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Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE
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: Kindergarten-8th
 Church Year: Pentecost 9 Date: July 21, 2013

✠ *THE ORDER OF WORSHIP* ✠

Worship Preparation: Psalm 119, Part I, TLH p. 149

Hymn: TLH 401: Praise to Thee and Adoration

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

Introit:

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, for I have desired it —
 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 245, st. 1,6

1. God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.

6. Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To Thee, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7
 The LORD has redeemed us and made us His own.

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: Matthew 17:14-20
 Faith the size of a mustard seed.

Confession of Faith: Apostolic Creed, TLH p. 12

Hymn: TLH 396: Oh, for a Faith That Will Not Shrink

Sermon: James 1:2-12

²My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸*he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. ⁹Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, ¹⁰but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. ¹¹For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits. ¹²Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. (NKJVTM)

Guest Speaker: Seminarian David Ude

Offertory: TLH, p. 12 f.

Hymn: TLH 370: My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Offering, Prayers, Benediction: TLH p. 14

Hymn: TLH 447: Fight the Good Fight with All Thy Might

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 visit with you!

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS DIVISIVE? (I)

In Ireland in June of 2013 the American president said, “If towns remain divided — **if Catholics have their schools and buildings and Protestants have theirs**, if we can’t see ourselves in one another and fear or resentment are allowed to harden — **that too encourages division and discourages cooperation.**” Frequently politicians make veiled comments overseas which are intended to be heard also in our country. Whatever the purpose of the visit to Ireland, and of this statement, it is a loaded statement not lost on people whose faith is important to them.

American Catholics for Religious Freedom responded, “Secular progressives like President Obama ignore the truth that faith-based education is a component of the Religious Freedom guaranteed by the Constitution.” As Lutherans who place a great deal of emphasis on the spiritual education of our children, and therefore, promote and establish Christian schools as a tool in such education, we cannot ignore such comments. In the sense that we will defend our right to religious freedom, and defend our right to establish schools for the godly education of our children, we are in the same room as Catholics who also value their educational system.

The commonality of concern which we have in this regard has nothing to do with supporting or promoting each other’s religion. It has to do with the **right** of each, and indeed of every religion, to be free to worship and teach according to the dictates of conscience. As confessing Lutherans we cannot respect **the substance** of any teaching that is contrary to Scripture. But in our society we will respect the **right** of all, whatever their religious persuasion, **to practice** their religion. *To deny that right to any is to deny the right under the law to all. To deny that right to any denies our right to believe and practice as we believe from Scripture, as well as to educate our children in our own schools.*

Standing with others under the law to defend our right to practice our faith and to educate our children in our schools does not identify us with the doctrine or practice of those with whom we otherwise have nothing in common with respect to faith and confession.

Not too many decades ago, Catholics and Protestants in Ireland resorted to violence to promote themselves. That division of long standing was rooted in and fueled by political agendas. The violence and bloodshed was to the credit of neither! The defense of and promotion of faith and the doctrines of faith by violence and at the point of a gun finds no support in Scripture. Scripture teaches us that our weapons are not carnal (2 Corinthians 10:4).

The suggestion that the mere existence of Catholic schools and “Protestant” schools causes division is not true. In matters of state and our life in a free society, people of many different religious persuasions can work and have worked together for the common good of all. The suggestion that schools of different religious persuasions are divisive implies one of two things. One is that such schools should be eradicated and all the children should be put in “government schools” in which the government dictates what children should eat, how they should socialize, and what they should think and believe.

The second implication is that all churches, regardless of what they teach, should get together for the greater good of the church and its mission. This idea promoted by many protestants, including apostate Lutherans, is contrary to the Scripture which teaches that we are to be of the same mind and same judgment in matters of faith (2 Corinthians 1:10), and that if we are not we are to remain separate and apart in the exercise of our religion (Romans 16:17-18).

It has been suggested that the Ireland statement reveals an anti-Christian bias. Given the times in which we live of which Scripture speaks (2 Timothy 3), and given the evidence of **official** approval of homosexuality, abortion, and the general deterioration of morals in our society the anti-Christian charge bears consideration. It is interesting that with the ascendancy of Islam there is fear of attacking the Muslim faith while anything Christian whether teaching or life is fair game. This is part of the end game that should keep us alert to the time in which we live, and keep us watching eagerly for the return of our Lord.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 6/2013

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Larry Nelson

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

Church Cleaners: Nelson

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

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

Church Cleaners: Nelson

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., July 21: 9:00 am – Worship Service
10:15 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

Sun., July 28: 9:00 am – Worship Service

August 5-9: Vacation Bible School

August 26: Grace School Begins

August 28: Catechism for Public School Students Begins (Grades 6-8)

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **TODAY:** We thank David Ude, a former son of the congregation, for sharing the Word of God with us today. David is the son of former Grace pastor, Prof. John Ude. He is also in seminary at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. May the Lord bless his studies and preparation for the ministry. Pastor Hein is on vacation and will be returning at the end of the month. For pastoral emergencies, please call Pastor David Schierenbeck at 651-492-2323.
- ◆ **VBS:** This is scheduled for August 5-9. Registration signup is located by the guest book.
- ◆ **VBS Snacks:** Those who are willing to provide snacks for the children at VBS, please sign up on the sheet by the guest book. Thanks!

GRACE

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James 1:12 KJV