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Grace Lutheran Church & School

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Fridley, MN 55432
Email: jphein@clclutheran.com
Home Page: www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.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: Advent I Date: November 27, 2011

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 18, TLH p. 125*

Hymn: *TLH 64: Jesus, Thy Church with Longing Eyes*

Liturgy: *TLH, p. 5 ff. (Laminated Sheet in Pew Also Available)*

Note: Today we will sing the introit and have the Advent candle lighting in place of the liturgy from pages 6 - 9.

Introit: *Tune of TLH 58: O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee*
Written by Gerhardt Mueller (retired CLC teacher)

I lift my soul to Thee, Lord; God, I now trust in Thee.
Let me not be ashamed Before mine enemy.
May He not over-take me Nor triumph o'er my soul;
Teach me Thy ways and paths, Lord, That I may reach the goal.

Advent Candle Lighting: *The Prophecy Candle*

We light this candle as a symbol of expectation. This we experience because Christ's coming has been prophesied. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way to salvation.
O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Response: *TLH 62, st. 1: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.



First Reading: *Romans 13:11-14*

Our salvation is drawing near. Let us walk properly in these last days.

Gradual:

P: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
C: Shout, daughter of Jerusalem!
P: See, your King comes to you,
C: Righteous and having salvation.
P: Alleluia, Alleluia. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
C: From the house of the Lord we bless You! Alleluia.



Second Reading: *Matthew 24:37-44*

Instead of Watch! For the Jesus' return will come when we least expect it.

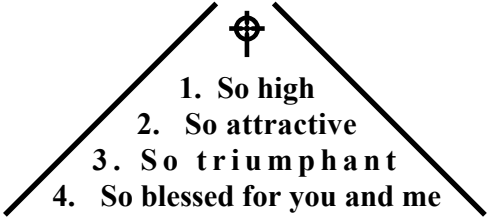
Confession of Faith: *Apostolic Creed, TLH p. 12*

Hymn: *WS 703: Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*

Sermon: *Isaiah 2:1-5*

(1) The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. (2) Now it shall come to pass in the latter days *That* the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. (3) Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (4) He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. (5) O house of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of the LORD. (NKJVTM)

Come to Mount Zion, the Lord's Church



Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 469: Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken*

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

Hymn: *WS 706: Go Tell It on the Mountain*

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Evangelism Workshop:** Today, from 2:30-6:00 pm, an evangelism workshop will be hosted by Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. A flyer is posted on the bulletin board by the mailboxes.
- ◆ **December Spokesman:** The eight page "Bread of Life" daily Bible reading schedule that comes out every year in the December issue is available only online. The pdf file is on the home page of lutheranspokesman.org. Pastor has printed a few hard copies which are by the mailboxes.
- ◆ **Midweek Advent Services:** On Wednesdays, Dec. 7, 14, and 21, at 7 pm, we will have our series of three midweek services with the theme: "Stars of Promise." Our last midweek service on December 21 will be our annual candlelight service preceded by the congregational Christmas meal at 6 pm.
- ◆ **Christmas Meal:** Please join us for a fellowship meal at 6 pm prior to the Candlelight service on December 21. Dessert is being provided from the Dorcas Guild's Christmas cookie bake. Those attending may bring sandwiches, salads, or a dish to share.
- ◆ **ILC Recital:** The ILC music teachers extend an invitation to attend the student Piano/Organ Recital on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3:00 p.m. in the ILC Fieldhouse.
- ◆ **ILC Christmas Concert:** This year's Christmas concert will be held on Fri., Dec. 16, 7:30 pm, at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. For those who wish to sign up for a ride on the bus, there is a signup list for the trip.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Service:** Our children will be rehearsing for the service on the following dates:
 - ◆ Sun., Dec. 4: 12-2 pm (luncheon at church and may start a bit early)
 - ◆ Sun., Dec. 11: 12-2 pm (luncheon at church and may start a bit early)
 - ◆ Sun., Dec. 18: 9-9:45 am (please be here at 8:45 am so that we can start promptly in order to get through everything)

December is a busy month, but please understand the importance of these rehearsals for a successful Christmas Eve service. Each child should attend at least 2 out of the 3 sessions, but attending all three is obviously the most preferable. The children have a wonderful opportunity to express the Good News of our salvation through Jesus Christ. The parents' help is greatly appreciated to make everything go well, as is evident by how well things have gone the past few years.

