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*Grace Lutheran Church & School*



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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-8<sup>th</sup>  
**Church Year:** Epiphany 2      **Date:** January 20, 2008

† **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** †

**Worship Preparation:** ..... *Psalm 89, TLH p. 141 f.*

**Hymn:** ..... *WS 764: God of Grace and God of Glory*

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

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

P: Declare the LORD's glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

**C: Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods.**

P: Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." He will judge the people with equity.

**C: Worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth. Glory be to God!**



**Gloria in Excelsis:** ..... *TLH 239, st. 1, 4: Come, Thou Almighty King*

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|---|--|
| <p>1. Come, Thou almighty King,<br/>Help us thy name to sing,<br/>Help us to praise.<br/>Father all-glorious,<br/>O'er all victorious<br/>Come and reign over us,<br/>Ancient of Days</p> | <p>4. To the great One in Three<br/>Eternal praises be<br/>Hence evermore!<br/>His sov'reign majesty<br/>May we in glory see<br/>And to eternity<br/>Love and adore!</p> |
|---|--|

**First Reading:** ..... *Isaiah 49:1-6*

While Jesus would be formed in the lowly womb of His mother, His true glory as God would be revealed before all nations from which His Church would be formed.

**Gradual:**

P: I will praise You, O LORD, among the nations; I will sing of You among the peoples.

**C: For great is Your love, higher than the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches the skies.**

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name;

**C: Make known among the nations what He has done. Alleluia.**

**Epistle Reading:** ..... *John 1:29-41*

John and Andrew point out Jesus as the Messiah. As believers in Christ, we have opportunity before others to point out the Lamb of God.

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 493: Thou Who the Night in Prayer Didst Spend*

**Sermon:** ..... *Hebrews 12:1-2*

(1) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (2) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (NKJV™)

*"The Challenges of Running the Lord's Race"*

1. The challenges we face in the world
2. The challenges Jesus faced
3. The challenges the Lord gives us

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 658: Onward Christian Soldiers*

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 283: God's Word Is Our Great Heritage*

*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 †

- ◆ **Today:** Voters and Dorcas Guild annual meetings.
- ◆ **Among Us:** Ellen Bergstrom began radiation treatments this past week. God willing, she should be able to complete them by around the end of February. Kenneth Hallauer died this past week, member at our CLC church in Clarkston, WA, Pastor Halleuer's brother, Jan Davis' uncle, and great uncle of Laura Hulke. May the Word of comfort sustain God's people.
- ◆ **Cleaning List:** A new list is posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board. Please consider signing up in order to make the Lord's house presentable and to be engaged with the Lord's work at Grace.
- ◆ **Work Day:** The Voters resolved to have an extra work day this coming Saturday, Jan. 26. Please come around 9 am and help.
- ◆ **Addresses:** We are again preparing for the publication of the yearly directory at Grace. Please check your contact information in the draft copy of the directory located in the narthex. Place a check mark by your entry if it is correct. If it is not, then please edit as necessary. If you wish to add email, please do so. Your cooperation is appreciated as we attempt to produce an accurate directory.
- ◆ **Thanks:** During December Grace collected an offering to be divided up among the staff. We understand that such a gift is a token of your appreciation for the Lord's work accomplished through us. We understand that we are fragile clay pots who are imperfect human beings. Yet the Lord has graciously entrusted us with the privilege to work for Him in His kingdom work. We have the glorious labor of love to share the Gospel with those who seek it in our midst. Thank you for your generous gift. We ask that you would continue to pray that the Lord would bless our efforts as we go forward into 2008. In Christ, Mrs. Bergstrom, Mrs. Radichel, Mr. Libby, and Pastor Hein.
- ◆ **Women's Retreat:** There are brochures available by the guest book with information regarding this year's retreat at LaCrosse, WI, April 18-20. Registration deadline is March 20.
- ◆ **Invitation:** On January 27, 2008, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (Lawrenceville, Georgia) will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The celebration of God's grace at Zion will begin with coffee and donuts at 9:30 am. At 10:00 there will be a presentation on the history of Zion, and at 11:00 we will have a special anniversary worship service in which three previous pastors of Zion will participate (Schierenbeck, Johannes and Fossum). A lunch will also follow the service during which we will have a slide show presentation of pictures from Zion's past. We invite our fellow members of the CLC to join us as we thank the LORD for His blessings over the history of this congregation. For more information please contact Pastor Nathanael Mayhew at 770-962-9034 or e-mail ndmayhew@juno.com.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #16 – Second Article, Part 1.

