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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Home Page: www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.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: Epiphany 3 **Date:** January 25, 2009

† **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** †

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

Hymn: *TLH 279: Today Thy Mercy Calls Us*

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

First Reading: *Genesis 45:3-8,15*
 Instead of retaliation, Joseph demonstrates mercy toward his brothers.

Second Reading: *Luke 6:27-36*
 For Every Evil Action There is to be a Merciful and Opposite Reaction

Alleluia: *WS p. 14 f.*

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

Hymn: *WS 779: Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven*

Sermon: *Romans 12:17-21*
¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (NKJVTM)

"LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN"

Offertory: *WS p. 16*

Hymn: *TLH 439: O God of Mercy, God of Might*

Offering, Prayers, Installation, Benediction:

Hymn: *TLH 47: Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise*

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** †

- ◆ **Dorcas Guild:** Today the Dorcas Guild meets following hospitality.
- ◆ **Among Us:** Elnora Smith has been experiencing complications with her health due to low blood sugar levels and ear problems. Miranda Duehlmeier had surgery this week for reconstructive ACL. May the Lord be with them through their health issues.
- ◆ **Directory:** We are again preparing for the publication of the yearly directory at Grace. Please check your contact information in the draft copy of the directory located in the narthex. Place a check mark by your entry if it is correct. If it is not, then please edit as necessary. If you wish to add email or cell numbers, please do so. Your cooperation is appreciated as we attempt to produce an accurate directory.
- ◆ **Women's Retreat:** Brochures for this year's retreat have been placed in members' mailboxes. If you didn't receive one, there are extras by the guest book. The retreat is scheduled for April 17-19 at La Crosse, WI. Registration is due March 17.
- ◆ **Youth Conference:** Immanuel Lutheran of Mankato, MN, is sponsoring a Youth Conference this summer. It will be held June 22-27 at a facility in West Harrison, Indiana (about a 30-45 minute drive from Cincinnati). One of the features of the Youth Conference will be visiting the Creation Museum. The Youth Conference is open to all youth who will be entering high school (2009-10 school year) through those who have completed their second year of college (or of that equivalent age). The cost for the conference is not yet finalized but it will be around \$260.00 (not including transportation) and will not exceed that. Plans are being finalized.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Peace Thru Christ Lutheran, Middleton WI, has called Jennifer Ohlmann, 2008 ILC graduate and girls' dorm RA, to its school. † Luther Memorial Lutheran, Fond du Lac, WI, has called Anita Meyer, Spokane Valley, WA, to teach grades 3-5 at its school.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #18 Second Article, Part 3

The Bible is Our Basis ...

... for a foundation	<i>For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:11</i>
... for strength	<i>God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1</i>
... for guidance	<i>Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. Psalm 119:105</i>
... for salvation	<i>Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12</i>
... for eternal life	<i>And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3</i>
... for doctrine	<i>All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16</i>
... for fellowship	<i>Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. Romans 16:17</i>
... for forgiveness	<i>In [Jesus] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:14</i>
... for love	<i>In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10</i>
... for wisdom	<i>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9:10</i>
... for truth	<i>Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. John 17:17</i>
... for peace	<i>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7</i>

TRYING TIMES FOR CHRIST- BELIEVERS:

How serious are you about the faith? How concerned are you about the witness of the truth of God's Word in our generation? This leads to the next question. How much do you care about the future of the confessing Christian Church? How much do you care about the spiritual and therefore the eternal welfare of your children and/or your grandchildren? No doubt you are very serious, and extremely concerned. Good! What are you doing about it, and how intent are you to endure affliction for the faith? We can safely say that the test of your resolve is going to increase. Simple observation tells us that it is becoming increasingly more difficult to be a confessing Christian because Satan is waging a very savage war against the Christian faith and the Church. Though we know that he will not prevail for our Lord has overcome Him and the gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church, Satan continues his intense attacks against the Lord and His children. Never is there a time to become lackadaisical. The apostle put us all on alert. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine"...(2 Timothy 4:3). The lack of concern for sound doctrine manifests itself through the boldness of false teachers, outside the church, as well as within the church- and the latter are the more dangerous for they are those who engage in the name of Christ, no less, in "profane and vain babbling" (2 Timothy 2:16). We should recognize further, "... that in the last days perilous times will come" (2 Timothy 3:1). "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (vv. 12, 13). Now is that time!

