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# Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Home Page: [www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org](http://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-8<sup>th</sup>

Church Year: Pentecost 17

Date: September 7, 2008

## † THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

**Worship Preparation:** ..... *Psalm 119, Part XIII, TLH p. 151*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 291: Lamp of Our Feet Whereby We Trace*

**Liturgy:** ..... *TLH, p. 15 ff. (Also available on laminated sheet in pew)*

**Introit (followed by Gloria Patri, The Kyrie):** ..... *TLH, pp. 16-17*

P: Rise up, O God, and defend Your cause;

**C: Remember how fools mock You all day long.**

P: Do not let the oppressed retreat in disgrace;

**C: May the poor and needy praise Your name.**

P: Hasten, O God, to save me;

**C: O Lord, come quickly to help me. Glory be to God!**

**Gloria in Excelsis:** ..... *TLH 199, st. 4*

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

Praise eternal as His love: Alleluia!

Praise Him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

**First Reading:** ..... *Psalm 119:97-104*

The Psalmist expresses how blessed he is with God's Word.

**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 word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, ...

**C: Piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, ... and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Alleluia.**

**Second Reading:** ..... *2 Timothy 3:12-17*

The teachings of the Bible are profitable for our daily use as Christians.

**Confession of Faith:** ..... *Nicene Creed, TLH p. 22*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 627: Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd*

**Sermon:** ..... *Psalm 119:105*

Your word *is* a lamp to my feet  
And a light to my path.

### "God's GPS: His Word"

1. Guide to our everyday lives
2. Positioned before the cross
3. Situated toward our destination



**Offertory:** ..... *TLH p. 22 f.*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 286: How Shall the Young Secure Their Hearts*

**Offering & Prayer:**

**Liturgy for the Lord's Supper:** ..... *TLH p. 24 ff.*

**Distribution:** ..... *TLH 305*

**Note:** In obedience to God's Word, and out of concern for the welfare of souls (1 Corinthians 11:29), and finally that we may honestly express the unity of faith and hope that binds us, we ask that only such as have identified with Grace through public confession of faith or another CLC congregation, approach the altar at the usher's direction.



### The Lord's Supper

**Nunc Dimittis, Prayer,**

**Benediction:** ..... *TLH 29 ff.*

**Installation of S.S. Teachers:**

**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 †

- ◆ **Hospitality:** There are now a few changes with regard to the makeup of the hospitality teams. They are as follows:

- 1: Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice Sandhoefner
- 2: Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz; Peter Fleischer; Alice Weibye; Ed & Verona Lentz
- 3: Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Fred, Pal, & Scott Dauer; Dan & Cindy Degnan
- 4: Mark & Trudy Wales; Al Rosendahl; Karen Auel
- 5: Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick; Frank & Ann Radichel
- 6: Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt Wendland

If there is anyone who is willing to serve on a team, please speak with Trudy Wales.

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **ILC Publicity Update:** Beginning this past Wednesday, Sept. 3, action was able to be observed on the building site at ILC. Trees are now being cleared for the new academic center. This is the first on-site preparation for the new project! For on-going updates and information, check out [www.ilcpublicity.org](http://www.ilcpublicity.org). You can also see the construction blog at: [ILCAcademicCenter.blogspot.com](http://ILCAcademicCenter.blogspot.com).
- ◆ **Young Adult Retreat:** Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire is sponsoring a young adult retreat on Oct. 17-19. It is for ages 18-25, located at Lake Holcombe. Registration forms and information are by the guestbook. Deadline is Sept. 15.
- ◆ **Call News:** Gail Richardson has accepted the call to serve as kindergarten teacher for the 2008-09 school year at Redemption in Lynnwood, WA (Seattle area). † Pastor Michael Gurath has accepted the call to serve as an exploratory pastor for Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Phoenix, AZ. This means he has returned the calls to Living Word of Independence, MO (Kansas City area), and to Faith in Markesan, WI. He will continue to serve as vacancy pastor at Markesan until the vacancy is filled, as agreed upon by Holy Cross when they extended their call.

## CITIZENS OF HEAVEN:

Paul, the apostle and spokesman of the Lord wrote to the Ephesians, "...remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh...that at that time *you were without Christ*, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, *having no hope and without God in the world*" (Ephesians 2:12). But the Father intervened. By the Spirit He brought them to a saving knowledge of and faith in Jesus Christ. "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been made near by the blood of Christ" (2: 13). A dramatic change occurred in their status. "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God" (19). They "... once were not a people but are now the people of God;" they "had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy" (1 Peter 2:25).

