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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Fridley, MN 55432



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Home Page: www.CLCCGraceLutheranChurch.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635)

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Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 18

Date: September 26, 2010

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 38, p. 132*

Hymn: *TLH 568: We Praise Thee, O God*

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

First Reading: *Amos 8:4-7*

The LORD warns about dishonesty in worldly business dealings.

Responsive Psalm: *Psalm 1*

P: Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,

C: Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

P: But his delight is in the law of the LORD,

C: And in His law he meditates day and night.

P: He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season,

C: Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

P: The ungodly are not so,

C: But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

P: Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,

C: Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

P: For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,

C: But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Second Reading: *1 Timothy 2:1-8*

We are to pray for all in authority, recognizing our Lord is the ultimate authority over all things.

Alleluia: *WS p. 14 f.*

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

Hymn: *TLH 366, st. 1-5: One Thing's Needful*

Sermon: *Luke 16:1-13*

(1) He also said to His disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. (2) "So he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.' (3) "Then the steward said within himself, 'What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg. (4) 'I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.' (5) "So he called every one of his master's debtors to him, and said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' (6) "And he said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' So he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' (7) "Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' So he said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' (8) "So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light. (9) "And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home. (10) "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. (11) "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? (12) "And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? (13) "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." (NKJV™)

"Prudent Pursuit of Profitable Possessions"

Offertory: *WS p. 16*

Hymn: *WS 788: Lord, You Love the Cheerful Giver*

Offering, Prayers, Benediction:

Hymn: *TLH 430, st. 1, 3, 8: What Is the World to Me?*

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:** Heidi Nelson has been hospitalized at Abbott Northwestern for complications with her pregnancy. Please pray that the Lord who has made us His children by faith in Christ Jesus, will keep Heidi and Rick's child safe in His keeping!
- ◆ **Mission Festival:** Our mission festival is slated for October 10. Pastor Bruce Naumann from Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI, will be our guest speaker. A potluck meal will be held following the worship service.
- ◆ **Woodlands Clearing at ILC:** We are organizing a group of workers to go to the Immanuel campus in Eau Claire, WI, on Saturday, October 9, starting at 9 am. The plan is to help clear some of the timber that was downed last year when the campus was forested. A Bobcat will be around to drag the lumber. In fact, the Bobcat will be around a day earlier should you be able to help out on Friday, October 8. Help will be needed to manually clear wood and to feed a wood chipper. Workers can bring chain saws and/or a pair of gloves. We hope to get some volunteers from various congregations to help out with the project. Should you be interested, contact Pastor Hein at jphein@clclutheran.com or phone him at 763-784-8784.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor James Albrecht of St. John's in Okabena, MN, has received the call to Luther Memorial in Fond du Lac, WI. † Pastor


Martin Luther Comments on Luke 16:1-9

The Shaming Zeal of Worldlings: You should think: Well, if a farmer, a townsman, a merchant, a miser, this woman, and that maid are able to serve the devil with such diligence and allow no drudgery to weary them, why should I, too, not be willing to serve my Lord, whom I am to enjoy forever, in like manner? They rush about as if they were mad, yet they are merely pursuing their eternal harm and ruin. Why, then, am I, when my soul's salvation is concerned, so sluggish and sleepy that God must drag me to it by the very hair? Why, I ought to spit at myself for not even crawling to heaven while those folk rush and run to hell the way they do. But especially in the case of which the Lord speaks here do the children of the world give a fine example for the children of light. For look at a fellow of whom greed has really taken possession. You will find that his thoughts grant him rest neither day nor night; all his pondering and planning are directed to making money. If he finds a little corner in his house, he converts it into a little room in order to collect rent for it. Now he undertakes this deal, and before long he engages in that transaction, in order to determine which brings him the greater profit. In a word, he would not neglect one penny; nor does he begrudge any effort or labor when he sees money. Now we should learn to interest ourselves in the eternal with the earnestness with which a miser interests himself in money. But where do you find the Christian who does so? (*What Luther Says, #5099*)

THE CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO HEATHENISM:

With the rising tide of Islam in this country, and the acquiescence of a politically correct populous, Christianity is confronted with a very real threat.

Winston Churchill wrote, *"Individual Moslems may show splendid qualities. Thousands become the brave and loyal soldiers of the Queen: all know how to die. But the influence of the religion paralyzes the social development of those who follow it. No stronger retrograde force exists in the world. Far from being moribund, Mohammedanism is a militant and proselytising faith. It has already spread throughout Central Africa, raising fearless warriors at every step ..."* (*The River War-First Ed. pp 248-250, 1899*)

JESUS
THE WAY, 
THE TRUTH, 
THE LIFE. 

How shall we as confessors of the true God whose children we are through faith in Christ Jesus react to the Islamic tide? Let it be clear-- we reject the idea of burning the Koran, the Holy book of the Muslim. In the present conflict that is not helpful and only invites negative if not violent reaction.

In passing let this also be clear-- violence against homosexuals and against abortionists in the name of Christ and Christianity is rejected by all who in truth belong to Christ, not only because it is wrong, but because it does not serve the Gospel. Neither the Lord nor His Word promotes such behavior! The authority and power of our warfare against false teaching and evil is the Word of God!

Heathenism has always set itself against Christ and His people. That is the nature of heathenism. In a sense, the heathen Muslim threat is greater because of its amalgamation of politics and religion. It is virtually impossible to separate Islam as a religion from its political component. This merger is exacerbated by the threat of physical violence by proponents of the so-called "religion of peace" against any who dare speak out against it, or even leave it. Such violence is inculcated by the Quran. Consider: "Fight and kill the disbelievers wherever you find them, take them captive, harass them, lie in wait and ambush them using every stratagem of war."

