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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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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)

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

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 13

Date: September 3, 2006

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 130, TLH p. 153*

Hymn: *WS 778: Grace Has a Thrilling Sound (See Insert)*

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

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

P: Rise up, O God, and defend Your cause;

C: Remember how fools mock You all day long.

P: Do not let the oppressed retreat in disgrace;

C: May the poor and needy praise Your name.

P: Hasten, O God, to save me;

C: O Lord, come quickly to help me. Glory be to God!



Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 377, st. 10*

All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God that saved us by His grace, - All glory to His merit!

O Triune God in heaven above, Who hast revealed Thy saving love,
Thy blessed name be hallowed.

First Reading: *Romans 5:12-21*

By the free gift of God's abundant grace, Christ justified us in spite of our sin.

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. The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, ...

C: Piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, ... and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Alleluia.

Second Reading: *John 1:1-4, 10-14*

Jesus came as the fulfillment of God's grace.

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

Hymn: *TLH 263: O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe*

Sermon: *Ephesians 2:1-10*

(1) And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, (2) in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, (3) among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. (4) But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (6) and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, (7) that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (8) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, (9) not of works, lest anyone should boast. (10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (*NKJV*)

"Don't Underestimate the Powers that Be"

Offertory: *TLH p. 22 f.*

Hymn: *WS 777: Amazing Grace (See Insert)*

Offering & Prayer:

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

Distribution: *TLH 308; TLH 373*

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 465, st. 1,4: Christ Is Our Cornerstone*

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 †

◆ **Schedule Change:** Please note that the fall schedule will begin next Sunday, September 10. This means that Bible Class and Sunday School will be at 9 am with worship service following at 10 am.

◆ **Among Us:** Cliff Schwieger suffered a setback this week with pneumonia. Please keep him in your prayers. Nichole Sternquist was blessed with a baby girl on August 23. Her name is Rylie Elise Sternquist. May she be a blessing to her parents!

◆ **Church Picnic:** It was great to see many of you at the picnic last week. Many thanks to all who contributed to its success.

◆ **Address Update:** Brian & Ellen Bergstrom have moved. Their new address is 9508 Knox Ave; Brooklyn Park, MN 55444. Their phone number remains 763-315-1396.

◆ **Berea Open:** This year's golf event is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 16, 12:00 pm, at the Hidden Greens Golf Course in Hastings, MN. The entry fee is \$53. The entry form has more information. Copies are by the guest book.

◆ **Grace Men's Retreat:** The men's retreat will be held Sept. 22-24 at Remer, MN, same location as last year. Cost will be \$77 for students and \$97 for adults. This includes four meals and lodging. Those interested in being sponsors or being sponsored may speak with Jeff Radichel who is organizing the event. The theme for the retreat will be "A Daily Dose of the Word," seeing how the Word is like medical treatment for the soul.

◆ **Women's Seminar:** Immanuel Lutheran of Mankato, MN, invites fellow Christian women to join us for The Christian Women Today Seminar to be held on Sat., Oct. 7. This year's theme is "No Worries!" Jesus says, "I tell you, do not worry about your life ..." (Matt. 6:25). Registration forms may be found by the guest book. Please pick up a brochure and register by Oct. 1.

◆ **CLC News:** Some may know that Chris Fossum, wife of Pastor Vance Fossum of Holy Trinity in West Columbia, SC, suffered through cancer about 3 ½ years ago. Active cancer has manifested itself in her clavicle. She is receiving further treatment at this time. Pastor Fossum requests our prayers.



*Sorrow looks back, Worry looks around,
Faith looks up.*

Grace Has a Thrilling Sound

1. Grace has a thrill - ing sound
2. Grace first in - scribed my name
3. Grace taught my soul to pray

To each be - liev - er's ear;
In God's e - ter - nal book,
And made my eyes o'er - flow;

That peace with God through Christ is found
And grace has brought me to the Lamb,
His grace has kept me this day

Is news I glad - ly hear.
Who all my sor - rows took.
And will not let me go.

Grace first de - vised the way
Grace led my wan - d'ring feet
Grace all our work shall crown

To save our fal - len race;
To tread the heav'n - ly road,
Through ev - er - last - ing days;

The Fa - ther sent His on - ly Son
And grace sup - plies each hour I meet
The heav'n - ly home God gives His own

Who came to take our place.
While press - ing on to God.
Shall ech - o with our praise.

Amazing Grace

1. Amazing grace – how sweet the sound – That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.
2. The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
4. When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

THE INIQUITIES OF THE FATHERS (Part II):

There is a subject to which we have previously made reference, but which remains a matter of agitation and concern. We were reminded of it again when we read in Numbers 14:33. "And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms (bear the brunt of your infidelity –NKJV), until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness." In Part I we spoke of this passage in the context of parents who are unfaithful and indifferent toward the spiritual welfare of their children. But it surely has application to the church through the ages, and especially in our generation.

