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*Grace Lutheran Church & School*



460 75<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Fridley, MN 55432

Email: [jphein@clclutheran.com](mailto:jphein@clclutheran.com)

Home Page: [www.CLCClutheranChurch.org](http://www.CLCClutheranChurch.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 18      **Date:** September 14, 2008

† **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** †

**Worship Preparation:** ..... *Psalm 51, TLH p. 134 f.*  
**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 231: We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost*  
**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 feed on His faithfulness.**  
P: Delight yourself also in the LORD,  
**C: And He shall give you the desires of your heart.**  
P: Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him,  
**C: And He shall bring it to pass.**  
P: The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD;  
**C: He is their stronghold in time of trouble. Glory be to God!**

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

<p>1. Come, Thou almighty King, Help us thy name to sing, Help us to praise. Father all-glorious, O'er all victorious Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days</p>	<p>4. To the great One in Three Eternal praises be Hence evermore! His sov'reign majesty May we in glory see And to eternity Love and adore!</p>
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**First Reading:** ..... *Ezekiel 33:7-11*  
The Word of the Lord tells us that if we fail to warn a fellow Christian of his or her sin, we are also guilty of such sin. If we do warn him or her, we are no longer responsible. Why does the Lord want us to warn a fellow Christian of sin? Because the Lord takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked so that they end up in hell. He rather takes pleasure in the wicked one who turns from his way and lives!

**Gradual:**  
P: Oh, the depth 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 and ever! Amen.**  
P: Alleluia. Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always.  
**C: I will say it again: Rejoice! Alleluia.**

**Second Reading:** ..... *Romans 13:1-10*  
We are instructed to be obedient to our governing authorities. We are also to love the brethren. This love entails that our neighbor is not harmed, especially spiritually.

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

**Hymn:** ..... *WS 779: Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven*

**Sermon:** ..... *Matthew 18:15-20*  
(15) "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. (16) "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' (17) "And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. (18) "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (19) "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. (20) "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

***"GOD'S CARING STEPS FOR SOUL SAVING"***

**Offertory:** ..... *TLH p. 12 f.*  
**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 464: Blest Be the Tie That Binds*  
**Offering, Prayers, Benediction:** ..... *TLH p. 14*  
**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 47: Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise*

*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 †

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Grace Men's Retreat:** Next weekend, Sept. 19-21, will be the annual men's retreat at Remer, MN. Cost this year will be \$90 per adult, \$75 for students. This includes meals and lodging. For questions, please speak with Eli Wales who is organizing the event. The theme for the retreat will be "Big Words with Big Meanings," looking at how meaningful some of our theological words are. Sign up by the guestbook.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **ILC Publicity Update:** This past week the logging necessary for the Academic Center (AC) was completed. The loggers did the work for the value of the logs. The loggers are part of a firm that owns a lumber mill. So whatever they have cut is going directly to their own mill. In addition, ILC has used the opportunity of having loggers on site to take out a number of other trees whose removal was not required for the AC building itself. These trees are also being removed at no cost to ILC and what would be their annual operating budget. So not only are we saving \$5K-\$10K on the AC by not including this as part of the bid package, ILC (and thus the CLC) is saving perhaps another \$1-\$5K on general tree removal expenses on campus. Other items from this week: (1) Market and Johnson set up its command center on campus; (2) August offerings to the ILC Building Fund were \$11,350 and there were new CEF promissory notes in the amount of \$85,000. We are ahead of the financial plan proposed by CLC Trustees at this past summer's CLC Convention. Ongoing updates are available at [www.ilcpublicity.org](http://www.ilcpublicity.org) or at the construction blog, [ILCAcademicCenter.blogspot.com](http://ILCAcademicCenter.blogspot.com).
- ◆ **Refrigerator:** Jeff Radichel has a refrigerator that he is looking to get rid of. If interested, speak with him.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Our CLC church closest to the action of Hurricane Ike is Bethel at Spring, TX (Houston area). Pastor Luke Bernthal reports that his power went out around 2:00 a.m. and is expected to be out for quite some time. He said the grounds look like it is fall. All of the leaves are stripped, branches down everywhere. He has seen no structural damage to the church or parsonage, but has not been able to get out and check the church thoroughly. He said the winds were very fierce. Pastor Bernthal thanks everyone for their prayers and concern for his congregation.



