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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Home Page: www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635)

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Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 25

Date: November 14, 2010

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 90, TLH p. 142*

Hymn: *TLH 609: Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*

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

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

P: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

C: His love endures forever.

P: Let the redeemed of the Lord say this —

C: Those He redeemed from the hand of the foe.

P: He lifted the needy out of their affliction

C: And increased their families like flocks

P: The upright see and rejoice,

C: But all the wicked shut their mouths. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 249: Isaiah, Mighty Seer*

All: Isaiah, mighty seer, in days of old

All: The Lord of all in spirit did behold

Women: High on a lofty throne, in splendor bright,

All: With flowing train that filled the Temple quite.

Men: Above the throne were stately seraphim;

Men: Six wings had they, these messengers of Him.

Women: With twain they veiled their faces, as was meet,

All: With twain in rev'rent awe they hid their feet,

Men: And with the other twain aloft they soared,

Women: One to the other called and praised the Lord:

All: "Holy is God, the Lord of Sab-ā-ōth!

All: Holy is God, the Lord of Sab-ā-ōth!

All: Holy is God, the Lord of Sab-ā-ōth!

All: Behold, His glory filleth all the earth!"

Women: The beams and lintels trembled at the cry,

Men: And clouds of smoke enwrapped the throne on high.

First Reading: *Jeremiah 26:1-6*

Jeremiah warns of coming destruction, hopeful of repentance.

Gradual:

P: These are they who have come out of the great tribulation;

C: They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

P: Blessed are those whose strength is in you,

C: Who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.

P: Grow in grace

C: And in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Hallelujah!

Second Reading: *2 Thessalonians 1:5-10*

Paul warns of the coming punishment of the wicked and the coming rest for those who admire (believe in) their Savior from sin, Jesus Christ.

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

Hymn: *TLH 604: Great God, What do I See and Hear!*

Sermon: *Luke 21-33-36*

(33) "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.

(34) "But continue to take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts become

numbed with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day

come on you unexpectedly like a trap. (35) "For it will come upon all those

who are sitting on the face of the whole earth. (36) "Therefore keep on

the alert at all times, praying that you may prevail — to escape all these

things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

(Translation by Pastor Hein)

"Turn Your Attention ..."

1. Away from the world which will end

2. To the Word which will endure

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 608: Let Thoughtless Thousands Choose the Road*

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

Hymn: *TLH 657: Beautiful Savior*

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!

MAINTAINING A CONFESSIONAL CHURCH:

A confessional Lutheran Church is one that steadfastly holds to Scripture and faithfully teaches in accord with the Savior's command to teach "them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20). A church which takes the latter half of the great commission seriously does not take liberties with the Word of God. Likewise, it subscribes without reservation to the confessions of the Lutheran Church recorded in the Book of Concord of 1580.

According to that criterion much of Lutheranism, most certainly the largest Lutheran Church in America, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has ceased to be confessional. We of the Church of the Lutheran Confession are bound by Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. For that reason 50 years ago we chose the name by which we are identified. We recognize it is a challenge to remain a confessional church given the weaknesses of our own flesh, as well as the intense attacks that are made in society against the Lord and His Word. Yet we believe that we have been faithful to the Lord and the confession of our Reformation fathers. We shall leave it to those who observe us to determine for themselves whether we live up to our name or not. We expect only that they will make their determination by comparing our doctrine and practice to the Word of God.

But Satan is subtle. If he cannot succeed to destroy a confessional church by contaminating its doctrine, he will try other means—innocent in themselves, but which in the long term can potentially lead to the loss of confessionalism. C.P. Krauth laid his finger on the means by which confessionalism can be lost, if not in our generation, in that which follows when he asked, "Must Lutheranism be shorn of its glory to adapt it to our times or our land" (The Conservative Reformation and its Theology, p.208).

Such loss can occur most imperceptibly and incrementally through the introduction of elements which in and of themselves may not be wrong. They may be viewed as harmless and even helpful to make the church more attractive to masses. One of the avenues toward eventual confessional unclarity might well be the myriad of liturgies that are perceived to be more attractive and less musty than the sound and substantive Lutheran liturgy. The historic Lutheran liturgies with minor variations in different Lutheran churches have served the church well through the ages. Through them Lutherans within a particular fellowship have been able to identify with one another. No, we are not railing against liturgical changes in and of themselves. But surely those who take exception to this assessment will grant that there is some benefit and blessing in knowing the liturgy well—for example, one can speak the confession of sins, and the absolution—or parts of

each—in the daily course of one's day. Familiarity with the liturgy is a blessing even more so as one's hearing fades and eyes grow dim. The soundness of our historic liturgy is part of our confession. Its thoroughly Trinitarian nature defines our faith in the face of the modern idea that God may be defined/described however one chooses to do so.

