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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Fridley, MN 55432



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Home Page: www.CLCCGraceLutheranChurch.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

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

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Grades: 1st-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 18

Date: October 16, 2011

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 27, TLH p. 129*

Hymn: *TLH 227: Come, Holy Ghost, in Love*

Liturgy: *WS, p. 12 ff. (Pastor sings Lord Have Mercy, top of p. 13)*

CDS Hymn: *WS 775: Thy Strong Word*

First Reading: *Isaiah 55:6-9*

The Lord desires that the wicked turn from their evil ways and return to Him. To all who are such the Lord showers mercy.

Second Reading: *Philippians 1:18-27*

The apostle writes from prison. He rejoices that the gospel is being preached, even if some do it from a selfish motive. As for himself his desire is to glorify Christ in his ministry and ultimately to be with Christ, though now he knows that for the time being it is better for him to remain in the service of his Lord on this earth.

Alleluia: *WS p. 14 f.*

Confession of Faith: *Apostles' Creed, WS p. 15*

Hymn: *TLH 380: Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ*

Sermon: *Matthew 20:1-16*

(1) "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. (2) "Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. (3) "And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, (4) "and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. (5) "Again he went out about

the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. (6) "And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' (7) "They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.' (8) "So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them *their* wages, beginning with the last to the first.' (9) "And when those came who *were hired* about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. (10) "But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. (11) "And when they had received *it*, they complained against the landowner, (12) "saying, 'These last *men* have worked *only* one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.' (13) "But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? (14) 'Take *what is yours* and go your way. I wish to give to this last man *the same* as to you. (15) 'Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?' (16) "So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen." (NKJVTM)

ARE YOU FIRST OR LAST IN LINE?

Offertory: *WS p. 16*

Hymn: *TLH 408: Jesus Christ, My Pride and Glory*

Offering, Prayers, Benediction:

Hymn: *TLH 15: From All that Dwell Below the Skies*

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Among Us:** Kjell Olmanson was hospitalized this past week with what is being diagnosed as a unique type of migraine. This is the third time he has experienced this. He is back to his normal routine. We pray that the Lord will keep Kjell safe in His keeping.
- ◆ **Immanuel Position Open:** The position of facilities manager has opened in the maintenance department of ILC. Application forms will be available through your pastor or at: <http://www.ilc.edu/administration/Online%20Forms/job%20application.pdf>. Contact: John K. Pfeiffer, 501 Grover Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701-7134 john.pfeiffer@ilc.edu (715) 836-6621
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Vance Fossum of Holy Trinity in West Columbia, SC, has received the call to Rock of Ages in Grand Rapids, MI.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #5 – 4th Commandment.

POLITICIANS AND RELIGION:

Recently Michelle Bachman who is running for president of the United States left the church of which she had been a member. She was a member of a church of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We do not know how active she was in the church or how committed she was to the doctrine taught in that church. We do know that as could be expected her congregation and the WELS were coming under closer scrutiny by the press and political foes of the candidate. Insofar as her public stance on abortion and homosexual marriages reflected the WELS scriptural stance, both she and the church were subject to ridicule. While we do not know what she thought on the subject, the WELS was also the object of scorn because it recognizes the papacy as the anti-Christ outlined in Scripture, as well as in the Lutheran Confessions.

Without knowing why MS. Bachmann left her church, we make the observation that if one leaves a confessional Lutheran church for political advantage, such a person either did not believe what he professed to believe, or at very least did not take it seriously.

Martin Luther respected government as an ordinance of God as Scripture teaches in Romans 13. He said that "Respect for a government official is a very necessary requirement in a state" (WLS, Vol. II, p. 590). He urged that we pray to God for the officers of the state. At the same time He also said, "You must know that from the beginning of the world a wise prince is a rare bird indeed ... (p.588). In fact he said that they are usually "the greatest fools or the worst knaves on earth." Granting that Luther may have been using hyperbole, was he far from the truth? Then he wrote, "If a prince turns out well, so that he is wise, pious, or a Christian, it is one of the greatest wonders, and one of the most precious tokens of divine grace upon that land" (p.589). Finally of the government which controls all things in matters temporal, and to which the church is subject in secular matters, Luther recognizing the potential for evil and abuse by government said, "A Christian ought to endure oppression and injustice" (599). He declared that God is the ultimate judge!

