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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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 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: Christ the King **Date:** November 25, 2007

† **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 84, TLH p. 139 f.*
Hymn: *TLH 8: Father, Who the Light This Day*
Liturgy: *TLH, p. 5 ff. (Also available on laminated sheet in pew)*
Introit (followed by Gloria Patri, The Kyrie): *TLH, pp. 6-7*
 P: We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth.
C: In which righteousness dwells.
 P: Show me, O Lord, my life's end and the number of my days;
C: Let me know how fleeting is my life.
 P You have made my days a mere handbreadth;
C: The span of my years is as nothing before You.
 P But now, Lord, what do I look for?
C: My hope is in You. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 239, st. 1, 4: Come, Thou Almighty King*

<p>1. Come, Thou almighty King, Help us thy name to sing, Help us to praise. Father all-glorious, O'er all victorious Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days</p>	<p>4. To the great One in Three Eternal praises be Hence evermore! His sov'reign majesty May we in glory see And to eternity Love and adore!</p>
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First Reading: *Genesis 6:9-14; 7:1-5, 11-12, 18-24*
 Peter identified the Flood as an event in Old Testament history that scoffers willfully forget (cf. sermon text). The scoffers' scoffing does not change the facts of God's judgment in Noah's day nor the coming judgment on the Last Day.

Gradual:
 P: These are they who have come out of the great tribulation;
C: They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
 P: Blessed are those whose strength is in You,
C: Who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.
 P: Alleluia. Alleluia. Jesus promises: "I am the Alpha and the Omega,
C: The First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." Alleluia.

Epistle Reading: *Luke 12:42-48*
 We are to be faithful and wise stewards until our Lord's second coming.

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

Hymn: *TLH 604: Great God, What Do I See and Hear?*

Sermon: *2 Peter 3:3-14*
 (3) ... knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, (4) and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation." (5) For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, (6) by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. (7) But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (8) But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (9) The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (10) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. (11) Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of *persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, (12) looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? (13) Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (14) Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; ... (NKJVTM)

Jesus, Our King, is Returning

I. The answer to scoffers II. The preparation for believers
Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*
Hymn: *TLH 284: Father of Mercies, in Thy Word*
Offering, Prayers, Benediction: *TLH p. 14*
Hymn: *TLH 444, st. 4: Rise! To Arms!*

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Thanks** to Pastor Wayne Eichstadt for sharing the Word with us today! Pastor Eichstadt is currently one of the pastors at Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN. He is also married to former Grace member, Tina ne Radichel, and is also brother to current member, Brian Eichstadt. Pastor Hein is preaching for Mission Festival at our sister congregation in Marquette, MI. He will be returning late this evening.
- ◆ **Midweek Bible Class:** Cancelled this coming week.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Service:** Last week the children received the layout of the Christmas Eve Service. This year's service will be considering how the rainbow is a reminder of how God fulfills His promises, in particular the promise of sending His Son into the world for mankind's salvation. We ask that all parents take an active role in ensuring that the children learn their parts. The service will Dec. 24 at 6:00 pm. Rehearsals are scheduled for Sundays: Dec. 2 & 9, 12-2 pm; Dec. 16 & 23, 9-10 am. Prior to the first two afternoon rehearsals there will be a light lunch provided at church. We ask that parents of pre-schoolers have one parent present during the rehearsals in case help is needed. Very likely the pre-schoolers will be done with the afternoon rehearsals at least ½ hour earlier.
- ◆ **Christmas Music Recital:** A recital of our young musicians is being planned. It is scheduled for hospitality on Dec. 9. Please contact Janelle Hein (email: jmhein@clclutheran.com) if you plan on participating in this event.
- ◆ **Midweek Advent Services:** This year's Midweek Advent services will be held on Wednesdays, Dec. 5, 12, and 19, 7:00 pm. Dec. 19 will be the candlelight service which will be preceded by a fellowship meal.
- ◆ **ILC Christmas Concert:** This year's Christmas concert will be held on Fri., Dec. 21, 7:30 pm, at Eau Claire. Those who wish to sign up for a ride on the bus, there is a signup list for the trip by the guestbook.
- ◆ **ILC Games:** ILC is now broadcasting its basketball games streamed live online at www.prepsonthenet.com. Once there, click on "Girls Basketball" or "Boys Basketball" and select "Schools" from the dropdown list. Click on "E" to locate Eau Claire Immanuel Lutheran. Once you've gotten to the ILHS page, scroll to the bottom where you see the "Schedules and Results". This past week's game, on 11/20, the girls played New Auburn. Click on the "W 56-35" to the right of New Auburn. (You may have to scroll to the right a little to see the score). That should open a page on which you can view the game or you can click to view the game in Windows Media Player. Right now the viewing is free. Soon the site will be a subscription site with a very reasonable rate of \$9.95 for the season. Please try this out and let us know what you think. Email us at mike.buck@ilc.edu or ross.roehl@ilc.edu
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve service parts.