## EVANGELICAL: WHAT IS IT?

In the not so distant past many Lutheran churches were known as "Evangelical" Lutheran churches. Some still have the word incorporated in their name. Some church bodies still have it in their name. However if there is anything that shows how the term evangelical is confused today consider the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) on one hand, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) on the other. There is a distinct difference between those two bodies and the ELCA, all three of which have "Evangelical" in their name. A case can be made about the latter that it is no longer evangelical or Lutheran.

Further we are inundated with evangelical movements, evangelism seminars, evangelistic societies, etc. In part because few understand the meaning of the word any longer, and further because the word has taken on so much baggage it is no longer as widely used. We wish it were not so. In his book, *The Conservative Reformation and its Theology*, Charles Porterfield Krauth wrote, "it is in its true, original compass, a noble, a glorious name, not to be lightly abandoned to those who abuse it" (page 117)

To appreciate the meaning of the word consider the word evangel. The root of the word is from the Greek, *angellos*. which means "to announce." With the prefix *eu*(pronounce: oi) it reads "*euangellos*." The noun is *euangelion*, translated evangel or good news, or as it is commonly translated, gospel. The *euangelion* is to be proclaimed into all the world- "preach the gospel (*euangelion*) to every creature" (Mark 16:15). When the angel (*angellos*- messenger) of the Lord appeared to the shepherds on Christmas night he said "I bring (*euangelizomai*- declare to) you good tidings of great joy" (Luke 2:10). Note that a messenger from God is an *angellos*, an angel.

An evangelist is a preacher of the good news, the gospel. To evangelize means to instruct in the gospel. Evangelism is the preaching of the gospel. So then what is the gospel? First, what is it not? It is not the gospel of "you can get rich," or you can be happy," or "be good and you are good." It is not the social gospel of inclusion, civil rights, or political correctness. It is not the charismatic concept of healing, speaking in tongues, feel good emotional stimulation, having all that you can and being as good as you can be. It is not the message of getting along in marriage, a good sex life, and whatever else turns one on. It is not what for the most part evangelical preaching has become today in the so called evangelical fellowships.

Evangelical preaching and evangelizing does not exclude the message of the law which uncovers sin and declares God's judgment upon sin and the sinner. Evangelical preaching recognizes that the preaching of the law is preparatory to the proclamation of the good news. Krauth said that the strongest preference of the Church of the Reformation was for the name Evangelical, because "no title could more strongly express her character, for preeminently is her system one which announces the glad tidings of salvation, which excites a joyous trust in Christ as a Savior, which makes the word and sacraments bearers of saving grace. In no system is Christ so much as in the Lutheran name ..." (Page 116). Luther said, "The proper office of the Gospel; is to proclaim the proper work of God, that is, grace, through which the Father of mercies freely gives to all people peace and righteousness and truth ..." (WLS, Vol. II, para.1701 page 564). The gospel is the power through which the Spirit creates faith, and it is the power of God unto salvation. It is the message of forgiveness in word and sacrament, the substance of which is atonement of Christ and eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ. The good news is that Jesus died for me, He rose for me, He has prepared for me a place in heaven, and He will take me to heaven.

Whatever is manifest in the Christ believer's life to the benefit of the neighbor and the glory of God grows out of the gospel.

To be an evangelical church obviously the gospel must be there, and is the emphasis of its preaching. Or to put it another way, if Christ is not the beginning the center and the end of its preaching it is not evangelical. The apostle Paul said, "... Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel (*euaggelizomai*)" (1 Corinthians 9:16). He also said, "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:8).