It is quite simple for Christ believers who take their faith seriously to recognize the pagan and heathen philosophies rampant in our society and in the world. Such enemies can be resisted as people of God clothe themselves in the armor of God, and wield the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6). We can do the same against impostors, albeit they are more difficult to recognize because they cloak themselves in the mantle of Christianity and pious Christian expression. They are wolves in sheep's clothing. The most recent inauguration spectacle bore that out as "Christian" clergy tried to bridge the divide between heathenism and Christianity in prayers, and as they politicized Christianity in their prayers as though they will be heard "for their many words" (Matthew 6:7).

Where God's Word is not respected as the Word of God and where this Word is not the absolute authority in matters of faith and life, only evil can come. In the name of love despisers of the Word of God count

political correctness as the justification for all kinds of aberrations which Scripture calls sin. We are not finished with the abortion issue. The new administration is sending signals that “hate crime” legislation will be advanced which will make it illegal to bring Scripture to bear regarding homosexuality, as well as the transgender perversion. In the name of love the politically correct crowd violates love, as they promote, defend, and approve sins which God condemns and which, persisted in without repentance, “are worthy of death” (Romans 1:32).

We can lament the deception of false Christians, and the evils of society. But the fact is that the biggest danger to our faith is not the evil without, but the indifference, neglect, and malaise within the individual heart as well as in the church. These attitudes are evident through neglect of the Word, through despising the hearing of the Word, through indifference to the sacrament, through compromise with error for the sake of peace and in the name of love

Unless we are immersed in the Word of God and are growing in understanding and faith, unless our children are fortified in faith and life from the Word of God all our talk and concern is quite hollow. Further, Christianity is more than being against the prevailing sins. By itself to be against evil does not separate us from those who profess Christianity but whose confession is lacking in understanding of law and gospel. It does not separate us from the heathen who have scruples. The substance of Christianity is the proclamation of the law which convicts the sinner, and the gospel which comforts the troubled heart and prepares the sorrowing for heaven. It is the precious promises of our Heavenly Father that steel us against the attacks the devil directs at Scripture as well as our faith and hope founded on Scripture. If you care about your faith, the proclamation of God’s Word and your salvation, and if you truly care about your children, the Word of God will be the primary focus in the home and in daily life. Only the Word and promise of God can see us through the difficult times that lie ahead, and on into eternity. All excuses and all justifications for indifference or neglect notwithstanding, the issue is not debatable. Our Savior prays for us that our faith does not fail (John 17). The kingdom of God *is* here. It suffers violence at the hands of men. Yet all who are in Christ Jesus shall conqueror! Stand fast therefore in the Word. Nourish your children in the faith. Our Lord will keep us. He will see His faithful children through the evil until He calls us home. “May love for God and His Word increase and may He help us. Amen.”

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 1/25/2009

Voter Meeting Notes - January 18, 2009

The October voters meeting minutes were approved as amended. The Treasurer’s 4th quarter report and annual report were approved as presented.

Pastor’s Report

- 2008 ministration statistics were reviewed.
- Dr. Menton’s presentation went well, with 1 disruption to deal with.
- Scott Dauer passed away Oct. 25.
- The Christmas Eve service went well.

Board of Elder’s Report

- The Elders will budget \$250/year for the softball team.
- Metro Outreach has dropped the call process for a pastor. They are looking for volunteers and for a location.
- Al Rosendahl is working to find an efficient method of getting the U of M students to/from church. ZIP cars from the U are available to rent, which would be reimbursed to the students.
- Discussion on possibly removing one pew from left side of sanctuary to improve spacing. No action taken.
- Pastor was overpaid last year (2008). His 2009 salary increase has been adjusted from 3.00% to 2.94% to accommodate the adjustment.

Board of Education Report

- Five new computers were purchased for the school.
- A new wall was installed between the classrooms.

Board of Trustees Report

- January 31 is the next church work day.
- Moved and passed to replace 3 furnaces (church, fellowship, classrooms). A 1-stage would cost \$6750 to purchase and install. A 2-stage would cost \$8050 to purchase and install.

Other Business

- Benno is updating the church handbook, which should be complete in the next few weeks. Possibly link to our website.
- There is no change in the video project. The next tasks are to determine placement of the video screen and the projector.
- The 2008 Mission offerings were rounded to \$52,000.
- Moved and passed to set the 2009 Mission CBP at \$52,000 again, due to the economy.

