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# Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Home Page: [www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org](http://www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org)

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



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

Phone: 763-784-8784

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Grades: Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup>

Church Year: Pentecost 6

Date: June 30, 2013

## ✠ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

**Worship Preparation:** ..... Psalm 62, TLH p. 136

**Hymn:** ..... TLH 8: Father, Who the Light This Day

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

**First Reading:** ..... 1 Kings 19:14-21

In spite of good preaching, the souls of men at times remain chained by unbelief. Because of this, Elijah was near despair. Yet, the LORD consoled Elijah with the news that there were still 7,000 people whose hearts had been freed by the gospel and were faithful to Him. He then sent Elijah to anoint Elisha to be his prophetic successor.

**Responsive Psalm:** ..... Psalm 62

*P: Truly my soul silently waits for God;*

**C: From Him comes my salvation.**

*P: He only is my rock and my salvation;*

**C: He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.**

*P: How long will you attack a man?*

**C: You shall be slain, all of you, Like a leaning wall and a tottering fence.**

*P: They only consult to cast him down from his high position; They delight in lies;*

**C: They bless with their mouth, But they curse inwardly. Selah**

*P: My soul, wait silently for God alone,*

**C: For my expectation is from Him.**

*P: He only is my rock and my salvation;*

**C: He is my defense; I shall not be moved.**

*P: In God is my salvation and my glory;*

**C: The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God.**

*P: Trust in Him at all times, you people;*

**C: Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah**

*P: Surely men of low degree are a vapor, Men of high degree are a lie;*

**C: If they are weighed on the scales, They are altogether lighter than vapor.**

*P: Do not trust in oppression, Nor vainly hope in robbery;*

**C: If riches increase, Do not set your heart on them.**

*P: God has spoken once, Twice I have heard this:*

**C: That power belongs to God.**

*P: Also to You, O Lord, belongs mercy;*

**C: For You render to each one according to his work.**

**Second Reading:** ..... Luke 9:51-62

The answer to unbelief is not anger, but rather a persistent preaching of the truths regarding Jesus. Having been freed by the gospel, let us be faithful to our Lord following Him regardless of the costs involved!

**Alleluia:** ..... WS p. 14 f.

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

**Hymn:** ..... TLH 335: My Maker, Be Thou Nigh

**Sermon:** ..... Galatians 5:1, 13-25

<sup>1</sup> Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. ... <sup>13</sup> For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup> For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup> But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! <sup>16</sup> I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

## ***Stand Fast in Our Liberty from Christ***

**Offertory:** ..... WS p. 16

**Hymn:** ..... WS 767: Church of God, Elect and Glorious

**Offering, Prayers, Benediction:**

**Hymn:** ..... TLH 577: God Bless Our Native Land

## ✠ *THE ANNOUNCEMENTS* ✠

- ◆ **Among Us:** Dean Enns has overcome several obstacles this past week after experiencing the two heart attacks the week before. He is now off the ventilator and has spoken some. There is still a long way to go, but we thank the Lord for the progress!
- ◆ **Heavenly Transition:** This past Friday the Lord called His child, Viola Schweikert, to her heavenly home. Viola's earthly pilgrimage lasted 103 years and 11 months as she was tenderly nurtured in the Word of God, having large sections committed to her memory and heart. Her optimism and faith were obvious to those who were privileged to be a part of her life. Her husband, George, served as a pastor in what became two of our CLC congregations, at Okabena, MN, and at Indian Landing, NY. Viola dearly loved her hymns, faithfully serving as a church organist for many, many years. It was fitting that a dozen members from her church home sang some of these to her prior to her passing. A couple of years ago, SueAnne Kirkham wrote a piece about Viola's life, how she dealt with adversity and where she placed her trust: <http://yourecipesforlife.wordpress.com/2011/04/15/a-life-of-service/>. A memorial service is planned in August at Grace so that various family members can be present. Further details will be shared once they are known. The committal service is slated for 1:00 pm on July 15 at the cemetery in Cass Lake, MN.
- ◆ **VBS:** This is scheduled for August 5-9. Registration signup is located by the guest book. Those willing to volunteer for crafts may speak with Pastor Hein.
- ◆ **CLC New User:** A website has been created which is very useful at explaining the CLC: [www.CLClutheran.org/clcnewuser/](http://www.CLClutheran.org/clcnewuser/). Among other things, it has a short history, organizational chart, missions overview, important web links, and info. about publications.
- ◆ **Youth Conference:** Immanuel Lutheran Church of Mankato, MN, is sponsoring a Youth Conference in Divide, CO, August 13-18. Youth Conference is an opportunity for young Christians (age 14-20) to study and apply God's Word together, enjoy mutual recreation, whitewater rafting, and more! Find "Youth Conference" on Facebook and/or visit Youth Conference's registration site: <http://goo.gl/Uuqq7>. If you have any questions please speak to Pastor Hein.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Edward Starkey of St. Peter in Iron River, MI, has accepted the call from the CLC Board of Missions to become missionary in India. ✠ Pastor Jay Hartmann of Resurrection in Corpus Christi, TX, has received the call to Rock of Ages in Grand Rapids, MI. ✠ Jonathan (JD) Sydow, has returned the call to teach at Peace Thru Christ in Middleton, WI. ✠ Teacher Anita Meyer of Luther Memorial in Fond du Lac, WI, has received the call to teach K-8 at Peace Thru Christ in Middleton, WI.