## OPTIMISM OF FAITH:

It is difficult to be optimistic as one sees and hears of the events and activities going on in the world in which we live. The catalogue of evil is depressing. In the cities we read of drugs, prostitution, rape, murders, mayhem, burglaries. In the nation there is crime, child abuse, spousal abuse, divorce, Hollywood and its lack of morals played out on TV screens and in the news. Abortion, lack of respect for marriage, homosexuality, political self-serving, corruption, greed are rampant. Terrorism threatens us and there is a lack of will to resist it on many fronts. Family structures are deteriorating. Education and discipline is failing, and the best answer that social do-gooders can suggest is to spend more money. More and more the government thinks it knows what is best for us from what we eat to what we should think. In the name of rights, we have forgotten responsibility. Forsaking responsibility, what is wrong is always the other person's fault. It is not new, but anti-Christian philosophies and all sort of false religions attack the truth of God. Sadly and to its great harm the church in the world is too a great extent complicit in the deterioration that is occurring through accommodation to flawed reason and political correctness instead of bowing to the divine Word. Efforts to "fix" what is broken are doomed because the Lord God -the Triune God, beside Whom there is no other - is left out of the equation!

The older among us - if the Lord is gracious - probably will not see the ultimate demise of this society which is on the course of ancient Rome. In a sense we might be ready to say, "Who cares? We can't do anything about it anyway." Furthermore we know that the world in which we live is going the way that Scripture describes as manifest in the last times. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, without self-control, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts ... But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience ... Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax (grow) worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 Timothy 3: 1 - 13).

So what shall be our stance? First of all, we will **repent of our personal sins** and say, "Lord forgive us our sins. " We dare not stop caring. While our time may be growing shorter, we have children and grandchildren who as God wills have their years ahead of them; they will have to live in the midst of a perverse nation and world when we are gone. Therefore we will **pray** for a change of heart in our nation, as well as for the strength needed for us and our children to endure as persecution and deception grow worse. We will **study** the Scriptures to be fortified in our faith that the Lord is still the Ruler of nations, and He is the Refuge and Strength in times of difficulty. The Lord will not ask us to bear more than He Himself will help us to bear. We will continue in the things which you [we] have learned and been assured of (2 Timothy 3: 14). If we care about our children we

will **set an example** for them of love of the truth and steadfast commitment to the truth of God. We will **proclaim the Gospel** so that we and our children will have the sure knowledge of the forgiveness of sins, and the confident assurance that where there is forgiveness of sins there is also life and salvation. We will proclaim the gospel with the prayer that those still sitting in the darkness of unbelief and hopelessness will be brought to trust in Jesus Christ. By the mercy of God we will **live** our life as thankful children of God so that as the Spirit works through us, others may yet be won to the kingdom of God and be snatched from the kingdom of the deceiver of the nations, the devil. By the power of the Spirit working in the Word, we will **hold fast** to the faithful Word. We will **wait on the Lord**, for judgment belongs to Him, “since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thessalonians 1: 6 – 8).

If the evil in the world awakens us to the passing of time, as well as the emptiness of this world and its vaporous pleasure, even it will serve the purpose of God. Perhaps that is why He permits it to flourish, that our hearts and minds might be lifted from the earth to anticipate heaven where we shall be free from all evil. Our Lord Jesus Christ has given us a future, so that while we traverse this world, we can in the face of the disaster around us still be optimistic. We are not optimistic of that which is in terminal condition. We however are blessed with the optimism of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ Who has said, “Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). He has redeemed us, calls each of His children by name, and claims us as His own (Isaiah 43). “The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run into it and are safe” (Proverbs 18:10). That is God’s promise and assurance until such time as He will deliver us from this world to that home which the Lord Jesus has won for us by His death and resurrection. We thank Him for His Spirit Who has brought us to the faith in which we can look through the present shadows to see the light of eternity.

While we despair of the future of this nation and the world in which we live, we will not despair concerning our future as children of God. We will continue in the optimism of faith- not faith in man’s failed and failing efforts – but faith in the God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ- and our God!

Paul Gerhardt who knew something about tribulation wrote:

*What is all this life possesses?  
But a hand full of sand  
That the heart distresses.  
Nobel gifts that pall(fail) me never  
Christ, our Lord, will accord  
To His saints forever. (LH 523, st.6)*



(Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 1/13/2008)

## **Council Meeting Minutes - January 13, 2008**

Meeting opened with a prayer at 12:03 PM. Roll was taken. The December Council meeting minutes were accepted as presented. The December treasurer’s report was accepted as presented. The loose offerings during December for called workers is about \$2400. Motion passed to round to \$2400 and distribute to the called workers.

### **Pastor’s Report**

- Passed to transfer Ben Meyer to Messiah of Eau Claire.
- 42% of days in December had a church service/activity.
- Lent starts the first week in February. Berea, Red Wing, and Grace will rotate pastors.

### **Board of Elders Report**

- VBS may possibly be scheduled one week earlier next year.
- Church and voter membership actions will be addressed.
- Hearing enhancement devices are being looked at for the hearing impaired.