- ◆ **Christmas Worship:** Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 6:00 pm with our children presenting the Christmas Gospel. The theme this year is: *The Stars of Christmas*. Christmas Day worship (on a Sunday this year) will be held at 10:00 am. May the Morning Star of Jesus Christ arise in your own heart this Christmas season through the joyous message of His birth!
- ◆ **Coming Up:** On Christmas Eve afternoon, in a private service, Rona Flesner will be baptized with two of her children: Dayne and Gavin. She intends to make her profession of faith during our Christmas Day worship service.
- ◆ **2012 Cleaning:** The 2012 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **Catechism Class:** Class will be suspended on Dec. 28 for the Christmas break. Class will resume on Jan. 4.
- ◆ **Nomination Slate for 2012:**
 - President: Al Rosendahl
 - Vice President: Eli Wales
 - Secretary: Jack Kirkham
 - Treasurer: Paul Lentz
 - Elder: Phil Radichel, Dave Rust
 - Education: Roger Ochsner, Michael Ude
 - Trustee: Ryan Oman, Brandt Wendland
- ◆ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Vance Fossum of Holy Trinity in West Columbia, SC, has returned the call to Rock of Ages in Grand Rapids, MI. The congregation has now called Pastor Delwyn Maas of Holy Cross in Phoenix, AZ.

◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Individual Parts

Last Week's Stats: Nov. 20, 2011 Sun.: 112 S.S.: ? B.Cl.: 35 Wed.: 101					
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,570.47	CLC:	\$835.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,850.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-279.53	CLC:	-125.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$131,956.42	CLC:	\$41,992.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	131,100.00	CLC:	44,160.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+856.42	CLC:	-2,168.00	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	5.00	
GLC Other: 26.00	MDF:	5.00	Kinship:	0.00	
ILC Student Aid: 0.00	ILC Bldg.	110.00	IIF: 1.00	CEF: 0.00	

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!

Living Our Faith in This Present World

Recently while listening to a sport talk show, the talking heads were speaking of a pro quarterback for Denver, Tim Tebow. Through his college years Tebow had a reputation of being a confessing Christian on the field as well as off. This reputation has followed him into pro football where to the present time he has had mild success. With reference to his football, he has had his share of critics.

The radio talkers were speaking of how he handles this criticism. One who covers him for the newspaper said that he handles the criticism well. This then is what was striking—and refreshing to hear. The reporter said that to Tim Tebow there is more to life than football. He is anchored in his faith, and he has a higher goal than accomplishments in football. His goals are beyond this life. Consequently, criticism of his football ability is not a big issue with him. For that reason he simply goes about his business, using his gifts to the best of his ability and letting the chips fall where they may. This was said of Tebow without any suggestion of ridicule on the part of the reporter.

To hear such an assessment was a breath of fresh air. It was impressive that a reporter of the athletic scene would be so complimentary. It does also speak well of the young player. Tebow grew up in a pastor's home. His father is a Baptist preacher. During his college football career Tebow wore biblical verses on his eye black (blackener under the eyes deflects the sun).

In the 2009 BCS Championship Game, he wore "John 3:16" on his eye paint. 92 million people searched "John 3:16" on Google during or shortly after the game. Messages in the eye blackener have since been banned by the NCAA.

As Christians we are encouraged by Scripture to be ready to give a reason of the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15). Indeed we need not wait to be asked of that hope. We will pray for the courage and strength to speak of our Christian faith and hope without prompting. But the reality is that, unless it is apparent that we are Christian, it is likely that few will ever ask us of our faith and hope.

Our lives in and of themselves will not convert hearts of inquirers. Only the Word of God converts the heart. Nevertheless, our lives are always a witness—either for good or for bad. When our lives are lived to the glory of God they can become instruments which move people to ask what we believe or why we confess, live, and act as we do. These are

questions people may not otherwise ask. Some will ask because they are genuinely interested. Others may ask because they think us strange and consequently will choose to ridicule us for our faith and confession.