A church need not have the word evangelical in its name to be such, any more than the simple attachment of it makes a church so. Neither our church name nor our church body, Church of the Lutheran Confession, incorporates the name. Yet we are evangelical because our purpose and message complement each other. We proclaim the good news of salvation through the merit of the Lord Jesus Christ. Unless we do so, we have no right to existence, and even less purpose! By the grace of God we shall guard our teaching, and proclaim the gospel faithfully and without compromise. Only then can we say, "I have fully preached the gospel of Christ" (Romans 15:19). Only then is our evangelism a blessing and our church and ministry worthy of the name, Evangelical!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 9/14/2008

## **THE SINNER'S RIGHT:**

Church discipline is the sinning brother's right. Perhaps we are reluctant to regard it as such, especially when the person is guilty of repeated offenses or when he has committed ugly sins. The temptation is there to let him lie in the bed he has made for himself.

Perhaps the sinner, too, is reluctant to accept church discipline as his right. Admonition generally is not pleasant to take. The sinner's old Adam finds it hard to humble himself by asking the congregation's pardon for misconduct.

Reluctance on the part of either the admonisher or offender, however, does not alter the fact that the sinner has the right to expect to be admonished and disciplined by his fellow church members. He has the right to expect his brothers to be his keepers. It is on such brotherly terms that we Christians live together in a congregation or in a synod. By the grace of God a good deal of cooperative effort goes into bringing our souls safely through to eternal life. In a certain sense our congregations may be called mutual aid societies, whose members are bound to come to the aid of each other's souls in time of spiritual distress.



There is no doubt about God's mind in the matter. He speaks plainly and unmistakably about the duty of admonishing one who is going astray and endangering his soul. His words about the supreme responsibility of love over against an erring brother are clear. He convinces us that it is not the winsome way of love to deliver an ultimatum to a sinner before love has endeavored to win him, as our Lord yearned to win wayward Jerusalem and sought its souls with tears.

If the sinner goes astray, if he is in danger of losing his faith, it becomes the duty of those whom God has made his brethren in a congregation to grant him all the rights of loving admonition and church discipline, even if they must beat a path to his door. This right cannot be denied, it cannot be disregarded, it cannot be avoided by cutting ties with the sinner and going a separate way before love and duty have their way with him.

When his brother has offended him, a Christian will not walk out on his brother without giving the erring sinner his due — all of it.

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† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

Organist: **Maureen Ochsner**      Elder: **Benno Sydow**  
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**

† **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** †

Ushers: **Benno Sydow, Brian Eichstadt, Gary Gunther, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter, Larry Nelson**  
Counting Team 1: **Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel; Pat Paplow**  
Hospitality Team 3: **Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Fred, Pal, & Scott Dauer; Dan & Cindy Degnan**  
Church Cleaners: **M. & J. Dick**

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †

**Today:** 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class  
 10:00 am – Worship Service  
 11:00 am – Hospitality; 12:00 pm – Council Meeting  
 7:00 pm – Worship Service @ Chaska  
**Wed., Sept. 17:** 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Study  
**Sept. 19-21:** Men's Retreat at Remer, MN  
**Sun., Sept. 21:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School  
 10:00 am – Worship Service  
 3:30 pm – Our Redeemer's - Red Wing 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Last Week's Stats:** Sept. 7, 2008 Sun.: 142 S.S.: ?? B.Cl.: 50 Wed.: 23

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	3,987.55	CLC:	1,504.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,225.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+762.55	CLC:	+504.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	106,133.99	CLC:	34,763.35	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	116,100.00	CLC:	36,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-9,966.01	CLC:	-1,236.65	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	19.00	Tuition:	64.00	
GLC Other:	329.00	MDF:	17.00	Kinship:	64.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	819.00	IIF: 19.00	CEF: 40.00

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*Matthew 18:20*