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# Grace Lutheran Church & School



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

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



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

Phone: 763-784-8784

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Grades: Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup>

Church Year: Pentecost 21

Date: October 17, 2010

## † THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: ..... *Psalm 27, p. 129*

Hymn: ..... *TLH 231: We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost*

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

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

P: Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, Whose sins are covered.

**C: Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him And in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

P: Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in His ways.

**C: You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.**

P: Your wife will be like a fruitful vine with your house;

**C: Your children will be like olive shoots around your table.**

P: Thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord.

**C: May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem, and may you live to see your children's children. Glory be to God!**

Gloria in Excelsis: ..... *TLH 12, st. 2, 5*

This day the Lord for sinners slain

In might victorious rose again:

O Jesus, may we rais-ed be

From death of sin to life in Thee!

All praise to God the Father be,

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee,

Whom, with the Spirit, we adore

Forever and forevermore.

First Reading: ..... *Habakkuk 1:1-3; 2:1-4*

When confronted with sin, we are reminded that the just shall live by faith.

## Gradual:

P: These are they who have come out of the great tribulation;

**C: They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

P: Blessed are those whose strength is in you,

**C: Who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.**

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. I will declare Your name to my brothers;

**C: In the presence of the congregation I will sing Your praises.**  
Alleluia.

Second Reading: ..... *2 Timothy 1:3-14*

Paul reminds Timothy to not be ashamed of the testimony of Christ.

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

Hymn: ..... *TLH 328: O Jesus, Lamb of God, Thou Art*

Sermon: ..... *Luke 17:1-4*

(1) Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to *him* through whom they do come! (2) "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. (3) "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. (4) "And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him." (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

## "Sink or Swim ... the Millstone or Repentance?"

1. The Danger of Offense

2. The Distinction of Being Offended

2. The Dependence on Forgiveness

Offertory: ..... *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: ..... *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive (See Insert)*

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

Hymn: ..... *TLH 657: Beautiful Savior*

*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:** Nick and Miranda Duehlmeier were blessed with a baby girl last Sunday, Oct. 10. Her name is Malena Rose and she weighed 6 lb., 15 oz., 18½ inches long. Malena was baptized on Thursday, Oct. 14, in a private service at the church. Praise the Lord for this precious gift! Lillian Nelson, baby of Heidi and Rick, was transferred from Children's to Unity Hospital this past week. Heidi had a temporary setback on Thursday and was hospitalized at Methodist for a pulmonary aneurism. God grant this family the certainty that He reigns for the well-being of His people!
- ◆ **Minnesota Pastoral Conference:** Many thanks to all those who helped in hosting the pastoral conference this past week. The meals the ladies provided were wonderful. Due to all your efforts, the conference went very smoothly! Thank you!
- ◆ **MN Joint Reformation Service:** This year's Joint Reformation Service will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato on Sunday, October 31, at 4:00 p.m. This will be a special service this year as it will also continue the celebration of the CLC's 50th anniversary with a special theme and several preachers. A potluck meal will follow.  
Theme: Treasuring Our Heritage of Truth
  - I. Testimony of Christian Forefathers (Speaker - David Lau)
  - II. Testimony of Christian Education (Speaker - Chad Seybt)
  - III. Testimony of Christian Confidence (Speaker - David Schierenbeck)
- ◆ **Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day:** is November 5. Come and learn more about your church's college and a continuing education with Christ. Speak with your pastor about questions and attendance. Information. Any housing requests may be directed to Prof. John Ude, the ILC Academic Dean, before November 2. Office phone: 715-836-6631; Home phone: 715-955-4127; Email: john.ude@ilc.edu.
- ◆ **Outreach Workshop:** Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire is planning an outreach workshop on Nov. 28. They are seeking lay members who may be interested in coming or being involved. Please speak to Pastor Hein if you are interested.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor David Baker of Ascension in Batavia, IL (Chicago area), has accepted the call to Our Redeemer's in Red Wing, MN. Prof. John Ude has accepted the call to serve during the interim until Pastor Baker is installed. † Pastor James Albrecht has returned the call to Luther Memorial at Fond du Lac, WI. Pastor Neil Radichel of St. Stephen in Mountain View, CA (San Francisco area) now has this call. † Mr. Mark Weis has received and accepted the vacancy call to The Church of the Lutheran Confession in North Port, FL.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #6 Forth Commandment

