# Click here to open service web page for:2007/07/08/

# Grace Lutheran Church & School

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Member: Church of the Lutheran Confession

Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635)
Principal: Ryan Libby (Ph. 763-784-6340)
Church Year: Pentecost 6
Phone: 763-784-8784
Grades: Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup>
Date: July 8, 2007

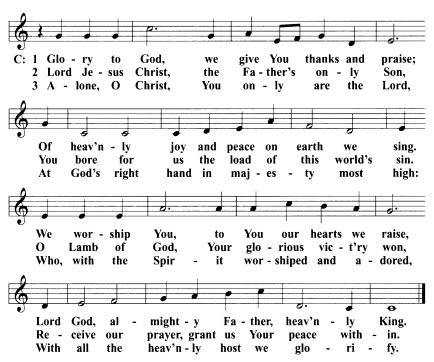
Welcome to our guests and visitors. We appreciate the opportunity to share God's Word with you today. Please come again! Those interested in learning more about the Scriptures and our doctrinal position, please speak with Pastor Hein. He would be delighted to visit with you!

## पे THE ORDER OF WORSHIP पे

Hymn: TLH 300: Dearest Jesus, We Are Here Liturgy: WS, p. 12 ff.

- P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: [Spoken] Amen.
- P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.
- C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.
- P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.
- C: [Spoken] Amen.
- P: [Sung] Lord, have mercy on us. Christ have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.

## Glory to God in the Highest (Congregation):



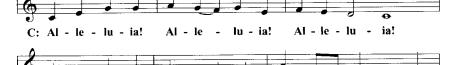
## Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray ...

C: [Spoken] Amen.

First Reading: Galatians 1:11-24

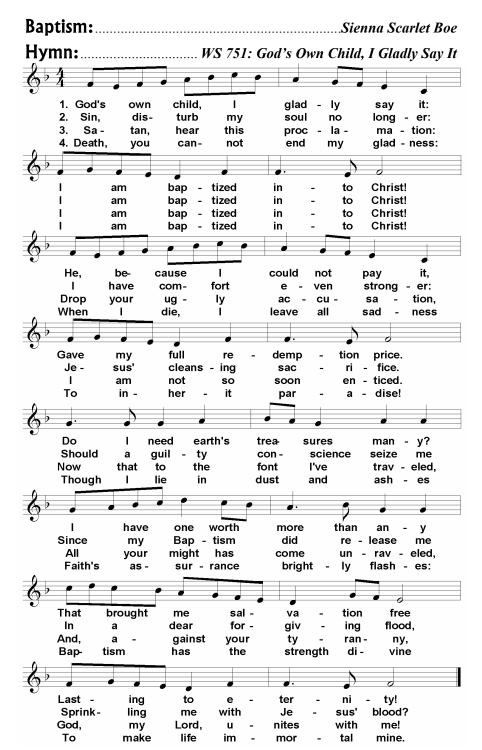
Second Reading: Luke 7:11-17



These words are writ - ten that we may be-lieve that







**Sermon:** 1 Kings 17:17-24

(17) Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him. (18) So she said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?" (19) And he said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. (20) Then he cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?" (21) And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him." (22) Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived. (23) And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives!" (24) Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is the truth." (NKJ $V^{TM}$ )

# "The Sadness and Joy of Being a Christian Parent"



# Offering, Prayers, and Lord's Prayer:

#### **Benediction:**

C: [』] Amen. Amen. Amen.

Hymn: .....TLH 15: From All That Dwell Below the Skies

# **亞** THE ANNOUNCEMENTS **亞**

- ◆ Congratulations: to Sara and Jeremiah for their daughter Sienna's baptismal grace. May the Lord tenderly care for her throughout her life!
- ◆ Thanks: Ray and Joyce Stifter thank the congregation for the flood of notes and cards they have received.
- ◆ Vacation Bible School: Our VBS is scheduled for July 30<sup>th</sup> through August 3<sup>rd</sup> this year. A sign-up registration is located by the guest book. This will help us in planning for materials, so please sign up your children as soon as you are able. Ages eligible for VBS are those who are 4 years old through being in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- ◆ Sunday School Teachers: Those interested in teaching Sunday School may speak with Michael Ude or Pastor Hein.
- ◆ CLC News: Today will be the departure of several people to help out with mission work in India. The group of people will include former Grace member, Rick Nelson, and also soon to be transferred member, Laura Hulke. Both have requested our prayers for their safety and blessing upon their labors. There will also be a blog that will report the efforts made during the trip: http://www.2007indiamht.blogspot.com/

