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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Fridley, MN 55432

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Home Page: www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



Pastor: John Hein (Ph. 763-784-8784)

Organist: Janelle Hein

Principal: Ryan Libby (Ph. 763-784-6340)

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Trinity 13

Date: August 21, 2005

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 136, TLH p. 154*

Hymn: *TLH 361: O Jesus, King Most Wonderful*

Liturgy: *TLH, p. 5 ff.*

Introit:

P: Rise up, O God, and defend Your cause;

C: Remember how fools mock You all day long.

P: Do not let the oppressed retreat in disgrace;

C: May the poor and needy praise Your name.

P: Hasten, O God, to save me;

C: O Lord, come quickly to help me. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 237, st. 1: All Glory Be to God on High*

P: All glory be to God on high, who hath our race befriended!

C: To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended.

God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on
earth again; Oh, thank Him for His goodness!

First Reading: *Isaiah 56:1, 6-8*

The Lord opens up His kingdom to those outside Israel.

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 word of God is living and powerful, and
sharper than any two-edged sword, ...

**C: Piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, ... and is a
discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Alleluia.**

Second Reading: *Romans 11:13-15, 28-32*

Paul encourages the Gentiles to be an example to the Israelites because many of them had fallen away from the Lord. The table has been turned. For the Israelites had once been examples to the Gentiles.

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

Hymn: *TLH 428: I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus*

Sermon: *Matthew 15:21-28*

(21) Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. (22) And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." (23) But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." (24) But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (25) Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" (26) But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." (27) And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." (28) Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

"As Dogs Seeking Crumbs from the Master"

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *WS 744: How Great Thou Art*

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

Hymn: *TLH 391: Blessed Are the Sons of God*

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!

Martin Luther: "We are so accustomed to find that grain grows out of the earth annually, and we are so blinded by this that we pay no attention to it; for what we daily see and hear we do not consider a miracle. And yet it is as great a miracle ... as Christ's feeding the multitude with seven loaves."

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ♦ **Christian Day School:** Our members are invited to participate in the worship service which sets off this 2005-06 school year. The service will be on Tuesday morning at 8:00 am. Please come and show your support for the school! The enrollment for this year is 11, including the following students: 7th: Christina Hein, Holly Sorenson; 6th: Karie Davis, Matt Vandever; 5th: Abbie Hein; 4th: Kenny Sorenson; 3rd: Emily Hein, John Maki, Ned Sandhoefner, Rhett Sarver; 1st: David Hein. Pray that the Lord will richly bless our school year with His grace and with an atmosphere which encourages learning.
- ♦ **Thanks:** to those who helped with school clean-up yesterday. Many areas of the building were organized. One classroom was completely reshuffled. In addition, five computers were setup in the classroom and networked together. Among the many other projects that have been completed the past few weeks are: plants around the church sign, weeds pulled around the parking lot; playground gravel put in place, displacement of accumulated objects from parsonage garage, computer cable wired in parsonage, dead tree cut down, benches repaired in fellowship hall, excavating of field, wiring of kitchen project. The plan is to drywall the kitchen project this coming week.
- ♦ **Among Us:** Troy and Kristin Welker had their baby on August 14th. They named him Thomas Joseph. Clint and Nyla say that Mom and baby are doing great. May the Lord bless the parents with the wisdom to raise this child in God's kingdom. And may he be a dear blessing.
- ♦ **Hospitality Sign-Up:** A reminder that there is still a sign-up sheet for those who are willing to be added to a hospitality team.
- ♦ **Grace's Men's Retreat:** Men of all ages are invited to this retreat for the weekend of Sept. 24. Cost is \$40. Signup is by the guest book.
- ♦ **Softball Tournament:** This has been cancelled due lack of interest from other congregations.
- ♦ **From CLC President Schierenbeck:** "Mark Bohde recently sent word that the orphanage he operates through private funding in Chiang Mai, Thailand has received substantial damage after a major flood ripped through the city. Mark, the orphanage children, and the staff were all spared from bodily injury as they escaped the 6' to 7' of water that swept through the compound. Mark's wife and children are back in the States visiting Shelly's folks in Houston, TX. Mark is asking only for your prayers as this devastation is most certainly a major set back in the work he is doing and could have long term effects. Please keep our brother in your prayers, asking for the Lord's strength and guidance as Mark seeks His will in rebuilding and his service in the Kingdom."



EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN IN THE WORD: The National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools (we have looked at their web site) has prepared a curriculum that it claims is offered as an elective by more than 300 school districts in 37 states. It does get people into the Bible. If such a course acquaints some with the Bible who otherwise would not know it, it will serve a purpose. God's Word is powerful in itself. There are of course objectors to the Bible in the schools. While we are not proponents of Bible instruction in public schools our reservations are based on Scripture principles and out of concern for the preservation of the truth. The most strident objectors are driven by an anti-Christian bias, political correctness, fairness, etc.

However, for those who claim that they want no religion in the schools to deny that there is in fact religion taught in the public schools is ludicrous. Not every teacher promotes it but secular humanism is systemic in the system. A woman speaking for the National Center for Science Education objected to any reference to "intelligent design," as an alternative to evolution saying, "It's not fair to privilege one religious viewpoint by calling it the other side of evolution" (*Caller-Times*, August 3, 2005). What this really means is, "We who believe in evolution do not want anything taught that contradicts us." It's amazing how proponents of evolution insist on claiming that they are the product of unintelligent happenstance, or an accident of nature.

