

Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Fridley, MN 55432



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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 23

Date: November 8, 2020

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

TLH 402: O God, Forsake Me Not
TLH 410: Jesus, Lead Thou On
TLH 458, st. 7: Our Father, Thou in Heaven Above
TLH 446: Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray
TLH 451: Stand Up! – Stand Up for Jesus

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 5, TLH p. 123f.

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 32 f. (Matins)
Offering: Plate at organ

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 3:1-7
James 1:12-16

Sermon: Matthew 26:41

⁴¹ "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak." (NKJVTM)

Lord's Prayer – 6th Petition:
Lead Us Not into Temptation

1. What temptation is
2. What we are asking for



† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ➔ **Marie Miller:** Thanks to all who attended the funeral this past Thursday. Jim was very appreciative!
- ➔ **Work:** This past week a number of tasks were accomplished by various members around the facility. We thank them for their time and effort.
- ➔ **Caution:** If anyone is high risk, vulnerable, recently exposed to a COVID-19 patient, or has symptoms of illness (especially high temperature and cough), the individual along with any others in that person's household are strongly urged to stay home for one's own well-being and the well-being of others. Online worship is still available at FridleyLutheran.org.
- ➔ **Masks:** Due to the Governor's executive order, face coverings or masks are now required during worship at Grace. Children under the age of 2 are exempt. Ages 2-5 "are encouraged to wear a face covering when in public if they can do so reliably ..."
- ➔ **Physical Distancing:** Post-its are on the pews that are to be used. Please remember to not block areas of foot traffic. Thank you for being mindful of your fellow Christians.
- ➔ **Church Cleaning:** The rest of the year is open for cleaning volunteers.
- ➔ **Sunday School & Adult Memory Work:** 6th Petition

Lord's Prayer: Sixth Petition

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

God indeed tempts no one; but we pray in this petition that He would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our flesh do not deceive us or lead us into misbelief, hopelessness, or any other shameful or sinful acts. And although we are tempted by them, we ask that we win in the end and keep the victory.

The Sixth Petition.

And lead us not into temptation.

Great and grievous, indeed, are these dangers and temptations which every Christian must bear, even though each one were alone by himself, so that every hour that we are in this vile life where we are attacked on all sides, chased and hunted down, we are moved to cry out and to pray that God would not suffer us to become weary and faint and to relapse into sin, shame, and unbelief. For otherwise it is impossible to overcome even the least temptation.

This, then, is leading us not into temptation, to wit, when He gives us power and strength to resist, the temptation, however, not being taken away or removed. For while we live in the flesh and have the devil about us, no one can escape temptation and allurements; and it cannot be otherwise than that we must endure trials, yea, be engulfed in them; but we pray for this, that we may not fall and be drowned in them.

To feel temptation is therefore a far different thing from consenting or yielding to it. We must all feel it, although not all in the same manner, but some in a greater degree and more severely than others; as, the young suffer especially from the flesh, afterwards, they that attain to middle life and old age, from the world, but others who are occupied with spiritual matters, that is, strong Christians, from the devil.

But such feeling, as long as it is against our will and we would rather be rid of it, can harm no one. For if we did not feel it, it could not be called a temptation. But to consent thereto is when we give it the reins and do not resist or pray against it.

Therefore we Christians must be armed and daily expect to be incessantly attacked, in order that no one may go on in security and heedlessly, as though the devil were far from us, but at all times expect and parry his blows. For though I am now chaste, patient, kind, and in firm faith, the devil will this very hour send such an arrow into my heart that I can scarcely stand. For he is an enemy that never desists nor becomes tired, so that when one temptation ceases, there always arise others and fresh ones.

Accordingly, there is no help or comfort except to run hither and to take hold of the Lord's Prayer, and thus speak to God from the heart: Dear Father, Thou hast bidden me pray; let me not relapse because of temptations. Then you will see that they must desist, and finally acknowledge themselves conquered.

6TH PETITION

"And lead us not into temptation"

When we read the Bible we frequently run into the word "temptation." The root word in the original means to "try" or "test." Temptation is a trying, a proving or a testing. The word "temptation" may refer to an act of testing or an enticement to evil.

When it is said that the devil tempts us, the sense is that it is a temptation to sin. Scripture tells us that Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil (Matthew 4). The obvious intent of the devil was to try to make Jesus sin. Satan failed! The devil, world and our own sinful flesh is daily and strenuously seeking to tempt us to evil. These unholy three come with all kinds of allurements to lead us away from the Lord, and away from His Word. They present their allurements (temptations) in fine sounding words to which they add deceitful promises; they offer them in tempting fashion (fool's gold) to ensnare us, always with the intent to bring us into spiritual ruin. Their intent is to deceive us and seduce us "into misbelief, despair, and other great shame and vice." Soberness and vigilance is called for in order to be alert to and in order to fight the evil foe (1 Peter 5:8,9).

