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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:** Pentecost 16      **Date:** August 31, 2008

† **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** †

**Worship Preparation:** ..... *Psalm 121, TLH p. 152*

**Hymn:** ..... *WS 776: Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose You*

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

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

- P: Trust in the Lord and do good;
- C: Dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.**
- P: Delight yourself in the Lord,
- C: And He will give you the desires of your heart.**
- P Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this.
- C: The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord, He is their stronghold in time of trouble. Glory be to God!**

**Gloria in Excelsis:** ..... *TLH 250, st. 1,4*

- C: Holy God, we praise Thy name;**  
 Lord of all, we bow before Thee.  
 All on earth Thy scepter claim,  
 All in heaven above adore Thee.  
 Infinite Thy vast domain,  
 Everlasting is Thy reign.  
 Holy Father, holy Son,  
 Holy Spirit, three we name Thee;  
 Though in essence only one,  
 Undivided God we claim Thee  
 And, adoring, bend the knee  
 While we own the mystery.



**First Reading:** ..... *Jeremiah 15:15-21*

It's quite unpopular in our day to stand up for God's Word. Jeremiah, faced with similar circumstances, is reminded and comforted that he is God's own.

**Gradual:**  
 P: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;  
**C: His greatness no one can fathom.**  
 P I will meditate on Your wonderful works,  
**C: And I will proclaim Your great deeds.**  
 P: Alleluia. Alleluia. When Your words came, I ate them;  
**C: They were my joy and my heart's delight. Alleluia.**

**Second Reading:** ..... *Matthew 16:21-26*

In discipleship, Christians are to bear their cross, the difficulties they face while upholding the truth of God's Word. Some often accuse Christians of fighting over trivial things when it comes to this. In effect, this is acknowledgement on their part that God's Word is not that important. May we be willing to bear our cross as we follow our Savior and His voice.

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 398: Renew Me, O Eternal Light*

**Sermon:** ..... *Romans 12:1-3*

(1) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. (2) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (3) For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. (NKJV™)

**“GOD’S SLOGAN OF CHANGE”**

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 417: How Can I Thank Thee, Lord*

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 412: May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill*

*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 †

- ◆ **Sunday Schedule:** Next Sunday will begin our normal Sunday schedule with Bible Class and Sunday School at 9 am and the weekly worship service at 10 am.
- ◆ **Invitation:** Sarah Noeldner & Jeff Radichel invite the congregation to their wedding, Friday Oct. 3, 2008 at 7P at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI. There will be a reception immediately following in the fellowship hall. For planning purposes, an invitation and an RSVP card (with a box for your response) are in the narthex.
- ◆ **Metro Outreach:** The board decided this week to attempt to build up to the original plan of calling a third pastor for the southwest area of the Twin Cities. In doing so, plans are being made to potentially involve seminary graduates, ILC profs., and retired pastors in a pulpit rotation. An update will be made at our next Council meeting. Some organizational work will need to be accomplished in the next month or so. In the meantime, the Elders would like to remind members that we can support this work by donating funds to "Metro Outreach" on your offering envelopes. More importantly, please remember this effort in your prayers.
- ◆ **Flag Pole Area:** The grass area around the flag pole has been cleared for cement due to on-going problems with weeds. Members are welcome to the pavers which are available for the taking.
- ◆ **Berea Open:** The annual Berea golf tournament is scheduled for Sept. 13 with registration due on Sept. 6. Registration and information are available by the guest book.
- ◆ **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Invitation:** Our Redeemer's, Red Wing, MN, is holding a special service, September 21, 2008, beginning at 3:30 p.m. Pastor John Hein Liturgist, Pastor David Lau guest Speaker. Meal follows. For those attending our ladies would like a guess as to how many folks may be coming. You may email your intention to Pastor Rick Grams at rrgrams1534@yahoo.com.
- ◆ **ILC Enrollment:** This year ILC began with the following numbers:  
High School: Fresh. 32; Soph. 24; Jr. 21; Sr. 32; TOTAL: 109.  
College: Fresh. 18; Soph. 5; Jr. 0; Sr. 3; TOTAL: 26  
Seminary: 1  
OVERALL TOTAL: 136 with 85 in the dorms



## HYPOCRISY, THY NAME IS (FILL IN THE BLANK):

Cain offered sacrifice, but the Lord "did not respect Cain and his offering" (Genesis 4: 5), but He did receive Abel's. Why? "By faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice" (Hebrews 11:4). To disobedient Saul who sought to cover his disobedience with sacrifice to the Lord, the prophet Samuel said, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold to obey is better than sacrifice ..." (1 Samuel 15:14). Judah was under the wrath of God because it had repeated the evil of Israel. The Lord said through Jeremiah, "'And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah has not turned to Me with her whole heart, but in pretense,' says the Lord" (Jeremiah 3:10). To Judah which had rejected the law of the Lord, He said, "... Your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices sweet to Me" (Jeremiah 6:20). In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets that they may be seen of men ..." (Matthew 6:5). It became more directed. "Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widow's houses, and for a pretense make long prayers" (Matthew 23:14). And again, "Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness" (Matthew 23:27, 28).

Why this rehearsal of hypocrisy? Because it is a most prevalent sin, one that calls for repentance. And yes, repentance begins at home!

