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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)

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

Church Year: Pentecost 18

Date: September 22, 2013



## ✠ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

**Worship Preparation:** ..... Psalm 38, TLH p. 132

**Hymn:** ..... TLH 543: When, Streaming from the Eastern Skies

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

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

P: How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me?

**C: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.**

P: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

**C: O Lord, truly I am Your servant; you have freed me from my chains.**

P: I will sacrifice a thank offering to You

**C: And call on the name of the Lord. Glory be to God!**

**Gloria in Excelsis:** ..... TLH 246, st. 1,4: Holy, Holy, Holy

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

**First Reading:** ..... Amos 8:4-7

A warning against those who falsify things for greedy gain.

**Gradual:**

P: Oh the depths of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

**C: How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!**

P: For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

**C: To Him be the glory forever! Amen.**

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. The Lord says, "My grace is sufficient for you,

**C: For My power is made perfect in weakness." Alleluia.**

**Second Reading:** ..... Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the parable of the unjust steward.

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

**Hymn:** ..... TLH 522, st. 1-4: When In the Hour of Utmost Need

**Sermon:** ..... 1 Timothy 2:1-8

(1) Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, (2) for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. (3) For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, (4) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (5) For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, (6) who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, (7) for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle; I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying; a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. (8) I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; ... (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

## *The Significance of the Middle Man, Christ Jesus*

**Offertory:** ..... TLH, p. 12 f.

**Hymn:** ..... TLH 220: Jesus, My Great High Priest

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

**Hymn:** ..... TLH 657: Beautiful Savior

*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!*

# **UNDERSTANDING OUR FAITH: RIGHTEOUSNESS**

The word "righteousness" is an important word in Scripture. The word righteousness is used over three hundred times in the Bible. It was the misunderstanding of this word that kept Martin Luther enslaved, and fearful for many years.

There is a righteousness which is of the Law. The Apostle Paul recorded these words of the Spirit of God, "Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the Law, 'The man who does those things, shall live by them'" (Romans 10:5). God demands righteousness but the accomplishment of righteousness which is of the Law is beyond the ability of man. Paul wrote again, "If there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been of the Law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin" (Galatians 3 :21,22). Consequently, the Apostle, writing the Word of the Lord, said, "Israel, pursuing the Law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness" (Romans 9:31). Mankind, "dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1) cannot attain righteousness unto salvation through the righteousness of the law because man cannot by his own actions, merit, or pursuit attain the perfection that the divine law demands.

That is why penitent Christians appreciate the blessing that is ours through "The Lord our Righteousness" (Jeremiah 33:16). Christ is the "end of the Law for righteousness to everyone that believes" (Romans 10:4). The Lord Jesus fulfilled all things for us. Perfectly. His righteousness is imputed (credited) to the account of the sinner who believes in Christ. The Father who "reconciled the world unto Himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19) by the death of His Son looks upon the believer in Christ as righteous. "For He made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus died for all people. But they who reject Jesus or who believe in their own meritorious deeds remain in their condition of unrighteousness. The righteousness which counts before God unto salvation is that which He gives to the sinner, and which is apprehended through faith. This righteousness is not a demand upon us but a gift to us. Luther said, "Christ is known only through teaching and the external Word. Therefore the Gospel is, as it were, the vehicle which brings Christ with His righteousness and all gifts to us," (WLS, page 1229, Vol III). Until Luther understood that righteousness is a gift of God through faith to all who believe he says, he "hated" righteousness. It frightened him.

How beautiful is the righteousness of Christ. We sing therefore, "Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress; Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, with joy shall I lift up my head" (LH 371). And again in hymn 370, "My hope is built on nothing less than

Jesus' blood and righteousness ..." On the day of judgment the believer will not hold before God as reason to enter heaven his own works and righteousness, but the righteousness of Christ.

