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# Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Home Page: [www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org](http://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-8<sup>th</sup>

Church Year: Lent 1

Date: March 5, 2006

## † THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

**Worship Preparation:** ..... *Psalm 6, TLH p. 124*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 155: Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing*

**Liturgy:** ..... *TLH, p. 15 ff. (Also available on laminated sheet in pew)*

**Introit (followed by Gloria Patri, The Kyrie):** ..... *TLH, pp. 16-17*

P: Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge,

**C: Even the Most High, your dwelling place,**

P: No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;

**C: For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.**

P: In their hands they shall bear you up,

**C: Lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

P: You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,

**C: The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.**

**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:** ..... *Romans 8:31-39*

Jesus' death makes it impossible to bring a charge against God's elect.

**Gradual:**

P: Oh, come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

**C: The author and finisher of our faith,**

P: Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning the shame,

**C: And sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

P: Put on the full armor of God,

**C: So that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.**

**Second Reading:** ..... *Mark 1:12-15*

Jesus is tempted in the wilderness and thereafter begins His ministry.

**Confession of Faith:** ..... *Nicene Creed, TLH p. 22*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 355: Thou Art the Way, to Thee Alone*

**Sermon:** ..... *Genesis 28:10-17*

(10) Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. (11) So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. (12) Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder *was* set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. (13) And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I *am* the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. (14) "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (15) "Behold, I *am* with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." (16) Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know *it*." (17) And he was afraid and said, "How awesome *is* this place! This *is* none other than the house of God, and this *is* the gate of heaven!" (NKJV)

## "LEAN ON THE RELIABLE LADDER OF THE LORD"

**Offertory:** ..... *TLH p. 22 f.*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 348: Jesus, Jesus, Only Jesus*

**Offering & Prayer:**

**Liturgy for the Lord's Supper:** ..... *TLH p. 24 ff.*

**Distribution:** ..... *TLH 148; TLH 163*

**Note:** In obedience to God's Word, and out of concern for the welfare of souls (1 Corinthians 11:29), and finally that we may honestly express the unity of faith and hope that binds us, we ask that only such as have identified with Grace through public confession of faith or another CLC congregation, approach the altar at the usher's direction.

**Nunc Dimittis, Prayer, Benediction:** ..... *TLH 29 ff.*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 179: On My Heart Imprint Thine Image*

*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 †

- ◆ **Among Us:** Erma Tiefel, mother of Peter Fleischer, was hospitalized again this past week due to a problem with her medications. She is now back home. Bobby Vandever was moved recently. Please be sure to provide him Christian encouragement during this time of reflection. His mailing address is: Robert Remi Vandever, 12398-041-C; Federal Correctional Institution; PO Box 1000; Sandstone, MN 55072. Andrea Sydow was blessed with a purchase of a new residence. Her new address is: 4801-3 Education Dr. N; Hugo MN 55038. Cliff and Marion Schwieger celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. As the Lord self-sacrificed Himself in love for His bride, the Church, may they continue to enjoy this!
- ◆ **Midweek Lenten Services:** During the Wed. evenings of Lent we are holding special worship services focusing on our Savior's Passion. The overall theme will be "Lenten Meteorological Marvels." Each service focuses on a weather element illustrated in Scripture reflecting the Lord's grace. This Wed. we will focus on the Prevailing Wind of the Spirit's Calling.
- ◆ **Lenten Soup Suppers:** Soup suppers are being served prior to the Wednesday evening Lenten services as a way to fellowship and to possibly help those who are . Soup will be served from 6:00 to 6:45 pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the Pastor's office for those interested in preparing and serving the soup. The Dorcas Guild will provide crackers, bread, etc.
- ◆ **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Marie Stifter has been asked to compile a visual presentation at our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this coming summer. She requests pictures relating to the congregation's history from anyone who may be able to provide them. Please be sure to include your name on the photo. You may also send her digital photos at [mariegr123@yahoo.com](mailto:mariegr123@yahoo.com).
- ◆ **Retreats:** Brochures are found by the guest book for the CLC Women's Retreat and the Marriage Enrichment retreat.
- ◆ **Funds:** The Council has closed the Kitchen Fund and has now created a **Floor Fund** for flooring in the kitchen, fellowship hall, and storage room. They also created a **Furnace Fund** to replace some of our aging equipment. Please indicate this on your offering envelope.
- ◆ **Project Kinship** is the committee that connects CLC sponsors with orphans and seminary students in India and Africa. Recently, Project Kinship announced that sponsors have now been found for all the orphans and seminary students we support. However, if you are interested in becoming a sponsor, the waiting list right now is short. Also, apart from direct sponsorship, you may wish to consider a contribution to the Kinship general fund, which helps provide for special projects and one-time needs of the children and sem students we support. For more information please contact Rev. Thomas Schuetze, [tschuetze@netzero.net](mailto:tschuetze@netzero.net).
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Steven Karp of Calgary, Alberta, has accepted the call to St. Stephen's in Hayward, CA (Oakland area).
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Third Article, Part 2