In the 6th petition of the Lord's prayer we pray, "Lead us not into temptation." Obviously we are addressing the Lord. But does the Lord tempt us to sin for which reason we ask Him not to? No way! Scripture says, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempts He any man; but every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed" (James 1:13,14). It is one of the contradictions of life that after we have prayed the Lord to keep us from temptation, we often turn right around and seek it out or walk where it is.

When it is said that God tempts us, it is always a "test" for our good. God tempted (tested) Abraham by telling him to offer his only son Isaac. As Abraham was about to do so, the Lord stopped him saying, "Now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me" (Genesis 22:12). By this test Abraham's faith was shown to be more than mere words. Temptations or the tests that God sends us are meant to be "faith - strengtheners," serving the same purpose as the weights we lift to build up muscle tone, lest we become flabby.

Tests come to God's children in many different forms. Maybe it is through sickness or even death of a loved one. It may come through loss of a job, or difficulty in finding one. It may come through storm and devastation that takes away what we have. Poverty is a test of faith, but so also may be a glut of riches. Persecutions and ridicule for the faith are tests - Satan means them for our harm, but God means them for our good (Genesis 50:20).

Tests serve a good purpose when they remind us of the fleeting nature of life so that we re-focus on eternal things. When we begin to feel quite independent of God, He may send us a test to remind us that without Him we are nothing. His tests serve to bring us back to the Word when we have become indifferent to it. They create within the child of God a yearning for heaven where there is no more testing. Neither is there any more sorrow, tears or death (Revelation 7).

When we pray, "Lead us not into temptation" we are praying that the Lord would guard and keep us so that temptation to evil may not overcome us. We are praying Him for the wisdom to understand the difference between the temptation to evil which is of the devil and the test from God which is for our benefit. We further pray that the Lord would give us the strength to prevail when He tests us so "that we may finally overcome and obtain the victory."

God, who commands us to pray and has promised to hear all who pray in the name of Jesus, gives us promise that He will not send any temptation that we cannot bear, but will Himself help us to endure it (1 Corinthians 10:13). As we look into His Word and stand fast in His Word we have the armor that shields us against Satan's fiery darts. But above all we have the assurance that He, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Who was tempted like unto us in every way, yet without sin "will stablish you and keep you from evil" (2 Thessalonians 3:3).

God is
Faithful,
he will not let
YOU be
tempted
beyond what
YOU can
bear.
1 Corinthians 10:13

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: **Janelle Hein** *Elder:* **Eli Wales**

Ushers: **Al Rosendahl; Keith Radichel; David Stifter; Joel Stifter; Eli Wales**

Counting Team 1: **Dale Enns; Larry Nelson; Ryan Oman; Pat Paplow; Phil Radichel**

Church Cleaners: **Fleischer** *School:* **Jankowski**

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: **Al Rosendahl; Keith Radichel; David Stifter; Joel Stifter; Eli Wales**

Counting Team 2: **Gary Gunther; Rick Nelson; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker**

Church Cleaners: **Volunteers?** *School:* **Jankowski**

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Nov. 8: 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class

10:00 am – Worship Service

12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Wed., Nov. 11: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Sun., Nov. 15: 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class

10:00 am – Worship Service

Fri., Nov. 20: Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors' Day

Nov. 20 & 21: 7:30 pm – ILC Musical "High School Musical, Jr."
Limited attendance, intent to also provide virtually

Wed., Nov. 25: 12:00 pm – Grace School T-Giving Break Begins

7:00 pm – Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Thu., Nov. 26: **THANKSGIVING DAY**

Sun., Nov. 29: Advent Begins

Last Week's Stats: Nov. 1, 2020 Sun.: 78 Bible Cl.: 34 S.S.: 12 Wed.: 17

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$4,916	CLC:	\$470
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,000	CLC:	950
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+916	CLC:	-480

Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$174,087	CLC:	\$41,207
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	176,000	CLC:	41,800
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-1,913	CLC:	-593

GLC Other:	Living Faith:	5	Tuition Aid:	50
SAF Endowment:	MDF:	160	Kinship:	117
ILC Student Aid:	ILC Bldg.	0	IIF: 0	CEF: 0

Current Balances: *Tuition Aid:* \$242

