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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: Maureen Ochsner

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

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Trinity 14

Date: August 28, 2005

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 34, TLH p. 131*

Hymn: *TLH 13: Before Jehovah's Awe-full Throne*

Liturgy: *TLH, p. 5 ff.*

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

P: We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks,

C: For Your name is near, men tell of Your wonderful deeds.

P: Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,

C: Who finds great delight in His commands.

P: He will have no fear of bad news, his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

C: His heart is secure, he will have no fear; Splendor and majesty are before him. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 244, st. 1: Glory Be to God*

C: Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son,

Glory be to God the Spirit: Great Jehovah, Three in One!

Glory, glory, While eternal ages run!

First Reading: *Romans 11:33-36*

God's ways are much deeper than our own feeble human understanding.

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. Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death ...

C: And brought life and immortality to life through the Gospel. Alleluia.

Second Reading: *Matthew 16:21-26*

Peter challenges Jesus when He teaches that He must suffer and die. Jesus adheres to His teaching and actually spins it back by saying that those who desire to follow Him will experience suffering for the sake of following Him. Are you willing to bear your own cross by following the Savior?

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

Hymn: *TLH 21, st. 1-3, 6: Jehovah, Let Me Now Adore Thee*

Sermon: *Exodus 6:2-8*

(2) And God spoke to Moses and said to him: "I *am* the LORD. (3) "I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but *by* My name LORD I was not known to them. (4) "I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers. (5) "And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant. (6) "Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I *am* the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. (7) 'I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. (8) 'And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you *as* a heritage: I *am* the LORD.'" (NKJV™)



JEHOVAH:

The distinctive, precious name of God

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 568: We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator*

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

Hymn: *TLH 54: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

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!

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ♦ **Fall Schedule:** Two weeks from today, Sept. 11, marks the change in schedule so that the worship service is at 10:00 am, with Bible Class and Sunday School at 9:00 am. Our parents are urged to bring their children to Jesus through Sunday School. They will be well-equipped with the stories from the Bible to help them in their faith-life, especially when they get older. Countless times older people will express their wish that they had had this wonderful opportunity. Please don't let your children one day wish the same. Of course we are all children of God no matter what our age, so even adults are encouraged to expand their Biblical knowledge by attending Bible Class. This year we will be studying First Corinthians, a book of the Bible that has a lot of application in our day and age. By increasing our understanding of the Bible, our congregation will prosper in many ways.
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- ♦ **Thanks:** This past week the following was accomplished: dry walling of the kitchen and store room area, spraying for weeds, and various bulletin boards were installed. Work on the computer network continues. All scheduled work items for the school remain from yesterday's additional workday, including light ballast replacement, shelf moving, etc.
 - ♦ **Among Us:** Michael Ude recently learned from tests that he has Lyme disease. Michael is very thankful to have a proper diagnosis and is optimistic about the upcoming treatments. May the Lord bless his health. Connie Ahrens would like to thank the congregation for their prayers concerning her granddaughter, Aimee. Her tests revealed this week that her kidney operation in April was successful. We are thankful to the Lord that all is well.
 - ♦ **Pastoral Visits:** While these visits have been steadily going well, it will help assist with Pastor Hein's scheduling to know if some people are available during the daytime since his evenings get filled pretty easily. Please indicate on the sheet by the guest book what days or time of day might work best for you. Please keep in mind that it may take some time to get around to everyone and that there is no particular order to when I will be visiting various families.
 - ♦ **Men's Retreat:** Men of all ages are invited to this retreat at Remer, MN, for the weekend of Sept. 24. Cost is \$40. Signup is by the guest book.
 - ♦ **From the CLC Board of Missions:** A photo gallery of pictures taken during the recent Mission Helper trip to India is now available for viewing on the internet. You may see these pictures at: www.clclutheran.org/missions. Look for the first item under "What's New."
 - ♦ **Call News:** Pastor Terrel Kesterson has returned the call to St. Stephen in Hayward, CA (Oakland area). Pastor Joel Fleischer of Calvary at Marquette, MI, has now received this call.

Council Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2005

Opened with prayer at 11:15. Minutes read and accepted from July as presented. Treasure's report from July, accepted as presented.

