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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635) **Phone:** 763-784-8784
School Phone: 763-784-6340 **Grades:** Kindergarten-8th
Church Year: Epiphany 7 **Date:** February 20, 2011

Christ has reconciled us to God the Father. We were bitter enemies with God because we had brought His wrath upon us due to our sin. But now Christ has cleared that up! He has made us at peace with God. He has made us friends! With such a blessed reconciliation being ours, may we seek reconciliation with our neighbor as Christ commands! For the heart that seeks reconciliation here on earth is the one that knows that he has been reconciled to God.

✠ **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** ✠

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 122, p. 152 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 11: Safely through Another Week*

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

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

P: The Lord is compassionate and gracious,

C: Slow to anger, abounding in love.

P: He does not treat us as our sins deserve

C: Or repay us according to our iniquities.

P: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

C: So great is His love for those who fear Him.

P: As far as the east is from the west,

C: So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 23, st. 4*

Hallelujah! Let praises ring! Unto our Triune God we sing;

Blest be His name forever! With angel hosts let us adore

And sing His praises more and more For all His grace and favor!

Singing, ringing: Holy, holy, God is holy, Spread the story

Of our God, the Lord of Glory! Amen.

First Reading: *Leviticus 19:1-3, 17-18*

The Lord commands us not to take vengeance nor bear grudges.

Gradual:

P: Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol Him, all you peoples.

C: For great is His love toward us; and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

P: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name;

C: Bring an offering and come into His courts.

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. Bless those who persecute you;

C: Bless and do not curse. Alleluia.

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23*

Believers are the temple of God whose foundation is Jesus Christ.

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

Hymn: *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive (insert)*

Sermon: *Matthew 5:23-26*

(23) "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, (24) "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. (25) "Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. (26) "Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny." (NKJVTM)

BROTHERLY RECONCILIATION

1. The meaning of reconciliation

2. The danger of reconciliation being ignored

3. The blessing of reconciliation being exercised

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *Love Is the Gracious Gift of Your Goodness (insert)*

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

Hymn: *TLH 477, st. 1-2: Lord Jesus, Thou the Church's Head*

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Grace School Class Trip:** The students who will be going on the class trip in April are continuing their fund raising. Next Sun., Feb. 27, there will be a silent auction and spaghetti meal following the worship service. A free-will offering will be received during the meal. Any items that will be offered at the silent auction should be here this Friday. If anyone has any items they would like to donate for this auction, please speak with Janelle Hein.
- ◆ **A Marriage Enrichment Seminar** is being planned for Friday and Saturday, March 18-19, by Messiah Lutheran, Eau Claire. It will be held in Black River Falls, WI. The event begins Friday evening the 18th, at 6:30 p.m. The retreat concludes on Saturday the 19th, at 3:30 p.m. You may pick up a brochure by the guest book with details and registration information.
- ◆ **Christian Women's Retreat:** April 8-10, 2011, at Days' Inn in Lacrosse, WI. Speakers and mini sessions have been arranged. Come and join the fun and learning. Brochures were distributed some time ago, but there are a few copies by the guest book. For more information, contact Pastor Paul Nolting (PNolting@hickorytech.net), or Laila Fleischer (lefleischer2@q.com). NOTE: Deadline for registration for the Retreat is March 1. Can late-register up to April 1, with a late fee.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Steven Karp of St. Stephen in Hayward, CA (Oakland area) reports: "I'm back from seeing the oncologist at UCSF. She went over the CT scan results and everything is OK. In other words: cancer-free. Thanks be to God. I go back in three months."
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #21, Third Article, Part 3

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!

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.

