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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: Epiphany 3

Date: January 21, 2007

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 96, TLH p. 144*

Hymn: *TLH 244: Glory Be to God the Father*

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

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

P: From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets

C: The name of the Lord is to be praised.

P: Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord.

C: Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore.

P: The Lord is exalted over all the nations,

C: His glory above the heavens. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 466, st. 4*

Praise and honor to the Father, Praise and honor to the Son,

Praise and honor to the Spirit, Ever Three and ever One,

One in might and one in glory, While unending ages run.

First Reading: *Proverbs 3:1-16*

By seeking and utilizing divine wisdom, one receives true honor.

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. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Good News of the kingdom,

C: And healing every disease and sickness among the people. Alleluia.

Second Reading: *John 12:21-28*

Those who sought Jesus demonstrated that He deserved honor. But in return, Jesus teaches that those who serve Him receive honor as well.

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

Hymn: *TLH 265: Thine Honor Save, O Christ, Our Lord*

Sermon: *1 Chronicles 16:23-34*

(23) Sing to the LORD, all the earth; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. (24) Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. (25) For the LORD *is* great and greatly to be praised; He *is* also to be feared above all gods. (26) For all the gods of the peoples *are* idols, But the LORD made the heavens. (27) Honor and majesty *are* before Him; Strength and gladness are in His place. (28) Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Give to the LORD glory and strength. (29) Give to the LORD the glory *due* His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! (30) Tremble before Him, all the earth. The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved. (31) Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; And let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." (32) Let the sea roar, and all its fullness; Let the field rejoice, and all that *is* in it. (33) Then the trees of the woods shall rejoice before the LORD, For He is coming to judge the earth. (34) Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever. (NKJVTM)

"Our Ministry of Honor"

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 39: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

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

Hymn: *TLH 657: Beautiful Savior*

Silent Prayer:

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!

ON BEING A CONFESSING CHRISTIAN IN THE WORLD:

The word confession is used in more than one sense. We use the word in the acknowledgement of sin: "I said I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord" (Psalm 32:5). We use it to acknowledge what we believe: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10: 9-10).

Our Lord Jesus Christ by His Holy Spirit has called us out of the darkness of sin and unbelief. He has called us without merit or worthiness on our part, and without any cooperation on our part. We have been called and regenerated through the word of the Gospel. The blessing of faith that is created within the heart is the knowledge of and confidence in the atonement of our Lord Jesus through whom we stand acquitted before God. We *are saved*. Christ has opened heaven. That objective fact is fulfilled to all who believe in Jesus.

As citizens whose home is in heaven, we are called to confess the Lord and His Holy Word in the world. It is in this sense that we use the word confess when we say, "It is easy to be a confessing Christian." Consider: abortion, adultery, drunkenness, cursing and swearing, neglect of worship, homosexuality, all the evils exposed through the 10 commandments are sin... the Bible is the Word of God ... in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth... Sin separates man from God ... man brought death upon himself... God promised a Savior from sin because He is not willing that any should perish... He does not delight in the death of the wicked... Christ, true God, became man, born of a virgin... the Lord Jesus came into the world to destroy the works of the devil and to save sinners... Jesus fulfilled the Law and died in our place... He was forsaken of God in our place... He was buried, but rose again from the dead and restored life... He regenerates us through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost in our baptism... He seals to us the forgiveness of our sins through His body and blood in the sacrament... He promises salvation to all who believe in Him... He Who is our advocate with the Father is one with the Father... He teaches us that we are saved by grace through faith, without works. Salvation is a gift of God... He will come again at judgment to take His children home to heaven... Let these suffice as a short compendium of what *Scripture* teaches.

If we understand the language, what is so difficult to understand about what Scripture teaches? What is so difficult about *confessing* what Scripture teaches? We do not have to be constantly looking for the truth. We do not have to look behind the Word to know the truth; we do not have to read between the lines to know the truth. All we have to do is look into the Word and know the truth. God said it! That is it. Confessing the truth is easy if we simply take God at His Word! Yet...

