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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
 School Phone: 763-784-6340 Grades: Kindergarten-8th
 Church Year: Pentecost 9 Date: July 25, 2010

† **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 119, Part I, TLH p. 149*

Hymn: *TLH 27: Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul*

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

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

P: Your Word is a lamp to my feet

C: And a light to my path.

P: Teach me Your way, O Lord, and I will walk in Your truth;

C: Give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name.

P: I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart;

C: For great is Your love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 237, st. 1: All Glory Be to God on High*

All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended!

To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended.

God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign

on earth again; Oh, thank Him for His goodness!

First Reading: *1 Chronicles 29:10-13*

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. My Word that goes forth from My mouth ...

C: It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Alleluia.

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 10:6-13*

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

Hymn: *TLH 357: Jesus, Thou Art Mine Forever*

Sermon: *Matthew 13:44-46*

(44) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. (45) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, (46) "who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. (NKJVTM)

“A KINGDOM WORTH POSSESSING”

1. Is not of the earth

2. Is eternal, and therefore

3. Is worth the cost

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 381: I Know My Faith Is Founded*

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

Closing Hymn: *TLH 52: Almighty Father, Bless the Word*

† **THE ANNOUNCEMENTS** †

- ◆ **Thanks:** To Pastor Daniel Fleischer, former pastor at Grace, for sharing the Word with us today. Pastor Hein is on vacation and will be returning later on Thursday.
- ◆ **Bridal Shower:** A bridal shower will be held today in honor of Jessica Fabian, fiancée of Michael Ude.
- ◆ **Vacation Bible School:** Please register your child(ren) who will be attending VBS this year. This will be held on August 2-6 from 9-11:30 am. The children will also participate during the Sunday morning service on August 8.
- ◆ **Teacher Installation:** On August 8 during our worship service there will be an installation of our three teachers of the Day School. Ann Radichel will be teaching kindergarten and Ellen Bergstrom will be teaching half-time. Janelle Hein will be added to the staff as a full-time teacher. A hospitality hour will follow the service.
- ◆ **Free Items:** There are several items near the school lockers that are free for the taking. Please take a look and see if there is anything that you are interested in. Whatever is left will be disposed.
- ◆ **CLC News:** A crew from various congregations is being assembled for August 6-8 to help clean the debris left over from timbering done on the Immanuel campus in Eau Claire.

AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE: With the *Brief Statement of 1932*, we confess that “the Holy Scriptures differ from all other books in the world in that they are the Word of God.” They are the Word of God because holy men “wrote only that which the Holy Ghost communicated to them by inspiration.” Paul wrote in 2 Timothy, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (is “God breathed”). Consequently unless one chooses to accuse the Holy God of lying, or suggests that God was incapable of telling the truth, he who professes to believe the Bible must believe that there is no error or contradiction in the Bible—whether it speaks of spiritual, historical, geographical matters, or things which touch on science. The Christ believer believes God’s Word *is* truth (John 17:17). He who professes to be Christian is bound to believe that Scripture was given by inspiration of the Holy Ghost, and that God cannot be separated from His Word. He further must confess that the authority of Scripture is absolute.

However, because of our flesh we are not always comfortable in believing that the authority of Scripture is absolute. What do we mean? Natural man chafes when Scripture accuses him of sin. However, anytime one excuses sin, justifies sin, or softens the impact of sin—“Your iniquities have separated you from your God...” (Isaiah 59: 2), one is in fact rebelling against the authority of Scripture. In the final analysis such rebellion “affronts the very Majesty on High” (Pieper: *Christian Dogmatics*, Vol. 1, p. 307). Further, any intentional or unintentional teaching contrary to the Word of God in reality undermines the authority of Scripture! Anytime one responds to Scripture with “Yes, but...” in opposition to what Scripture says he offends the divine Majesty.