Those whose righteousness is in Christ, are not, nevertheless, excused from pursuing a life of righteousness. Scripture exhorts the Christian to present himself "to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God, for sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the Law but under grace" (Romans 6:13,14). They who are righteous unto salvation through faith in Christ have not been released from the condemnation of the law in order that they might live the life of sin and unrighteousness. The believer in Christ does not attain in this life the righteous life as much as he desires and pursues it. He is still in the flesh a sinner. Nevertheless he pursues a life that reflects righteousness with a new attitude. Luther said, "Ah, how large a part of righteousness it is to want to be righteous" (WLS, page 1233, Vol. III). To put it simply, they who trust in Christ and His righteousness, will want to live as instruments of righteousness to the glory of God who has clothed them freely in the righteousness of Christ unto salvation. How beautiful is the gift of righteousness in Christ!

(3/26/2000)

## **✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠**

- ◆ **Commissioning Service:** On Mon., Sept. 23, 6:30 pm, there will be a commissioning service held at Messiah in Eau Claire, WI, for Pastor Edward Starkey, who has accepted the call to serve as a CLC foreign missionary in India. All CLC members and friends are invited to attend.
- ◆ **Bible Seminar:** "The Bible: Divine Revelation or Human Speculation?" is the title of a Twin Cities Seminar on Sunday, October 13 at 3:30-5:30 pm at a Bloomington location to be determined. ILC Seminary Professors Steven Sippert and John Ude will be the presenters. This timely and important seminar is intended for CLC members of Grace, Berea, and Eden Prairie as well as others in the Twin Cities area (some advertising is planned) who may have interest and concern over the widespread rejection of the verbal inspiration and divine authority of Holy Scripture. We hope that many of our people will set aside this date. For more information, please contact Pastor John Hein (jphein@clclutheran.com/763-784-8784) or Pastor David Schierenbeck (berea-pastor@comcast.net/651-454-7689).
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Luke Bernthal of Grace in Valentine, NE, has returned the call to Living Hope in Appleton, WI. ✠ Pastor David Fuerstenau of Holy Truth in Ketchikan, AK, has returned the call to St. Peter's in Iron River, MI.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #3 – First Commandment.

## ✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Brandt Wendland

Ushers: Pat Paplow, Alex Baker, Kevin Baker, Dan Degnan,  
Brian Eichstadt, Ryan Oman, Brandon Paplow

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

Hospitality Team 2: Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz; Jenny Kleifgen

Church Cleaners: M & T Wales     School: A. Baker

## ✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Pat Paplow, Alex Baker, Kevin Baker, Dan Degnan,  
Brian Eichstadt, Ryan Oman, Brandon Paplow

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

Hospitality Team 3: Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Ryan & Mikey  
Oman; Nick & Miranda Duehlmeier; Dan & Cindy Degnan

Church Cleaners: Dick     School: K. Baker

## ✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

**Sun., Sept. 22:** 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School  
10:00 am – Worship Service  
11:15 am – Hospitality  
3:00 pm – MN Delegate Conference @ New Ulm, MN

**Mon., Sept. 23:** 6:30 pm – Starkey Commissioning @ Eau Claire, WI

**Wed., Sept. 25:** CLC Coordinating Council Meeting @ Eau Claire, WI  
4:30 pm – Catechism  
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

**Sun., Sept. 29:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School  
10:00 am – Worship Service  
11:15 am – Hospitality

**October 8-9:** MN Pastoral Conference @ Inver Grove Hts., MN

**Sun., Oct. 13:** 10:00 am – Mission Festival w/Raju Bhitrakoti  
11:15 am – Mission Festival Potluck  
3:30-5:30 pm – Bible Seminar

<b>Last Week's Stats:</b> Sept. 15, 2013		Sun.:	S.S.:	17	B.Cl.:	47	Wed.:	19
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,661.05	CLC:	\$810.00				
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,000.00	CLC:	960.00				
	-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-338.95	CLC:	-150.00			
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$110,087.33	CLC:	\$36,158.75				
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	111,000.00	CLC:	35,520.00				
	Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-912.67	CLC:	+638.75			
GLC Other:	2,493.00*	Living Faith:	5.00	Tuition Aid:	180.00			
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	55.00	Kinship:	120.00**			
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	75.00	IIF:	25.00	CEF:	5.00	

\* \$175 Fire Alarm; \$25 Kirkham Memorial; \$15 Schweikert Memorial

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## JESUS CHRIST