### **Board of Education Report**

- Christmas bags were handed out.
- Tuition Aid of about \$1400 will be distributed for one student. The policy is being reviewed.
- April 25 is ILC visitation and field day. Field day is changed to May 2.
- The material from Nestle will be on display next Sunday.
- A visit will be made to the Minnesota Orchestra.
- A \$5000 CD is maturing for the Tuition Aid. Motion passed to renew it.

### **Board of Trustees Report**

- A list is being developed for the January 26 work day.
- The roof heating coils are not working.

### **Old Business**

- We are still waiting for the picture directory. Pastor will call.
- Forward detail budget line items to Brian for budget purposes.
- May want to consider a nice piano that can be moved about (Grand?).

### **New Business**

- A new projection system would include a screen, video equipment, etc. A proposal should be obtained by next Sunday. A motion passed to create a Projection System Fund, which will be presented at the Voter meeting. A motion failed to transfer funds from the Project Undesignated Fund to the Projection System Fund.
- A proposal to revise the Emergency Calling Tree was discussed. It will be discussed again in the February Council meeting.
- Usher teams should typically rotate to different months.
- It was suggested that new members could be added to the counting teams.
- The Mankato youth camp would like to use our fellowship hall Saturday, Jan. 26, for a meal.

## † TODAY AT GRACE †

*Organist:* Sue Nelson

*Elder:* Dave Rust

*Ushers:* Paul Lentz; Brad Kitzman; Keith Radichel; Dave Rust; James Squires; Eli Wales

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

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

*Church Cleaners:* Rust

*School Cleaners:* Hein

## † NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

*Ushers:* Paul Lentz; Brad Kitzman; Keith Radichel; Dave Rust; James Squires; Eli Wales

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

*Hospitality Team 7:* Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt Wendland

*Church Cleaners:* Rust

*School Cleaners:* Hein

## † OUR SCHEDULE †

**Today:** 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class  
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 2)  
 11:00 am – Hospitality  
 11:30 am – Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings

**Wed., Jan. 23:** 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

**Sat., Jan. 26:** 9:00 am – Work Day at Grace

**Sun., Jan. 27:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class  
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 3)  
 11:00 am – Hospitality

**Sun., Feb. 3:** 1:00 pm – Basketball Outing at Berea

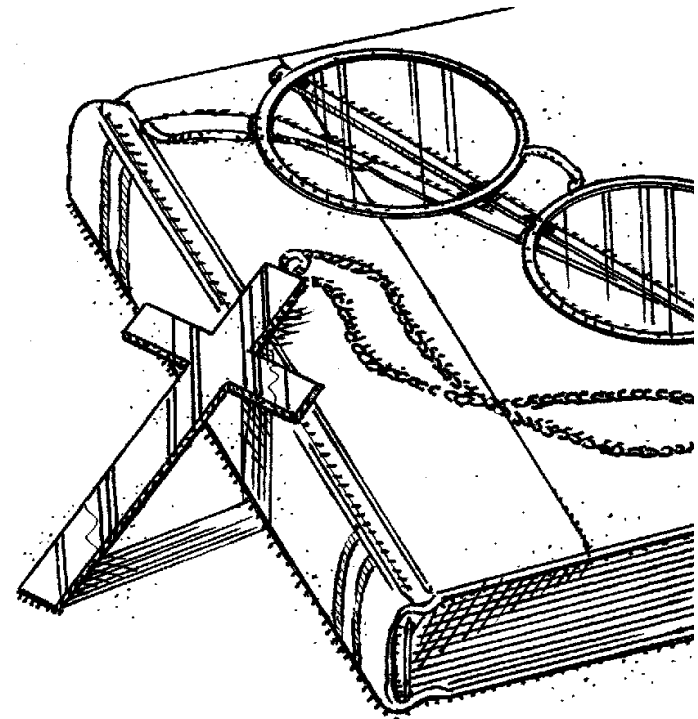
**Wed., Feb. 6:** 7:00 pm – Ash Wednesday Service w/ Lord's Supper

**Last Week's Stats:** Jan. 13, 2008 Sun.: 119 S.S.: 23 B.Cl.: 38 Wed.: 20

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	2,393.40	CLC:	716.50	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,225.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-831.60	CLC:	-243.50	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	5,228.58	CLC:	1,717.50	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	6,450.00	CLC:	1,920.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-1,221.42	CLC:	-202.50	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	2.00	Tuition:	393.00	
GLC Other:	1.29	MDF:	29.00	Kinship:	55.00
ILC Student Aid:	1.00	ILC Bldg.	68.00	IIF: 20.00	CEF: 25.00

\* \$25 to ILC Student Aid Fund Endowment

# Grace Lutheran Church & School



Let us keep our eyes  
on Jesus, the author and  
perfector of our faith.

Hebrews 12:2