We do not expect that contemporary services minimizing the liturgical richness of our heritage will take hold among us. But then, did C.P. Krauth have reason to be concerned that the Lutheran Church would lose its Lutheran character when he asked, "Must Lutheranism be shorn of its glory to adapt it to our times or our land?" Dare we hope that we will at least be alert to the danger involved in trying to adapt our liturgy to the times in which we live?

Along the same vein consider the subject of hymns. There are a myriad of good, sound, doctrinal, spiritually, uplifting hymns that are not in our hymnal. Use them. However, though it is not incorporated into our congregations we trust, the specter of contemporary Christian music (CCM) looms large if for no other reason than that it is heavily promoted in the religious culture of our country. The very word "contemporary" suggests that the music/words are "adapted to our times and land." They who appreciate CCM have the choice to listen to it. But why would any concerned about confessional Lutheranism even give it consideration. "That is not our intention," one says,

True, up to this point! But our young people are exposed to it on the public airwaves. They have been exposed to it in various youth /children's camps even among us. As they are taken by its emotion, its sound, (Whatever happened to appreciation of Lutheran chorales?) and its prevailing themes, how long before the sound Lutheran hymns that have nurtured the faith of the church are looked upon as passé and outdated? Right here is the problem. Since we do not and cannot say that all CCM is wrong, the CCM genre can innocently infiltrate hearts and minds until it becomes the music of choice in place of sound and substantive hymnology that has served the church well for generations. Again we trust and believe that there is no intention among us to promote CCM as an alternative to sound Lutheran hymns! Nevertheless apart from recognizing its availability and pointing out its dangers to confessionalism why should such a genre be promoted in the church at all?

One answer advanced is that CCM is a much better alternative than listening to the mindless, raunchy, bad secular music. Agreed!

But we have some other questions. Why is CCM suggested as an alternative music? Why not busy ourselves teaching and promoting Lutheran hymnology? Why not point out the value of sound scripturally based hymns

as a counter weight to the music and lyrics that pass for music in the secular arena? What CCM lyrics compare to "Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness, my beauty are, my glorious dress. Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, with joy shall I lift up my head (TLH 371)? What CCM lyrics compare to "Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes" (TLH 552)? Granted, there may be some, and probably are some CCM lyrics that are scripturally based and meaningful. But are the impressionable among the youth able to distinguish?

Nurturing an understanding of the doctrine and practice of fellowship - worshipping with those with whom we are one in faith and confession - is itself a difficult challenge. The CCM culture has no sense of what the doctrine of fellowship is about or why it is important. This retired pastor is happy that he does not have to try to show a stricken CCM youth why he or she should not join in the worship (singing spiritual songs is an exercise of worship) with CCM adherents. He is relieved that he does not have to explain why the youth choir or the church choir or the congregation does not sing CCM.

While we have addressed the subject of liturgy and hymns, there may very well be other "we can't say there is anything wrong with it" issues that put confessionalism at risk. We have addressed matter of music(hymns and liturgy), however, because it is one which engages youthful and not so youthful minds--minds which, unless they appreciate the soundness of Biblical theology, and sound confessional practice, may ultimately see their church "shorn of its glory."

We know we have launched into deep water here. It is not comfortable to be perceived as being against what many find comfortable and stimulating. But the writer would be even more uncomfortable if he failed at very least to sound the alert and point out the dangers of a "laissez faire" attitude toward the danger. Toleration begets acceptance.

