

Click here to open service web page for: 2008/03/02/

WAIT CONFIDENTLY FOR THE BETTER DAY:

In his last letter to Timothy written from prison, Paul fully expected that his life was nearing the end. He expects to die as a martyr for the faith. He wrote in the 4th chapter “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Finally there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” This is not a boast. It is the confident expression of one who knows in Whom he has believed and who has thrown his lot with Christ, His Redeemer. None has spoken of salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus alone more eloquently than Paul.

As Paul was soon to take leave of this world, he left behind a testimony to what lies ahead for Timothy and the Church through the ages. He said, “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived” (2 Timothy 3:12, 13). This is not a pessimistic utterance. It is expression of reality as the world winds down.

The manifestations of what Paul wrote are all around us in our age. Christianity is under the gun from heathen attackers. However, the cruelest cut of all is the departure from Christ centered theology and teaching within the church in the world. Sound Biblical teaching has been replaced by bland and seductive mouthings of religion without substance! In by-gone years one could reasonably recognize the confession of a church by its name. That is changing. Exactly what does “The Church of Happy Faces” stand for or believe? Frequently pulpits are polluted by politicians who promote self and who do not bring the promise of God’s grace in Christ, but rather promises of material and temporal nature as they seek votes.

Recently news appeared on *WorldNetDaily* that you will not read in the mainstream press. Did you know that “a plan generated by California’s legislature created a ban on the use of ‘mom’ and ‘dad’ in public schools?” They do not want to offend and discriminate against homosexuals, lesbians, and transgender types. In what suggests there may still be a degree of common sense among some in California an initiative is being promoted to take the issue to the voters in hopes that it will be overturned. A follow up report said that there is a mass exodus from the public schools in the state. In Britain new rules demand sensitivity toward the same aberrant behavior. England is following California’s lead. Did you know that a Hindu who has opened the U.S. Senate with a Hindu chant – religion is good, you know- has been invited to open the senate sessions in Colorado? Recently a sports reporter was suspended because she used gross vulgarity with reference to Jesus. Every kind of perversion is promoted on the internet, and from our perspective as bad, is the endless stream of religious material that can be found on line most of which promotes rationalism and sows confusion. Here most certainly we encourage Christians of our confession who may happen on to such sites to test the spirits in the light of the clear Word of God.

We have just scratched the surface of what is happening in our generation that supports Paul’s warning. It is a difficult time to be a Christ believer, though no more so than times before us, and certainly not any more difficult than the times that tried the apostle. Nevertheless, Paul and Silas sitting in prison were “praying and singing hymns to God” (Acts 16:25)? Even as he wrote the last epistle, Paul was confident saying, “And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom” (2 Timothy 4:18). When we look at life from the perspective of Paul whose life was hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 2:3: 3), even as ours, we have no “bad” days. Our flesh is troubled, and our minds are agitated at what we see about us in the world. We are fearful for those whose life is a life without Christ, and who in their unbelief make our life miserable as confessing Christians. Yet there is a peace with in because we know that life on this earth is but for a short time compared with the eternity that lies ahead. Our Lord told us, “In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). By the virtue of Christ’s merit, His death, and His resurrection we who believe in Him possess the victory, and are sustained by the promise of life with Him in heaven. Brethren, do not lose heart. God, Whose children all Christ believers are, will see His children through the evil days to an indescribably better life. We who by the world are considered “the filth of the world, the off-scouring of all things until now” (1 Corinthians 4:13) will be with the Lord. It is the Father’s promise to all who in the midst of this world cling to Christ. Therefore “be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might” (Ephesians 6: 10).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 2/17/2008