## I AM SORRY ... IF:

In this interminably long political campaign, emotions have run high, tempers have flared, and political discourse has plummeted frequently into a black hole. This is nothing new in this political season or for that matter in society generally. Except that issues that must be addressed are serious, this political season has afforded some comic relief through the accusations that have been made and the comments that are offered as an apology. In the course of it all what has been exposed is an all too pervasive attitude of the sin-corrupted heart that is part of the fallen nature of us all.

"Sin" – the transgression of God's law - is a small word with consequences. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Impenitence, the unwillingness to acknowledge and confess sin before God, carries with it the curse of eternal death. Of course, the subject of sin, confession, and its consequence is of little interest to those who reject God's Word (the Law), and have only disdain for God (the Lawgiver). They cannot appreciate God's Word (the Gospel), or God's Son, Jesus Christ (the Savior from sin). They come to everlasting condemnation.

Scripture tells us, "He that covers his sins shall not prosper ..." (Proverbs 28: 13). This is of course of no concern to those who deny the reality of sin. The verse goes on, "But whoso confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy." This is meaningless to those who will not confess. We read also, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us" (1 John 1: 8 – 10).

So what is confession? Confession involves the acknowledgement of sin. Confession in its entirety includes "that we receive absolution or forgiveness ..." (Luther's *Small Catechism*). Furthermore as we confess our sins to the Lord in the confidence of forgiveness through our Lord Jesus Christ, the Christ believer will accede to the Word which declares, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another ..." (James 5: 16). Particularly we will confess those sins to one another that burden the conscience. We will do this to make things right with the neighbor against whom we have sinned, but above all that we might be relieved in our conscience through the blessed message of forgiveness in our Lord Who died to take away our sin, and Whose blood has washed us clean.

He who honestly confesses his sin does not try to justify it, excuse it, or spin it. True confession comes clean before God. Israel did not find relief until it said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against thee" (Number 21: 7). David, to his own discomfort (Psalm 32), tried to cover his sin. When confronted by Nathan, the prophet of the Lord, David confessed it. In the 51<sup>st</sup> Psalm he said, "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy

sight ..." (vv. 3, 4). Upon his confession, David found comfort in that "Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin" (Psalm 32:5).

Confession and apology are not the same thing. Confession involves acknowledgement of sin. Apology is the expression of remorse at some misdeed or wrongdoing. Confession includes faith in the forgiveness of sin. Apology or remorse frequently is nothing more than that. As Christ believers are to live honestly before all, we will honestly acknowledge our sin and/or wrongdoing against our neighbor when we have wronged him. Our sorrow will manifest itself through seeking to make amends if possible.

This brings us back to our political reference. More than once things have been said for which someone felt it politically expedient to apologize. But what of these apologies? What kind of apology is it whether out of the mouth of a politician or our own mouth one says, "If I offended anyone ... if I hurt anyone's feelings ... if I upset anyone ... if I used an expression that troubles you, I apologize." That is neither an apology nor a confession. Such a manner of speech basically says, "I said what I said and I meant what I said, but I am sorry you are offended." Such an apology is not only not an acknowledgment of a wrong, but is rather a veiled suggestion that the real sin is not that of the perpetrator of the word or deed, but of the one who was offended. The offended one should not have been so sensitive. His being offended becomes the sin.

Imagine Israel saying to Moses and God, "If we hurt your feelings or if we offended you we are sorry ..." Or David saying, "God, if I offended you, I am sorry." The prodigal son did *not* say in Luke 15, "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, 'if I have offended you ...'" Instead he said, "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, *I have sinned* against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants ... And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son" (Luke 15: 11 – 32).