## STRIKEDOWN of DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT (DOMA)

To many Christians it can be assumed, the strike down of DOMA is troubling and sickening. But why? Of what should we be concerned?

First of all what are some things that we know from Scripture relative to this issue:

- **Homosexual and lesbian** behavior and activity is sin.
- **Homosexual and lesbian "marriage"** is a perversion of God's will for marriage.
- What the government says about that one way or another is immaterial in relation to the activity itself. **Scripture is our source and our instructor.**

Secondly: The government does not define for us what God himself has defined in His Word. In spite of government fiat or social interpretation, **marriage as instituted by the Lord is the union of a man and a woman. Government and society can pervert it. They cannot change it**

Lest anyone suggest we are biased, we also recognize that heterosexual **divorce** of itself is contrary to the will of God. Marriage is intended by God to be a life-long union.

Consequently, since God is our Lord and our Instructor, we will not change our definition of marriage, nor will we participate in blessing a perversion of God's will. With respect to the definition of marriage, as well as the blessing of marriage, nothing has changed, regardless of what the government or society says.

While we are to obey and be subject to government (Romans 13), we are free yet in this country to exercise our conscience in this regard by speaking out against that which is contrary to the Lord and His Word. To this point we are still able to teach and practice what is in accord with His will. In so doing we must be ready to accept the consequences that may come to us. To do otherwise would involve us in compromise.

If the day comes, and it may well be soon, that it is contrary to the law to refuse to preside over a perversion, we will have to bear the consequence for we are bound by Scripture which says in matters of faith, "We ought to obey God rather than man" (Acts 5:29). We do so out of love for our Lord Who gave himself for us! To stand for truth and morality may bring us personal persecution. Further, Scripture tells us, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28). For churches it could mean the loss of the tax exemption which the church or ILC has enjoyed. With regard to the latter, what the government gives, it can take away. In government agendas generally trump truth.

It is of little value to debate this issue in the public forum. Debate with those who deny God and/or have no respect for His Word accomplishes little

except to create more frustration for us, as well as reap more ridicule from the world. With sadness we recognize that Bible believers no longer can count on the church in the world, for to a great extent the church in the world is apostate, and has cast its lot with the world.

The issue is however deeper than what DOMA was theoretically to protect. Disrespect for marriage is only a symptom of the deeper problem which is a lack of respect for the Lord.

Even if the DOMA had been upheld, in effect nothing would have changed in as much as morality and truth cannot be legislated into the heart. DOMA or no DOMA, purveyors of evil will do what they do. Furthermore, corruption and self serving has become endemic in government and in society in Washington and in the state. Politicians love to cloak themselves in religiosity. “God bless America” coming from the same mouth that defends and promotes homosexual conduct, abortion, greed, etc., somehow has a blasphemous sound. The Lord says through James, “If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless” (James 1: 26).

The issue of corruption and deceit in government is an issue that we as citizens will have to pray about, as well as address in the voting booth.