## LENT: TIME TO THINK AGAIN

**Email Devotion: Monday, February 27, 2006**

Mark 1:14-15 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said, "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

The Greek word which is translated "Repent" in Mark 1:15 is made up of two Greek words smooched together, roughly "after" + "think." Or as we'd say in English, "Think again." The people who Jesus preached to were encouraged to consider their sins and "think again," and so are we.

On Wednesday of this week Lent will begin. Lent is the season in the church year when we consider our Savior's suffering and all of the events that brought Him to the cross. When we really get to the heart of the matter we see that the true cause of our Savior's suffering and death was not the scribes and Pharisees. It wasn't the soldier who scourged Him or the soldier who drove the nails. Jesus' suffering and death was made necessary by our sins.

The events that brought Jesus to the cross were the events of your life and mine, events that are thoroughly laced with the dark deeds sin. The death of God the Son was necessary because of the evil that we have done, and the good we have failed to do.

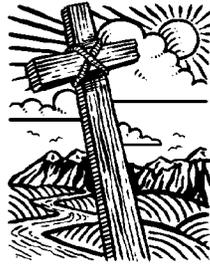
Because of this, a seriousness and a sadness seem to descend on the season of Lent. But listen again to what Jesus preached "Repent and believe the good news!" Sure, Jesus directs us to look inside ourselves to see our sin, but then He calls us to look back to Him and see our Savior. Think God wants us to be sad during Lent? Think again. It is during Lent that we are brought to see the dark depths of our sin, but it is also in Lent that the unfathomable depth of God's love for us is revealed and forgiveness shines on us with greatest intensity.

## 2006 ILC Tour Choir Schedule

March 12, Millston, WI 10:30 a.m.  
March 17, Batavia, IL 7:00 p.m.  
March 18, Coloma, MI 1:00 p.m.  
March 19, W. Columbia, SC 7:00 p.m.  
March 20, Winter Haven, FL 7:00 p.m.  
March 22, Live Oak, FL 7:00 p.m.  
March 23, Lawrenceville, GA 7:00 p.m.  
March 24, Manchester, MO 7:00 p.m.  
March 25, Hales Corners, WI 7:00 p.m.  
March 26, Fond du Lac, WI 10:00 a.m.  
March 26, Markesan, WI 3:00 p.m.  
April 2, Eau Claire, WI 7:00 p.m.

## **COMMITMENT:**

The word “commitment” is defined in the dictionary as “an act of committing, pledging, obligating.” Any task that we take on is worthy of our commitment. One of the exhortations that we may hear if we become slack in carrying out a task is, “You must be committed to your job.” The question may be asked, “How committed are you.” Employees who are not committed to their responsibility will soon contribute to the unemployment statistics.



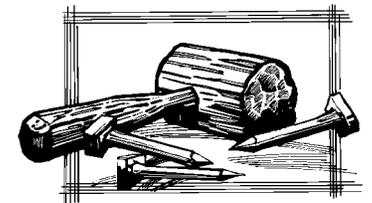
Commitment is also an essential ingredient of an active Christian life. At our confirmation we make a commitment to the Lord God: “Do you also, as a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, intend to continue steadfast in the confession of this Church, and suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?” Every confirmand has answered, “Yes.” We made this commitment before the Lord predicated on the confidence that the particular Evangelical Lutheran Church before whose altar we made this commitment would stand fast in the truth of God’s Word. Commitment to the Word if it means anything at all means that we will stand fast in the Word of God and even depart the church of our confirmation if it becomes a heterodox church. But why did we make this commitment on confirmation? We did so to the extent that we knew, were acquainted with, and believed what our church taught, convinced that within it only God’s Word was taught. We further committed ourself “to walk as it becometh the Gospel of Christ, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to the Triune God, even unto death.” Our promise was a promise to the Lord God who is witness to all our vows.

