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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

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

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Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 8

Date: July 22, 2012

✠ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

Worship Preparation: Psalm 77, TLH p. 139

Hymn: TLH 243: Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices

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

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

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good;

C: Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.

P: The Lord has chosen Zion, He has desired it for His dwelling:

C: "This is My resting place forever and ever; here I will sit enthroned,

P I will bless her with abundant provisions; her poor will I satisfy with food.

C: I will clothe her priests with salvation, and her saints will ever sing for joy." Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: TLH 244, st. 1

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!**

First Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

God has from eternity called His saints to be His own. Since He had made us His own here in time by the work of the Holy Spirit, He has assured us and all believers of our future destiny by giving us a pledge: the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

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. The Word is very near you;

C: It is in your mouth and in your heart that you may do it. Alleluia.

Second Reading: Mark 6:7-13

God calls people for His service after He makes them His own. Jesus here sends out His apostles to preach, teach, and heal.

Confession of Faith: Apostolic Creed, TLH p. 12

Hymn: TLH 261: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word

Sermon: Amos 7:10-15

(10) Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words. (11) "For thus Amos has said: 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, And Israel shall surely be led away captive From their own land.'" (12) Then Amaziah said to Amos: "Go, you seer! Flee to the land of Judah. There eat bread, And there prophesy. (13) But never again prophesy at Bethel, For it is the king's sanctuary, And it is the royal residence." (14) Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah: "I was no prophet, Nor was I a son of a prophet, But I was a sheepbreeder And a tender of sycamore fruit. (15) Then the LORD took me as I followed the flock, And the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to My people Israel.'" (NKJVTM)

"Preaching an Unpopular Message"

Offertory: TLH p. 12 f.

Hymn: WS 780: Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give

Offering, Prayers, Benediction: TLH p. 14

Hymn: TLH 53: Abide, O Dearest Jesus

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Vacation Bible School:** This is scheduled for August 6-10. A registration sheet is on the narthex table. We still need a craft person.
- ◆ **Among Us:** This past Thursday Brian and Ellen Bergstrom celebrated their 15th anniversary. May the Lord continue to bless their union with His grace as they center their lives in Him. Elnora Smith has returned home from Sioux Falls after rehabilitating from her broken ribs. The family is searching for a local care facility. May the Lord tenderly care for her!
- ◆ **Blogs:** The 2012 CLC Mission Helper Trip to East Africa Blog has been updated: <http://2012clcmhteastafrica.blogspot.com/>. Also Prof. John Ude is currently visiting Nepal with his son Matt. You can find his trip blog at: <http://john.lutheranmissions.org/>
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Edward Starkey of St. Peter's in Iron River, MI, has received the call to Rock of Ages in Grand Rapids, MI. † Mike Schierenbeck will be installed as Pastor at Living Hope, Appleton, WI, at a 5:00 p.m. service on August 12.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Part 6

EARLY CHILDHOOD: HOME ENVIRONMENT:

Modern psychiatry and psychology have uncovered the tremendous influences that the home environment in early childhood has upon the child. Accordingly, the religious outlook of

the child will be established at an early age by the impressions that the child receives from mother and father, brothers and sisters in the home. King Solomon, endowed with wisdom from on high, put it thus:

Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6.

PRAYER: It doesn't take long before a child begins to become aware of what is going on around it. Usually the child is fed first before the family gathering about the table for the evening meal, but the child usually enjoys being near, lying in a basket, later sitting in its high chair. When the blessing is asked before the meal and thanks given after the meal, the mother can reach over and enclose the infant's hands in her folded hands. Thus the child is included in the family prayers. As the child matures, it should be told that we fold our hands when we talk to Jesus. Some of the first words that a child should be taught are the words of prayer: "Abba, Amen!"

When the mother puts the child to bed, she should again fold the child's hands in her hands and pray for the child some suitable prayer, for example:

*Now I lay me down to sleep;
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
If I should die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take.
And this I ask for Jesus' sake.*

A prayer thus learned in earliest childhood easily remains with the child through the turbulent teens, into adulthood, and on to old age.

JESUS: It's a name, but not only a name! For it is the name above all other names. St. Peter testified of Him who bears that name:

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12.

