

Click here to open service web page for: 2005/11/13/

Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432



Email: jphein@clclutheran.com

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 25

Date: November 13, 2005

Judgment Day: As the Church Year nears its close, we are reminded of the coming of our Savior on Judgment Day. He will judge all who have ever inhabited the earth. Those who have rejected Him will go into everlasting death, originally only prepared for the devil and his evil angels. Those who are led to believe in Him will go into everlasting life, the home prepared by God. This is always a reminder to us all to be prepared in terms of our faith being fed and nourished, waiting for our Savior in hope.

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Hymn:..... *TLH 604: Great God, What do I See and Hear*

Liturgy:..... *TLH, p. 5 ff.*

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

P: O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;

C: In Your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.

P: I spread out my hands to You; my soul thirsts for You like a parched land.

C: Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit faints with longing.

P: For Your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life;

C: In Your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.

P: With You there is forgiveness, O Lord;

C: Therefore You are feared. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis:..... *TLH 250, st. 1,4*

C: Holy God, we praise thy name; Lord of all, we bow before Thee.

All on earth Thy scepter claim, All in heaven above adore Thee.

Infinite Thy vast domain, Everlasting is Thy reign.

Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name Thee;

Though in essence only one, Undivided God we claim Thee

And, adoring, bend the knee While we own the mystery.

First Reading:..... *Daniel 7:9-10*

Before the Ancient of Days, Judgment of the world will be accomplished.

Gradual:

P: These are they who have come out of the great tribulation;

C: They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

P: Blessed are those whose strength is in You,

C: Who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen,

C: So that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man. Alleluia.

Second Reading:..... *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

We are to be vigilant as Judgment Day will come unexpectedly.

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

Hymn:..... *TLH 606: O'er the Distant Mountains Breaking*

Sermon:..... *Matthew 24:1-14*

(1) Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. (2) And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." (3) Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (4) And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. (5) "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. (6) "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. (7) "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. (8) "All these *are* the beginning of sorrows. (9) "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. (10) "And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. (11) "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. (12) "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. (13) "But he who endures to the end shall be saved. (14) "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."

"ENDURING TO THE END"

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

Hymn:..... *TLH 609: Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*

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

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

Silent Prayer:

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Flowers:** The flowers on the altar today are in memory of Jessie Lang and in honor of Merlin Lang from his daughter, Carol Sandeen.
- ◆ **Kitchen/Fellowship Hall:** This past week more was accomplished with the project. The cabinets are now all in place for countertop installation which will happen in the upcoming week. In addition, all light fixtures are now in place as well as all the acoustical ceiling tiles.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Service:** The practice bulletin for the Christmas Eve service is about ready for publishing so that the children will know what parts have been assigned to them. Please inform Pastor Hein today or at least some time this week if your child is not able to participate. Pastor is also considering revising the practice dates (with Elders approval) from the two Saturday mornings of Dec. 3 and 10, to Sunday afternoons of Dec. 4 and 11. It is thought that this would cause less interference with those who participate in sports and would cut down on an extra trip. Please let him know if this would not be workable.



- ◆ **Music Recital:** Janelle Hein and Chris Lentz are organizing an opportunity for the children with musical talents in our midst to perform an informal Christmas recital. This would occur on Dec. 18th during hospitality. Those interested may speak with Janelle or Chris.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Mark Gullerud has returned the call to St. Stephen of Hayward, CA (Oakland area). † Pastor Arthur Schulz of Trinity in Millston, WI, has announced his retirement planned for the end of the year after 52 years of service. † A reminder that Pastor Bruce Naumann and Larry Hansen, both from the CLC Board of Missions, are touring some of our missions in Africa. You may monitor their trip by going to www.clclutheran.org and click on "October 2005 Mission Trip" in the upper right hand corner of the screen.



- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Eighth Commandment

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 speak with you.

CHRISTIAN OR LUTHERAN?

Recently an invitation came through e-mail to participate in a Christian website. The information states that this website will be "bringing true, online Biblical community to the web" (sic). It is described as "God's new tool to spread His kingdom." The website will offer services to attract and bring Christians together in different activities, all over the web. It even offers sermons.

There is a reason why this writer has not mentioned the website. We appreciate the fact that Christianity is being promoted in this "post-Christian" age. Yet we cannot promote or participate in "Christian" endeavors that themselves promote "an agreement to disagree" mentality toward doctrine. When one looks at the website one finds names such as Colson, Osteen, Swindoll. One can access *The Lutheran Hour*, as well as Bible churches, and community churches. Sermons are available from men and women of different faiths. One of the sponsors is the *Beth Moore Ministries*, as well as the ecumenical *Promise Keepers*. Basically it offers a "Christian" smorgasbord.

We thank the Lord for anyone who is led to confess the Lord Jesus Christ through whatever forum Christ is preached. Nevertheless, we cannot be part of or identify with a Christianity that is so broad based as to include any and all differing definitions of Christianity. Within the broad definition of "Christian" one can find those who deny creation and promote evolution. Inspiration of the Bible is not a universal teaching within Christianity today. There are promoters of and defenders of homosexuality. Abortion is a viable option within some "Christian communities." In some Christian definitions and practices, ethics has replaced the teaching of justification by grace through faith. Emotion has replaced faith in Christ as the evidence of saving faith. Some who are identified with Christianity in fact teach salvation by works. Some hold that there is a collaborative effort between God and man in conversion. Others will deny the power and efficacy of baptism. Still others do not teach the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in the Sacrament. There are charismatics whose religion is subjective, and in fact judgmental of such as have never had the "experience." Millennialism has affected many who call themselves Christian. Most of Christianity today has little if any concept of what Scripture teaches concerning fellowship practice.

