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*Grace Lutheran Church & School*

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Fridley, MN 55432  
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Home Page: [www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.org](http://www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.org)  
Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635) Phone: 763-784-8784  
School Phone: 763-784-6340 Grades: Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup>  
Church Year: Pentecost 16 Date: September 12, 2010

† **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** †

**Worship Preparation:** ..... *Psalm 19, p. 126*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 14: All People that on Earth do Dwell*

**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 16, st. 4*

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Praise to Thee and adoration!  
Grant that we Thy Word may trust  
And obtain true consolation  
While we here below must wander,  
Till we sing Thy praises yonder.



**First Reading:** ..... *Philemon 1:1,10-21*

Receiving a brother is to be a voluntary act, not by compulsion.

**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.**

**CDS Hymn:** ..... *TLH 51: Now May He Who from the Dead*

**Second Reading:** ..... *Luke 14:25-33*

Jesus' leadership is worth more than anything in this world.

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 410: Jesus, Lead Thou On*

**Sermon:** ..... *Proverbs 9:8-12*

(8) Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise *man*, and he will love you. (9) Give *instruction* to a wise *man*, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just *man*, and he will increase in learning. (10) "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (11) For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you. (12) If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you will bear it alone." (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

**Wisdom 101:**

**“Learning from Our Mistakes”**

1. Learning to fear the LORD.
2. Learning to understand the Holy One.
3. Learning to love correction.

Preacher: Vicar David Pfeiffer

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

**Hymn:** ... *TLH 226 v.1-4,6-7 Come, Oh, Come, Thou Quickening Spirit*

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

**Sunday School Teacher Installation:**

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 489: v.1-2: Lord of the Church, We Humbly Pray*

*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!*

## REALISM OR PESSIMISM?

As witnesses to the love of God in Christ Jesus, and as bearers of the Word of God, the substance of which is the message of that love, Christ believers can be nothing but optimistic. To be less than optimistic would be to doubt the promise of the Lord as well as the power of the Word which assures us, "(My Word) shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11). Subsequently the Lord gave the great commission to the Church to preach the Gospel to every creature. In keeping with the Lord's commission as well as based on His promise sure, the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) declares its "single purpose to be a Christian church that proclaims the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible" (*CLC Statement of Faith and Purpose*, p.5).

In connection with the great commission the Lord speaks of "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you ..." (Matthew 28:20). The CLC takes this seriously. In our preaching and teaching we are to preach and teach all that is in Scripture, neither adding to it, nor subtracting from it! How seriously a church takes the words of the Lord will determine how it carries out the great commission. Taking the Savior's commission seriously means that we preach law and gospel—the law in its unvarnished exposure of sin, and condemnation on one hand, and on the other, the glorious and unsurpassed message of forgiveness, justification, and eternal salvation through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus. We will speak in love bearing in mind the level of understanding of those to whom we speak. But we dare never speak less than the truth for fear that speaking the truth will cause people to walk away as indeed many did because Jesus spoke the truth. The reaction of many to Jesus' teaching was, "This is a hard saying" (John 6:60), and many "went back and walked with Him no more" (66). Jesus sorrowed at their reaction, but the loss was not His. It was theirs. And so in our witnessing, unless we are going to tailor our preaching and teaching to appeal to human whim and desire in order to attract people to our church, we will suffer the same sorrow as our Lord. But the loss is not that of those who speak the truth, but of those who reject the truth!

Surely our desire and prayer is that sinners who see their need will identify with and become part of our church family! However, our purpose as those who are committed to the *whole counsel* of God is not to be driven by a desire to attract people to our church. The evidence is shown that in churches who see that as their purpose ultimately give up preaching the whole counsel of God because the truth is not helpful to their purpose and understanding of "growing the church." Such churches put their finger into the wind to determine what to teach. Rather than being teachers of God's Word they become advocates of societal whims and individual agendas! If that is a hard saying, so be it! Nor is our responsibility to convert people. We cannot do that. Only the Spirit of God converts the heart. Our responsibility is to preach the truth in which the gospel of our Lord is the "power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16). We are to preach the gospel, proclaim the truth, and trust that whether individuals join us or not, the word of God will not return unto Him empty handed. He will add to the Church such as are being saved (Acts 2: 47). Instead of fixating on visible results the only question we should ask ourselves is whether or not we are faithful in exercise of our calling, as well as faithful in what it is that we are preaching.