Objections to the Bible being taught in public schools are voiced from different perspectives. The Texas Freedom Network (TFN) objects to the offering of the Bible curriculum in part because its reviewer "found the Bible is characterized as inspired by God, discussions of science are based on the claims of biblical creationists ..." (Corpus Christi *Caller-Times*, August 2, 2005). The curriculum also suggests that the Bible instead of the Constitution is considered the nation's founding document. Another objection was from a minister of a Baptist congregation who said, "No public school student should have a particular religious belief forced upon them" (sic). Whatever else may have motivated his response, in principle we agree. However, someone might argue that since the course is an elective, it is not being forced upon students.

Be that as it may, we have another concern about what in some minds necessitates a Bible curriculum, elective or not, in the public schools. Are the children being taught in the home? Is the Word of God a staple in their developing years? Do they attend church with their parents? Are they taught the Word of God in Sunday school, instruction class, and Bible Class? Do they make use of the opportunities to attend? Is it a commentary on the failure of the churches to teach the Bible? Or are the parents sloughing off their responsibility toward their children to the schools?"

We would have strenuous objection to any denominational religious teaching being foisted on the youth of our church in a public school. Our youth have opportunities to learn the Word in home and church. Furthermore the question arises, "Who teaches religion in the public school. Is it a Catholic, a Baptist, a Methodist, or any number of different Lutherans?"

We live in a religious melting pot. Every religious philosophy is permitted in our society. We do not equate the Word of God with religious philosophy. Nevertheless the reality is that we cannot and

would not deny to anyone the right to teach and believe what he chooses, any more than we want anyone to deny us the privilege.

If in our environment every religious group wanted to teach its religion in the schools they could not be denied. If the right is granted to one church to teach its faith in the schools, then it must be granted to all. However, Christian parents who recognize that they are answerable to the Father for the children under their care do not want them indoctrinated in the teachings of heathenism, paganism, or pseudo-Christian teaching. For that reason we hold that the tenets of faith should be taught in home and church, and *lived* in the school and elsewhere.

Generic Christian schools of which there are myriad are not the answer. To expose our children to such schools (or schools of other dominations) undermines the fellowship principle upon which Scripture insists. To avoid the humanism of the public system does not justify setting aside Scripture in another area. Further, the name "Christian" does not guarantee that what is taught reflects what the Bible teaches, e.g. regarding conversion, the Means of Grace, sanctification, salvation, or judgment day, or any other doctrine recorded in Scripture.

Do we want the Bible taught in the schools? Do we want it taught consistent with Scriptural principles and without interference or objection? The solution is a Christian Day School (there are 20 in the CLC). Yet many cannot have such a school. That means that we will want to make our Sunday school a real conduit for Bible teaching. It means further that parents dare not neglect the spiritual instruction of their children in the home. They will actively participate in the training of their children in the truths of God's Word. At the secondary level (there are 2 high schools), we encourage all our members to consider our Lutheran High School for their children. At Immanuel Lutheran High School all the instructors are committed to the Scriptures; all the classes have the foundation of the Word at the base. Chapel, evening and morning, is an avenue to give Scriptural instruction, comfort and guidance to the youth. Counseling is done with the Bible at hand, with the application of Law and Gospel. Discipline is expected, and when applied is done with the welfare of the individual soul at heart.

Home schooling is another alternative. Home schooling should not overlook Bible teaching! Where our children must attend public school, there it is ***not a choice but a responsibility*** of parents to keep on top of what their children are learning. But does this not prove that the Bible should be taught in public schools? No! Bible teaching is more than teaching creation. Bible teaching involves teaching the whole counsel of God, and even within Christian churches there is not agreement on what that is.

We cannot escape it. As parents, and assistants to the parents as a confessional Lutheran Church, the responsibility is ours to train up the Father's redeemed children in His Word. We will not be satisfied on judgment day to have let the extent of what our children know about the Bible be what they were taught through government schools. Perish the thought!

Standing fast and committed in word and practice to the truth is a challenge met only by the power and the grace of God. It is also the way of blessing for now and hereafter.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer; 8/5/2005

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Elder: **Ed Lentz**

Ushers: **Mike Dick; Larry Nelson; Larry Brandt; Roger Brandt; Dale Enns; Scott Dauer; Lynn Sandhoefner**

Counting Team 5: **Mike Dick; Brad Kitzman; Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner**

Hospitality Team 3: **Dan & Cindy Degnan; Ed & Verona Lentz; Angela Valley**

Cleaners: **Trudy Wales**

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: **Mike Dick; Larry Nelson; Larry Brandt; Roger Brandt; Dale Enns; Scott Dauer; Lynn Sandhoefner**

Counting Team 1: **Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Rick Nelson; Phil Radichel; Ryan Libby**

Hospitality Team 4: **Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Fred & Pal Dauer**

Cleaners: **Kirkhams**

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Worship Service
10:00 am – Hospitality in Fellowship Hall
10:30 am – Sunday School Teachers' Meeting

Mon, Aug. 22: 10:00 am – Opening Service at ILC (Eau Claire, WI)

Tue., Aug. 23: Grace Christian Day School Begins
8:00 am – Opening Service for Christian Day School

Sat., Aug. 27: 12:00 pm – Berea Golf Tournament @ Hastings, MN

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

Sun., Sept. 11: FALL SCHEDULE BEGINS
9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service

Sept. 24-25: Grace's Men's Retreat

Last Week's Statistics: August 14, 2005 Attendance: 133

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	2,697.75	CLC:	552.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,933.00	CLC:	846.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-235.25	CLC:	-294.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	89,234.00	CLC:	26,448.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	96,789.00	CLC:	27,918.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-7,555.00	CLC:	-1,470.00
Other Offerings:	Tuition:	175.00	GLC Other:	27.50
	MDF:	60.00	Kinship:	60.00
	ILC Bldg.	21.50	CEF:	7.00

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As for me,

I would **seek** God,

and to **God** I would

commit my cause.

Job 5:8