"It is difficult to be a confessing Christian." How so? Firstly, because we have our sinful flesh; our flesh rebels against the truth. Secondly, we are surrounded by false teachers who in the name of God or with no such claim declare that the Bible does not mean what it says, or declare that the teachings of the Bible are unclear and have to be interpreted in the light of history, or man's higher wisdom. Our flesh

abetted by false teachers suggests that works and merits of our own can appease God. Our flesh, abetted by the false teachers, tempts us to believe the lie first perpetrated by the devil, "You don't believe God really meant what he said, do you?" The devil suggests that for salvation it is enough to be religious, or that one is saved by believing whatever he chooses since all "religions have some truth." Satan is a liar... and so are those who teach what he teaches!

It is also difficult to be a confessing Christian because the confessing Christian is mocked and ridiculed (Acts 2:13), and in some cases physically abused (Acts 7: 58) because he dares to confess Christ and His Word. He will be hated (1 John 3:13). His greatest enemies are frequently within his own house (Matthew 10:36). We should not be surprised (Matthew 10: 22-25).

Yet we stand by our premise. As we let God be God and his Word His Word, confessing the Word of God is easy. The hardships endured are worth it! "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32). (Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 11/5/2006)

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ♦ **Among Us:** Allie Benzer was able to go home from the hospital this week. Ardis Trulin had an angiogram this past Wednesday. At this time no stent was used, now just a decision whether to have a somewhat optional open-heart surgery to repair some blockage. Ellen Bergstrom will have surgery this Tuesday to investigate a "suspicious mass." Naomi Story was hospitalized at Unity with a virus but is back home. Plans are for Linda Wagner to stay one more week at the Benedictine Healthcare Center in New Brighton. May all of God's lambs be under His tender care and protection!
- ♦ **Picture Appointments:** Jennifer Squires will be taking appointments today and next week for family photos that will be included in our church directory. There is a free 8 x 10 just by having your picture taken. The dates of the picture taking will be Feb. 16 & 17 (Fri. & Sat.)
- ♦ **Addresses:** We are again getting ready for the publication of the yearly directory at Grace. Please check your contact information in the draft copy of the directory located in the narthex.
- ♦ **Cleaning List:** Please consider participating in ensuring that the Lord's house is presentable for worship by signing up on the 2007 cleaning list on the fellowship hall's bulletin board.
- ♦ **Outreach:** This past Saturday (Jan. 13) Immanuel in Mankato began an outreach endeavor in Minnesota Lake, 30 miles from Mankato. Called Cornerstone Lutheran Church, it is comprised of some members from Immanuel and is approved as an outreach effort through June. Cornerstone is beginning with two monthly services at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. This last Sunday's Mankato Free Press featured an article: http://www.mankatofreepress.com/local/local_story_014110606.html
- ♦ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Review of all the Commandments.

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Mike Dick

Ushers: Paul Lentz; Brad Kitman; Keith Radichel; Dave Rust; James Squires; Eli Wales

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

Hospitality Team 3: Dan & Cindy Degnan; Ed & Verona Lentz; Angela Valley

Church Cleaners: Kirkham

School: Dick

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Paul Lentz; Brad Kitman; Keith Radichel; Dave Rust; James Squires; Eli Wales

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

Hospitality Team 4: Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Fred, Pal, & Scott Dauer

Church Cleaners: Kirkham

School: Dick

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 3)
11:00 am – Hospitality
11:30 am – Annual Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

Mon., Jan. 22: Parent-Teacher Conferences – No School
7:00 pm – CEA Meeting

Wed., Jan. 24: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Fri., Jan. 26: School Field Trip

Sun., Jan. 28: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 4)
11:00 am – Hospitality

Last Week's Stats: Jan. 14, 2006 B.Cl.: 38 S.S.: ?? Sun.: 130 Wed: 14

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	2,692.85	CLC:	1,231.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,970.00	CLC:	900.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-277.15	CLC:	+54.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	5,364.35	CLC:	2,185.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	5,940.00	CLC:	1,800.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-575.65	CLC:	+385.00
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	10.00	Tuition:	37.00
GLC Other: 182.00	MDF:	10.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid: 0.00	ILC Bldg.	2.00	IIF: 2.00	CEF: 27.00

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