careful as to the kind of music to which we listen, or which we promote. Therefore in our church and our elementary schools, and at ILC we want to promote appreciation of this wonderful gift of God, as well as give a good understanding of sound Christian music and hymns.

As relates to CCM, we have a responsibility as parents, pastor, and teacher to guide and instruct our children and those in our charge. Nevertheless we are not arbiters of the music to which God's people choose to listen in their private lives. Nor do we want to be! But it is a different matter with respect to the music that is *promoted* in the church, or introduced into the worship service.

Martin Luther introduced singing into the church and made it a singing church. Music was influential in the spread of the Reformation. Of the music that was in the church before Luther's influence he said, "Therefore we have removed these idolatrous, dead, and nonsensical texts, have divested them of the fine music, and have used this for the living, holy Word of God, to sing, to praise, to glorify therewith, so that this fine ornament of music might be put to proper use and serve its dear Creator and His Christians, that He might be praised and glorified and that we might be bettered and strengthened in the faith through His holy Word, driven into the heart with sweet song" (Page 981, Para.3096).

To assist in this, Luther wrote many hymns – over 20 – that appear in *The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH)*. There are many hymnals that have been used in the Lutheran Church over the centuries. Recently there has been a spate of new hymnals, some better than others. We have our *Worship Supplement* with many fine hymns, some of which are in the *TLH*. The Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) has produced a fine hymnal. The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) likewise has produced one. We are told that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LC-MS) has a new hymnal with many fine hymns. As to the selection of a hymnal there is no "Thus says the Lord." Such selection falls within the area of Christian freedom with the prime necessity that such hymnals are to be sound in substance – also as relates to the liturgical settings. Given the fact that a hymnal is of human origin and given the fact that personal choices are involved, not every hymnal will have hymns or music of equal satisfaction to all.

It has been the contention of this writer that should we be deprived of our Bible and catechism, we could preach and teach the full counsel of God from our hymnal. Herein lies a concern about CCM. While it may be catchy with "Christian" themes, and while it may appeal to the contemporary generation, little that this writer has seen presents the substantive biblical message in clear, propositional, and confessional form – essential to the Lutheran worship service! Much is frequently repetitious and to this ear not musically appealing. Furthermore, a case can be made it seems, that since CCM is

introduced as an appeal to youth and to reflect the idea of "one religion fits all" *contemporary worship cannot be far behind!* Make no mistake. If CCM becomes the norm and preference it will eventually try to force itself into the service if not by choice, by default, to our harm and loss.

While it is unlikely that CCM would invade the worship services of our church, one could conclude that since it is "Christian" it could appropriately be introduced. If it is Christian, why not? Personally, when this writer is on his death bed, he wants to hear, "Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness, my beauty are my glorious dress" (*TLH* – 371), rather than *"With every step, the more my heart moves to your beat, Just like where I'm headed, there's joy in the journey." I want to hear "Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes" (*TLH* – 552) rather than *"It's the Creator calling the created The Maker beckoning the made The bride finding what she's always waited for When we find ourselves that day (sic)" I want to hear "I know that my Redeemer lives" (*TLH*-200), rather than *"I can only imagine What it will be like when I walk by your side (sic)"

We are not CCM fans, so we do not claim to be objective critics of every CCM piece that has been written. At the same time we have not felt the need to look for something else to fill a void. Whatever music of this genre to which people like to listen, we ought not offer the tried and the true of a sound biblical, confessional, and comforting message of the gospel on the altar of contemporary religiosity. Rather than promoting alternatives, we prefer to teach our youth an appreciation of hymns with sound biblical content. At very least we will want to teach, and promote through preaching and music the sound heritage of the Reformation with its emphasis: "Scripture alone! Grace Alone! Faith Alone!" Unless we do, we risk returning to "idolatrous, dead, and nonsensical texts," as well as losing our confessional nature. The lessons of history should not be ignored!

My heart for joy is springing And can no more be sad,
'Tis full of mirth and singing,
Sees naught but sunshine glad.
The Sun that cheers my spirit Is Jesus Christ, my King;
The heaven I shall inherit Makes me rejoice and sing"
(TLH 528, st.15).

* The CCM lyrics quoted are from the CCM group, MERCYME

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer (9/23/2007)

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Benno Sydow

Ushers: Ed Lentz; Al Rosendahl; John Auel; Scott Baker;
David Stifter; Lyle Trulin; Michael Ude

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

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

Church Cleaners: Paplow

School Cleaners: Hein

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Ed Lentz; Al Rosendahl; John Auel; Scott Baker;
David Stifter; Lyle Trulin; Michael Ude

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

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

Church Cleaners: E. & V. Lentz

School Cleaners: Maki

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Pentecost 18)
11:00 am – Hospitality

Wed., Oct. 3: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Oct. 3-4: CLC Coordinating Council Meeting in Eau Claire, WI

Sat., Oct. 6: 9:30 am – Women’s Seminar at Immanuel in Mankato

Sun., Oct. 7: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service w/ Lord’s Supper (Pentecost 19)
11:00 am – Hospitality

Oct. 9-10: MN Pastoral Conference @ Detroit Lakes, MN

Last Week’s Stats: Sept. 23, 2007 Sun.: 120 S.S.: 24 B.Cl.: 41 Wed.: 28

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	1,816.77	CLC:	965.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,030.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,213.23	CLC:	+5.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	111,915.36	CLC:	34,569.24	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	115,140.00	CLC:	36,480.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-3,224.64	CLC:	-1,910.76	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	12.00	Tuition:	53.00	
GLC Other:	40.22	MDF:	314.00	Kinship:	62.00
ILC Student Aid:	50.00	ILC Bldg.	13.00	IIF: 12.00	CEF: 12.00

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*Pray for a
Peaceable Life*