Hymn:Tune of WS 752 (*Baptized in Water*)

1. Love is the gracious gift of Your goodness;
Love is the patient fruit of Your care;
Love is the gentle work of Your Spirit,
Who is the source of love ev'rywhere.
2. You loved me, first, Lord, sending me Jesus.
Then I responded, trusting Your Son.
Now You invite me to love my neighbor,
Showing Your true love to ev'ryone.
3. Love means forgiveness, patience, and kindness;
Love is not jealous, boastful, or rude.
Love endures all things, bearing, believing;
Love hopes forever, rejoices in truth.
4. Love in a marriage, love freely given,
Love of a husband, love of a wife –
Made to continue, blossom, and flourish,
Grow ever deeper throughout this life.
5. Love among Christians, love in the fam'ly,
Love for the Savior, whose blood was shed,
Love and submission one to another
As unto Christ, who reigns as our Head.

SECURE WEALTH:

Anyone who follows the political scene knows that the United States, the individual states, and the cities are in financial crisis.

Politicians talk the subject to death, but exhibit little fortitude to do the hard things that will balance the books. Instead many seem to get some particular pleasure out of indicting and taxing those whose honest labor has been rewarded. They aim particularly at those who (by their definition) are rich, though ultimately everyone from the poorest to the richest pays from the grocery store to the gas pump.

Wealth or riches are not sinful. It is not a sin to be rich, and to have accumulated goods honestly gained.

In Luke chapter 12 Jesus had something to say regarding wealth accumulation. The issue in that parable was not the wealth which the rich man had accumulated. The issue was the attitude of the man to whom the words certainly applied: "The love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Timothy 6:10). He was self-centered and had no concern for God or his neighbor. The rich man in the parable is an example of one who had strayed from the faith in his greediness and pierced himself through with many sorrows (1 Timothy 6:10). How so? The things that he treasured could save neither his life nor his soul. So it is and ever shall be for those who lay up material treasures for themselves and are not rich toward God (Luke 12:21).

Let us appreciate the accumulation, however much or little, with which we are have been blessed by the Lord. Every good gift comes from the Father Who knows our need. Jesus said, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing" (Luke 12: 22, 23).

Every material thing that we possess on this earth can in some fashion be taken from us, if not by natural disaster, then by other means, including excessive taxation. Consider this however, that anyone who has this world's wealth is poor if he does not have Christ; conversely anyone who has Christ is rich if he has nothing of this world's wealth.

In Matthew 4 Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (v.4). Through the Word of God we are brought into a relationship with God the Father.

Through the Word we know that as children of God we have the authority and right to approach Him in prayer in every need of body and soul.

Through the Word of God we know that we have eternal life, and this life is in His Son (1 John 5:11).

Abundant life is found in Christ (John 10:10), "who though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). The riches that we enjoy are the forgiveness of sins, purchased for us at great price—that of the life blood of the incarnate Son of God Who paid the sin-debt we owed but could not pay to God. As our Substitute Jesus paid it in full when He died on the cross. How eternally rich are all in whom Spirit-engendered faith grasps the assurance of eternal life that was sealed to us through the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead.

In his Small Catechism Luther said that where there is forgiveness of sins there is also life and salvation. The sheep who hear the voice of Jesus and through their relationship to Him have a relationship with the Father have the precious promise, "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:28).

As each one of us keeps our life and its purpose in proper focus, we will agree with the psalmist, "A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked" (Psalm 37:16)!

Every Christ-believer is rich in the things that count and last. His wealth is secure! No disaster and no man or government can confiscate the riches of those whose inheritance is laid up in heaven. Paul wrote, "Finally, 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).

Let each of us receive with thanksgiving our material blessings (4th Petition) but treasure the riches of heaven with all of our heart, and in daily repentance and faith "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Matthew 6:20).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 2/13/2011

Council Meeting Notes – February 13, 2011

Vice President Eli Wales and Financial Secretary Brandon Paplow were installed as members of the council. Meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Hein at 12:05. Roll Call taken: 10 present, 4 excused (Ed Lentz, Larry Nelson, Rick Nelson, Mark Wales). Minutes from January 12, 2010 were approved as read.

Treasurer's report approved as read in the January Voter's meeting.

