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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: Easter 5

Date: April 20, 2008

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 23, TLH p. 128*

Hymn: *WS 783: Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep*

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

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

P: The LORD is my shepherd;

C: I shall not want.

P: He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

C: He leads me beside the still waters.

P: He restores my soul;

C: He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

P: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

C: For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C: You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

P: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life;

C: And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 193, st. 1,6*

1. Christ the Lord is risen today,
Sons of men and angels say.
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens, and, earth, reply.

6. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to Thee by both be given!
Thee we greet triumphant now:
Hail, the Resurrection Thou!

First Reading: *Acts 7:2a, 51-60*

Stephen is martyred for standing up for His Savior.

Gradual:

P: Christ has risen from the dead.

C: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

P: He has made Him ruler over the works of His hands;

C: He has put everything under His feet.

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd;"

C: "I know My sheep and My sheep know Me." Alleluia.

Second Reading: *John 10:1-10*

Jesus is the door through which His sheep find pasture.

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

Hymn: *TLH 648*

Sermon: *Psalm 23:1-3*

(1) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. (2) He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. (3) He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. (NKJVTM)

"NEVER LACKING WITH MY SHEPHERD"

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 436: The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want*

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

Hymn: *TLH 51: Now May He Who From the Dead*

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!



Jesus Said: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep." (John 10:11)

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Today:** The Voters meeting will be held following hospitality.
- ◆ **Softball Signup:** A signup sheet is found by the guest book for those interested in playing softball this coming spring and summer.
- ◆ **Berea Carnival:** Our children are invited to attend a carnival at Berea Lutheran in Inver Grove Heights next Sat., April 26, 2-5 pm. There is a poster advertizing this on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.
- ◆ **Campbell's Labels Collection:** We have an opportunity to maximize our labels (points) this year. So remember to submit the entire label to help in this effort. The Day School children are competing for most points collected during the month of April. Labels deposited in the collection bin will be divided. Otherwise, feel free to give your labels directly to any of the students for their individual credit. Thanks!
- ◆ **Dorcas Guild:** Due to the women's retreat this weekend, the Dorcas Guild meeting will be postponed to next Sunday, April 27. At the meeting nominations will be taken for the Dorcas Guild officers: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Cheer Lady.
- ◆ **"The Branches":** It's time to renew your subscription, or to become a new subscriber, to this quarterly magazine for women of all ages. Please sign the subscription request list by the guest book. The \$12.00 subscription cost is covered by the congregation.
- ◆ **Invitation:** Jeff Radichel invites the congregation to an open house on June 15, from 1-4 pm in celebration of his graduation. Address is 102 Windsor Lane New Brighton MN 55112.
- ◆ **ILC Announcement:** The theater department of Immanuel Lutheran College will present the two-act musical melodrama WAGON WHEELS WEST on April 25th and 26th at 7:30 p.m. It is the story of a hapless wagon train breaking down along the Sante Fe Trail near the little town of Vinegar Bottle. The villain has his eyes on the heroine, who is part of the wagon train, as well as on an illusive land grant claim. His side-kick has her eyes on the wagon master. The songs will get your feet atappin'. We hope the dialogue will split some sides. Come one and all. Bring a friend.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #26 – Sacrament of the Altar 3 & 4.

Last Week's Stats: Apr. 13, 2008		Sun.: 125	S.S.: 17	B.Cl.: ??
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	2,162.60	CLC:	760.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,225.00	CLC:	1,000.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-1,062.40	CLC:	-240.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	45,766.00	CLC:	15,462.35
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	48,375.00	CLC:	15,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-2,609.00	CLC:	+462.35
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	2.00	Tuition:	37.00
GLC Other: 167.25*	MDF:	180.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid: 1.00	ILC Bldg.	57.00	IIF: 50.00	CEF: 283.00

* \$120 Trulin Memorial; \$20 Stiffer Memorial; \$95 ILC Tour Choir

CONFIDENT, BUT ALERT:

In some ways, the life of a Christ believer is a balancing act. As our Lord in His grace called us out of the kingdom of Satan into the Kingdom of God He placed our feet upon a new path, and gave us a different focus. Whereas before our call our path was a path of sin and destruction, now our path is the path of righteousness. Whereas the focus of the unregenerate is the pursuit of the pleasures of this life, by the Spirit of God the focus of the child of God is eternal life. We are citizens of the earth by virtue of our natural birth, and citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20) by virtue of being born again "of water and the Spirit" (John 3:5).

This is where the balancing act becomes critical. We must balance our citizenship on earth and in the nation and community within which we live, with the ultimate citizenship with which we are endowed already by the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ. As citizens of the earth we are called to live under authority - honoring the king, and having our conduct honorable among the Gentiles (1 Peter 2:11-12) - glorifying God in word and deed as we eagerly wait for the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We do not ask government or academia to promote the Christian faith. Individuals of those entities for the most part give lip service to God, if they acknowledge Him at all - many have open disdain for the Word of God. The religion of the masses is basically a nod to a god of their own imagination, not to the Triune God. However, we have the right to expect that Christ believers can believe, teach, worship, and exercise their faith and their conscience in keeping with the Word. While theoretically we still have that right, Christ believers are more and more feeling the heat. This should not surprise us. Paul in his prison epistle wrote to Timothy, "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come" (2 Timothy 3: 1). Our Lord Himself warned against false prophets, and alerted His disciples to the persecution that would come as a consequence of following Him. He said, "If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you" (John 15:20).

