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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 2

Date: January 3, 2010

✠ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

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

Hymn: *For Thy Mercy and Thy Grace (insert)*

Liturgy: *TLH, p. 15 ff. (Also available on laminated sheet in pew)*

Introit (followed by Gloria Patri, The Kyrie): *TLH, pp. 16-17*

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: *Revelation 2:1-7*

God warns Ephesus of losing its first love.

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 2:41-52*

Jesus at the age of 12 goes with Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem.

Confession of Faith: *Nicene Creed, TLH p. 22*

Hymn: *TLH 133: Within the Father's House*

Sermon: *Luke 2:48-49*

(48) So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." (49) And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" (NKJVTM)

BEING ABOUT OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS

1. **It's not business as usual**

2. **It's a business with a great benefits package**

Offertory: *TLH p. 22 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 477: Lord Jesus, Thou the Church's Head*

Offering & Prayer:

Liturgy for the Lord's Supper: *TLH p. 24 ff.*

Distribution: *TLH 304; TLH 120*

Note: In obedience to God's Word, and out of concern for the welfare of souls (1 Corinthians 11:29), and finally that we may honestly express the unity of faith and hope that binds us, we ask that only such as have identified with Grace through public confession of faith or another CLC congregation, approach the altar at the usher's direction.

Nunc Dimittis, Prayer, Benediction: *TLH 29 ff.*

Hymn: *TLH 309: O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee*

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 †

- ◆ **Among Us:** Lyle and Florence LaCroix experienced a fire in their apartment building this past Wednesday. The apartment below them had an electrical fire and it spread through some of the wiring. Thankfully, Lyle and Florence are fine and many of their belongings are salvageable, albeit with smoke. They are now staying with their daughter, Linda, in Maple Grove and it is estimated they may need to stay there until at least February.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Thanks:** The Council wishes to express a big thanks to everyone for getting the sanctuary prepared for the various Christmas events and services. Thanks also to those who did the little things behind the scenes to keep everything going well and smoothly.
- ◆ **Cleaning 2010:** The 2010 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **Reminder:** Hospitality has certainly been a blessing to our congregation, making it a tighter-knit family. This includes the children bonding well. This has led to a few issues in the hallway and classrooms. The Council asks that the children please stay in the fellowship hall area when eating food items during hospitality to keep the classrooms and hallways tidy.
- ◆ **Cleaning 2010:** The 2010 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **Eden Prairie Worship:** Regular Sunday morning services are being held at 9:00 am in Eden Prairie, MN, as an outreach effort in the southwest area of the Twin Cities. Fliers are by the guest book.
- ◆ **Mission Calendars:** 2010 calendars are available which focus on our CLC missions. If you would like one, please make a \$3 donation to the MDF. Copies are available below the mailboxes.
- ◆ **From Grace President:** The offering totals for 2009 are better than we estimated at the budget setting meeting. If I recall correctly, we had estimated a total of about \$153,000 leaving around (\$13,000) cash flow for the year if the expenditures estimate was close. The actual offering total for the General Fund was \$160,704 which reduces the negative cash flow for the year to the (\$6,000) region again if the expenditures went as planned. We are a little short of our CLC estimate \$50,357 vs \$52,000, but really not too bad considering all things. – Phil Radichel
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #14, First Article, Part 1

For Thy Mercy and Thy Grace

1. For Thy mer - cy and Thy grace,
 2. Lo, our sins on Thee we cast,
 3. Dark the fu - ture; let Thy light
 4. In our weak - ness and dis - tress,
 5. Keep us faith - ful, keep us pure,

Faith - ful thro' an oth - er year.
 Thee, our per - fect Sac - ri - fice,
 Guide us, bright and Morn - ing Star.
 Rock of strength, be Thou our Stay;
 Keep us ev - er - more Thine own.

Hear our song of thank - ful - ness;
 And, for - get - ting all the past,
 Fierce our foes and hard the fight;
 In the path - less wil - der - ness
 Help, oh, help us to en - dure;

Sav - ior and Re - deem - er, hear!
 Press un - to our glo - rious prize.
 Arm us, to Sav - ior, for the war.
 Be our true Saviour, and the liv - ing Way.
 Fit us for the pro - mised crown.

THE YEAR PAST IS A FORESHADOWING OF THE YEAR AHEAD: As 2009 ends the first decade of the 2nd millenium, and with the entrance of the second decade and the year 2010, we are certain about one thing-the next year and the next decade will be but a repeat of that which has gone before. On first consideration that is not very reassuring. In light of the evils of the past decade, and in view of the continuing, if not accelerating, immorality, corruption, and deceit in our land, as well as generally deteriorating condition of the churches the thought that the future will be a repeat of the past is not a pleasant thought.

