

Click here to open service webpage for: 2011/08/21/

Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432



Email: jphein@clclutheran.com

Home Page: www.CLCClutheranChurch.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

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

Phone: 763-784-8784

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Grades: 1st -8th

Church Year: Pentecost 10

Date: August 21, 2011

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 42-43, TLH p. 133*

Hymn: *TLH 28: Now Let All Loudly Sing Praise*

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

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

P: From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind;

C: From His dwelling place He watches all who live on earth —

P: He who forms the hearts of all,

C: Who considers everything they do.

P The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him,

C: On those whose hope is in His unfailing love. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 244, st. 1,4*

1. Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit: Great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory, While eternal ages run!

4. Glory, blessing, praise eternal! Thus the choir of angels sings;
Honor, riches, pow'r, dominion! Thus its praise creation brings.
Glory, glory, Glory to the King of kings!

First Reading: *Romans 8:35-39*

Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus!

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. Jesus said, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. ...

C: My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." Alleluia.

Second Reading: *Matthew 14:13-21*

Jesus provides for the physical welfare of the 5,000.

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

Hymn: *TLH 284: Father of Mercies in Thy Word*

Sermon: *Isaiah 55:1-5*

(1) "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. (2) Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. (3) Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you; The sure mercies of David. (4) Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, A leader and commander for the people. (5) Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, And nations who do not know you shall run to you, Because of the LORD your God, And the Holy One of Israel; For He has glorified you."

A TASTY MEAL FOR YOUR SOUL

1. IT'S SATISFYING

2. IT'S FREE

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *WS 744: How Great Thou Art*

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

Hymn: *TLH 39: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Memorial Service Note: This past Wednesday there was a memorial service for Matthew Snyder. Matthew had been faithfully attending services in Eden Prairie and recently (at our July voters meeting) became a member at Grace through his profession of faith. It was very encouraging to see how the Lord used this as an opportunity for the Gospel to be proclaimed! It was also very encouraging to see many from the group at Eden Prairie plus some members from Grace. The family commented very positively about how things went.

“TO DIE FOR ...”

When some food or some experience was so great it may be said that “it was to die for.” Perhaps you have heard the expression, or even used it. So then, is the faith to which we are called by the Spirit, and which we are called upon to confess before the world, something we are ready to die for?

Recently an Iranian court gave an Iranian pastor an ultimatum: Reject his Christian faith, or die. According to CNSNews the indictment against the pastor, “a father and evangelical pastor who became a Christian at age 19, accused him of organizing evangelistic meetings, sharing his faith, inviting others to convert, running a house church, and “denying Islamic values.” We do not know the conclusion of the matter.

Neither do we know of what Christian persuasion the pastor was. However, are we ready to die for the true Christian faith as we promised in our confirmation vow? Over the years of ministry, this pastor's conscience was pricked each time he asked the questions. He also wondered if the young person understood the seriousness of what was being promised: “Do you as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, intend to continue steadfast in the confession of this Church, and suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?” Every confirmand that stood before our altar responded: “We do so intend with the help of God.” “Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the rule of the divine Word, to walk as it becomes the Gospel of Christ, and in faith, word and deed to remain true to the Triune God, even unto death?” Every confirmand who stood before the altar responded: “We do so intend, by the grace of God.” Note that the promise made has no time limit. It is “unto death.” Being faithful to Scripture and our vow could even be our death!

Pledging steadfastness to the “confession of this church” implies that the church before whose altar the promise was made will remain steadfast to the Triune God and to the divinely inspired Scriptures through which He speaks, as well as to the Lutheran Confessions drawn from the Word of God. If the church in which we were confirmed departs from the Word of God, we are bound by the same Word of God, and by our conscience bound by the Word, as well as our promise, to depart from that church.

The above vows are worthy of serious consideration for a number of reasons, not the least of which is our concern over the many who forsake them, if not their faith. This struck a particular nerve, however, in view of the “reject or die” ultimatum laid upon the aforementioned pastor. Scripture tells us that all who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. We know that all the apostles with the exception of John died a martyr's death. Peter was told how he would die (John 21:18-19). Stephen died for the sake of Christ under a hail of stones Acts 8:2). In every age Christians have been persecuted or have died for the faith (Hebrews 11:35-38). Martin Luther lived a good portion of his life under the edict of death for confessing the Truth.