Yes, we would like people to identify with us. However, as a confessional Lutheran church in a pseudo-religious world competing against the devil and "fun and game churches" or against those who bear the Lutheran name but have lost the Lutheran character, realistically it is not likely that we are going to see dramatic increases in members. Some may see that judgment as pessimistic and defeatist. We prefer to see it as realism in a day when people with itching ears can easily find churches that will scratch their itch (2 Timothy 4:3)!

We should be so busy studying the Word, teaching the Word, applying the Word – law and gospel—to the human condition, and declaring the Word as our Lord has given it to us in the Scripture that we have no time to fret about "church growth." In his last epistle to Timothy Paul said, "Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long suffering and teaching" (2 Timothy 4:2).

As we minister on in these last days let us do so with confidence. As we preach the whole truth of God's blessed Word, He will bring to pass through our preaching what He wills. He will gather His elect. We have His promise. Furthermore, it is enough for us to know that He knows them that are His even though we don't. Let us consider it a privilege to be bearers of His Word through which He gathers His flock. To the extent that we feel a desire to make our church attractive to "outsiders," let it be the attraction of truth and steadfastness, together with a life that is adorned with righteousness and joy in the Lord. Let our teaching, as well as our faith active in good works be a magnet that draws the attention of people yearning for what they have not yet found. Let them see and hear that we have found Jesus (John 1:45-46), so that as they ask of the hope that is in us, we may say, "Come and see."

(Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 9/12/2010)

## † THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Midweek Bible Class:** Midweek Bible Class will be held on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm starting this Wednesday, September 15.
- ◆ **Invitation:** Messiah Lutheran Church of Eau Claire, WI, has invited the congregation to its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. There will be morning services at 8:00 and 10:45 am and a program of celebration at 3:00 pm followed by food and fellowship.
- ◆ **Church Cleaning:** We are still in need of cleaners during the fall.
- ◆ **Snell Memorial Golf Tournament:** A brochure for this event is available by the guest book. It will be held on Sept. 25 in Hastings.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Mark Bernthal has returned the call to Prince of Peace in Loveland, CO. The congregation has now called Mr. Scott Schiermeister who has accepted this call. † Pastor Michael Roehl of St. Paul in Bismarck, ND, has received the call to Luther Memorial in Fond du Lac, WI. † Pastor John M. Johannes has returned the call to Our Redeemer's in Red Wing, MN. The congregation has now called Pastor David Baker of Ascension in Batavia, IL (Chicago area).

† TODAY AT GRACE †

*Organist:* Janelle Hein      *Elder:* Frank Radichel

*Ushers:* Mike Dick, Larry Brandt, Roger Brandt, Nick Duehlmeier, Dale Enns, Lynn Sandhoefner

*Counting Team 3:* Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Michael Ude

*Hospitality Team 3:* Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Ryan & Mikey Oman; Nick & Miranda Duehlmeier; Dan & Cindy Degnan

*Church Cleaners:* E & V Lentz      *School:* Flesner

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

*Ushers:* Mike Dick, Larry Brandt, Roger Brandt, Nick Duehlmeier, Dale Enns, Lynn Sandhoefner

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

*Hospitality Team 4:* Mark & Trudy Wales; Al Rosendahl; Karen Auel; Bob & Suki Vandever

*Church Cleaners:* Dick      *School:* Flesner

† OUR SCHEDULE †

**Today:** 9:00 am – Sun. School & Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service  
11:15 am – Hospitality  
11:15 am – Boards; 12:00 pm – Council

**Mon., Sept. 13:** 10 am – MN Pastoral Study Club @ Mankato, MN

**Wed., Sept. 15:** 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class Resumes

**Sept. 17-19:** Grace Men's Retreat

**Sun., Sept. 19:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
9:00 am – Sun. School & Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service  
11:15 am – Hospitality

**Sat., Sept. 25:** Snell Memorial Scholarship Golf Open

**Sept. 29-30:** CLC Coordinating Council @ Eau Claire, WI

**Last Week's Stats:** Sept. 5, 2010 Sun.: 104

Week's Offering:	Grace:	\$2,304.19	CLC:	\$753.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,015.00	CLC:	960.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-710.81	CLC:	-207.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$105,359.07	CLC:	\$31,485.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	108,540.00	CLC:	34,560.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-3,180.93	CLC:	-3,075.00
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	26.00	Tuition:	80.00
GLC Other:	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	65.00
ILC Student Aid:	ILC Bldg.	75.00	IIF: 3.00	CEF: 2.00

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But the wisdom  
that comes from heaven  
is first of all pure;  
then peace loving,  
considerate,  
submissive,  
full of mercy  
& good fruit,  
impartial & sincere.

James 3:17