Before God, the ultimate Judge of all, recognize that all your righteousnesses are as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). Examine your life in the mirror of God's law and say honestly, "Heavenly Father, I have sinned against you in thought, in word, and in deed. I am sorry for my sin against you. Forgive me for Jesus' sake." That is true sorrow and a meaningful confession. Then believe that for Jesus' sake the Heavenly Father has indeed put away your sin.

To live peaceably with all speak and live honestly; to find the peace which is God's will for you in Christ, make straightforward confession to Him Who says "Be of good cheer, Thy sins be forgiven thee." Our Father's word of grace and forgiveness in Christ is unconditional! Let our confession and sorrow be without evasion or dissembling.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 4/27/2008 (Reprinted)

**Hymn:** ..... *Tune of TLH 360 (Oh, for A Thousand Tongues to Sing)*

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.**

### **Forgiveness in the Family**

For most people the home is a "learning laboratory of life." Children pay more attention to what parents do than what parents say. In this learning laboratory families learn to live closely with one another in the midst of sin, selfishness, materialism, anxiety, fears, and unhealthy behavior.

Members of Christian families, like members of all other families, trip, stumble, and fall as they grow together. The key to growing closely together and developing healthy behavior is forgiveness. Jesus came that we might have abundant life. The key to achieving it is found in forgiveness.

How will children learn forgiveness if the words are never spoken and the actions never seen in their parents? Yet children are often told to say, "I'm sorry" to a brother, sister, or friend. Far too often parents and children's other adult caregivers become so filled with shame, guilt, and fear when they have done or said something hurtful that they don't talk about it. They do the same if they do not forgive others. No healing action follows. The impression is created that one just "lives through the pain." This gives a bad message to our children. They conclude that there are some things that don't need to be said or acted upon. It's confusing for them to be told to say, "I'm sorry" but not to hear this or any word of forgiveness from adults.

Jesus came to bring forgiveness to each of us. He modeled forgiveness as well as spoke the words. Christians are to do the same as they continue to grow closely with each other in the learning laboratory of life - the family.

- Adapted

## † TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Ed Lentz

Ushers: Pat Paplow, Gerald Anderson, Dan Degnan, Ryan Oman, Brandon Paplow, Andrew Rosendahl

Counting Team 4: Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner

Hospitality Team 2: Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz; Peter Fleischer; Jenny Kleifgen

Church Cleaners: ???

School: Maki

## † NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Pat Paplow, Gerald Anderson, Dan Degnan, Ryan Oman, Brandon Paplow, Andrew Rosendahl

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

Hospitality Team 3: Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Ryan & Mikey Oman; Nick & Miranda Duehlmeier; Dan & Cindy Degnan

Church Cleaners: B. Rust

School: Maki

## † OUR SCHEDULE †

**Today:** 9:00 am – Sun. School & Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service  
11:15 am – Hospitality  
11:30 am – Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings

**Wed., Oct. 20:** 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

**Oct. 20-22:** CLC Teachers' Conference @ Mankato, MN

**Sun., Oct. 24:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
9:00 am – Sun. School & Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service  
11:15 am – Hospitality

**Sat., Oct. 30:** 9:00 am – Work Day at Grace

**Sun., Oct. 31:** 4:00 pm – Joint Reformation @ Mankato, MN w/Potluck

**Fri., Nov. 5:** Visitors' Day @ Immanuel Lutheran College

**Last Week's Stats:** Oct. 10, 2010 Sun.: 98 S.S.: ?? B.Cl.: 37 Wed. 12

Week's Offering:	Grace:	\$2,591.00	CLC:	\$1,451.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,015.00	CLC:	960.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-424.00	CLC:	+491.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$120,477.39	CLC:	\$36,361.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	123,615.00	CLC:	39,360.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-3,137.61	CLC:	-2,999.00
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	20.00	Tuition:	45.00
GLC Other:	MDF:	166.00	Kinship:	70.00
ILC Student Aid:	ILC Bldg.	48.00	IIF: 20.00	CEF: 20.00

# Grace Lutheran Church & School



**REPENTANCE &  
FORGIVENESS  
.....of SINS  
will be PREACHED  
in his NAME  
Jesus  
to all nations...**

**L u k e 2 4 : 4 7**