We are reminded of this as we follow the course of events in society today. Government has stamped its seal of approval on homosexuality which Scripture calls sin. In some countries as well as in ours to speak out against homosexuality (we are talking about speaking out, not physical abuse which is unchristian) is considered a hate crime. In New Mexico recently a photographer was fined by the state for refusing to photograph a lesbian "commitment ceremony" because to do so violated conscience (WND-4/11/08). Much of society itself looks upon

the cardinal Scripture doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Christ (Alone!) as anti-Semitic, abusive, and discriminatory. Many, if not most in academia and in the scientific community (so-called) are loud proponents of free speech unless the free speech contradicts their conclusions. Witness the creation/evolution debate. While it is not a recent phenomenon public academia's animosity toward Christianity is becoming more pervasive and bolder. It is abetted by the press and other media. It is not likely that you will read in your paper the professor's demand in an eastern college that students "change their own personal viewpoints or state they are unsure of whether their own personal beliefs are correct" (WND 4/12/08). The student at whom the comment was directed was a Christian who maintained a good grade point average, and received good grades until "her religious beliefs became known." She was accused by the professor of, among other things, being "blinded by belief." This case may end up in court. Frequently we hear how students who express Christian principles are ridiculed, suffer loss of grade and even are dismissed from class for daring to stand up for what they believe. We know of one young man years ago who was told that when he left the public university at which he was at the time, he would no longer believe in creation!

What shall be our stance? We will continue confident in our Lord who by promise defends His children who confess Him. We are confident because the Lord Jesus Christ, our crucified, risen and ascended Lord intercedes for us: "I have given them Thy Word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I pray not that shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them from the evil" (John 17: 15,16). We are confident in the Lord and His salvation that they who weep now shall rejoice. They who remain steadfast in the faith shall in God's time be received into glory through the merits of the Savior. Contrariwise, they who laugh now shall, unless they repent, know only weeping and gnashing of teeth in the judgment!



We are confident, but so long as we live on this earth we must remain alert to the deceit of Satan who will work day and night to deceive the very elect if it were possible. If we fail to be alert, and fail to hold the truth and further to confess the truth against all foes we may save ourselves discomfort but lose the truth, and even eternal life (Luke 9:23 - 26). Further, we run the risk of jeopardizing the generations that

come after us, who unless they hear the truth that is in Christ may never know His redeeming love. Love does not bow to evil or to that which is contrary to God's word to keep some semblance of peace and unanimity in society. Love speaks the truth because it cares about the salvation of souls.

Once and for all we should give up the idea that this is a Christian nation. That is a lie and always has been. The reality is that in this heathen nation there are Christians who by reason of their faith and their confession of the Lord Jesus Christ are under duress. There is one Christian nation described by Scripture as "one holy nation" (1 Peter 2:9). It is not a political, or a nation circumscribed by boundaries. It is a spiritual entity - people out of every race and nation who by the Spirit through the Gospel have been called into the glorious status of the people of God whose Savior is Jesus Christ, and whose Father is the God of heaven.

Consequently get used to the reality. In this world there shall always be tribulation and persecution, and rejection of God as well as those who confess Him. Therefore stay alert, but live and confess confidently for your Savior says, "Be of good cheer" - how this rankles the ungodly- "I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). In the tribulation of this world which is of short duration compared to eternity, the faithful rest on Christ's promise, "Whosoever believes in Him shall not be ashamed" (Romans 10:11).

By the power of the Spirit turn the ridicule of Christianity, and the broadsides against us and our confession into more fervent confession of God and His Word in which is found strength, comfort and hope. People of God: be alert, but do not despair. Hold fast the faithful Word and sing,



The Sun that cheers my spirit
Is Jesus Christ, my King;
The heaven I shall inherit
Makes me rejoice and sing (TLH 528, st. 15).

Let us dare to be bold in the confession of Christ and drive the devil and his minions mad! The battle is difficult. The victory in Christ is certain!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 4/20/2008

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Janelle Hein

Elder: Dave Rust

Ushers: Al Rosendahl, John Auel, Scott Baker, David Stifter, Lyle Trulin, Micheal Ude

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

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

Church Cleaners: B. & B. Sydow School Cleaners: Hein

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Al Rosendahl, John Auel, Scott Baker, David Stifter, Lyle Trulin, Micheal 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. & B. Sydow School Cleaners: Maki

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Easter 5)
11:00 am – Hospitality
11:30 am – Voters' Meeting

April 21-24: Iowa Basic Skills Testing for Christian Day School

Wed., Apr. 23: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
6:30 pm – Confirmation Exam Preparation

Fri., Apr. 25: Immanuel Lutheran High School Visitor's Day
Grace Lutheran Visitor's Day
7:30 pm – ILC Musical "Wagon Wheels West"

Sat., Apr. 26: 9:00 am – Work Day at Grace
2:00-5:00 pm – Carnival at Berea
7:30 pm – ILC Musical "Wagon Wheels West"

Sun., Apr. 27: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Easter 6)
11:00 am – Hospitality; 11:30 am – Dorcas Guild

Thu., May 1: 7:00 pm – Ascension Service

Fri., May 2: Field Day @ Grace

Sun., May 18: Confirmation Day

Sun., May 25: Graduation Recognition

Grace Lutheran Church & School



The Lord is My Shepherd