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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)

Phone: 763-784-8784

Principal: Ryan Libby (Ph. 763-784-6340)

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Christmas 1

Date: December 28, 2008

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 111, TLH p. 147*

Hymn: *WS 711: See In Yonder Manger Low*

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

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

P: Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,

C: And the government will be upon His shoulders.

P: And He shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,

C: The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

P: Sing to the Lord a new song,

C: For He has done marvelous things. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 102, st. 3-4*

3. Hark, hark, to the angels all singing in heaven,

"To God in the highest all glory be given!"

To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;

Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

4. To Thee, then, O Jesus, this day of Thy birth

Be glory and honor through heaven and earth,

True Godhead incarnate, omnipotent Word!

Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

First Reading: *Colossians 3:12-17*

The peace that the Christ-Child brings is to fill our lives.

Gradual:

P: The Word became flesh and lived among us.

C: We have beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

P: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,

C: Shout for joy before the Lord, the king.

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.

C: For all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

Second Reading: *Luke 2:25-40*

The reactions of Simeon and Anna toward the Christ-Child.

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

Hymn: *TLH 96: Oh, Rejoice, Ye Christians Loudly*

Sermon: *Isaiah 45:20-25*

(20) "Assemble yourselves and come; Draw near together, You *who have* escaped from the nations. They have no knowledge, Who carry the wood of their carved image, And pray to a god *that* cannot save. (21) Tell and bring forth *your case*; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? *Who* has told it from that time? *Have* not I, the LORD? And *there is* no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; *There is* none besides Me. (22) "Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I *am* God, and *there is* no other. (23) I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth *in* righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath. (24) He shall say, 'Surely in the LORD I have righteousness and strength. To Him *men* shall come, And all shall be ashamed Who are incensed against Him. (25) In the LORD all the descendants of Israel Shall be justified, and shall glory.'" (NKJVTM)

Christ Comes As the Just and Only Savior

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *WS 715: Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*

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

Hymn: *TLH 99: Now Are the Days Fulfilled*

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 †

- ◆ **New Years Eve:** There will be a worship service with the Lord's Supper on New Year's Eve, this Wednesday evening, at 7 pm. A get-together with hor d'oeuvres and games will be held in the fellowship hall following the New Year's Eve service.
- ◆ **Among us:** Our prayers are with Joyce Stifter, Dorothy Hammond, and Kenny Isaacson whose sister, Millie, passed away this past Christmas morning.
- ◆ **Christmas Thanks:** As we pondered the Christmas Gospel this past season, we are thankful for all the spiritual blessings that we enjoy in Christ Jesus. One of those is being united with our fellow believers. Pastor and Janelle thank you all for the Christmas greetings and gifts. The grace of God be with you all.
- ◆ **Request:** Should anyone ever have a concern about something to bring to the Pastor's attention, it is requested that email not be used. So many misunderstandings can arise. Out of Christian respect and kindness, please consider this request.
- ◆ **Catechism:** Our regular Catechism class for public school students will resume on January 7.
- ◆ **Handbook:** The Church Handbook is being updated. Council members will automatically receive a copy. If any voter would like a copy of the Handbook, please inform Benno Sydow by January 11, 2009.
- ◆ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the four called workers.
- ◆ **2009 Cleaning:** The 2009 cleaning sign-up list is posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **Nomination Slate for 2009:**
 - President: Phil Radichel
 - Vice President: Jack Kirkham
 - Secretary: Roger Ochsner
 - Treasurer: Brian Bergstrom
 - Financial Secretary: Brandon Paplow; Jeff Radichel
 - Elder: Frank Radichel, Jeff Radichel
 - Education (1yr.): Jack Kirkham; Larry Nelson
 - Education (3 yr.): Mark Wales, Jack Kirkham
 - Trustee: Lyle Trulin; Bob Vandever
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #14, First Article, Part 1



THANK GOD FOR THE DIVISION (by Rev. Daniel Fleischer): (Luke 12: 49-53) One of the many gifts of our Lord Jesus Christ is the gift of peace. In the evening of the Savior's betrayal Jesus reassured His disciples saying, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). The Word of God is the preaching of "peace through Jesus Christ" (Acts 10:36). Paul wrote to the Romans, "Therefore having been justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

How then does this square with Christ as a causer of divisions Who said, "I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled" (Luke 12:49)? The fire is not the fire of judgment but the intensity of the division that comes with the proclamation of the gospel. Jesus desired to see this fire kindled, but before it occurred He was facing "a baptism to be baptized with." He had His own severe baptism of fire, so severe that He wished it were already finished. He faced the agony and suffering of the cross so intense that He prayed in the garden that if it were possible the cup might pass from Him. Yet He was willing to endure it as the Father willed. His baptism with fire would accomplish its divinely appointed end when having paid the full price of our deserved judgment He said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). Now then having been reconciled to God we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ!