Respect for and prayer for government, and a willingness to suffer if need be does not mean that Christians should not be vigilant. While Luther cautioned against armed rebellion against government, he also had something to say about government that seeks to "take the Gospel from us." "In that case you should say: 'The Gospel and Word of God I will not give you ... Your power does not extend to the Word of God. We recognize the emperor as a lord over temporal possessions and not over God's Word. *This* we shall not permit to be torn from us'" (p 591). "We ought to obey God, rather than man" (Acts 5:29).

Politics is a different world. One of the most prevalent sins in this evil world is slander, lying, and defamation of character. Politicians have raised these sins to an art form. Further, politics must necessarily engage in compromise. Not everyone can get what he wants. While compromise in the political realm is necessary, it in turn feeds the greed and self-interest of politicians. Politicians have to be everything to all people. This touches on why it would be difficult, if not well nigh impossible, for a confessional Lutheran to be engaged in politics in an official way. In fact if one who aspires to politics, he would be a "rare bird" indeed if he won the office which he sought. Why? Because if one is true to Scripture, he cannot and will not compromise his faith! Unless he is ready to go against conscience he could not countenance by vote something that is blatantly sin in the light of Scripture.

Every politician presents himself as religious. As we have often pointed out, being religious does not equate in itself with being Christian! But the nature of politics being what it is, politicians want to make the best impression on the most. So whether the church they choose to attend reflects their faith or their profession is difficult to determine and therefore of little consequence. It is not likely that a politician would close a speech with "The Triune God bless America." Such exclusiveness would invite much not so holy wrath.

For these as well as other reasons a confessional Lutheran would find it difficult to hold an office in government. A sensitive politician with a conscience would not want to subject his family, his church, or the Lord Jesus Christ to the certain mockery that surely would follow upon confession of what one truly believes as a confessional Lutheran.

As children of God we live in a foreign environment while we await deliverance to heaven which is God's promise to all who confess Him. We pray for the welfare of our nation; we pray for godly politicians. If there is one of conscience who exercises himself in the pure, and holy, and certain word of God in His personal and professional life, we certainly pray for that person. But if such a one were to seek our advice about going into politics or not, we would advise him that there are other ways to serve God and nation.

Whether in the political arena or in the hinterlands it is true, "Whoever confesses Me before men, him will I also confess before My Father Who is in heaven. But whoever denies me before men, him will I also deny before my Father Who is heaven" (Matthew 10:32-33). In this case what is true with respect to the politician is true for the paean. Confession of Christ involves confession in Word and life of the whole Word of God, not just selected parts of it, or when it is convenient and safe.

† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

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

Ushers: **David Stifter, Scott Baker, Al Rosendahl, Dylan Stifter, Lyle Trulin, Michael Ude**

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

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

Church Cleaners: **Dick/Englehorn** *School:* **Bergstrom**

† **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** †

Ushers: **David Stifter, Scott Baker, Al Rosendahl, Dylan Stifter, Lyle Trulin, Michael Ude**

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

Hospitality Team 5: **Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick; Frank & Ann Radichel**

Church Cleaners: **Dick/Englehorn** *School:* **Sydow**

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †

Today: 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
 10:00 am –Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality
 11:30 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

October 19-21: CLC Teachers Conference (Markesan, WI)

Wed., Oct. 19: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Sun., Oct. 23: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality

Sat., Oct. 29: 9:00 am – Grace Work Day

Last Week's Stats: Oct. 9, 2011 Sun.: 98 S.S.: ?? B.Cl.: 33 Wed.: 21

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|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Sun. Offering: | Grace: | \$1,745.00 | CLC: | \$731.00 |
| Weekly Need: | Grace: | 2,850.00 | CLC: | 960.00 |
| -Under / +Over: | Grace: | -1,105.00 | CLC: | -229.00 |
| Year-to-Date Offering:: | Grace: | \$118,650.28 | CLC: | \$36,795.00 |
| Year-to-Date Need: | Grace: | 116,850.00 | CLC: | 39,360.00 |
| Year-to-Date (+/-) | Grace: | +1,800.28 | CLC: | -2,565.00 |
| Other Offerings: | Living Faith: | 0.00 | Tuition Aid: | 100.00 |
| GLC Other: | MDF: | 0.00 | Kinship: | 50.00 |
| ILC Student Aid: | ILC Bldg. | 70.00 | IIF: | 10.00 |
| | | | CEF: | 0.00 |

*Grace Lutheran
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*"Then you will know
 the truth,
 and the truth
 will set you free."*

John 8:32