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Grace Lutheran Church & School

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Home Page: www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.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: Pentecost 7 **Date:** July 23, 2006

† **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 143, TLH p. 155*

Hymn: *TLH 24: Lord of My Life, Whose Tender Care*

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

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

- P: O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you;
C: My soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you.
P: Because Your love is better than life, my lips will glorify You.
C: I will praise You as long as I live, and in Your name I will lift up my hands.
P: My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods;
C: With singing lips my mouth will praise You. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 570, st. 1, 8*

1. Praise, oh, praise our God and King, 8. Glory to our bounteous King,
Hymns of adoration sing; Glory let creation sing;
For His mercies still endure, Glory to the Father, Son,
Ever faithful, ever sure. And the Spirit, Three in One!

First Reading: *Ezekiel 2:1-5*

The LORD sends the Prophet Ezekiel to a rebellious people who will not listen to him. Yet the LORD does this so that the people will at least understand that a prophet of the LORD has been among them.

Gradual:

- P: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
C: His greatness no one can fathom.
P: I will meditate on Your wonderful works,
C: And I will proclaim Your great deeds.
P: Alleluia. Alleluia. This is My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit,
C: Showing yourselves to be My disciples. Alleluia.

Second Reading: *Mark 6:1-6*

Jesus' solution to doubt and unbelief? Teach the Word!

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

Hymn: *TLH 447: Fight the Good Fight with All Thy Might*

Sermon: *2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

(7) And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. (8) Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. (9) And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (10) Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (NKJVTM)

"Strength in Weakness"

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 427: How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints of the Lord*

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

Hymn: *TLH 451: Stand Up! – Stand Up for Jesus*

† **THE ANNOUNCEMENTS** †

- ◆ **Among Us:** We thank the Lord that Angela Valley was able to return home last Sunday following her surgery.
- ◆ **VBS Signup:** A signup sheet is located by the guestbook for all kids who plan to attend Vacation Bible School. This will be held on July 31-August 4, 9:00-11:30 am. Parents, please consider this as an additional opportunity to train our children in the precious Word of our Lord. Advertising flyers to share are available by the guest book.
- ◆ **Pictorial Directory:** It has been suggested that it would be beneficial to have an updated church pictorial directory. Such an effort would need a volunteer to coordinate things. Anyone interested may speak with Pastor.
- ◆ **Immanuel Camp:** Our CLC congregation in Mankato is holding a family camp on Aug. 11-13 at Lake Shetek State Park. Registration is due on Aug. 11. Further details are posted on the bulletin board.



YA'LL COME:

"Ya'll come" is a folksy Texas and southern invitation. It is an invitation that is hard to resist, especially when it comes from a friend, especially a friend who has a reputation of throwing a good party.

In the mail we recently received, not a "Ya'll come" invitation, but nevertheless an enticing invitation which if one did not know better would be hard to resist. Who would not want to go to a party which has "A Live Band with great music," especially if one can place the children in "Quality nursery care!" Who does not want to party knowing that there is, "FUN, safe, and secure learning environment for KIDS," while adults can engage in discussion of "RELEVANT and PRACTICAL topics?" It is a party where one can expect, "People taking God seriously," with "us (sic) taking ourselves less seriously." And finally the clincher is that if you attend, you will have "At least 67.6% more fun than anything else you plan to do on Sunday." The message that you will hear is "slickly packaged, but not sugar-coated." Yes, we must concede that it is promised that at this happy-time church you will "find God" as well as "freedom."

This is the theological climate in which we exist in the world today. We could hope that such "come-ons" are few and far between, and that this is an anomaly. Sorry.

Increasingly church groups are hesitant to teach what God's Word says about sin. They see the Law of God as too harsh and demanding, and certainly do not want to speak of the condemnation of the sinner who walks according to his own imagination. Being dishonest with their hearers they prefer to speak of a good time and tickle ears with suggestions that religion is really all about getting ahead in life, getting rich, personal relationships, social justice, enjoying life more, saving the environment, and people feeling good about themselves. We must admit that in as so far as we are material beings this type of message is appealing also to us, except that the Word of God has taken us captive.

