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Grace Lutheran Church & School

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Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFSSION

Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635) Phone: 763-784-8784
 School Phone: 763-784-6340 Grades: Kindergarten-8th
 Church Year: Advent 1 Date: December 2, 2012

✠ **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** ✠

Worship Preparation: Psalm 25, TLH p. 128

Hymn: TLH 701: Prepare the Royal Highway

Liturgy: TLH, p. 15 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 16-19.

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: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The LORD shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

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: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

May our hearts be established, prepared for the coming of the Lord.

Confession of Faith: Nicene Creed, TLH p. 22

Hymn: TLH 604: Great God, What do I See and Hear!

Sermon: Luke 21:5-36 (see text on insert)

ADEQUATELY PREPARED WITH THE SIGN OF JESUS' COMING

Hymn: WS 704, st. 1-4: Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Offertory, Offering, & Prayer: TLH p. 22 f.

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

Distribution: TLH 307; Meditative Music

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: WS 702, st. 6-7: As Angels Joyed with One Accord

Last Week's Stats: Nov. 25, 2012		Sun.: 107 S.S.: 15 B.Cl.:37	
Sun. Offering:	Grace: \$2,769.77	CLC:	\$555.00
Weekly Need:	Grace: 3,030.00	CLC:	960.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace: -260.23	CLC:	-405.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace: \$136,000.15	CLC:	\$41,612.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace: 145,440.00	CLC:	46,080.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace: -9,439.85	CLC:	-4,468.00
Other Offerings:	Living Faith: 25.00	Tuition Aid:	200.00
GLC Other:	77.00	MDF:	0.00
ILC Student Aid:	20.00	ILC Bldg.	80.00*
		Kinship:	50.00
		IIF:	100.00
		CEF:	0.00

* \$50 Ruth Sydow Memorial; Also \$20 to SAF Endowment

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Among Us:** Brad Kitzman had back surgery this week at Maple Grove. This was done to relieve a lot of pain he was experiencing. He is recovering at home. May the Lord bring a swift recovery!
- ◆ **Midweek Advent Services:** On Wednesdays, Dec. 5, 12, and 19, at 7 pm. Our last midweek service on Dec. 19 will be our annual candlelight service with hymns and Bible readings.
- ◆ **Christmas Meal:** Please join us for a fellowship meal at 6 pm prior to the Candlelight service on December 19. Those attending may bring sandwiches, salads, or a dish to share.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Service:** This is the rehearsal schedule:
 - ◆ Sun., Dec. 2: 12-2 pm (luncheon at church and may start a bit early)
 - ◆ Sun., Dec. 9: 12-2 pm (luncheon at church and may start a bit early)
 - ◆ Sun., Dec. 16: 12-2 pm (luncheon at church and may start a bit early)
 - ◆ Sun., Dec. 23: 8:45-9:45 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. The parents' help is greatly appreciated to make everything go well.
- ◆ **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 Cross in the Christmas Tree*. Christmas Day worship will be held at 10:00 am.
- ◆ **Poinsettias:** A sign-up sheet is by the guest book for those who wish to purchase poinsettias for use in the sanctuary.
- ◆ **2013 Cleaning:** The 2013 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. 26 and Jan. 2 for the Christmas break. Class will resume on Jan. 9.
- ◆ **ILC Recital:** The ILC Piano/Organ Recital will be held on Sun., Dec. 9, at 3:30 p.m. in the ILC Fieldhouse.
- ◆ **ILC Christmas Concert:** This year's Christmas concert is Fri., Dec. 21, 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. Plans are for the bus to depart around 4:45 pm.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor David Reim has returned the call from the Board of Missions to be missionary in India and Africa. ✠ Teacher Anita Meyer of Luther Memorial in Fond du Lac, WI, has received the call to teach lower grades at Holy Trinity in West Columbia, SC.
- ◆ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Individual Parts

SERMON TEXT: Luke 21:5-36

⁵ Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said, ⁶ "These things which you see—the days will come in which not *one* stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down." ⁷ So they asked Him, saying, "Teacher, but when will these things be? And what sign *will there be* when these things are about to take place?" ⁸ And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am *He*,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them. ⁹ But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end *will not come* immediately." ¹⁰ Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. ¹² But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute *you*, delivering *you* up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. ¹³ But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. ¹⁴ Therefore settle *it* in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put *some* of you to death. ¹⁷ And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head shall be lost. ¹⁹ By your patience possess your souls. ²⁰ "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. ²² For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. ²³ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. ²⁴ And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. ²⁵ "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶ men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near." ²⁹ Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. ³¹ So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. ³⁴ "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. ³⁵ For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." (NKJVTM)

PENITENTIARY OR HOSPITAL?

Religion News Services reports that a judge in Oklahoma gave a teenager a 10-year deferred sentence for DUI manslaughter. The teen was driving a pickup truck that killed a person. In deferring the sentence, the judge ordered the teen to finish high school and welding school. In addition the teen was *sentenced to 10 years of church attendance* (Drudge Report-November 21, 2012)! The young man's attorney and the victim's family agreed to the terms of the sentence.