- Special expense – called workers gift
- All other expenses were in line
- CLC offerings have been good

Pastors Report

- Pastor expressed thanks on behalf of all the called workers for the gifts they received from the congregation.
- Pastor will be preaching at the Sioux Falls congregation May 15 for their anniversary. He will find his own replacement.
- Lenten rotation is approaching; the subject matter will be the Beatitudes.
- Tim Stiller will be visiting from Australia during late April and early May. He will be invited to speak during bible class on Lutheranism in Australia.
- ILC Tour Choir is coming May 20.
- Pastor had hospital visits with Leota Schiermeister (former Vicar Scott Schiermeister's mother) while she was here. She has now returned to North Dakota.

Elder's Report

- Delta dental insurance plan premiums have increased by \$7.00 per month.
- In the future, Elders will continue to insure that Pastor has help with communion distribution, though it may not be by a member of the Board of Elders.

Board of Education Report

- Two microscopes have been purchased for the school.
- Minnesota Teachers Conference scheduled for Feb. 21 has been cancelled.
 - Much of the work historically done at conferences is now being done via e-mail.
 - Travel costs were cited as another consideration.
- There will be no kindergarten class next year.

- Budget consideration – no volunteer in place and can't afford a paid position.
- Only one family expressed interest in kindergarten next year.
- Discussion followed:
 - This could have a negative impact on future enrollment.
 - It would be too much of a burden for the two teachers to absorb the extra burden.

Trustee Report

- All window replacements have been installed.
- Work on details for replacement of two skylights continues.
- Changed garbage hauling service from Waste Management (\$249.00/mo.) to Walter's (\$64.00/mo.)
 - This change required payment of an Opt Out of Contract Fee of \$525.00 plus a dumpster pick up fee of \$125.00 but will help the congregation realize a significant savings in the near future.
- Floor in the fellowship hall needs a regular maintenance schedule; the board promised further research and proposal for a future meeting.
- Work Day announced for April 23.

New Business

- Paul Lentz noted a need to somehow record who carries the deposits to the bank. He cited two times in the last two months in which he bank reported no deposit and which required lots of time and effort to track down the "missing" deposit. In both cases, the deposit was found on the premises, but the process would have much easier if he had known of whom he should have made inquires.
 - Discussion about possible remedies followed.
 - Motion made, seconded, and passed to modify the offering database and the offering deposit report to include a new line - "Deposit carried to the bank by _____," which is to be completed by the counting teams.
- Al Rosendahl noted that every council member should have a copy of the Grace Lutheran Church Handbook. Benno Sydow will send each Council member an updated copy.
- Paul Lentz repeated his request for a key to the building. This led to a discussion about updating the list of key holders, the need to re-key the locks, etc. The Board of Trustees will consider the situation and report to the council at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 12:50

† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Larry Nelson

Ushers: Mark Wales, Don Auel, Ole Olmanson, Eli Wales, Brandt Wendland

Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker; Mark Wales

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

Church Cleaners: Sydow & Dahl School: Maki

† **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** †

Ushers: Mark Wales, Don Auel, Ole Olmanson, Eli Wales, Brandt Wendland

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

Hospitality Team 4: (BYE due to meal for class trip) Mark & Trudy Wales; Karen Auel; Bob & Suki Vandever

Church Cleaners: Sydow & Dahl School: Sandhoefner

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †

Today: 9:00 am – Sun. School & Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality

Wed., Feb. 23: 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Sun., Feb 27: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Sun. School & Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Meal & silent auction for the class trip

Wed., Mar. 9: 7:00 pm – Ash Wed. Worship (Midweek Lent Starts)

Last Week's Stats: Feb. 13, 2011 Sun.: 124 S.S.: 20 B.Cl.: 29

Week's Offering:	Grace:	\$2,796.58	CLC:	\$743.50
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,850.00	CLC:	960.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-53.42	CLC:	-216.50
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$19,476.89	CLC:	\$7,195.50
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	19,950.00	CLC:	6,720.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-473.11	CLC:	+475.50
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	25.00	Tuition:	35.00
GLC Other:	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00

*Grace Lutheran
Church & School*

AND NOW THESE THREE REMAIN:

*faith,
hope
and love.*

BUT THE GREATEST
OF THESE IS LOVE.

1 Corinthians 13:13