It makes no difference which political party it is, which church it is, which "man of the cloth" it is, which man, woman, or child it is, whether it be a heathen or a Christian- if religion is added for religion's sake it is a sham. It is hypocrisy! We are reminded of this again in this political season like probably at no other time. At the political powwow in Denver "a choir belted out a Gospel song and was followed by a rabbi reciting a Torah reading about forgiveness and the future." "Four years ago this would have been unthinkable at a Democratic National Convention." Why religion all of a sudden? "One hallmark of Democratic faith efforts at the convention is diversity" and effort to attract the religious vote [that] will concentrate largely on Christian 'values voters'". Politicians even have what are called "religious affairs directors." Both religious candidates are openly religious- Obama was pictured with the male and female pastors at a Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. It is said there is "a possibility that Obama will chip

into the Republican advantage with the religious outreach. Even if he gains just a few points, that could be decisive in a close election." (Quotes from *WorldNetDaily*, 8/24/08). Even though we disagree in principle with the introduction of the innocuous prayers in public forums including schools, is it not hypocrisy to forbid in the schools what the national political parties do when it is convenient and serves their purpose?

In the meantime, the politicians and parties are ambivalent if not worse when asked to take a stand against abortion, homosexuality, and "same-sex marriages." Our society led by politicians more and more frequently mocks and even criminalizes Christ believers who speak the truth from God's Word.

The Lord said, "I am the Lord, that is my name, and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to grave images" (Isaiah 42:8). Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve" (Matthew 4:10). The prayers in the public forum are idolatrous on the face unless they are prayers offered to the Triune God! An honest Christian cannot arrive at any other conclusion. That is what the first commandment is all about! In our society people have the right to believe what they want to believe, but Christians cannot either promote or join in such prayers that are offered to the god of choice. Prayer ostensibly offered to the Lord God as a cover to win votes, look pious, or make the Triune God party to that which is contrary in teaching or morals to His own word is the grossest abuse of His name. The second commandment speaks to that, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." A show of religion may be politically beneficial. What it does for sure is reveals the shallowness of the spirituality in our society. It may contribute to keeping the peace in society and thus in a left-handed way serve a purpose, but it is still hypocrisy in the eyes of the Lord. It may make people feel good, but it does not save a soul.

A nation or a church or an individual that stands for nothing will fall for anything, and will adopt whatever stance it must to get ahead. That is the essence of hypocrisy.

God, for Jesus' sake have mercy on us, and forgive us our sins. As people who were at one time darkness but now are light in the Lord, "Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness and truth), proving what is acceptable unto the Lord" (Ephesians 5:8-10).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 8/31/2008

## What are you seeking?

### This is what you will find among us:

- *The Bible preached as it is – the living Word of the living God; not the preaching of social, political, theological, or ethical opinions of men.*
- *Man acknowledge as he is – born in sin, prone to error and doomed to hell unless rescued by God Himself; not man morally capable of redeeming himself.*
- *Jesus Christ worshipped as the Son of God made flesh to redeem lost and condemned mankind; not a Christ molded to accommodate the modern mind.*
- *God confessed as He has revealed Himself: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost – three divine Persons, one divine Essence; not some god fashioned either by the hand or the mind of man.*
- *Salvation proclaimed by grace through faith in the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; not by the works or efforts or striving of man.*
- *The Gospel preached and the Sacraments administered as the means of grace whereby the Holy Spirit creates and preserves faith; not self-induced religious experience or any so-called faith apart from that which is created by the Spirit through the Gospel.*
- *The Church accepted in faith as the congregation of believers – the creation of the Spirit of God; not a human organization subject to the manipulations of men.*
- *The business of the Church considered to be the preaching of forgiveness for the regeneration of individuals into eternal life; not the redemption of the world to conform to some social pattern of men.*
- *Ecumenism as Spirit-created unity in the Gospel; not as 'agreement to disagree' for the sake of power, organization, or the demands of expediency.*
- *Christian liberty in all that is neither forbidden nor commanded by our Lord; bondage to no word of man.*
- *All the Bible teaches – nothing more, nothing less.*



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† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

Organist: Sue Nelson                      Elder: Al Rosendahl  
Ushers: Paul Lentz, Brad Kitzman, Keith Radichel, James Squires, Eli Wales, Bob Vandever  
Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Michael Ude  
Church Cleaners: P. & J. Radichel

† **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** †

Ushers: Paul Lentz, Brad Kitzman, Keith Radichel, James Squires, Eli Wales, Bob Vandever  
Counting Team 4: Paul Lentz; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner; Jeff Radichel  
Hospitality Team 1: Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice Sandhoefner  
Church Cleaners: P. & J. Radichel

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †

**Today:** 9:00 am – Worship Service  
**Tue., Sept. 2:** 8:00 am – Grace School Opening Worship Service  
**Wed., Sept. 3:** 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Study  
**Sun., Sept. 7:** 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School Begin  
 10:00 am – Worship Schedule Changes  
 11:00 am – Hospitality Begins  
**Sun., Sept. 14:** Council Meeting  
**Sept. 19-21:** Men’s Retreat at Remer, MN

<b>Last Week’s Stats:</b> Aug. 24, 2008		Sun.: 100			
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	2,464.25	CLC:	745.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,225.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-760.75	CLC:	-255.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	98,938.28	CLC:	32,164.35	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	109,650.00	CLC:	34,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-10,711.72	CLC:	-1,835.65	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	20.00	Tuition:	41.00	
GLC Other:	65.00	MDF:	20.00	Kinship:	64.00
ILC Student Aid:	25.00	ILC Bldg.	91.00	IIF: 14.00	CEF: 50.00

**GRACE**

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