Building Committee: The Council discussed starting with drop ceiling for fellowship hall to solve the existing noise problem. Cost would be about \$1,500 for acoustical tile and another \$1,400 for vinyl tile flooring, both if we install ourselves. While carpet has been discussed, there's been apprehension about its practicality. There was a considerable amount of discussion on having someone come in for an acoustic analysis. Lyle Trulin will be consulting with a company regarding this. The Council had a consensus that the sound problem was a higher priority than finishing off the kitchen/store room project. Lyle is also getting firmer estimates on kitchen cabinets from Guyers.

Board of Education: There is lots of work yet to do before start of school. Some spare desks from the garage attic are being offered to Berea. The playground equipment is all setup and operational. The first CEA meeting is scheduled. Saturday (Aug. 20) is cleanup and work day for the school. The Board also discussed their policy of charging non-member tuition and situations where this is waived. The Board will continue to accept non-member students on the basis of the parent's annual acceptance of their child being under Grace's spiritual care. Each situation will be evaluated individually as far as fees and other issues. It was reported that Vacation Bible School went very well with 33 kids in attendance. Many thanks to the teaching staff and volunteers!

Board of Elders: The Council accepted the transfer of James and Jenny Squires as communicate members, and children, Alex and Taylor, as baptized members, from Berea Lutheran in Inver Grove Hts., MN. Joel Stifter and Kelly Johnson asked for permission to use the church and fellowship hall for their wedding on Feb. 11, 2006, Pastor Ude to officiate. The missionary visit from Tanzania will not occur due to insufficient funding on the missionary's part. An announcement had been placed in the bulletin about interest in the Parenting group that has been initiated from a member at Berea. Neal Radichel is schedule to preach for Oct. 9th in Pastor's absence (his sister's wedding in Spokane, WA). Pastor Joel Fleischer has been secured as the Mission Festival speaker on Oct. 23rd. The health savings accounts for Pastor and Mr. Libby have been funded at \$100 apiece. This will be increased to \$750 apiece so that there are no monthly fees. A cell phone was purchased for Pastor. Non-Christian day school Catechism is tentatively scheduled for Wed. 3:45-5:30 pm (now 4:00-5:45 pm). Elders are still addressing various issues connected with the hospitality program.

Board of Trustees: Lots of work has been accomplished, in the parsonage during June and elsewhere since then. Thanks to Benno and Tony Sydow for excavating, cutting down the dead tree, and moving pea gravel into the playground area. The insurance agent has not been able to be contacted for discussion regarding our policy.

New Business: Letter of thanks and monetary gift to Tony Sydow for all of his work here at Grace. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's prayer and blessing at 12:20.

CAUSERS OF DIVISIONS: What is it that causes division in the church? Recently we have had correspondence with someone who asked about the CLC. We do not know the person personally. His question revolved around the fellowship practice of the CLC. He is not a member of the CLC, but has some friends who are. These friends practice their faith and stand on Scriptural principle of not sitting at the feet of teachers who teach contrary to the Word. Therefore, they do not attend this man's church (Reformed), though when he visits with them, he attends their CLC church. So the question was "Does the CLC consider (my) church heterodox?"

The straightforward question demands a straightforward answer. A church that teaches, espouses and promotes doctrines that are contrary to the Word of God is heterodox, so the answer is, "Yes." The word heterodox means "other teaching." It is the opposite of orthodox. Our response to him suggested that from his perspective the CLC would be heterodox. His response was, "I would not" say that. We appreciate the fact that such attend our service and hear the Word. For only the Word can change their heart. We invite them to continue to come. However, in principle by their doing so they are revealing a lack of understanding of what Scripture says. In an age when the prevailing opinion is that we are supposed to "agree to disagree agreeably," for the majority of church people there is no such thing as a false teacher or false doctrine anymore. There are just varying degrees of truth or understanding of the truth. This is the stuff of compromise. Compromise is an art of politics, (though unrelated, even in the church we can, e.g., compromise on the color of the rug, or the time of service), but it does not work when it comes to theology. God's truth is God's truth! It brooks no compromise! Some think it makes no difference what is taught in the church. But if people who claim to believe the Bible believe that we teach contrary to the Bible, from their perspective they have to look at us as heterodox. We disagree with them, even as they disagree with us when we make that assessment of their church that teaches contrary to Scripture. But honesty compels us to recognize that when there are two contrary teachings of a doctrine of Scripture both cannot be correct. For their part, we ask that they who disagree with us test our teaching by the Scripture. For our part, we pray that we daily will be Bereans, searching the Scripture (Acts 17:11), lest through negligence, self-righteousness, or indifference we fall away from the ground of our faith- our Lord and his Word.