We want to know to what it is that we make promise and to what we are committing ourselves. It surely is the height of folly to make a promise (oath) in unknown matters. It is in fact a sin against the 8<sup>th</sup> commandment. It is likewise foolishness to make a commitment to something of which we are not convinced.

Commitment is an important part of our spiritual life. If we are not committed it is unlikely that we will receive much blessing from membership in a Christian congregation because we likely will not attend the Word and sacrament faithfully. Without commitment we will be of little benefit to the congregation we have joined because we

will feel no responsibility to its Gospel witness. If we are not committed to the truth it is unlikely that one will be particularly concerned about whether or not the church remains steadfast to the Word.

As a society we like things to be convenient. We want it to be convenient when going shopping and to the doctor. We like it to be convenient in our proximity to family and to work. Some even like it to be convenient when going to a church, which frequently translates into joining or becoming involved in a church close to home regardless of what it teaches ... “good enough” as long as it is “Lutheran.” Commitment based on knowledge and appreciation of God’s truth, as well as appreciation of the blessings of divine truth means that we will not join the church closest to home, but will drive to ours even if it means sacrifice and time. It means that more essential to the job we take – if we have the choice – is locating where there is a church of our own faith and confession so that we can nurture our faith and that of our children. If we cannot locate where there is a church of our own faith, commitment means that we make time and take time to practice family devotion, and make Bible reading and Bible study a priority in our home for self and for the family. If we are privileged to have a church of our own faith and confession where we live, we will commit ourselves to be active in worshiping, letting nothing get in the way of our time with God, and fellowship with our fellow believers.



Being a Christian in the world is not easy. Being a Christian in the real sense of the Word – a confessing Christ believer – is even more difficult. But then it was not by the path of least resistance that we are what we are. By steadfast commitment to His purpose the Savior has made us what we are. He engaged in fearful struggle with the devil and overcame him. He bore the cross as a criminal under Roman law, bearing the sins of the world. He endured the shame and mockery of men, and even forsaken by the Father – all this for us. He did not ask how far it was to Calvary, or how heavy the cross, or how bitter the suffering. As a lamb, He went uncomplaining forth so that we might have life and have it more abundantly. May we respond by taking up our cross and following Him (Matthew 16:24) with appreciation and with commitment. The blessing will be ours!

## † TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Maureen Ochsner      Elder: Michael Dick  
Ushers: Al Rosendahl; Arnold Gehrls; Scott Baker; Lyle Trulin;  
 David Stifter; Michael Ude; Ryan Libby  
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: B. Sydow      School: Torkelson

## † NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Michael Dick; Larry Nelson; Larry Brandt; Roger Brandt; Dale Enns; Scott Dauer; Lynn Sandhoefner  
Counting Team 4: Paul Lentz; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner; Jeff Radichel  
Hospitality Team 2: Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz; Peter Fleischer; Alice Weibye  
Church Cleaners: B. Sydow      School: Torkelson

## † OUR SCHEDULE †

**Today:** 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School  
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Lent 1)  
 11:00 am – Hospitality

**Mon., Mar. 6:** Pastoral Study Club at Mankato, MN

**Wed., Mar. 8:** 2:30 pm – Chiquettes (Little One's Story Hour)  
 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Children  
 6:00 pm – Lenten Soup Supper  
 7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship Service

**Sun., Mar. 12:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School  
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Lent 2)  
 11:00 am – Hospitality; 11:15 am – Boards; 12:00 pm – Council

**Last Week's Stats:** Feb. 26, 2006 B.Cl.: 26 S.S.: 23 Sun.: 130 Wed: 68

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	2,460.92	CLC:	690.00
Wed. Offering	Grace:	544.15	CLC:	66.00
Weekly Need (last year):	Grace:	2,970.00	CLC:	850.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+35.07	CLC:	-94.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	26,488.35	CLC:	7,973.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	26,730.00	CLC:	7,650.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-241.65	CLC:	+323.00
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	10.00	Tuition:	55.00
GLC Other: 133.00	MDF:	41.00	Kinship:	70.00
ILC Student Aid.: 250.00	ILC Bldg.	11.00	IIF: 15.00	CEF: 35.00

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