There was no greater advocate of music and its blessing to the soul and spirit than Martin Luther. It is a legacy that he has left to the Church- particularly to the Lutheran Church. We pray that among us the utilizing of this gift of God in the education of our youth and in the life of the church will always reflect "the pattern of sound words" (2 Timothy 1:13). We agree with Luther who said that not "all arts are to be overthrown and cast aside by the Gospel" (What Luther Says, Vol.2, para.3095, p. 981). We do advocate, however, that in our time when a clear and firm confession of faith is called for, such confession needs to ring loudly from our schools and churches. Simply put, because "we cannot find something wrong" is hardly good reason in itself to introduce anything that gives the devil reason to believe that if he persists, he will succeed! (Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 10/2010)

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Thanksgiving Eve Service:** Our Thanksgiving service will be on Wednesday, Nov. 24, 7 pm. While things may not be particularly bright with our national economy, we are still assured of our Lord's providence and bounty of spiritual blessings. The deep well of our Savior's all-abounding grace never runs dry! We have a great opportunity to gather together in worship with our fellow Christians to thank the Lord. Come and worship your Lord, thanking Him for every good and perfect gift! Berea Lutheran in Inver Grove Hts. will also be holding its Thanksgiving service on Thursday morning at 9:00 am.
- ◆ **Cookie Bake:** The annual Christmas Cookie Bake will be held on Sat., Nov. 27 from 9am-1pm in the fellowship hall. Kids and adults are welcome to bake and decorate some yummy treats to share and bring home.
- ◆ **Poinsettia Signup:** The signup sheet for Poinsettia's is on the cabinet by the guest book at the church entry. It will be there for the month of Nov. If anyone has any questions, please contact Jackie Radichel.
- ◆ **Recital:** Those grade school students interested in participating in a music recital please speak with Janelle Hein. This will be held during hospitality on December 12.
- ◆ **ILC Christmas Concert:** This year's Christmas concert will be held on Fri., Dec. 17, 7:30 pm, at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. Those who wish to sign up for a ride on the bus, there is a signup list for the trip.
- ◆ **LUTHERANSPOKESMAN.ORG:** The CLC Board of Education and Publications announces the completion of this new website created to enhance The Lutheran Spokesman. We encourage the use of this website for the building up of your personal faith and also as a social networking evangelism tool for the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We hope you will visit the site and then recommend it to your family and friends. Beginning with the December issue, The Lutheran Spokesman will work in conjunction with the new website: lutheranspokesman.org.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Neal Radichel of St. Stephen in Mountain View, CA, has accepted the call to Luther Memorial in Fond du Lac, WI.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #10 – 8th Commandment.



Last Week's Stats: Nov. 7, 2010 Sun.: 99 S.S.: 21 B.Cl.: 38 Wed. 19

Week's Offering:	Grace:	\$5,092.00	CLC:	\$1,576.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,015.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+2,077.00	CLC:	+616.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$134,103.24	CLC:	\$40,370.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	135,675.00	CLC:	43,200.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-1,571.76	CLC:	-2,830.00	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	55.00	Tuition:	61.00	
GLC Other:	14.00	MDF:	120.00	Kinship:	70.00
ILC Student Aid:	20.00	ILC Bldg.	45.00	IIF: 30.00	CEF: 20.00

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Al Rosendahl

Ushers: Roger Ochsner, Don Dahlin, Jeremiah Boe, Bob Maki, Joel Stifter, Arnold Gehrls

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

Hospitality Team 6: Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt Wendland

Church Cleaners: A. Radichel School: Sandhoefner

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Roger Ochsner, Don Dahlin, Jeremiah Boe, Bob Maki, Joel Stifter, Arnold Gehrls

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

Hospitality Team 1: Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice Sandhoefner

Church Cleaners: A. Radichel School: Story

† OUR SCHEDULE †

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

Wed., Nov. 17: 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Sun., Nov. 21: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sun. School & Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality

Wed., Nov. 24: 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Sat., Nov. 27: 9:00 am – Christmas Cookie Bake

Wed., Dec. 1, 8: 7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship

Sun., Dec. 5, 12: 12-2 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsals

Sun., Dec. 12: 3:00 pm – ILC Piano & Organ Recital

Wed., Dec. 15: 7:00 pm – Candlelight Worship

Fri., Dec. 17: 2:00 pm – Day School Northtown Concert
7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert

Sun., Dec. 19: 9:00 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal; 12:00 Council Meeting

Fri., Dec. 24: 6:30 pm – Christmas Eve Worship

Sat., Dec. 25: 10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship

Fri., Dec. 31: 7:00 pm – New Years Eve Worship w/Lord's Supper

Grace Lutheran Church & School