Concerning his preaching, the apostle Paul asked the Galatians, "For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ" (Galatians 1:10). Paul did not preach to be a pleaser of men. As one commentator said, Paul did not "dilute the Gospel to achieve a quick and cheap success" (Franzmann). We serve the Lord Christ by preaching the truth and that truth may well displease men! But we are bound to preach and speak that truth if we would be true spokesman and representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The same holds true to with regard to how we live. Our lives frequently speak louder than our words—for better or for worse. If we live our faith, our life will serve to the glory of God. By living our faith we are reflecting the power of God and the power of the Gospel in our lives. Surely that will be the purpose of our life as we await the entrance into heaven which our Lord has prepared for us. If our walk is "heavenward all the way" it will be far different from the walk of those who are earthbound, whose goal is no more grand than what they can see and whose anticipation reaches no further than the dreaded grave. The Christian walk is one that desires to please the Heavenly Father, and not the world! It is a walk that invites those who watch and hear to join us in that walk. Our walk will be one that seeks the favor of God, that men may see "[y]our *good* works and glorify [y]our Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

A life anchored in Christ and His Word is a life that does not pick and choose when and where to live as a child of God. It is a life that flows spontaneously from faith, and at work, at play, in the market place, at home, in public and in private, glorifies the Lord God!

Children of God do not live their faith in word and deed to attract people's attention. Rather they do so because the love of Christ constrains them so to walk. That our confession in word and deed catches people's attention is a by-product of such a walk which hopefully leads others to recognize that we have been with Jesus. Furthermore, the Christian faith in action armors us against the criticism of the world. As we are secure in our faith and eternal hope, we will understand that what is important is not what critics think of us, but what our Father has given us in Christ Jesus!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 11/2011

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Frank Radichel

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

Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker; Mark Wales

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

Church Cleaners: D. Rust

School: None

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: 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 5: Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick; Frank & Ann Radichel

Church Cleaners: Kitzman

School: Wales

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality
2:00-6:00 pm – Evangelism Workshop at Eau Claire, WI

Wed., Nov. 30: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

Sun., Dec. 4: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
11:15 am – Hospitality
12-2 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal

Wed., Dec. 7, 14: 7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship

Sun., Dec. 11: 12-2 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
3:00 pm – ILC Piano & Organ Recital

Fri., Dec. 16: 7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert

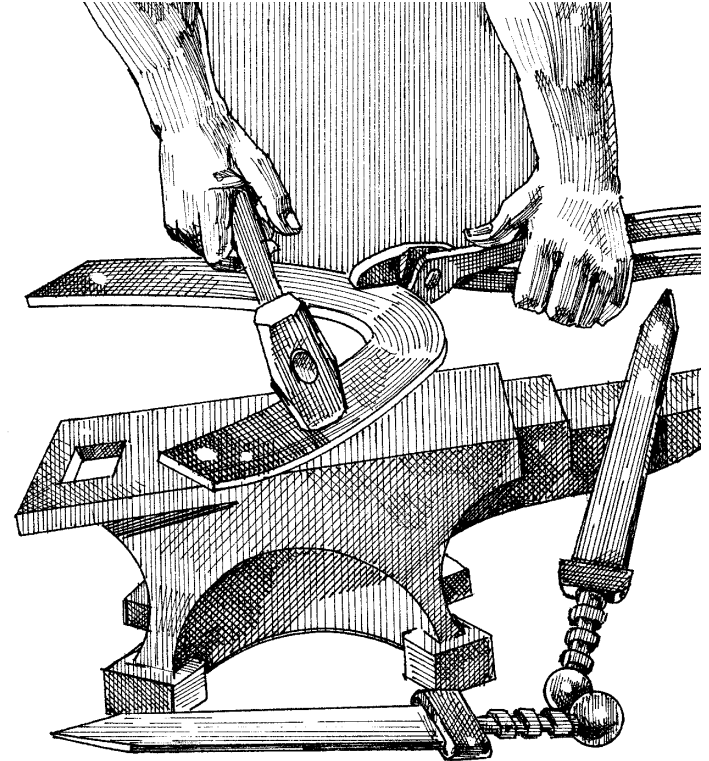
Wed., Dec. 21: 6:00 pm – Congregational Christmas Dinner
7:00 pm – Candlelight Worship

Sun., Dec. 18: 9:00 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
12:00 Council Meeting

Sat., Dec. 24: 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship

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

Grace Lutheran Church & School



THEY WILL BEAT THEIR SWORDS
INTO
AND PLOWSHARES
AND THEIR SPEARS INTO
PRUNING HOOKS

ISAIAH 2:4