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# Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Home Page: [www.CLCCGraceLutheranChurch.org](http://www.CLCCGraceLutheranChurch.org)

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-8<sup>th</sup>

Church Year: Pentecost 20

Date: September 28, 2008

## † THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: ..... *Psalm 103, TLH p. 145 f.*

Hymn: ..... *TLH 537: Every Morning Mercies New*

Liturgy: ..... *WS, p. 12 ff. (Pastor sings Lord Have Mercy, top of p. 13)*

First Reading: ..... *Genesis 50:15-21*  
Joseph forgives his brothers for their evil done to him.

Second Reading: ..... *Romans 14:5-9*  
In all our living, we live for our Lord.

Alleluia: ..... *WS p. 14 f.*

Confession of Faith: ..... *Apostles' Creed, WS p. 15*

Hymn: ..... *TLH 32: Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven*

Sermon: ..... *Matthew 18:21-35*  
(21) Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" (22) Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. (23) "Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. (24) "And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. (25) "But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. (26) "The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' (27) "Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and

forgave him the debt. (28) "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took *him* by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' (29) "So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' (30) "And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. (31) "So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. (32) "Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. (33) 'Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' (34) "And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. (35) "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses." (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

## "THE TASTE TEST OF FORGIVENESS"

1. The bitterness of being unforgiving

2. The sweetness of having been forgiven

Offertory: ..... *WS p. 16*

Hymn: ..... *Forgive Our Sins (Tune of TLH 360)*

1. "Forgive our sins as we forgive," You taught us, Lord, to pray,  
But You alone can grant us grace To live the words we say.
2. How can Your pardon reach and bless The unforgiving heart  
That broods on wrongs and will not let Old bitterness depart?
3. In blazing light Your cross reveals The truth we dimly knew:  
What trivial debts are owed to us; How great our debt to you!
4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls And bid resentment cease;  
Then, bound to all in bonds of love Our lives will spread Your peace.

## Offering, Prayers, Benediction:

Hymn: ..... *TLH 31: When All Thy Mercies, O My God*

*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 †

- ◆ **From Label Coordinator:** Here are some tips for completing the 200 BONUS POINT offer from the Sept. 7, Sunday newspaper supplement:
  - ★ In the blue tabbed row, attach UPCs from any Campbells Condensed soup
  - ★ In the yellow tabbed row, attach UPCs from any Campbells Condensed Kid's licensed character soups (including Cars, Dora, Shrek and Princess)
  - ★ In the green tabbed row, attach UPCs from any Campbells SpaghettiOs Shapes pasts (including Dora, Cars and Princess)
  - ★ In the orange tabbed row, attach UPCs from any Campbells Select Harvest soup
 Complete as many rows as you wish and submit in the Collection Container to earn Bonus points for our school. Empty spaces will be filled with UPCs already submitted, if available.
- ◆ **MN Area Reformation Service:** This has been scheduled for November 2, 4 pm, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato, MN.
- ◆ **Update on Mike Schierenbeck:** Although there have been ups and downs, he has made overall progress in his recovery. Lord-willing he will be returning home and continuing his recovery with help at the end of September or the beginning of October. He will still have to return to Rochester for appointments once a week until the end of October. While insurance covers a great deal of the medical costs, many out of pocket expenses are incurred. In addition to this, Mike will not be able to return to work for several months. If you are willing or able to help defray their expenses, you can send your contributions to Farmers State Bank in care of Mike Schierenbeck Transplant Fund. 86 E. Water St. Markesan, WI 53946. Your care and prayers have been much appreciated during this time of need.
- ◆ **Mission Helper:** There is still room for the 2009 Mission Helper Trip to India trip. The trip will take place in July. Deadline for applications is January 15. Contact Pastor Todd Ohlmann at (636) 225-3458.
- ◆ **Call News:** Pastor James Albrecht has returned the call to Faith in Markesan, WI. Pastor Paul Krause of St. John's in Clarkston, WA and Peace in Orofino, ID, now has the call. † St. Peter's Lutheran, Stambaugh, MI, has called Laura Ude to oversee its educational program on a part-time basis (details of this call unknown).
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #4 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment.

**LAW AND GOSPEL:** Faithful preaching consists of uncompromising teaching of the law which uncovers sin and pronounces God's judgment. It is not love to keep people in the dark concerning sin and its consequence. Faithful preaching proclaims an unconditional gospel to the smitten and penitent heart. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. In summary as one has said, "There is no real preaching of the Christian Gospel except in the light of the fact that man is under the wrath of God."

“MAKE ME A CHRISTIAN” is the title of a television series that is airing in England. Can it be far behind in this country? The series will follow a group of 13 non-Christians who for three weeks will attempt to “live by the teaching of the Bible.” (WorldNetDaily, August 10, 2008). There is no indication they will be confronted with the reality of sin. The volunteers include an atheist, a Muslim, a lesbian, and derelicts of various kinds. An Anglican, Catholic, Evangelical, and Pentecostal pastor will “mentor” them as “they attempt to live like Christians” for three weeks.