The description of the former condition of the Gentiles and of their new condition under the grace of God is in every way descriptive of us. We were born in trespasses and sins, ignorant of Christ and by such ignorance separated from God. However, the Father in His grace, by the power of His Spirit, through the Gospel has called us to faith in His Son. Our Lord Jesus freely completely, and without merit in us has cleansed us of sin, restored hope and life, and promised us the mansions of heaven to which He will take us and all Christ believers (John 14). It is reserved in heaven for "you who are kept by the power of God unto salvation" (1 Peter 1:5). Paul said as reaffirmation of our present status as well as our future, "Our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20).

Christ believers hold dual citizenship. In addition to that of which we have spoken, we are citizens in this world- citizens of the nation and community in which we live. As our citizenship in heaven grants us privileges, it lays upon us responsibilities. In everything we are to glorify God- in our living, our preaching, our speaking, our witness before the world. Likewise citizenship on the earth gives to us privileges as well as responsibilities. In neither element can we become indifferent, lest by indifference or neglect we lose what is ours.

Now we recognize that most important of all and most precious is the citizenship in heaven. We treasure both, but if a decision is forced upon us to make a choice we will choose the citizenship of heaven. It is heavenly and eternal. The other is earthly and passing. But just for the reason that we cherish citizenship in heaven above that of the earth Christians are considered suspect by certain elements of our society. They err! There is nothing to fear of us for we treasure the one, and acknowledge the other also as a gift of God to be appreciated, but not abused!

In Babylon, the people were in a strange land, a hostile environment, and a heathen society. They were not there by choice but by force, albeit the Babylonians were servants of God in chastising Judah. Jeremiah incurred the wrath of many when he wrote the word of the Lord to the captives in Babylon, "Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit." He told them

to raise families- basically, get on with life. Through Jeremiah the Lord had said, "And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it: for in its peace you will have peace." They were not to rebel, or overthrow the king. Their welfare in a strange land was tied to the peace of the land. In due time, God would work His will and deliver them (Jeremiah 29). The circumstance of Judah was not unlike ours- we live in a strange land, a hostile environment, and a heathen society.

Our ultimate home is in heaven. In the Lord's time He will deliver us to the glory of heaven, the peace and rest we desire, to the home where our joy shall know no end. In the meantime, though surrounded by many enemies of our soul, and by many and various evils in a godless world, it remains our privilege as well as responsibility to exert our influence in the best way we can by praying for the city (nation). It is to our benefit now and finally in eternity as we believe the word of the Lord, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11). Do not despair. Our heavenly Father knows each of His children by name (Isaiah 43:1). Citizens of heaven! It is the Lord's will to give you the kingdom!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 9/7/2008

## Sheep and Goats

Growing up in America I always thought of sheep as short round and fluffy, goats on the other hand were rather tall, skinny, lean and of course had horns. Not too hard to tell the difference between the two. Consequently I never thought a big deal of the fact that Jesus separates the sheep from the goats. After all who can't tell the difference? In India I ran into a little different perspective. The sheep are leaner, skinner and taller (although perhaps they only appear taller because they are leaner). The other week near Cudapah we drove up to a field where sheep were grazing. I knew instantly that they were sheep. There was no doubt about that in my mind. But what I found odd was that I didn't know why I knew they were sheep. There was nothing in particular about them that I could point to and say that is the difference that is what makes them sheep and not goats. And although I knew those were sheep out there in the meadow, if someone had stuck a goat or two in among them I probably would not have known it. ...