Election results were as follows:

- Chairman - Phil Radichel elected
- Vice Chairman - Jack Kirkham elected
- Secretary - Roger Ochsner elected
- Treasurer - Brian Bergstrom elected
- Elder - Frank Radichel and Jeff Radichel. Frank elected
- Bd of Ed (3-year term)- Jack Kirkham and Mark Wales - Mark elected
- Bd of Ed (1-year term) - Larry Nelson and Jack Kirkham. Larry elected
- Bd of Trustees - Lyle Trulin and Bob Vandever. Lyle elected
- Financial Sec - Brandon Paplow and Jeff Radichel. Brandon elected

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Sue Nelson *Elder:* Dave Rust
Ushers: Pat Paplow, Gerald Anderson, Dan Degnan, Matt Dick, Brandon Paplow, Andrew Rosendahl
Counting Team 4: Paul Lentz; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner; Jeff Radichel
Hospitality Team 3: Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Mikey Oman; Miranda Duehlmeier; Dan & Cindy Degnan
Church Cleaners: Ochsner/Boe *School Cleaners:* Hein

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Pat Paplow, Gerald Anderson, Dan Degnan, Matt Dick, Brandon Paplow, Andrew Rosendahl
Counting Team 5: Mike Dick; Brad Kitzman; Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner
Hospitality Team 4: Mark & Trudy Wales; Al Rosendahl; Karen Auel; Bob & Suki Vandever
Church Cleaners: E. & L. Wales *School Cleaners:* Maki

† OUR SCHEDULE †

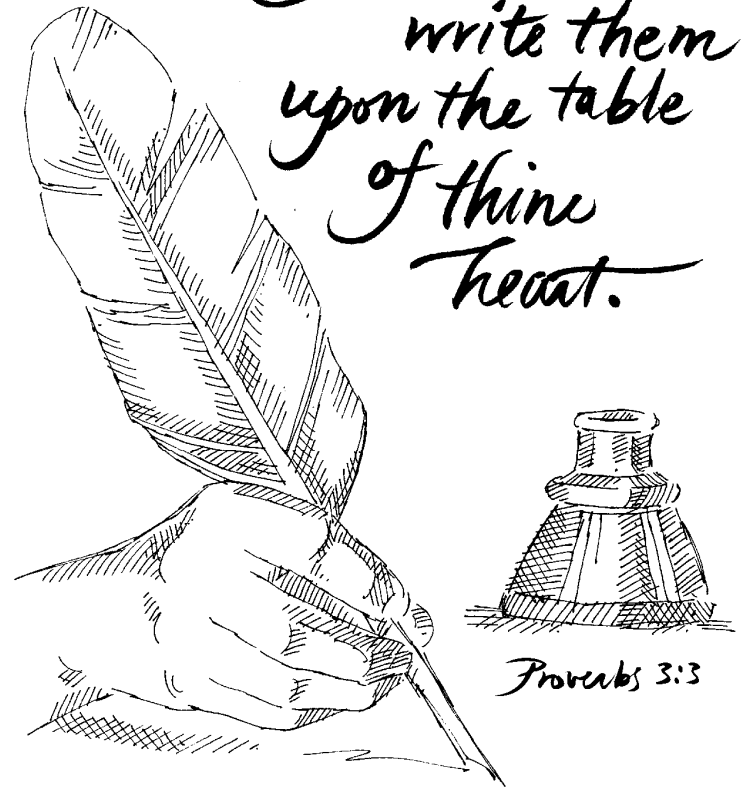
Today: 9:00 – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am –Hospitality; 11:30 am – Dorcas Guild Meeting
Wed., Jan. 28: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class
Sat., Jan. 31: 9:00 am – Work Day at Grace
Sun., Feb. 1: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am –Hospitality

Last Week's Stats: Jan. 18, 2009 Sun.: 125 S.S.: 27 B.Cl.: 41 Wed.: 31

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	3,024.35	CLC:	1,131.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,230.00	CLC:	1,000.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-205.65	CLC:	+131.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	7,793.55	CLC:	2,326.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	9,690.00	CLC:	3,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-1,896.45	CLC:	-674.00
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition:	27.00
GLC Other:	MDF:	93.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	ILC Bldg.	276.00	IIF: 36.00	CEF: 11.00

Grace Lutheran
Church & School

Let not
mercy & truth
forsake thee...
write them
upon the table
of thine
heart.



Proverbs 3:3