Last Week's Stats: Nov. 18, 2007				
	Sun.:	S.S.:	B.CI.:	44
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	2,339.04	CLC:	956.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,030.00	CLC:	960.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-690.96	CLC:	-4.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	132,527.22	CLC:	42,211.24
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	139,380.00	CLC:	44,160.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-6,852.78	CLC:	-1,948.76
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	14.00	Tuition:	83.00
GLC Other: 1,270.00*	MDF:	64.00	Kinship:	62.00
ILC Student Aid: 0.00	ILC Bldg.	64.00	IIF: 13.00	CEF: 37.00

* \$1,157 Ray Stifter Memorial

WHY CONTEND FOR THE TRUTH?

Contending for the Truth is a challenge. It is done with certain risks. As the Christ-believers contend uncompromisingly for God's Word in our society, they run the risk of alienating family and friends. People in the office may ostracize them. Even within the church some may view them as troublemakers or "Bible thumpers." Some see them as loveless and arrogant. They will be described by an increasing number as people living in the past, and intellectually deprived since they still believe the words of the Bible written so many centuries ago and outdated for our so called "enlightened" generation.

Why in the face of it are there still Christ-believers who will contend for the truth of God's Word in a post-Christian culture? There are still some because the Spirit of God has overcome in their heart the natural objection of the flesh. They stand in awe of the Lord God Who has created them, redeemed them and sanctified them. They are of a contrite heart and tremble at the Word of God (Isaiah 66:2). They know that they are sinners deserving of eternal death. They know that without Christ there is no peace of heart or hope of heaven. They know that without the Gospel, the love of Christ remains a hidden mystery. They know further that it is the Lord's will that they stand apart from false teaching and false teachers (Romans 16:17,18). They know that the devil and his minions are seeking to destroy the faith once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). They know that if the source of faith, the Word, be polluted the confident faith in Christ unto salvation is undermined if not lost.

God help us so that "they" is we!

There is a very personal reason why Christ-believers will contend for the truth of God's Word and bear the stings and arrows of the world and false brethren. It has to do with assurance, eternal assurance. When people, even deniers and compromisers, are confronted with uncertainty, sickness, and death they frequently turn to the Word of God. Why even do they turn to the Word if it is outdated? And to which Word do they turn if they are not sure what is the Word of God and what is not? And if they are sure that to what they have turned is the Word of God how do they know if what is God's Word to them is only a subjective opinion? How do they know that the comfort they seek is for them, or that it is reliable? How do they who have played loose with the Word of God know that God cares when the pressure of affliction and even death begins to tighten around them?

God help us, lest we become "they!"

Why contend for the Truth? The answer is simple. Our confident hope of heaven is established upon the Truth! On the basis of the truth of God's Word we are confident of our salvation in Jesus Christ Who is the "Word made flesh" and "the Way, the Truth and the Life." It is the Holy Scriptures in which God clearly reveals Himself and shows forth the depth of His love in Jesus, our Savior. On the basis of the Word, Paul writing to Timothy from prison said, **"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus"** (2 Timothy 1:12-13).

Such confidence can only be born of the Word of God, the Word of Truth. For it we will contend in our age. Great is the risk, but greater the loss if failing to contend we lose the truth, and with it the assurance of eternal life itself that has as its only source God's Truth. (Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 10/5/2003)

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: **Maureen Ochsner** Elder: **Mike Dick**

Ushers: **Pat Paplow; Jeff Radichel; Gerald Anderson; Dan Degnan;
Matt Dick; Brandon Paplow; Ryan Libby; Andrew Rosendahl**

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

Hospitality Team 5: **Mark & Trudy Wales; Al Rosendahl;
Karen Auel**

Church Cleaners: **Kitzman** School Cleaners: **Ferris**

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: **Pat Paplow; Jeff Radichel; Gerald Anderson; Dan Degnan;
Matt Dick; Brandon Paplow; Ryan Libby; Andrew Rosendahl**

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

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

Church Cleaners: **Kitzman** School Cleaners: **Vandevor**

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Guest: Pastor W. Eichstadt)
11:00 am – Hospitality

Wed., Nov. 28: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
No Midweek Bible Class

Sun., Dec. 2: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service w/ Lord's Supper (Advent 1)
11:00 am – Hospitality
12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal

Wed., Dec. 5: 7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Service

Sun., Dec. 9: 11:00 am – Hospitality w/ Musical Recital
12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
3:00 pm – ILC Piano & Organ Christmas Recital

Sun., Dec. 16, 23: 9:00 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsals

Wed., Dec. 19: 6:00 pm – Christmas Meal
7:00 pm – Candlelight Service

Fri., Dec. 21: 7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert @ Eau Claire, WI

Mon., Dec. 24: 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service

Tue., Dec. 25: 10:00 am – Christmas Day Service

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CHRIST THE KING