The church has wrestled with the problem of members whose church attendance is slovenly to the harm of their own souls as well as to the witness of the church. Do we here have a hint how to get people into church? We think not. However, the judge's sentence does give a new perspective to preaching the law.

Depending to what pew he was sentenced or in which pew he chooses to fulfill his sentence, we can pray that the young man is led to recognize his sin before God, repent, and believe the Gospel. Nevertheless, this approach to filling the church pew is hardly God-pleasing. The church in the world for many reasons has contributed to the abuse where attendance at worship is used as a sentence rather than seen as a privilege to worship in the House of God where Christ is preached and the place where God's honor dwells.

It is sin to put in an appearance in church and mouth the words of worship, and use the name of the Lord if the heart is not in it. Ecclesiastes 5:1, the Word of the Lord, says, "Walk prudently when you go to the house of God, and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil." In our historic liturgy we hear encouragement to manner and purpose for gathering. "Let us draw near with a *true heart*, and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness."

It is a sin to despise preaching and the Word, when

1. "We do not attend (neglect) public worship;
2. When we do not use the written Word of God and the Sacraments;
3. When we use the Word of God and the Sacraments negligently or carelessly" (1943 Catechism, CPH).

Hebrews 10:25 admonishes us not to "forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is." Contrary to such neglect, Scripture gives us the example of Mary who made the deliberate choice to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to Him. Of her Jesus said, "Mary has chosen that good part which shall not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:42). David said, "Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house, and the place where Your glory dwells" (Psalm 26:8). What inspired such desire as Mary and David manifested? We read, "In every place where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you" (Exodus 20:24). Our Lord further gives promise of blessing as we hear the Word and guard it (Luke 11:28).

Christians do not need the sentence of a civil judge to convict them of sin, and surely do not need him to mandate church attendance. By reason of our sinful nature and sinful thoughts, words, and deeds we know that we stand under the indictment of the Divine Judge! To create the awareness of sin and condemnation God gave His Law. As we acknowledge our condition before God Who knows our thoughts and deeds and reads our intentions, the penitent sinner desires relief. To deliver us from the burden of our sin and the condemnation we deserve He promised a Savior from sin, and in due time sent His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, upon Whom He laid the sins of us all. Where shall we find the comfort afforded, and the relief we desire but in the Word of God, whether in private devotion, or in the assembly of fellow believers in the worship service? When people walked away from Jesus (John 6:66) because they did not like what He said, He asked His disciples, "Will you also go away" (John 6:67)? Those who walk away from Jesus because they don't like the "hard sayings" (John 6:60), or who stay away for reasons of their own, or who neglect the word out of indifference, fail to hear the comfort of the Gospel which is the underlying purpose of all that Jesus did and said. On the other hand, Peter spoke what is in the heart of every penitent sinner, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6: 68).

It is the Law of God that uncovers our need. It is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ which draws us to the side of the Savior to hear His Word.

The church is not a substitute for the penitentiary! The church is the hospital where the soothing balm of forgiveness, and the promise of life and salvation are dispensed when and where the Word of God is taught faithfully. Our Heavenly Father does not sentence us to the hospital as punishment, but invites the poor and contrite of spirit (Isaiah 66:2) to come to find healing and life.

May we all recognize our poverty, and may we all be of contrite spirit so that we always find joy and delight in coming to God's house! May this Advent and Christmas season be the catalyst to inspire all who name the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to faithfully and "gladly hear and learn His Word" with a true heart.

Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 11/2012

The following is the nomination slate for 2013:

- President: Al Rosendahl
- Vice President: Eli Wales
- Secretary: Jack Kirkham
- Treasurer: Brian Bergstrom, Roger Ochsner
- Elder: Frank Radichel, Brandt Wendland
- Education: Alex Baker, Ole Olmanson, Brandt Wendland
- Trustee: Brandon Paplow, Bill Rust, Lyle Trulin

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Ed Lentz

Ushers: Mark Wales, Don Auel, Ole Olmanson, Adam Wales,
Eli Wales, Brandon Wendland, Brandt Wendland

Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham;
Benno Sydow; Brandt Wendland

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

Church Cleaners: Nelson

School Cleaners: K. Baker

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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 6: Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian &
Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt Wendland

Church Cleaners: ??

School Cleaners: K. Baker

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

- Sun., Dec. 2:** 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
11:15 am – Hospitality
12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
- Wed., Dec. 5:** 4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship
- Sun., Dec. 9:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality
12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
3:30 pm – ILC Piano & Organ Recital
- Wed., Dec. 12:** 7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship
- Sun., Dec. 16:** 12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
- Wed., Dec. 19:** 6:00 pm – Congregational Christmas Dinner
7:00 pm – Candlelight Worship
- Thu., Dec. 20:** 2:00 pm – Christian Day School Concert at Northtown Mall
- Fri., Dec. 21:** 7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert
- Sun., Dec. 23:** 8:45 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
12:00 pm – Council Meeting
- Mon., Dec. 24:** 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship
- Tue., Dec. 25:** 10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship
- Sun., Dec. 30:** 10 am – Worship Service
(Bible Class, Sunday School, Hospitality suspended)
- Mon., Dec. 31:** 7:00 pm – New Years Eve Worship w/Lord's Supper

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