The coming of our Lord and the subsequent offense of the cross has created division, not between the Christ believer and God, but between the Christ believer and the unbeliever. When the gospel message of Christ and His redemptive work is proclaimed, it meets with opposition on the part of many. The world that lies in sin is confronted in Christ with the reality and seriousness of its sin. It is confronted with the call to repentance, the call to confess its sin, trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness, as well as the call to put away the love of sinning. However, they who love the darkness more than they love the light lash out at Christ, and are at odds with those who are overcome by the message of God's love. This division divides even the closest of relationships, "For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three" (Luke 12:52, 53).

The alternative to this division that occurs when the sinner is "called out" by Christ would have been to let the whole world go on in its unbelief and sin, and progress to its eternal judgment. Supposedly, we all then could have marched hand in hand united and at peace with each other – to judgment! But the Lord wished something better for the sinner. It is His will that all people come to repentance and to the possession of eternal life. For that reason the Father sent Christ into the world, and has commissioned the Church to proclaim the gospel to all. Hence the division. The gospel is life to those who believe and a stumbling block to those who do not. The division caused by Jesus and the gospel is present now and we must face the reality that it will ever be so. We could wish that it were different but it is what it is and shall be. Thank God for the division! But thank God that as a Christ believer you, by grace, are on the correct side of the divide, on the side to which the Savior tenders the invitation when the ultimate and final division takes place, "Come ye blessed of My Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 15:34).

There are many instances where division is necessary to have peace. Look, for instance, at the churches that have divided in order to stay true to their scriptural principles as compared to those from who they have divided that are in constant unrest and war with each other. So to the accomplishment of peace for souls distressed by sin and fear it was necessary for Jesus to come. The consequent division serves to our peace. The unrest we must endure by the world's enmity is of little consequence to those who in Christ have peace with God, and who in the peace of heaven will not even have a memory of what is past!

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him" (1 John 4:9).

† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

Organist: **Jan Davis**

Elder: **Benno Sydow**

Ushers: **Mike Dick, Larry Brandt, Roger Brandt, Dale Enns,
Lynn Sandhoefner**

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

Hospitality Team 5: **Bye**

Church Cleaners: **Kitzman**

† **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** †

Ushers: **Mike Dick, Larry Brandt, Roger Brandt, Dale Enns,
Lynn Sandhoefner**

Counting Team 1: **Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel;
Pat Paplow**

Hospitality Team 6: **Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian &
Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt Wendland**

Church Cleaners: **Kirkham**

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †

Today: 9:00 – No Bible Class or Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service (Christmas 1)
11:15 am – No Hospitality

Wed., Dec. 31: 7:00 pm – New Year's Eve Service w/Lord's Supper

Sun., Jan. 4: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service w/ Lord's Supper
11:15 am – Hospitality

Wed., Jan. 7: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
No Midweek Bible Class (Resume Jan. 14)

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 21, 2008 Sun: 107 S.S.: 23 12/24: 147 12/25: 106

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	1,671.00	CLC:	690.00	
Christmas Eve:	Grace:	2,280.20	CLC:	650.00	
Christmas Day:	Grace:	1,871.75	CLC:	400.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,225.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+2,597.95	CLC:	+740.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	153,459.17	CLC:	50,864.35	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	164,475.00	CLC:	51,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-11,015.83	CLC:	-135.65	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	1.00	Tuition:	33.00	
GLC Other:	510.00	MDF:	258.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	40.00	ILC Bldg.	278.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 5.00

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And she brought forth her firstborn son,
and wrapped him in
swaddling clothes, and
laid him in a manger.

Luke 2:7

