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Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE

Fridley, MN 55432

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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: Epiphany 6

Date: February 12, 2006

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 103, TLH p. 145 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 277: I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

Liturgy: *TLH, p. 5 ff. (Also available on laminated sheet in pew)*

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

P: Even in the darkness light dawns for the upright,

C: For the gracious and compassionate and righteous man.

P: Praise the Lord. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in His commands.

C: Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.

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; in the end he will look in triumph on his foes. 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: *Job 7:1-7*

Life is full of troubles. But we have our Savior who brightens life!

Gradual:

P: Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol Him, all you peoples.

C: For great is His love toward us; and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

P: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name;

C: Bring an offering and come into His courts.

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the Light of the world ..."

C: "Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Alleluia.

Day School: *We Have a Gentle Shepherd*

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 9:16-23*

Paul's motto in mission work: "Be all things to all men."

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

Hymn: *TLH 410: Jesus, Lead Thou On*

Sermon: *Mark 1:29-39*

(29) Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. (30) But Simon's wife's mother lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once. (31) So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them. (32) At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. (33) And the whole city was gathered together at the door. (34) Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him. (35) Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. (36) And Simon and those *who were* with Him searched for Him. (37) When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." (38) But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth." (39) And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons. (NKJV)

"WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR FROM JESUS?"

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

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

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!

So one will ask what then can we do to keep our young people and any others (it's not only a youth problem) who are endangering their souls by dropping out?

1. Preach the Word with all diligence, and faithfulness.
2. Let the Word of God dwell richly among us in home and church
3. Through their worship and faith activity let parents in the home set a good example for their children.
4. If possible begin a Christian Day school, and where there is one, utilize it, as well as Immanuel Lutheran high School.
5. Utilize the Sunday School, Bible Class, and catechism class, and let pastor and teacher give themselves to careful preparation
6. Take time to visit with the youth of the congregation about spiritual things as well as about other things that interest them
7. Seize the opportunities to share with one another and with the youth the blessings of continuing in the faithful Word.
8. Preach the Word, Preach the Word, Preach the Word!

We must face the fact that we are dealing with the sinful flesh, and many evil influences. Many faithful parents and congregations as well as pastors have endured the heartache of seeing children forsake the paths. Even one of the Lord's disciples- Judas, by name- spurned the love and grace of Christ, and was lost. As surely as we preach and teach, and maintain the means of grace, Satan is knocking at the back door inviting people to enjoy the enticements and pleasures of the world on the outside. The answer to Satan is not to figure out programs, schemes, or godly enticements in order to close the back door. The Lord Himself gives us the answer. "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry" (2 Timothy 4: 2-5).

But let us recognize this truth- and this we say not to minimize our concern, or excuse indifference. We say it because it is our hope, accompanied with prayer. Where the Word of God has been preached, and children have been brought up in the way of the Lord, and to know the Gospel, God can bring them back again. They, as we all, may forget Him, but He does not forget us. While they may be a "loss to the church," the Lord can keep them unto salvation. When they appreciate that, the sooner they will be led, we pray, to rejoin us in our confessional fellowship around Word and Sacrament. It is up to us to see to it that if and when such a reawakening comes, they will have something to which to return! To no supposed good end or hope dare we give place to methodology at the expense of theology – God's Word - in order to entice or keep our youth.

"Send out Thy light and Thy truth. Let them lead me. Let them bring me unto Thy holy hill, and to Thy tabernacles" (Psalm 43:3).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer (2/5/2006)