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Among Us:** Alexander Dick still remains at Children’s Hospital in St. Paul from RSV, pneumonia, and influenza. Micah Gurgel (30 years of age) died this past Thursday in a car accident on 169 near Shakopee. He was a CLC member at Berea, along with his wife, Michelle, also a cousin to Ole Olmanson. The memorial service is today at 4 pm at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI. Please remember these young families in your prayers.
- ◆ **Lenten Worship:** We will be continuing our midweek services on Wednesday at 7 pm, with the theme “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus.” The service will be preceded by a soup supper beginning at 6 pm.
- ◆ **Easter:** This year there will be one Easter service instead of two. The service will be at 9:00 am. The breakfast will be served from 7:30-8:30 am.
- ◆ **ILC Tour Choir:** On Easter afternoon, at 3 pm, the ILC Tour Choir will be coming to Grace Lutheran for a concert of sacred music.
- ◆ **Sermons:** Rev. Norman Madson, an early member of the CLC, was well-known for his preaching. A book of his sermons has recently been published called, “Morning Bells at Our Savior’s.” The book sells for \$11.50. Those interested may speak with Pastor Hein.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #22– Review of all three articles.

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: **Maureen Ochsner** Elder: **Al Rosendahl**
Ushers: **Benno Sydow; Brian Eichstadt; Gary Gunther; Richard Rhinesmith; Jeff Stifter; Josh Stifter; Bob Vandever**
Counting Team 2: **Gary Gunther; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker; Mark Wales**
Hospitality Team 5: **Mark & Trudy Wales; Al Rosendahl; Karen Auel**
Church Cleaners: **M. Dick** School Cleaners: **Sandhoefner**

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

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 6: **Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick; Frank & Ann Radichel**
Church Cleaners: **M. Dick** School Cleaners: **Sandhoefner**

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service w/ Lord's Supper (Lent 4)
 11:00 am – Hospitality

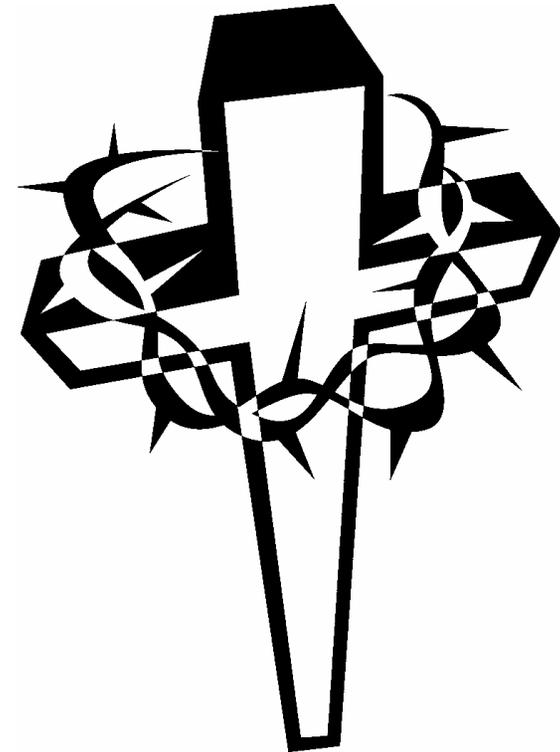
Wed., Mar. 5: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 6:00 pm – Lenten Soup Supper
 7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Service

Sun., Mar. 9: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Lent 5)
 11:00 am – Hospitality; 12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Sun., Mar. 23: 7:30 am – Easter Breakfast
 9:00 am – Easter Festival Service
 3:00 pm – ILC Tour Choir Concert

Last Week's Stats: Feb. 24, 2008 Sun.: 109 S.S.: 20 B.Cl.: 37 Wed.: 67					
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	2,335.35	CLC:	1,089.00	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	1,213.12	CLC:	160.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,225.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+323.47	CLC:	+249.00	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	22,174.14	CLC:	7,781.35	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	25,800.00	CLC:	8,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-3,625.86	CLC:	-218.65	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	49.00	Tuition:	39.00	
GLC Other:	14.00	MDF:	19.00	Kinship:	64.00
ILC Student Aid:	16.00	ILC Bldg.	89.00	IIF: 14.00	CEF: 39.00

Grace Lutheran Church & School



*Do we pass the cross unheeding,
 Breathing no repentant vow,
 Tho' we see Thee wounded, bleeding,
 See Thy thorn-encircled brow?
 Yet Thy sinless death hath bro't us
 Life eternal, peace, and rest;
 Only what Thy grace hath taught us
 Calms the sinner's stormy breast.*