So we will not promote or participate in a Christian endeavor on line or off line that breaks down the line of demarcation between truth and error. We know very well that we will be accused of being out of the mainstream, and out on the "far right." But whose approval do we seek, that of man or that of God? Paul said, "For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a servant of Christ" (Galatians 1:10).

Over 100 years ago, an eminent Bible student and faithful teacher, Francis Pieper asked in an essay, "What would happen if the Church would identify Christianity with morality and teach salvation by moral conduct instead of salvation by faith" (*What is Christianity and other essays*, CPH, 1933, p. 12). Certainly Christian teaching promotes morality, but not as the foundational teaching, but as a fruit of Gospel preaching. Sanctification follows on justification. But that is where we are today- the promotion of moral conduct is emphasized at the expense of salvation teaching. Pieper answers his own question: "In that case the Church would lead men to damnation, not to salvation" (ibid). He goes on, "But the greatest fraud in the world is a Church that discards the crucified Christ and proclaims salvation by works in His place; for it robs men of salvation" (p.13). "We must therefore avoid the old, but ever new, error that Christianity is essentially moral conduct. Never! Never! Christianity is faith in the Gospel, faith in the free remission of sins, which Christ has gained for all men. By this preaching of the Gospel, we save souls and so accomplish the primary purpose for which the Christian Church exists" (p.14). Again we reiterate, the Christian life flows out of the regenerate heart as the redeemed child of God lives his salvation-life to the glory of the Savior God.

The great commission of our Lord recorded in Mark says, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). In Matthew we read, "Go ye and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19,20). They of ill will may accuse the Gospel and us for the evils in the world. They err and must answer to God!

So then are we Christian? Do we identify with that name? Most assuredly! We could not deny that name without denying Christ! Built upon the doctrine of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20), we are Christian!

But in today's milieu of churches identified as Christian we are Lutheran. "In these days it is not enough to call ourselves Christians in general, if we would candidly and fairly declare our faith. There was a time when it was enough to say: 'I am a Christian.' For the first 300 years of the Christian era that expression was sufficient to set forth the peculiar faith of a man's heart ... Since the Christian world is divided into a thousand sects, how can others know what we believe when we only declare: 'We are Christians?' Do not now even those want to be called Christians who reject Christ, oppose His Gospel, [and] deny his eternal divinity and perfect atonement? Yes, if all the enemies of Christ and of His Word were honest enough to openly confess their undying animosity to the Crucified One and renounce the name of 'Christian,' then there would be no need of any other name than that of Christian by which to express our faith. But as even the enemies of Christ adorn themselves with His name ... it must be evident to every one that a time has arrived in which the friend of Christ must more distinctly declare himself, if he would not deny his adorable Redeemer before the world" (*What is a Lutheran*, 8th edition, undated, p.14)? ... "As dear then as the truth is to us, as dear to us as is the glory of God, and our own salvation, so little can we especially in these days of general distraction give up the name 'Lutheran,' by which we distinguish ourselves from false believers of every age, and openly confess the truth of every age" (p.20).

Candidly, we must even be more specific of *what kind of Lutheran we are* in these days. As Lutherans we hold fast to Luther's doctrine pure without qualification because his doctrine is drawn from Scripture. Be that as it may, and for our purpose now, we are Christians who are Lutheran. If we are truly Lutheran we cannot promote, or participate with, those to whom the name "Christian" is purposely broad to allow and teach whatever one chooses, while covering it in the cloak of Jesus.

Luther said, "The perfectly pure, the only, and certain Word of God must be the foundation of our faith" (WLS: II, para. 2693, p. 863) We say then that if it is not Scripture it is not Lutheran- or Christian! If we are Christians, we will not deny our Lutheran name, either by omission or by teaching, joining or supporting anyone who teaches contrary to Scripture!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer (11/13/2005)

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Ed Lentz

Ushers: Paul Lentz; Bill Ryan; Brad Kitzman; John Auel;
Rick Nelson; Elijah Wales; Keith Radichel

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

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

Church Cleaners: Sydow

School: Torkelson

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Paul Lentz; Bill Ryan; Brad Kitzman; John Auel;
Rick Nelson; Elijah Wales; Keith Radichel

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

Hospitality Team 1: Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice
Sandhoefner; Bill Ryan

Church Cleaners: Kitzman

School: Vandever

† OUR SCHEDULE †

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

Wed., Nov. 16: 2:30 pm – Chiquettes (Little One's Story Hour, Theme: Thanksgiving)
4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Children

Sun., Nov. 20: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service

Wed., Nov. 23: 7:00 pm – Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Wed., Nov. 30: 7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Service

Last Week's Stats: Nov. 6, 2005		B.Cl.: 45	S.S.: 25	Worship: 142	
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	3,086.76	CLC:	2,180.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,933.00	CLC:	846.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+153.76	CLC:	+1,334.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	121,367.86	CLC:	38,798.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	131,985.00	CLC:	38,070.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-10,617.14	CLC:	+728.00	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	9.00	Tuition:	56.00	
GLC Other:	60.25	MDF:	179.00	Kinship:	67.00
ILC Student Aid.:	10.00	ILC Bldg.	22.00	IIF: 7.00	CEF: 32.00

Grace Lutheran Church & School



Therefore keep
watch, because you
do not know the day
or the hour.

Matthew 25:13