Prior to the flood "The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). There is no evidence, nor should we expect any, that the circumstances are or will be different in the last ages of the world. Indeed, the apostle Paul wrote that "in the last days perilous times will come" (3 Timothy 3: 1). He proceeds to tell of the gross wickedness that will arise in the last times. There is nothing in the past, nor on the horizon that would indicate that Paul as a faithful transmitter of the Word of the Lord did not know about what he was speaking! While not new, we are confronted with the open scourge of ascendant anti-Christian forces such as Islam, a large segment of which makes no secret of its desire to destroy Christians, as well as Christianity. Furthermore, we should expect that "from among your own selves," that is within the churches professing to be Christian false prophets will arise "speaking perverse things" (Acts 20:30) deceiving many, and drawing disciples after themselves. We are confronted with a growing complacency among Christians, and that includes among confessional Lutherans! The litany could go on, but does this not suffice to make the point ?!

Some will call it pessimism. We prefer to call it honesty! Some will accuse us of gloom and doom. We prefer to call it love that speaks the truth so as to prepare people for the coming day of the Lord. Today is the day to repent!

There is, however, a bright side to our premise that **THE YEAR PAST IS A FORESHADOWING OF THE YEAR AHEAD.** Thank the Lord! First of all, our God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). We have the precious promise that our God will not leave us nor forsake us. He is and remains our Refuge and Strength (Psalm 46), the Source from which comes our help (Psalm 121). He is the One Who desired our redemption from sin and death, and Who in His holy Child Jesus redeemed us and laid up for us an inheritance in heaven. The love that He has for us has not changed and will not change. It will be the same in the future as in the past. As the Word of God as well as our own experience in the faith has shown, we have reason to confess in the future as we have in the past: The Lord is my Helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me" (Hebrews 13:6)?

Our confidence of what lies ahead spans the ages into eternity. In Paul's valedictory he spoke the confidence that is that of every believer in Christ: "There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing" (2 Timothy 4: 8). "Take they our life" and all we own Luther said, the kingdom of God remains ours. That is the joy and confidence of all who worshiped the Savior -God who came from heaven and was laid in the manger. The Father's faithfulness in the past is our confidence of the future to which we look forward! – Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/27/2009

Council Meeting Notes - December 20, 2009

Meeting opened with a prayer at 12:03 PM. Roll was taken. The November Council meeting minutes were approved as presented. The November treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Pastor's Report

- Lucas Boe was baptized December 13.
- Regan Oman was baptized December 16.
- It was moved and passed to transfer Jeff and Eleise Aymond to Messiah of Hales Corners.
- It was moved and passed to transfer Matt and Joey Dick and family to Immanuel of Mankato.
- We should keep the unemployed individuals in our congregation in our prayers.
- The average attendance for Advent services was 75.
- Caroling will be this afternoon.

Board of Elders Report

- The Elders will coordinate a visiting committee for the home-bound individuals in our congregation.

Board of Education Report

- The Christmas concert at Northtown went well.
- Children within the church are getting along well. However, they are getting into the classrooms and creating messes. Announcements will be made to monitor the children.
- There is much traffic in and out of the church service and conversations in the narthex.
- Ellen Bergstrom had surgery. She will be out about three weeks into the next year. It will total 10-16 days absent from teaching.
- Ann Radichel's classes are reduced by 6 due to the Dick's moving to Mankato. They will pursue having kindergarten full-time January thru May to fill the void.

Board of Trustees Report

- The cleaning list for 2010 is available.
- The parsonage roof gutter estimate is \$650 installed. Lyle will check into the cost of heat cables.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 12:30 PM.

Roger Ochsner
Secretary, Grace Lutheran Church

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Dave Rust

Ushers: Mark Wales, Pete Fleischer, Don Auel, Ole Olmanson, Brandt Wendland

Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Michael Ude

Hospitality Team 1: Bye

Church Cleaners: Kirkham

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

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

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

Hospitality Team 2: Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz; Peter Fleischer; Jeff & Sarah Radichel

Church Cleaners: Kirkham

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 10:00 am –Worship Service w/Lord's Supper

Wed., Jan. 6: 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
Midweek Bible Class resumes Jan. 13

Sun., Jan. 10: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 – Sunday School and Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality; 12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Wed., Jan. 13: 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Sun., Jan. 17: 11:30 am – Annual Voters Meeting & Dorcas Guild

Sat., Jan. 30: 9:00 am – Congregational Work Day

Wed., Feb. 17: Ash Wednesday

Last Week's Stats: Dec. 27, 2009 Sun.: 110 Thu.: 51

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,011.00	CLC:	\$1,744.00
Thu. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,530.00	CLC:	\$770.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+2,241.00	CLC:	+1,514.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	160,704.30	CLC:	50,357.40
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	171,920.00	CLC:	52,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-11,215.70	CLC:	-1,642.60
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	25.00	Tuition:	26.00
GLC Other: 747.25	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid: 100.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 3.00

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