This being true, every child born into and reared in a Christian home should become familiar with the name of Jesus from the moment it is capable of being familiar with anything. We have no description of the facial features of Jesus, yet we do have an artist's conception that has become very familiar to our generation. It can be used to make His name known to the child.

The next advance is to relate the name of Jesus to the child and its surroundings. "Jesus loves little children!" This four-word sentence applies the Gospel of universal love in Christ to the child. And then the child can be taught to apply that love to itself — in the familiar words:

*Jesus loves me — This I know,
For the Bible tells me so!*

So also the name of Jesus should be related to the things about the child and its personal experiences. "Jesus made the birds!" When the lightning flashes and the thunder crashes and the child becomes frightened, it can and should be soothed with the assurance: "Jesus will take care of you!" Children are fascinated with death. They should be made acquainted with the fact that death is life for those who know and have Jesus. "Jesus took grandmother home! Grandfather is now with Jesus!" Thus the death of an old child of God can become a learning process for a young child.

CHURCH: Should children be taken to church? Certainly! This is "Jesus' House," where we hear Jesus' Word, sing and pray to Him, learn of Him, and give Him our gifts. It may take some time and effort to teach a child to sit still for an hour, but such efforts are well worth it. But such training cannot be done on a hit or miss basis. Regular church-going is necessary to train a child to sit and listen and participate with the "Amens." At the same time the child is learning the secret of a Christian life — First things always first!

QUIT TALKING, AND LISTEN:

Twice within one week recently we heard a sermon from the book of Job. One was a funeral sermon and reviewed in that context the wonderful faith of Job, and the reassuring comfort of Job 19:25, "I know that my Redeemer lives ..." The other was from Job 38. What that sermon impressed upon this hearer was the Lord's word to Job, "Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you and you shall answer me" (v3).

Job is an oft referred to book of the Bible, particularly when trials and afflictions have entered one's life. Bible students know how the Lord permitted the devil to afflict Job. In the process of the woes that were permitted to come upon him initially we are told, "In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong" (1:22). But even the strongest of faith have their weaknesses that manifest themselves frequently as affliction continues and even increases. Betrayed by his own flesh, by his wife as well as friends Job said, "Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target, so that I am a burden to myself" (7:17-21)? Job had many questions of God.

We know that the Lord delivered Job from his affliction and preserved and even strengthened his faith through it all as Job's sterling confession of faith and hope witnesses. But as Christ-believers beset by moral, physical, and spiritual weakness of our own flesh and the attacks of the world against us and our faith, we can identify with Job's despair. Yet in our spiritually lucid moments, we are confident that the Spirit of God who has begun a good work in us will not forsake us or turn us over to destruction as we call to remembrance the over-abundant grace and mercy of God. Even in the midst of our greatest afflictions we find comfort in singing, "I know that my Redeemer lives ..." (Job 19, TLH 200).

Upon Job's complaints and the advice of his friends, the Lord intervened. Bear in mind that the Lord God was not speaking to the fool who says in his heart that there is no God (Psalm 14:1). He was speaking to one of His afflicted children, "Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you and you shall answer me" (38:3). We do better when we close our mouth, shun the advice of well-meaning friends, and instead listen without prejudice to what God asks and says! In Job's case the Lord used penetrating questions to remind Job of His divine majesty, power, and glory which ultimately impressed Job with His mercy and love. Job responded, "I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You ... I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know ... therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (42:2-6).

The Lord was speaking to Job in a specific circumstance. But the loving reprimand is in place for us in so many areas of our faith life.

Be silent. Listen to the Lord. He invites you to consider what good and undeserved things He has done for you since the day of your birth. Consider how He claimed you in your baptism as His own and sealed to you all the blessings of forgiveness and everlasting life in that washing of regeneration. He continues to comfort your heart with the blessed Gospel in Word and Sacrament. The sufferings of this present time--however severe and however many--shall redound to your eternal good when through faith in the Lord Jesus and His redemption you have overcome and are received into the everlasting peace and bliss of heaven. The redemptive love of the Lord Jesus Christ is the basis of the believer's hope in times of stress.