The kickoff episode has the participants go into a cathedral “where they are asked to participate in a communion service.” The absurdity of this is surpassed only by its blatant blasphemy. Why even comment on it? Because it is evidence again of the betrayal of the name of Christ, and a prostitution of the identification, Christian, by which true followers of Christ are known. While this is beyond even the abuse of Christ’s name so prevalent in our own country (is it?), it nevertheless is more evidence that claims of being Christian cannot necessarily be taken at face value in an age which has aptly been called the “post-Christian” age. The term Christian has been loaded with a whole lot of baggage.

The degradation of the name of Christ and the derivative description of followers of Christ increases as the world increasing enters into the church, and as the church has felt compelled to attract congregants through “fun and games.” The church has trivialized its purpose. To a large extent many churches in our land have forsaken the preaching of law and gospel, sin and grace. They have become little more than social clubs with agendas set by the will and whim of the people. They have become “be-good, feel good” clubs whose message changes according to whatever will attract, as I recently heard a preacher say, “nickels and noses.” As the church has shown disrespect for the Lord God by twisting and distorting His Word, it has become fertile ground for the fatal foolishness described in the news article. The anti-Christian churches that are participating in such blasphemy in England have only carried the blasphemy to the next level. We cannot help but think of the Lord’s word to Judah recorded in Jeremiah 23:32 – the context is different, the judgment the same. Of the false prophets who “cause my people to err by their lies and their recklessness,” the Lord said, “I did not send them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all.”

The foundation of true CHRISTianity is CHRIST. Barnabas and Saul (Paul) preached Christ. Disciples were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26). It was not likely a name they took to themselves, but was a name given them by the Greeks who recognized that they were followers of Christ. Jesus Himself defines for us who a true Christian is. He said, “If you continue in My Word, then you are My disciples indeed...” (John 8: 31). A Christian is a CHRIST-BELEIVER.” In the time of the Roman persecutions the name was enough to turn one into lion fodder. Today it is no less a name that enemies of Christ hate on one hand and on the other a name that false Christians have sullied.

That one who rejects the Word of God, who falsifies it with impunity, who diminishes the law of God for the sake of peace, and denies the blood atonement of Christ, who turns the Bible into nothing more than a moral code and a book of ethics, and who believes, if he believes there is a heaven at all, that he reaches it through his own righteousness may talk about Christianity as much as he pleases but he has “not the faintest conception of Christianity” (cf. Pieper, *What is Christianity*, page 23).

Christians are not made. They are born! Born by the power of the Spirit Who gathers the elect through the preaching of the gospel! Christianity is not an experiment or a TV series. Though we do not despair for we are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us (Romans 8:37), we cannot help but ask, “Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth” (Luke 18:8)? The Lord will keep faith for those who long and pray for His coming. The question is will we keep faith. Relative to the church in general, the indicators are not good!

† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

Organist: Sue Nelson      Elder: Benno Sydow  
Ushers: Benno Sydow, Brian Eichstadt, Gary Gunther, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter, Larry Nelson  
Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker; Mark Wales  
Hospitality Team 4: Mark & Trudy Wales; Al Rosendahl; Karen Auel  
Church Cleaners: M. & J. Dick      School Cleaners: Ferris

† **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** †

Ushers: Benno Sydow, Brian Eichstadt, Gary Gunther, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter, Larry Nelson  
Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Michael Ude  
Hospitality Team 5: Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick; Frank & Ann Radichel  
Church Cleaners: B. & B. Sydow      School Cleaners: Hein

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †

**Today:** 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class  
 10:00 am – Worship Service  
 11:00 am – Hospitality  
**Wed., Oct. 1:** 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Study  
**Sun., Oct. 5:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School  
 10:00 am – Worship Service w/ Lord's Supper  
 Council Meeting (Recommendation of Budget)  
**Sun., Oct. 12:** Mission Festival  
**Sun., Oct. 19:** Quarterly Voters Meeting  
**Sun., Nov. 2:** 4:00 pm – MN Area Reformation Service @ Mankato, MN

<b>Last Week's Stats:</b> Sept. 21, 2008				
	Sun.:	114	S.S.:	??
	B.Cl.:	25	Wed.:	22
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	2,725.10	CLC:	1,110.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,225.00	CLC:	1,000.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-499.90	CLC:	+110.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	111,728.25	CLC:	36,595.35
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	122,550.00	CLC:	38,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-10,821.75	CLC:	-1,404.65
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	16.00	Tuition:	41.00
GLC Other:	69.00	MDF:	19.00	Kinship:
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	25.00	IIF: 40.00
				CEF: 14.00

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*For if you forgive  
 others their trespasses,  
 your heavenly Father will  
 also forgive you...*

*Matthew 6:14*