A judgment of a church that it is heterodox is a judgment **only** on the teachings of that church. It is not a judgment of the hearts or salvation of those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ though they are caught or trapped in a church that has departed from the truth of Holy Scripture. The Holy Christian Church is not Lutheran, etc. but consists of all individuals who believe that God for Jesus' sake has forgiven them their sins. Membership in the Holy Christian Church is through faith and is known to the Lord. Membership in a church organization, e.g. the Church of the Lutheran Confession, is through confession of faith. This is a confession that we hear with our ears and see with our eyes. However, unless people understand the distinction between the Holy Christian Church, and a church organization, they cannot comprehend the difference

between an orthodox church and a heterodox church, much less the purpose of fellowship practice as outlined in Scripture.

Our Lord commands us to be alert, vigilant, and to discriminate between churches here on earth. We are to discriminate between right and wrong, between true teaching and false teaching. He says, "Beware of false teachers" (Matthew 7:15). He tells us further that false teachers and their doctrines are dangerous and are to be avoided (Romans 16:17,18).

Our Lord tells us in Matthew 10 there will be divisions among people. These divisions will be a consequence of Christ and His Word. **But who is responsible for these divisions?** Our correspondent suggests that if his church is considered heretical this "would really lead to a division in the body of Christ." That is wrong on two counts. The body of Christ made up of believers in Christ who believe that their sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake is not divided, though the individual members here on earth are not all in the same fellowship. What are divided on earth are the so-called, "visible" churches and/or organizations. This is a lamentable situation, but **they who have departed from the Word are responsible for the division, not they who stand fast in the Word.**

This leads to another common inference advanced by a biting question. Does the CLC think that it is the only church that has the truth and all others are wrong? To answer the second part first: If a church, any church, teaches contrary to the Word of God it is wrong. How else shall we say it? To the first part of the question we say, "We did not say that we are the only church that has the truth." Furthermore we are not going to be baited into that trap. We say what we have already said, and what we always say, "Look at what we teach, compare it to the Bible. You make the judgment as to whether or not we teach the truth."

We learn in Scripture that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes (Romans 1:16). We believe our Lord when He says that His Word is spirit and life. We know the power of our own flesh to deceive us, and the inability of our weak flesh to withstand temptation. Our God Who has redeemed us from the power of the devil through the precious blood of the Savior knows us better than we know ourselves. Therefore He tells us to be on guard against sin and error, and to "have no fellowship" with it and its purveyors. The love of God constrains us that we walk in His Word and Way.

God's Word is truth. Jesus Himself tells us, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). Continuing in the Word is not divisive; it is freeing.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer; 8/28/2005



† TODAY AT GRACE †

Elder: **Ed Lentz**

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**

Church Cleaners: **Kirkham**

School Cleaners: **Davis**

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

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

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

Hospitality Team 5: **Mark & Trudy Wales; Brandt Wendland; Al Rosendahl; Karen Auel**

Church Cleaners: **No Volunteers** School Cleaners: **Davis**

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Worship Service
10:00 am – Hospitality in Fellowship Hall

Sun., Sept. 4: 9:00 am – Worship Service

Mon., Sept. 5: Labor Day – No School

Wed., Sept. 7: School Picture Day
4:00-5:45 pm – Confirmation for Public School Children

Sun., Sept. 11: FALL SCHEDULE BEGINS
9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 – Noon – Youth Bible Study

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

Last Week's Statistics: August 21, 2005 Attendance: 108

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	1,866.51	CLC:	481.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,933.00	CLC:	846.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,066.49	CLC:	-365.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	91,100.94	CLC:	26,929.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	99,722.00	CLC:	28,764.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-8,621.06	CLC:	-1,835.00
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	12.00	Tuition:	97.00
GLC Other: 41.00	MDF:	92.00	Kinship:	87.00
ILC Improv.: 7.00	ILC Bldg.	9.00	CEF:	7.00

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