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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: 1st-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 21

Date: November 6, 2011

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

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

Hymn: *TLH 539: Come, Thou Bright and Morning Star*

Liturgy: *TLH, p. 15 ff. (Also available on laminated sheet in pew)*

Introit:

P: I will extol the Lord at all times, His praise will always be on my lips.

C: My soul will boast in the Lord, let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

P: Glorify the Lord with me;

C: Let us exalt His name together.

P: I sought the Lord, and He answered me;

C: He delivered me from all my fears.

P: The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;

C: He delivers them from all their troubles. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 36, st. 3*

All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,

The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven:

The one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore!

For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

First Reading: *Daniel 7:9-10*

An Old Testament prophesy about Judgment Day.

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: Alleluia. Alleluia. This is the Lord, we trusted in Him;

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation. Alleluia.

Second Reading: *Matthew 25:31-46*

Jesus teaches what will occur on Judgment Day.

Confession of Faith: *Nicene Creed, TLH p. 22*

Hymn: *TLH 605: The World Is Very Evil*

Sermon: *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

(1) But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. (2) For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. (3) For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. (4) But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. (5) You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. (6) Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. (7) For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. (8) But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation. (9) For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, (10) who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. (11) Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing. (NKJV™)

"Let Us Watch and be Sober"

Offertory: *TLH p. 22 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 479: Zion, Rise, Zion, Rise*

Offering & Prayer:

Liturgy for the Lord's Supper: *TLH p. 24 ff.*

Distribution: *TLH 315: I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table*

Note: In obedience to God's Word, and out of concern for the welfare of souls (1 Corinthians 11:29), and finally that we may honestly express the unity of faith and hope that binds us, we ask that only such as have identified with Grace through public confession of faith or another CLC congregation, approach the altar at the usher's direction.

Nunc Dimittis, Prayer, Benediction: *TLH 29 ff.*

Hymn: *TLH 313: O Lord, We Praise Thee*

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 speak with you!

HOW TO LIVE AND HOW TO DIE:

As we celebrate the Reformation this year, we are closing in on the 500th anniversary of that event. In 1517 God's servant Martin Luther struck the blow that left an indelible mark on the church world.

Every Lutheran who appreciates the heritage of the Lutheran Church appreciates the boldness with which Luther stood against the pope, and how at Worms he in the face of fierce opposition made the sterling confession that he would not take back or deny what he had written and taught unless he could be shown from clear Scripture that he was wrong.

As Lutherans we are not about praising Luther, but about thanking the Lord for having raised up a man of lowly reputation to accomplish by God's grace what others before him had tried but failed to accomplish. This was due in no small part to Luther's emphasis that, as corrupt as the pope and Catholic Church were, the issue was not about papal indiscretions, but about doctrine. While John Wycliffe and John Huss before him attacked the lives of the popes, Luther attacked their and the church's doctrine.

Luther's intent was not to start a revolution against the pope or the Catholic Church. Rather, his interest was in reforming the church. In 1523 Luther said, "What is good we shall keep" (What Luther Says, Vol. III, p.1183 [note]). For him it was all about the Word of God and the freedom to preach and teach that Word faithfully. He said, "We have never yet desired anything else, nor do we now desire anything else, than the liberty to have the Word of God, or the Holy Scriptures, to teach and to practice it" (Vol. III p.1178, para. 3764).

How far from Luther's steadfastness and love for the pure Word of God much of Lutheranism has fallen today!

What strikes one is that while Luther spoke boldly and stood firmly in the heat of battle, he nevertheless had to deal with personal weaknesses and even doubts. He was subject to depression. About the beginning of the Reformation he commented, "How often my heart struggled, rebuked me, and threw up to me their one and strongest argument: 'You alone are wise?'" (Vol. III p.1174, para. 3756). How often have faithful pastors and members who have taken a firm stand for the Word of God had the same pangs today! Luther acknowledged that in spite of those conscience pangs, the Lord strengthened him through His certain Word. That admission certainly implies strongly that Luther was a student of the Word. He was a living example of the word of the Apostle Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Those who travel today to Eisleben, Germany, the city of his birth, can stand at the bed in the room in which Luther died. As he lay dying, he kept repeating, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son ..." (John 3:16). No matter how faithful the preacher, pastor, and church member, all are reduced to equal status when death is at the door. The only thing that overcomes the fear of death is the blessed gospel, the certainty of Jesus' redemptive love through which He freely paid for the sins of the world--and thus for the sins of the dying Christian!