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Among Us:** Maynard Hammond's brother, Stevie, passed away this past Thursday evening. Stevie was a member of Berea Lutheran in Sioux Falls, SD. We pray that the power of the Lord's resurrection will give the family the assurance that they will one day see Stevie stand boldly before God's throne, clothed in the righteousness of His Savior. Yesterday Joel Stifter was united in marriage with Kelly nee Johnson. May the Lord richly bless their marriage with Christ-like love!
- ◆ **Basketball Jamboree:** Next Sunday is the Basketball Jamboree at Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato. Since we only have one child above the 6th grade level, we are signed up as a lower level team. Children grades 4th – 7th are invited to participate on the team. The following games are scheduled: 2:00 pm - Mankato D; 3:00 pm - Mankato C; 4:00 pm - Okabena; 5:00 pm - Inver Grove Hts. B. For more information, please speak with Mark Wales.
- ◆ **ILC Clothing:** There is still Immanuel Lutheran embroidered clothing available for purchase in Eau Claire, WI. To see samples of the clothing, go to ilcpublicity.org/clothing. Some of the clothing is available for immediate purchase through Linda Joos in Eau Claire. Stock on hand is limited; orders for everything except the long sleeve denim shirts can be taken at any time. If you are planning a trip to Eau Claire and would like to pick up garments and save the cost of shipping, please contact Linda Joos by phone or e-mail at (715) 835-0684 or tjoos@sbcglobal.net.
- ◆ **Lenten Soup Suppers:** The Dorcas Guild will be serving soup suppers before Wednesday evening Lenten services. Soup will be served from 6:00 to 6:45 pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for those interested in preparing and serving the soup. The Dorcas Guild will provide crackers, bread, etc.
- ◆ **Berea Retreat:** An outing is being held at the multipurpose building at Berea in Inver Grove Hts. for those who are 11th grade through college. It will begin on Fri., Feb. 24, at 6:00 pm and last through Feb. 25. Cost is \$5. Details and signup list are by the guest book.
- ◆ **Marriage Enrichment Retreat:** A retreat focused on Scriptural guidance for enriching and strengthening a Christian marriage is being held at Soldiers' Field Best Western Hotel in Rochester, MN, on March 31 through April 2. Cost is \$75 per couple which includes Sat. lunch and dinner. Hotel rooms are extra and may be reserved by calling 877-887-7776 and mentioning the reservation is for the Marriage Retreat block. Questions may be directed to Pastor Wayne Eichstadt at 507-344-0898 or wayne.eichstadt@immanualmankato.org.
- ◆ **CLC Women's Retreat:** The "CLC Women's Retreat" is set for April 21-23 at the Schwan Retreat and Conference Center, a facility outside of Trego, WI. Brochures are available by the guest book.

- ♦ **CLC Youth Camp** is holding a camp session this summer from June 11 - 17. Camp is going to be held at a new location, Camp JIM, in Pillager, MN. The website is ready for your viewing at the following address: <http://www.clclutheran.org/youthcamp>. Registration will open on Wednesday, March 1st. Please do not try to register prior to that date! More information will be added to the website within the next few weeks, so visit often! As usual, Roughrider Youth Camp in Jamestown, ND, will also be holding a camp session this summer from June 25 - July 1. Information connected with this camp will be released later this spring. In Him, Nick Stelter and Alana Ahrens
- ♦ **CLC News:** Pastor Steven Karp of Resurrection in Calgary, AB, has received the call to St. Stephen in Hayward, CA (Oakland area). † Our Savior Lutheran, Cadillac MI, and Rock of Ages Lutheran, Grand Rapids, MI, have issued a joint call to Pastor Timothy Holland, Grand Rapids, MI, and he has accepted the call.
- ♦ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Second Article, Part 2

CLOSING THE BACK DOOR:

One of the concerns that occupies churches is how to keep young people active in the church. As a pastor I have the same concerns about our church body, as well as our own congregation. As a confessional Lutheran pastor I have concerns, as I am sure do others of our fellowship, because of the implication for the future of our church body. But *more importantly* our concerns revolve around implications having to do with the spiritual and eternal welfare of the young people.

“Forward in Christ” [January 2006] (Old-timers know it as “The *Northwestern Lutheran*”) reports that the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) “explored the reason why youth are leaving the WELS.” This was done over the period of two years and was “conducted by an independent, non-WELS research firm” which utilized a “focus group” of young people 17-24 years of age. To “make the process totally objective,” they engaged an outside research firm which we find mildly curious. We of course do not know, but it is unlikely that this research firm addressed spiritual matters. It certainly could not respond to spiritual concerns in a pastoral manner if any were expressed. We are told that the 12 young people responded by “pouring out their hearts, admitting their shortcomings, demonstrating their faith, and not wanting to radically reconstruct WELS, but wanting it to be more responsive, more caring, more communicative, and more in touch.”

So what are some recommendations in the 112-page report to the “Commission on Youth Discipleship”? It does suggest, “to lobby parents more aggressively, communicating the critical role they play in their children’s future WELS relationship.” Pastor and congregation are to better tune in to the needs and interests of their youth. *“Congregations need to reduce the degree of repetitiveness in worship service and consider some music variation. They should also evaluate opportunities/potential to incorporate some contemporary aspects into religious services.”* “The current feeling that

‘young adults don’t count’ needs to be reversed.” The report also did encourage increased efforts toward those leaving for or who were away at college, as well as post high school youth not in college. It also encouraged continued efforts at promotion of the Lutheran Elementary schools.