By contrast, under no circumstance does the Christian faith and doctrine counsel physical violence against unbelievers in defense of Christ or the Church. Jesus told Peter when the disciple struck with the sword, “Put your sword in its place ...” (Matthew 26:52). Through the apostle Paul the Lord said, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal ...” (2 Corinthians 10:3, 4).

By contrast, Islam declares in the Quran, “Our onslaught will not be a weak faltering affair. We shall fight as long as we live. We will fight until you turn to Islam, humbly seeking refuge. We will fight not caring whom we meet. We will fight whether we destroy ancient holdings or newly gotten gains. We have mutilated every opponent. We have driven them violently before us at the command of Allah and Islam. We will fight until our religion is established. And we will plunder them, for they must suffer.” *Any religion that resorts to violence, force of arms or political stratagems to propagate itself is admitting to bankruptcy of its message.*

The conflict between Christianity and Islam is many centuries old. The Crusades were a series of military campaigns sanctioned by the Church and were part of a thousand years’ conflict between Christianity and Islam. The Crusades were fought mainly by Roman Catholic forces mostly before the Protestant Reformation. Orthodox Christians also took part in fighting against Islamic forces in some Crusades. Crusaders took vows and were granted penance for past sins. Unfortunately, the Roman Catholic Church utilized the crusades in an effort to increase its own influence. Martin Luther in fact saw both the papacy and the Turk as a threat to the truth, and the principles of the Reformation. His original rendering of Hymn 264 in “The *Lutheran Hymnal*” reads, “Curb Turk and pope and all that horde.” Luther was not politically correct!

In part, Emperor Charles V called a diet (meeting) in Augsburg in hopes of unifying the realm against the threat of Islam. To present a united front he needed the Lutherans for whom otherwise he had little love. The purpose for which the emperor called the diet failed, but of it came the Augsburg Confession (1530), the classic confession of

confessional Lutheranism. Luther nevertheless saw the Muslim threat as a “scourge of God.” In a sense we could call it a wake up call to the apostate church.

Where the church is unfaithful to Christ and to His Word, unbelief will fill the vacuum. In a spiritual sense the scourge of Islam and heathenism can only be resisted as the Lord wills by a return to the Lord and His Word — a return manifest through repentance and faith in Christ Jesus. Since the Church’s battle against Islam and any other expression of heathenism is spiritual it has to be waged with Scripture!

On the other hand because of the political nature of Islam — its intent was and is to rule the world — as regards the welfare of the nation, Luther said that temporal warfare was to be waged by the emperor. If there was to be war against the Muslim political and military forays, “it should be fought at the Emperor’s command and under his banner, and in his name ... Because then everyone can assure his own conscience that he is obeying the ordinance of God, since we know that the emperor is our true overlord and head, and he who obeys him ... obeys God also, while he who disobeys him disobeys God also” (PE 5:102-103). Romans 13 gives civil authority the responsibility and right to wage war in defense of the citizens of a nation.

“God is our Refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46). Therefore let us lift up our eyes unto the hills from where comes our help (Psalm 121). Let each of us fall in repentance and faith before our Lord, trusting His mercy and imploring His grace for help in time of need. Further, unless we are willing to stand up for our faith in Christ with the same fervor that the heathen stand up for their idols, we should not expect that we will prevail in this world. While we look for and are confident of the future home promised to us by our Lord, it is in this world that we must contend against those who would rob us of our faith now, lest by indifference we fall from the faith and lose the inheritance of the saints in glory. “God, and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, help us. Amen.”



† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

Organist: **Sue Nelson** Elder: **Frank Radichel**
Ushers: **Mike Dick, Larry Brandt, Roger Brandt, Nick Duehlmeier, Dale Enns, Lynn Sandhoefner**
Counting Team 1: **Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel; Pat Paplow**
Hospitality Team 5: **Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick; Frank & Ann Radichel**
Church Cleaners: **Dick** School: **Hein**

† **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** †

Ushers: **Mike Dick, Larry Brandt, Roger Brandt, Nick Duehlmeier, Dale Enns, Lynn Sandhoefner**
Counting Team 2: **Gary Gunther; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker; Mark Wales**
Hospitality Team 6: **Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt Wendland**
Church Cleaners: **???** School: **Hein**

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †

Today: 9:00 am – Sun. School & Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality
Wed., Sept. 29: Catechism and Bible Class Suspended
Sept. 29-30: CLC Coordinating Council @ Eau Claire, WI
Sun., Oct. 3: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Sun. School & Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
 11:15 am – Hospitality; 12:00 pm – Council Meeting
Wed., Oct. 6: 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class
Sat., Oct. 9: 9:00 am – Woodland Clearing at ILC
Sun., Oct. 10: Mission Festival – Pastor Bruce Naumann, Guest Speaker
 Mission Festival Potluck
Sun., Oct. 17: Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings

Last Week's Stats: Sept. 19, 2010 Sun.: 112 S.S.: 17 B.Cl.: 45 Wed.: ??

Week's Offering:	Grace:	\$2,476.25	CLC:	\$657.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,015.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-538.75	CLC:	-303.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$111,447.07	CLC:	\$32,735.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	114,570.00	CLC:	36,480.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-3,122.93	CLC:	-3,745.00	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	74.00	Tuition:	47.00	
GLC Other:	532.25	MDF:	22.00	Kinship:	71.00
ILC Student Aid:	1.00	ILC Bldg.	60.00	IIF: 95.00	CEF: 20.00

*Grace Lutheran
Church & School*



The earth is the
LORD's, & everything
 in it, the world, & all
 who live in it.

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