Who among those who claim to be Christian would dare to distinguish what is or is not authoritative in Scripture? Who among those who claim to be children of God would fashion themselves so wise as to make the subjective judgment of what is necessary to be believed from God’s Word and what is not? How can the sinner who is troubled about his sin and seeks relief from the accusing conscience find peace if he cannot be sure of what is absolute in Scripture? If not all of Scripture is truth, or if any word or part of Scripture is deemed to be less than absolute or authoritative, how can one be sure that the Lord Jesus Christ indeed bore the sins of the world on His shoulders, died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin, and rose again to restore life and eternal salvation? What other revealed source of the Father’s redemptive love in Christ is there than Scripture? Any attack on the

integrity or authority of any word or part of Scripture casts doubt on all of it—including the very Gospel itself!

In catechism class this teacher—with tongue in cheek—enjoyed making the assignment that each student independent of the others should determine what was God’s Word in the Bible and what was not. The next day we would compare notes. Thank God we do not have to make that decision—all of Scripture is the truth of God and all of Scripture is authoritative! We can trust it all, and doubt none of it!

Unless one believes that all of Scripture is God’s Word and that its authority is absolute, only chaos and confusion prevail. And that is the sorry state within much of Christendom today—including within much of Lutheranism! Many examples (e.g. creation/evolution, salvation by faith in Christ/work-righteousness) from different church sources could be cited. Let suffice a most blatant example which illustrates the point. The Presbyterians meeting in Minneapolis (*Star Tribune*, July 9, 2010) said “yes” to ordaining homosexual and lesbian clergy, but want to study further the matter of “marriage” of same sexers. One individual said legalized homosexual and lesbian “marriage” “puts pastors in a bind” if a pastor has two same sexers in the congregation who want to “marry”. The quandary? “The law allows it. What are they (pastors) supposed to do?” The answer is quite simple for those who believe that the Bible is God’s Word, it is truth, and its authority is absolute.

We confess that if what is taught is not Scripture, it is not Lutheran! On the other hand, if what is taught is truly Lutheran it will be firmly anchored without qualification in the inspired and authoritative Word of God! Only then can one have unequivocal confidence in what John wrote by inspiration, “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God” (1 John 5:11 – 13) . The confidence of the sinner who confesses his sin and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ unto everlasting life is based upon the Word of God and its unassailable authority! “Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it” (Luke 11: 28).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 7/18/2010

† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Ed Lentz

Ushers: Mark Wales, Don Auel, Pete Fleischer, Ole Olmanson, Eli Wales, Brandt Wendland

Counting Team 4: Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner

Church Cleaners: Nelson/Kitzman

† **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** †

Ushers: Mark Wales, Don Auel, Pete Fleischer, Ole Olmanson, Eli Wales, Brandt Wendland

Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel; Pat Paplow

Church Cleaners: Nelson/Kitzman

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †

- Today:** 9:00 am – Worship Service
 10:15 am – Bridal Shower for Jessica Fabian
- Sun., Aug. 1:** 9:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
- August 2-6:** 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School
- Fri., Aug. 6:** 11:30 am – VBS Picnic
- Sun., Aug. 8:** 9:00 am – Worship Service w/Teacher Installation
- Sat., Aug. 14:** 9:00 am – Work Day for the School
- Sun., Aug. 15:** Seminarian David Pfeiffer Begins his Vicarage
- Mon. Aug. 16:** 7:00 pm – School Ice Cream Social
- Mon., Aug. 23:** 10:00 am – Opening Service at Immanuel in Eau Claire
- Mon., Aug. 30:** 8:00 am – Opening Service for Grace School
- Wed., Sept. 1:** 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School students
- Sun., Sept. 12:** Regular Worship Schedule Begins
- Sept. 17-19:** Grace Men's Retreat

Last Week's Stats: July 18, 2010 Sun.: 108

Week's Offering:	Grace:	\$1,941.53	CLC:	\$716.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,015.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,073.47	CLC:	-244.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$87,656.63	CLC:	\$26,389.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	87,435.00	CLC:	27,840.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+221.63	CLC:	-1,451.00	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	78.00	Tuition:	0.00	
GLC Other:	50.00	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	52.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	20.00	IIF:	21.00
				CEF:	0.00

*Grace Lutheran
 Church & School*

The kingdom of heaven
 is like a treasure hidden.

Matthew 13:44