My guess is that this is far closer to the way it was in Jesus' time than my childhood images. That the very fact that Jesus can perfectly divide the sheep from the goats is a testament to His status as the Good Shepherd, thoroughly knowing his own and knowing his own despite how similar they are on the outside. This is also a reminder of what we see on this Earth. Often from the outside the sheep and goats look a lot alike. In fact I think it happens often that the goats look more like sheep than the sheep do, going far out of the way to help the poor and needy, while the sheep sit in church thinking I give my ten percent to church that is enough. This is very dangerous on two fronts; first because it makes Christ's name a thing of mockery among the heathen. Christopher Hitchens' recently wrote a best seller entitled *God is not Great* in which he attempts to prove that no God exists, or at least that all the religions of

the world are phony. At one point he makes a statement to the effect that he has found that those who preach forgiveness and love are often the least likely to practice it. There is no doubt in my mind that this is true in many instances. Christians can often be far more condemning of those who have fallen into sin even after they have repented than atheists. Contrary to what Hitchens' says this of course doesn't prove anything about the validity of the Bible, all it proves is that those who claim the name of Christ often fail to live lives reflecting Christ. The other danger comes from the Christian perspective when he sees secularists being far more loving than people in his own church, looking far more Christian than the Christians he knows, and begins to wonder if after all there really is a difference. This is of course a danger that Christ warns about in the parable of the wheat and the tares (or weeds for those of who speak modern English). Christ makes it very clear in that parable, that yes sometimes it will be very difficult to tell the difference but that this is not our job. He reminds us that it is not our duty to try to separate them and that if we were to try we would almost certainly pull out some of the wheat and miss some of the weeds. What we need to worry about is do *I* look like a goat? Can people tell when they see me that there is something different about me? Do I reflect the light of my Savior in my life? This is something we need to worry about not for Christ's sake, He knows the difference we can't fool him one way or the other, but for our neighbors sake. For the sake of those who do not yet know Christ. Can they tell the difference? As James says do they see our faith by our works? Because if they can't see our faith in our works I assure you they can't see it anywhere.

Once I realized that I didn't know what the difference really was I thought I would ask and find out. I So I asked our men there, what is the difference? How can you tell apart the sheep from the goats? The response I got was that the goats hold their heads up but the sheep keep theirs down. Both animals of course must bend their heads over to eat, but the rest of the time sheeps' are down, goats' are up. What a wonderful description I thought about the true difference between Christians and non-Christians. What reason does a sheep have to raise its head? It has perfect trust and confidence in its Shepherd. He will lead it to good grazing ground. He will protect it from every danger. The sheep is content to graze and eat and need worry about nothing, the Shepherd is standing over head. The sheep can concentrate on the job at hand, pulling those succulent morsels of grass out of the ground. The goat however has no trust and no faith in the Shepherd. It must at all times constantly be on the alert for danger. It must at all times constantly be on the lookout for its own welfare. How else will it make sure that it gets to the choicest grazing first? How else will it make sure that it receives its fair share? The goat must keep its head up whenever possible to look out for number one, after all who else is going to do it for him? But the sheep relaxes in perfect contentment glad to leave that task up to it Shepherd, enjoying the gifts that He has given to it.

Praise be to God that He has given such a Shepherd to us.

Missionary Matthew Ude, 9/4/2008

† TODAY AT GRACE †

*Organist:* Jan Davis                      *Elder:* Al Rosendahl  
*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:* M. & T. Wales

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

*Ushers:* Benno Sydow, Brian Eichstadt, Gary Gunther, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter, Larry Nelson  
*Counting Team 5:* Mike Dick; Brad Kitzman; Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner  
*Hospitality Team 2:* Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz; Peter Fleischer; Alice Weibye; Ed & Verona Lentz  
*Church Cleaners:* M. & T. Wales

† OUR SCHEDULE †

**Today:** 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class  
 10:00 am – Worship Service w/ Lord's Supper  
 11:00 am - Hospitality  
**Wed., Sept. 10:** 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Study  
**Sun., Sept. 14:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School  
 10:00 am – Worship Service  
 11:00 am – Hospitality; 12:00 pm – Council Meeting  
**Sept. 19-21:** Men's Retreat at Remer, MN

**Last Week's Stats:** Aug. 31, 2008 Sun.: 127 Wed.: 14 School Opening: 23

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	3,208.16	CLC:	1,095.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,225.00	CLC:	1,000.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-16.84	CLC:	+95.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	102,146.44	CLC:	33,259.35
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	112,875.00	CLC:	35,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-10,728.56	CLC:	-1,740.65
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition:	136.00
GLC Other: 25.00	MDF:	35.00	Kinship:	60.00
ILC Student Aid: 0.00	ILC Bldg.	50.00	IIF: 1.00	CEF: 25.00

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Your **WORD** is a **LAMP** to my feet and a **LIGHT** to my path.  
 Psalm 119:105