Luther's pastor friend, Justus Jonas, asked the Reformer, "Do you want to die standing firm on Christ and the doctrine you have taught?" Luther answered, "Yes." He died shortly thereafter. In his pocket was found a scrap of paper on which Luther had written—and this expresses his humility— "No one can think that he has tasted the Holy Scripture thoroughly until he has ruled the churches with the prophets for a hundred years." He concluded with the following words (in Latin): "*This is true, we are all beggars.*" (Quotes from *Luther the Reformer*, Kittelson, p.297).

Beggars before God! Beggars before God swallow their pride in the face of death. They do not rest on personal laurels. They know that their personal reputation is of no account before God. They do not trumpet their good works, or personal worth (before God they have none!). Instead they exclaim with the tax collector in the temple, "God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13). "They make that appeal with the confidence of Saint Paul, who said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief" (1 Timothy 1:15). The wealth of the beggar is the despised Christ, His cross, and His gloriously empty tomb. The glory of the dying Christian is Christ's robe of righteousness on account of which the Father in heaven is compelled to receive to heaven each sinner who dies in faith in Jesus Christ!

We thank the Lord for raising up Luther who showed us how to live in steadfastness to the Word. But we also thank the Lord for showing us, in Luther, how to die! "Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word," And then receive us to glory everlasting. Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Among Us:** Alice Weibye and Elnora Smith are now both at care facilities receiving therapy. Alice is at Anoka Care Center; 1040 Madison St.; Anoka, MN 55303. Elnora Smith is at Golden Living; 2727 Victoria N., Room 717; Roseville, MN 55113.
- ◆ **Poinsettias:** There is a signup sheet with details by the guest book for those interested in purchasing poinsettias for the sanctuary.
- ◆ **Box Tops for Education** were sent in this week. We are expecting a check totaling \$330.00! The next deadline for submission is the end of February so keep saving. Don't forget about the Campbell's labels as well.
- ◆ **Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day:** is November 11. Come and learn more about your church's college and a continuing education with Christ. Speak with pastor if interested.
- ◆ **ILC Play:** will be on Nov. 11-12, at 7:30 pm: "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." Two of Grace's members will be participating.
- ◆ **CLC News:** The Board of Missions recently learned of a tragic fire that destroyed the homes of several families in one of the congregations of the CLC-India. While we are saddened and concerned over this earthly trial, we are thankful that the Lord has allowed us to offer a small amount of emergency assistance through the MDF to help the affected families including CLCI Pastor Isaiah who also teaches at the CLCI Seminary.

† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

Organist: Jan Davis Elder: Frank Radichel

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

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

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

Church Cleaners: Ude School: Hein

† **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** †

Ushers: 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 2: Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz; Jenny Kleifgen

Church Cleaners: Ude School: Story

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †

Today: 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am –Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
11:15 am – Hospitality

Wed., Nov. 9: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Fri., Nov. 11: Visitors' Day @ Immanuel Lutheran College

Nov. 11 & 12: 7:30 pm – ILC Play "The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe"

Sun., Nov. 13: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality

Wed., Nov. 23: 7:00 pm – Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Sunday School Memory Work: #9 – 7th Commandment.

Last Week's Stats: Oct. 30, 2011 Sun.: 110 S.S.: 19 B.Cl.: 43 Wed.: 23

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,639.75	CLC:	\$937.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,850.00	CLC:	960.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-210.25	CLC:	-23.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$126,046.25	CLC:	\$40,189.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	125,400.00	CLC:	42,240.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+646.25	CLC:	-2,051.00
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	100.00
GLC Other:	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	ILC Bldg.	685.00	IIF:	0.00
			CEF:	3.00

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*Therefore keep
watch, because you
do not know the day
or the hour.*

Matthew 25:13