The issue with the anti-DOMA ruling and the mad glee over the approval of the ruling is not the real problem. What it reflects is the issue. It speaks to the fact that anti-Christian forces are alive and flourishing. What the ruling and the behavior after proves again is that this country is, as we have put it, spiraling toward Sodom. Add this ruling to the increasing anti-Christian antipathy that is infesting government and society and we see that this country has no moral gyroscope by which it operates. If this country *ever* was a Christian country, such a claim today is hollow.

Underlying this lack is the lack of respect for the Holy God and His Word. Consequently it is a waste of breath to debate the marriage issue with those who do not acknowledge the Lord. Such a debate is truly casting our pearls before swine (Matthew 7: 6). We use our time and our breath better by first looking at ourselves and our own sins, repenting of our sins, and thereafter proclaiming the Word of God—law and gospel—with the prayer that the Spirit may yet snatch some souls from the fire.

As tempting as it is, it behooves us not lash out in anger at the perversions we see. Anger only gives the opposition fodder for ridicule. Furthermore, they do not care what we think. Speak the Word of God. Let them attack the Word of God if they must, for God is able to take care of himself and will in due time bring judgment against those who impenitently serve sin.

Our preaching must be clear and forthright, not only about sin and its consequence in time and eternity, but also about the love of God. Our preaching should be about saving souls, not condemning souls. By such preaching we call to repentance on one hand and bring comfort of the

Savior’s redemptive love to those who are troubled in heart and mind, on the other. Preach the gospel so all who are troubled at the state of affairs can find solace in knowing that ultimately the Lord will deliver us from every evil to the perfect peace and life of heaven.

There are many issues on the political front over which well-meaning people will disagree. So be it. But it is not the lackluster economy or lack of jobs, as important as they are, that will bring this nation down. A nation whose moral foundation is crumbling cannot long prevail.

We live in an unholy nation. But in the midst of this unholy and dying society, there is a “holy nation, [God’s] own special people” (1 Peter 2: 9). It is the nation of those who stand in the truth, confess their sin, trust in Jesus for salvation, whose joy and delight is to glorify the Lord who bought them with His own blood. It is the nation of those who look for the better land, eternal in the heaven where in the presence of the risen and ascended Lord they shall know eternal peace and joy. They are the people who bring nothing before the throne on the last day and whose claim to heaven is only the righteousness of Christ.

In the meantime, while we wait:

- <sup>10</sup> ...My brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
- <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
- <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.
- <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,
- <sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
- <sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.
- <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;
- <sup>18</sup> praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...” (Ephesians 6)

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 6/2013

✝ TODAY AT GRACE ✝

Organist: Sue Nelson      Elder: Brandt Wendland  
Ushers: Mark Wales, Don Auel, Ole Olmanson, Adam Wales, Eli  
 Wales, Brandon Wendland, Brandt Wendland  
Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel;  
 Pat Paplow  
Church Cleaners: Welker

✝ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✝

Ushers: Mark Wales, Don Auel, Ole Olmanson, Adam Wales, Eli  
 Wales, Brandon Wendland, Brandt Wendland  
Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever;  
 Clint Welker; Mark Wales  
Church Cleaners: Nelson

✝ OUR SCHEDULE ✝

**Sun., June 30:** 9:00 am – Worship Service  
**Sun., July 7:** 9:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord’s Supper  
**Sun., July 14:** 9:00 am – Worship Service  
 11:00 am – Council Meeting  
**Sun., July 21:** Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings  
**August 5-9:** Vacation Bible School  
**August 26:** Grace School Begins  
**August 28:** Catechism for Public School Students Begins (Grades 6-8)

**Last Week’s Stats:** June 23, 2013 Sun.: 94

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,408.15	CLC:	\$930.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,000.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-591.85	CLC:	-30.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$74,309.11	CLC:	\$25,505.50	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	75,000.00	CLC:	24,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-690.89	CLC:	+1,505.50	
GLC Other:	1,160.00*	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	0.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	5.00	Kinship:	100.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	130.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00

\*\$1,025 Fire Alarm

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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*Grace Lutheran  
 Church & School*

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