From the Word itself we know that life consists of more than the subjects so dear to happy-time churches! Real life is lived on this earth under the burden of sin, and the specter of judgment. To suggest less or to skirt the truth is dishonest. Honesty about the human condition and the judgment upon sin and the sinner is not pleasant, but the consequence of dishonesty is worse. If we listen to the Word we find something else, something extremely comforting. There is something greater than sin. It is God's love and grace! It is the reality of the atonement paid by the Lord Jesus Christ, and the reconciliation achieved by Him for us all upon the cross and confirmed by His resurrection. The subsequent commission of our Lord to the Church is to proclaim this Gospel of salvation. The Gospel does not give a world(ly) view but a heaven(ly) view. It creates anticipation, fulfillment, joy and happiness in the heart of those who recognize that life on earth is but a pilgrimage, and whose focus is heaven.

As children of God who are gathered together Sunday after Sunday in fellowship around the Word and Sacrament, frankly we should be upset with those churches who using Christ as a cover deceive people into thinking that the measure of life is finances, social status, fun, and all the other material things that attract people. Facing the reality of judgment at death -- it is hardly relevant to remind a dying person that in his church he had 67% more fun than anything else he could have done on Sunday.

"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity ... And every one that hears these sayings of mine, and does them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

On the other hand, ... whosoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock" (Matthew 7:22-25).

Many of the churches in our fellowship are small but we thank God for the people that are in church each Sunday - and we do so sincerely. We thank God the Spirit for each believer, not only what it means for the life of the church, but for what it means for each individual who believes in and confesses Jesus Christ as God and Savior. We are not in competition for numbers as though numbers is the purpose of the church. We have no desire to keep up with churches that spring up over night and have 100s of people if the accomplishment of the same means giving up faithfulness to the Word of God. We do not want to be part of the common denominator religion of our age. To do so would be neither wise nor safe. It invites God's judgment- not fun!

"Ya'll come," is a friendly invitation. But it is laced with the poison of death when they who come are fed the mush of human wisdom, materialism and self-gratification. God's will is that all people be saved, and that they come unto the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4). That means preaching and teaching the Word of God- Law and Gospel! It means faithfully exercising ourselves in the means of grace! If that is what we are about as a church, the Lord will bless the ministry of the Gospel among us. If we engage in a popularity contest with those who speak enticing words but deny the Gospel, we serve best if we are not!

In our churches let us extend the "Ya'll come," and share with those who do the full counsel of God, and the blessings of the Gospel, "The power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 7/16/2006

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Al Rosendahl

Ushers: Benno Sydow; Brian Eichstadt; Gary Gunther;
Richard Rhinesmith; Jeff Stifter; Josh Stifter; Bob
Vandev eer

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

Church Cleaners: Welker

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Benno Sydow; Brian Eichstadt; Gary Gunther;
Richard Rhinesmith; Jeff Stifter; Josh Stifter; Bob
Vandev eer

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

Church Cleaners: Welker

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Worship Service
Tue., July 25: 7:00 pm – VBS Teachers Meeting
Wed., July 26: 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class
Sun., July 30: 9:00 am – Worship Service
July 31-Aug. 4: 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School
Mon., Aug. 21: 10:00 am – Opening Service for ILC
August 22: First Day of Christian Day School
August 27: Annual Church Picnic
Sept. 22-24: Grace Men's Retreat



Last Week's Stats:		July 16, 2006	Sun.: 118	Wed.: 13
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	3,164.20	CLC:	630.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,970.00	CLC:	850.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-340.50	CLC:	-167.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	83,133.70	CLC:	24,383.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	83,160.00	CLC:	23,800.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-26.30	CLC:	+583.00
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	13.00	Tuition:	17.00
GLC Other:	MDF:	17.00	Kinship:	87.00
ILC Student Aid.:	ILC Bldg.	13.00	IIF: 7.00	CEF: 62.00

GRACE

*Grace Lutheran
Church & School*

My **Grace**
is sufficient for thee:
for my **strength**
is made perfect
in **w e a k n e s s .**

2 Corinthians 12:9