The likelihood that any of us will have to die for the faith is perhaps remote. But who can say? We do know that in these evil days ridicule, ostracization, and rejection will be the lot of Christ believers who dare to speak out against sin in the public forum. We further know that to confess the Lord Jesus Christ as the Savior will bring difficulties upon us, especially if we confess with Scripture that eternal salvation is only through faith in Jesus. Faithful confessors of Christ bear the further sorrow and pain of being ridiculed even by false Christians within the apostate church.

Those who join the military know that ultimately they may face death. When our Lord called us to faith, and enlisted us in His service, He was “up-front” with us. As we confess our faith we know it will be as He said, “If the world hates you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you ...” (John 15:18-20). The Lord does not speak to frighten, but to tell confessors what to expect as they take up the cross and follow Him.

Peter tells us that when we do good—and what is better than to confess Christ?—and suffer for it (1 Peter 4:7, 12) if we bear it patiently this is commendable before God (1 Peter 2:20). As a spokesman of the Lord he adds, “But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober (serious), and watch unto prayer ... Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy” (1 Peter 4:7, 12, 13).

Despite the consequences of confessing Christ in the world, let us rejoice that the Lord Jesus bore our sins in His body and suffered immeasurably more than any of us will suffer. Yes, even if it is our lot. He has saved us from the destruction that is reserved in hell for the devil and his followers. We need not fear what man can do to us for life eternal is our future through the merits of the Lord Jesus, and the grace that has been showered upon us by the Father! As we are in Christ Who has overcome the world, so have we overcome the world!

Our inheritance in heaven was won for us through Christ's death and resurrection. With the help of God, and by the grace of God let us be faithful unto death that we may possess the crown of life (Revelation 2:10).

Yes, it is “to die for” if necessary!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 7/2011

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **ILC Opening:** Tomorrow morning (Aug 22) the opening Service of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will be streamed with live video. You may find the link at www.ilc.edu. The service is scheduled to begin at 9:55 am.
- ◆ **Sunday School:** Those interested in teaching Sunday School this coming year may speak with Pastor or with superintendent Rick Nelson.
- ◆ **Golf Tournament:** Details about the annual Snell Memorial golf outing are found in brochures by the guest book. The event will be held Saturday, Sept. 24.
- ◆ **Appleton Preaching Station:** Worship services that had been in the Green Bay area have now been moved to the Appleton area. This is an effort between Faith in Markesan and Luther Memorial in Fond du Lac. Pastors Paul Krause and Neal Radichel are conducting the services, currently scheduled for the first and third Sundays of the month. Bible Study, 4 p.m., communion worship at 5 p.m. Location: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2220 E. College Ave, Appleton.

† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Larry Nelson

Ushers: Benno Sydow, Brian Eichstadt, Gary Gunther, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter, Larry Nelson

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

Church Cleaners: P. Radichel

† **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

Church Cleaners: P. Radichel

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †

Today: 9:00 am – Worship Service

Mon., Aug. 22: 9:55 am – Opening Service at ILC in Eau Claire, WI

Sun., Aug. 28: 9:00 am – Worship Service

Mon., Aug. 29: 8:00 am – Opening Service for Grace School

Wed., Aug. 31: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

Sun., Sept. 4: 9:00 am – Worship Service

Sun., Sept. 11: 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School Begin
10:00 am – Worship Service (Fall Schedule Begins)

Sat., Sept. 24: Snell Memorial Open (Golf – details forthcoming)

Last Week's Stats: August 7, 2011 Sun.: 124

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,417.25	CLC:	\$966.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,850.00	CLC:	960.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-432.75	CLC:	+6.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$94,706.85	CLC:	\$28,500.50
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	94,050.00	CLC:	31,680.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+656.85	CLC:	-3,179.50
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	50.00	Tuition Aid:	120.00
GLC Other:	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	103.00
ILC Student Aid:	ILC Bldg.	0.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9

GRACE

*Grace Lutheran
Church & School*

**WHY SPEND
MONEY ON
WHAT IS NOT
BREAD,
AND YOUR LABOR ON
WHAT DOES NOT SATISFY?**