Why our generation? Our generation because a case can be made that the apostasy of which the Lord speaks through the apostle Paul to Timothy (2 Timothy 4:3,4) is proceeding at an accelerated pace. Even within formerly confessional Lutheran bodies error is gaining, if it has not already, a foothold so that it is becoming firmly entrenched. As this is happening there are those who do not care. To be charitable, we will grant the dubious notion that this lack of concern is born of ignorance. Some, and this is probably the majority, recognize the problem, but lacking commitment to the whole word of God, they are willing to negotiate with the errorists in order to save the "beloved church." At the same time, there are others who are still trying to stem the tide. They are not willing to make accommodation, or negotiate with errorists, but nevertheless believe that if they protest loudly, and long enough they can still overcome. Consequently within many heterodox churches, in the name of defending the truth, movements or churches within churches have arisen. This makes mockery of the doctrine of fellowship.

We recall again the 1932 LC-MS *Brief Statement* to which lip service is still rendered by some, though in practice it is forgotten or rejected by most. "The orthodox character of a church is established not by its mere name nor by its outward acceptance of, and subscription to, an orthodox creed, but by the doctrine which is *actually* taught in its pulpits, in its theological seminaries, and in its publications" (*Brief Statement*, 1932, para. 29). When error exists, not as a slip of the tongue, but is recognized, and is defended and promoted, faithful Christians are to leave, even the "beloved church" – this for witness to the truth, as well as protection of one's faith. The *Brief Statement* again, "All Christians are required ... to have church fellowship only with orthodox church-bodies, and in case they have strayed into heterodox church bodies to leave them, Rom. 16:17. We repudiate *unionism*, that is, church fellowship with the adherents of false doctrine, as disobedience to God's command, as causing divisions in the Church, Rom. 16:17; 2 John 9:10, and as involving the constant danger of losing the Word of God entirely, 2 Tim.2: 17-21."

On one occasion when Jesus spoke what was called a "hard saying," we are told "many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more" (John 6: 60, 66). When He challenged the twelve whether they also would leave, Peter said, "Lord to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life" (68). Put it together. If Christ has the words of eternal life and error involves the constant danger of losing the Word of God entirely, well – you draw the conclusion!

To their loss some people left Jesus because He told them the truth. To our good, Scripture tells us to leave heterodox teaching and teachers because they don't tell the truth.

And this brings us to our point of agitation. If pastors, teachers, leaders of the church as well as the parents do not steadfastly confess Scripture and live in obedience to it, avoiding the acknowledged false teaching and teachers, they are endangering their own salvation as well as that of the children under their care in home and school and church. They may well perpetuate the corpse of the "beloved church," but of what benefit is it if truth has departed? What is the glory of the church we knew, if the glory of God has departed? What is the benefit of saving the past memories if to do so means sacrificing the future? Are we, the older generation of pastors, teachers, leaders of the church as well as the parents, ready to sacrifice the spiritual welfare of the children through pious inaction in the face of established heterodoxy? The argument that is heard frequently: "I know everything is not right, but as long I can believe what I believe, or preach what I want to preach, I am not going to make waves," – this argument does not wash! It is in fact a selfish argument. What happens to the understanding and the faith of undiscerning children while discerning fathers and the shepherds are too weak or fearful or compromising to bear the "burden" of confessional integrity? Why must the children suffer the consequence of the father's infidelity?

"And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms (bear the brunt of your infidelity –NKJV), until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness." That God in His grace fulfilled His promise and brought Israel into the Promised Land did not exonerate a generation of adults who left Egypt but did not enter into Canaan. That our Father in His grace in Christ will preserve a remnant unto Himself, and give victory to the Holy Christian Church which is His body, does not excuse false teaching or indifference to it, or lack of action where action is called for! For this generation to deny the truth on one hand, or refuse to take a decisive and uncompromising stand for the truth for whatever perceived good reason or lousy excuse is beyond comprehension. Why should those who come after us be put at risk through the infidelity of the fathers?

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer (8/27/2006)

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Michael Dick

Ushers: Mark Wales; Joshua Benzer; Pete Fleischer; Jack Kirkham; Ole Olmanson; Clint Welker; Brandt Wendland

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

Church Cleaners: B. Sydow

School: Arends

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

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

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

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

Church Cleaners: B. Sydow

School: Davis

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Worship Service
Mon., Sept. 4: Labor Day – No School
Wed., Sept. 6: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class
Sun., Sept. 10: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class Starts
 10:00 am – Worship Service (**Fall Schedule**)
 11:00 am – Hospitality Resumes (Team 6)
 11:15 am – Board Meetings; 12:00 pm – Council
Mon., Sept. 11: 10:00 am – MN Pastoral Study Club @ Mankato
Sept. 22-24: Grace Men's Retreat

Last Week's Stats: August 27, 2006 Sun.: 121 Wed. B.Cl.: 14

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	2,602.75	CLC:	595.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,970.00	CLC:	850.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-367.25	CLC:	-255.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	101,623.96	CLC:	30,073.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	103,950.00	CLC:	29,750.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-2,326.04	CLC:	+323.00
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition:	20.00
GLC Other: 0.00	MDF:	5.00	Kinship:	30.00
ILC Student Aid...: 0.00	ILC Bldg.	60.00	IIF: 5.00	CEF: 50.00

Grace Lutheran Church & School



*Because of his great love for us,
God, who is rich in mercy,
made us alive with Christ*

Ephesians 2:4-5