#### THE ULTIMATE VICTORY:

We have been asked about the softball tournament in which we recently played in Oklahoma. For the record it was a good fun for the two days. The competition was intense; the play was good, even if the results fell short of expectations. So the following is the answer with which we have responded: "We enjoyed the exhilarating joy of competition without the compensation of the ecstatic ecstasy of victory" (except in one game). This tongue in cheek response is all part of the good fun which also recognizes that there are more serious things to life. But then we thought that with a little tweaking we can use the same approach to describe the Christian life and hope. We are pilgrimming through the wilderness of the world in which we live to the Home above where our Savior has prepared a place for us, and to which the Spirit of God is guiding us. The life of the child of God is lived here on earth with joyful thanksgiving to the Lord who daily loads us with benefits. Our gracious Father preserves and defends us. He provides for us. He is ever present to comfort and strengthen us. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pities them that fear Him" (Psalm 103:13). If that passage of Scripture has no meaning today, it only demonstrates how far one has drifted from Scriptural moorings! In the years of our sojourning we enjoy life under the gracious hand of our loving Father. Appreciative children of God say with Jacob, "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which Thou hast showed unto Thy servant" (Genesis 32:10). Further, our Father who at Pentecost sent his Spirit to open ears and hearts to the blessings of the Word (Acts 2) has brought us to faith in Christ through the same Word of life. The good tidings of salvation are the comfort and joy of our heart through the power and grace of the Spirit.

At the same time we recognize that in this perverse world there are many trials, afflictions, and sorrows. The corruption of sin has affected life in every way. Our enjoyment of life is tempered by the fact that temporal life is lived under burdens. Further, just because we are children of God we will endure affliction and discomfort in an unbelieving world. The confessing Christian is under duress just because he is a confessing child of God. Jesus Himself said. "In the world ve shall have tribulation ..." (John 16:33). Our Lord has also told us that as they mistreated Him, so they will abuse and mistreat His servants. We are not above our Master. Christians weary of the personal fight against sin, and of the intense diligence with which we must be on quard against the temptations of the evil one. We become distressed when we see formerly strong confessors of the faith being overcome by apostasy in the church, and even contributing to it. The number of the remnant of faithful confessors seems to be diminishing. We are easily afflicted with the Elijah syndrome (1 Kings 19). What sustains us is the faithfulness of our Lord as well as His promise that He will come again. With John in the end of Revelation we say, "Even so come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20)!

So as years roll on and we become older, more feeble, more weary, and even distressed at the sight and sounds of fury all about us threatening our physical welfare as well as our spiritual calm, it may seem to some that we are perpetual pessimists. That is far from the truth, however, for those who are in Christ. Nevertheless, to such we say, "While sin and the forces of evil compete against me and <u>diminish</u> my joy here, I am more than compensated by the accomplishment and promise of the Lord Jesus who said, 'Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world'" (John 16:33).

The Lord Jesus Christ has destroyed the works of the devil; He has overcome the devil himself; Jesus has defeated death and restored life. He has left us with His Word, and sent the Spirit to confirm us in the truth. The Church under duress has the assurance of the Lord that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church! Our Lord has comforted the faithful saying, "He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13). To such as trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and in His atonement, the joy we shall know is far greater than whatever joy we experience now. Paul said, "I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18). One day we shall appear before the throne of God in white robes, robes washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:15). We will be freed once and for all from sorrows tears, pain, and death as well as the evils and frustrations foisted on us by the world.

Having received the end of our faith, we shall indeed "rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Peter1:8, 9). Having been kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation in which even now we rejoice though at times stressed and distressed (1 Peter 1:6) we say, "Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57). The life we have lived here in the flesh shall be translated into full, complete, and undiminished joy. We shall experience the ecstatic ecstasy of victory! In heaven! Believers in Christ will not be denied (John 3:16)! (Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 5/26/2007)

# पे TODAY AT GRACE पे

*Organist:* Janelle Hein *Elder*: Mike Dick

<u>Ushers</u>: Benno Sydow; Brian Eichstadt; Gary Gunther; Richard Rhinesmith; Jeff Stifter; Josh Stifter; Bob Vandeveer

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

**Church Cleaners**: Welker

# T NEXT WEEK AT GRACE T

<u>Ushers</u>: Benno Sydow; Brian Eichstadt; Gary Gunther; Richard Rhinesmith; Jeff Stifter; Josh Stifter; Bob Vandeveer

<u>Counting Team 4</u>: Paul Lentz; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner; Jeff Radichel

**Church Cleaners**: Any Volunteers?

# **む Our Schedule** む

**Today:** 9:00 am – Worship Service (Pentecost 6)

10:15 am - Boards; 11:00 am - Council

4:00 pm - Grace Softball (Field 4)

Sun., July 15: 9:00 am – Worship Service (Pentecost 7)

Quarterly Voters' Meeting; Dorcas Guild Meeting

July 30-Aug. 3: Vacation Bible School
August 21: Grace School Opening Day

August 21: Grace School Opening Day

August 27: ILHS and ILC Opening Day

Last Week's Stats: July 1, 2	2007	Sun.: 130		
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	4,401.35	CLC:	1,185.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,030.00	CLC:	960.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+1,371.35	CLC:	+225.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	80,420.13	CLC:	23,946.24
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	78,780.00	CLC:	24,960.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+1,640.13	CLC:	-1,013.76
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	28.00	Tuition:	113.00
GLC Other: 284.00	MDF:	24.00	Kinship:	17.00
ILC Student Aid: 15.00	ILC Bldg.	63.00	IIF: 23.00	CEF: 47.00

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

# Grace Lutheran Church & School

"Believe on the LORD JESUS, and you will be saved, you and your household."