The problem is identifiable! Young people are becoming less and less active, and are leaving the church. How to address the problem is the difficulty. But let us recognize with thanksgiving to the Lord that many young people *are faithful to the Lord and are remaining active*.

Young people who remain faithful and active undoubtedly are subjected to the same societal influences, the same passions, the same temptations, the same fears, and the same ideals and goals of those who are inactive and are leaving. *Therefore, more helpful than an outside research firm study would be gathering young people who are active and engaged, and finding out why they are.*

The Word of God is essential to keeping young people or old people faithful in hearing the Word and active in the congregation. We need to preach Law and Gospel. Young and old need the Law no matter how uncomfortable it is to preach it or to hear it. We need it because it uncovers our sinful condition. “Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God” (Romans 3:19). Only in hearts crushed by the Law can the Gospel seed take root. Only to such as realize that in their flesh they are beggars before God can the redemption that is in Christ Jesus give hope and joy. Only God’s grace that brings salvation can win the heart, and only grace can sustain the heart. Grace alone creates a desire to love and worship “the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind” (Matthew 4:10; 22:37). It is the Gospel alone that works faith, as well as appreciation manifest through faithfulness.

One thing is for sure- if the church has to become program oriented or water down its heritage to keep its youth we need to ask the question. For what are we keeping them- for the church or unto salvation? If the church has to change itself to close the back door to youth, it will not serve the youth (and likely not keep them) and it will probably lose the older generation. Furthermore, if programs are important to keep interest in church and the Gospel, no confessional Lutheran congregation can “out-program” the so-called “evangelicals” and still be recognized as a confessional Lutheran church! Possibly this reveals a bias, but so be it. If introducing “contemporary aspects into religious services” is the necessity of the future, can contemporary theology be far behind? Witness yet another church movement afoot. Something called *Connection Power News* said in an announcement January 23, 2006 *“The movements with the widest influence and greatest shelf life have been those that first, are doctrinally neutral, i.e. focusing on methodology rather than theology...”* Contemporary theology soon becomes no theology!

In the face of such foolishness, the Church has the responsibility to feed the sheep diligently. The pastor has a responsibility to “shepherd the flock” - young and old. There is no question that in addressing this concern, parents, pastor, and congregation must engage in introspection to examine their faithfulness to their particular responsibility as given by the Lord and as ones that must give account.

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Michael Dick

Ushers: Al Rosendahl; Arnold Gehrls; Scott Baker; Lyle Trulin;
David Stifter; Michael Ude; Ryan Libby

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

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

Church Cleaners: Maki/Stifter

School: Sandhoefer

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Al Rosendahl; Arnold Gehrls; Scott Baker; Lyle Trulin;
David Stifter; Michael Ude; Ryan Libby

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

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

Church Cleaners: D. Rust

School: Hendrickson

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 6)
11:00 am – Hospitality; 11:15 – Boards; 12:00 pm – Council

Wed., Feb. 15: 2:30 pm – Chiquettes (Little One's Story Hour)
4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Children
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Sun., Feb. 19: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service with Lord's Supper (Epiphany 7)
11:00 am – Hospitality; 2:00 pm – Basketball Jamboree

Mon., Feb. 20: No School – MN Teachers' Conf. Hosted at Grace

Fri., Feb. 24: 12:00 pm – School Dismissal; 6:00 pm – Berea Retreat

Last Week's Stats: Feb. 5, 2006 B.Cl.: 35 S.S.: 24 Sun.: 145 Wed: 25

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	3,471.50	CLC:	1,255.00
Weekly Need (last year):	Grace:	2,970.00	CLC:	850.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+501.50	CLC:	+405.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	17,677.37	CLC:	5,193.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	17,820.00	CLC:	5,100.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-142.63	CLC:	+93.00
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	1.00	Tuition:	130.00
GLC Other:	MDF:	200.00	Kinship:	100.00
ILC Student Aid.: 0.00	ILC Bldg.	58.00	IIF: 1.00	CEF: 50.00

Grace Lutheran Church & School



What Are You Looking For From Jesus?