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Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE

Fridley, MN 55432

Email: jphein@clclutheran.org

Home Page: www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635)

Phone: 763-784-8784

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

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Trinity 16

Date: September 11, 2005

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 51, TLH 134 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 351: Love Divine, All Love Excelling*

Liturgy: *TLH, p. 5 ff.*

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

P: I love the Lord, for He heard my voice; He heard my cry for mercy.

C: Because He turned His ear to me, I will call on Him as long as I live.

P: The cords of death entangled me,

C: The anguish of the grave came upon me. I was overcome.

P: Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, save me";

C: The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. 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: *Ezekiel 33:7-11*

With God's love, a teacher of God's Word is to warn the sinner.

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. For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, ...

C: That we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Alleluia.

Day School Hymn: *Savior, Teach Me Day by Day*

1. Savior, teach me day by day, Love's sweet lesson to obey;
Sweeter lesson cannot be. Loving Him who first loved me.

2. With a child's glad heart of love At Thy bidding may I move;
Prompt to serve and follow Thee Loving Him who first loved me.

3. Teach me thus Thy steps to trace Strong to follow in Thy grace.
Learning how to love from Thee, Loving Him who first loved me.

4. Love in loving girls and boys, In obedience all our joy.
Ever new that joy will be; Loving Him who first loved me.

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 13:1-8a*

The activity that is found in Christian love.

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

Hymn: *Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire (insert)*

Sermon: *Romans 13:8-10*

(8) Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. (9) For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if *there is* any other commandment, are *all* summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (10) Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love *is* the fulfillment of the law. (NKJV™)

A Christian Education Consists in Genuine Love

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 628: Shepherd of Tender Youth*

Offering & Prayers: *TLH p. 14*

Installation of Sunday School Teachers:

Hymn: *TLH 352, st. 1, 4: O Savior, Precious 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!

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Pastoral Visits:** Please indicate on the sheet by the guest book what days or time of day might work best for you.
- ◆ **Among Us:** Phil Radichel's hernia surgery was successful this past Friday. Michael Ude is currently on a course of medications for his Lyme disease. Bobby Vandever remains at Sherburne Co. jail in Elk River. An address hadn't been shared yet with the congregation simply because it was thought he may get into a half-way house during the past week. For now, perhaps the best way to share any cards or notes of encouragement would be to send them to his parents house: 1052 93rd Lane NW; Coon Rapids, MN 55448. We rejoice that Bobbie is repentant of his actions and has been assured of his forgiveness through the shed blood of our Savior. As Jesus said: "Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10). Further hearings are in the unknown future. Please continue to pray for both Bobbie and his family.
- ◆ **Thanks:** To Members at Grace, Thank you for the money - it was a nice surprise and I wasn't expecting anything. Both my Dad and I enjoy doing things for the church when we are able to. I hope you get lots of use out of the new playground and kitchen. Once again, thanks, Tony Sydow and Family.
- ◆ **Organ CD Set:** CLC member, Aaron Gullerud, has compiled a 4-CD set of hymns that have pipe organ playing without any singing. The intent is for this to be used for family devotions, small worship settings, or Christian Day Schools. The cost for each set will be \$20, chiefly due to copyright. Should you be interested in a set, please inform Pastor. A 10-set minimum order from the congregation is required.
- ◆ **Men's Retreat:** There is still time to register for the men's retreat at Remer, MN, for the weekend of Sept. 24. With food and lodging planned, cost is now \$53. The overall theme of the retreat is "The Responsibilities of the Christian Man," based on First Kings 2:2b-3a: "... be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the LORD your God." Signup is by the guest book. Please speak with Jeff Radichel for further details.
- ◆ **Invitation:** Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church of Mankato invites fellow Christian women to join them for The Christian Women Today Seminar to be held on Sat., Oct. 1. This year's theme is "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). Registration forms are by the guest book. Please pick up a brochure and register by Sept. 25.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Books of the Bible



Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire And have the
 2. Though I may give all I poss-ess And striv-ing
 3. Come, Spir-it, come; our hearts con-trol. Our spir-its

gift to all in- spire And have not love, my
 so, my love pro- fess But not be giv'n by
 long to be made whole. Let in- ward love guide

words are vain As sound-ing brass and hope - less gain.
 love with- in, The pro - fit soon turns strange - ly thin.
 ev - 'ry deed; By this we wor - ship and are freed.

The Spring of Christian Love Lies Within

A Christian should now draw his love from the person, as the world does. Thus a young fellow is in love with a pretty girl, a miser with money and possessions, a lord or prince with honor and power, etc. All such love is a derived or borrowed love, a love that clings to its object because of the good it sees in it and that lasts no longer than the good and the possibility of its enjoyment last. But Christian love should well up from within the heart, should flow constantly like a fresh brook or rivulet; it will not be checked, dried up, and exhausted. Christian love says: I do not love you because you are pious or wicked; for I do not draw my love from the piety, as from an outside well, but from my own well, namely, the Word, which has been sunk into my heart, which says: Love your neighbor. From this well love gushes forth plentifully. And it is open to everyone who needs it; it flows out over both the good and the evil, over friend and foe; nay, it is there especially for foes, since they are in greater need of it. My love is there to help them escape from their misery and sins and is especially active in the greatest good work: praying for them and doing everything I can to make them, too, pious and free from sins and the devil. — Martin Luther

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 †

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Al Rosendahl

Ushers: Jeff Radichel; Matt Dick; Andrew Rosendahl; Dan Degnan; Gerald Anderson; Brandon & Pat Paplow

Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Ole Olmanson

Hospitality Team 6: Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick; Frank & Ann Radichel

Church Cleaners: F. & A. Radichel School Cleaners: Hein

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Jeff Radichel; Matt Dick; Andrew Rosendahl; Dan Degnan; Gerald Anderson; Brandon & Pat Paplow

Counting Team 4: Paul Lentz; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner; Jeff Radichel

Hospitality Team 7: Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt Wendland

Church Cleaners: F. & A. Radichel School Cleaners: Hein

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today:

9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:00 am – Hospitality in Fellowship Hall
11:15 am – Board Meetings; Youth Bible Study
12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Mon., Sept. 12:

9:00 am – MN Pastoral Study Club (Mankato)

Wed., Sept. 14:

4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Children

Fri., Sept. 16:

6:00 pm – School Volunteer Picnic (Parsonage)

Sun., Sept. 18:

8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Youth Bible Study
3:00 pm – MN Delegate Conference (Eagle Lake)

Sept. 24-25:

Grace's Men's Retreat (Remer)

Last Week's Statistics: September 4, 2005 Attendance: 118

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	2,944.21	CLC:	1,013.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,933.00	CLC:	846.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+11.21	CLC:	+167.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	97,112.20	CLC:	28,761.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	105,588.00	CLC:	30,456.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-8,475.80	CLC:	-1,695.00
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	2.00	Tuition:	41.00
GLC Other:	MDF:	5.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Improv.:	ILC Bldg.	1.00	CEF:	36.00

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