The cross of the Lord Jesus and His resurrection assures us in the face of divine discipline the Lord lays upon us in His love. Paul wrote to the Hebrews, "Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it" (Hebrews 12:11). The Lord's gracious will is a continual presence every day of your life.

Be still and listen to the Lord! He speaks to you in His Holy Word. When personal afflictions arise get back into the Word. The answers are there! Even when the world with its cruel accusations, its hatred of things sacred, and its rampant immorality aligns itself against you, it serves no purpose to argue with the ungodly, much less to accuse God of expecting too much of you, The Lord does not ask you to bear more than His grace will help you bear! Go to the Word of God. The answers are there! The Word of God is a strong tower (Proverbs 18:10) and a strong armor (Ephesians 6). When the heat of false teachers and false churches tempt you to follow the easy way in doctrine or life and tempt you to give in because "surely God will understand the duress under which we are" listen to Him. Get back to the Word. The answers and the protection are there. None of the answers to your questions, to your doubts, to your fears are written on the winds. They are found in the Word of God.

Neither Job's wife nor his friends served him well. The faith of Job prevailed as he returned to the anchor of the Word. It was expressed in his confidence in the resurrection. The exercise of his faith was evidence of the power of the Spirit as he prayed for the same friends that ill-advised him. The Lord who is good "restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends ..." (42:10), and He "blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning ..." (42:12). The Lord does not forget His own. God is love. He loves you in Christ Jesus!

"Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our Refuge" (Psalm 46:10-11).

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Janelle Hein

Elder: Larry Nelson

Ushers: Pat Paplow, Dan Degnan, Brian Eichstadt, Eric Eichstadt, Ryan Oman, Brandon Paplow

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

Church Cleaners: Welker

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Pat Paplow, Dan Degnan, Brian Eichstadt, Eric Eichstadt, Ryan Oman, Brandon Paplow

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

Church Cleaners: Welker

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., July 22: 9:00 am – Worship Service

Sun., July 29: 9:00 am – Worship Service

August 6-10: Vacation Bible School

Sat., Aug. 11: 9:00 am – Grace School Work Day

August 20: ILC School Year Begins

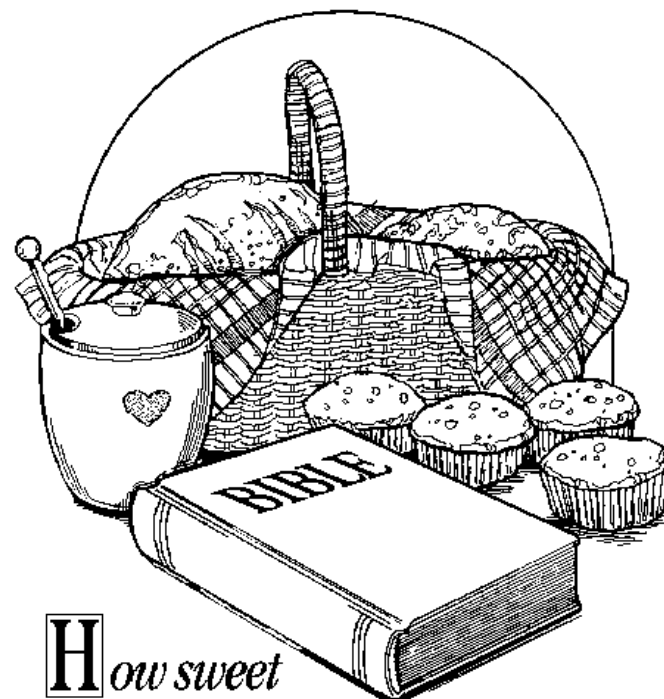
August 27: Grace School Year Begins

The Christian Women Today Seminar will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato, MN, on Sat., Oct. 6, 2012. The seminar's theme this year will be "The Woman of Shunem—God's Plan, Not Ours" based on 2 Kings 4:8-37. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. with the closing scheduled for 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$15.00 and includes lunch. Seminar brochures containing registration blanks will be sent to CLC congregations by Aug. 15 with a registration deadline of Sept. 30. We invite the women of the CLC and their friends to attend this one-day seminar.

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

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How sweet
are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth.

—Psalm 119:103