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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)

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Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Lent 2

Date: March 20, 2011

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 121, p. 152*

Hymn: *TLH 389: Not What These Hands Have Done*

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

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

P: Remember, O Lord, Your great mercy and love;

C: For they are of old.

P: You who fear Him, trust in the Lord –

C: He is your help and shield.

P: The Lord remembers us and will bless us:

C: He will bless the house of Israel, He will bless the house of Aaron,

P: He will bless those who fear the Lord – small and great alike.

C: It is we who extol the Lord, both now and forevermore. Praise Him!

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 331, st. 7-8*

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee

For absolution full and free,

In which Thou showest forth Thy grace;

From false indulgence guard our race.

Praise God the Father and the Son

And Holy Spirit, Three in One,

As 'twas, is now, and so shall be

World without end, eternally!

First Reading: *Genesis 12:1-8*

The call of Abraham and the promises God made to him.

Gradual:

P: Oh, come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

C: The author and finisher of our faith,

P: Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning the shame,

C: And sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

P: Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death —

C: Even the death of the cross!

Second Reading: *John 4:5-26*

Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well, revealing that He is the Christ.

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

Hymn: *TLH 330: I Come to Thee, O Blessed Lord*

Sermon: *Romans 4:1-8*

(1) What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? (2) For if Abraham was justified by works, he has *something* to boast about, but not before God. (3) For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." (4) Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. (5) But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, (6) just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: (7) "Blessed *are those* whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; (8) Blessed *is the man* to whom the LORD shall not impute sin." (NKJV™)

"Is Your Account in Good

Standing with God?"

1. If by my works, then I'm in debt

2. If by God's grace, then I'm blessed

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 377, st. 1-3, 8-10: Salvation unto Us has Come*

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

Hymn: *WS 777: Amazing Grace*

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 †

- ◆ **Immanuel Tour Choir at Grace TONIGHT:** Grace of Fridley is very blessed to be able to host one of the concerts this year. The choir will be making its final stop at Grace **tonight at 7:00 pm**. Please make plans to be here to support the choir and to be spiritually uplifted by the sacred music. A free-will offering will be received. Our children have prepared to sing with the choir and are asked to be here at 6:30 pm to practice. Members are asked to bring a treat to share afterward. Committee #3 is hosting. Other CLC congregations are aware of this and we will likely get visitors. This event has also been published in a news release.
- ◆ **Midweek Lenten Services:** Our Midweek Lenten services are held at **7:00 pm on Wednesdays**. Our series this year is entitled, “Blessed Jesus, at Thy Cross,” Lenten meditations based on the Beatitudes. This coming Wed. Pastor David Baker from Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church in Red Wing will preach on, “Blessed are the Merciful.”
- ◆ **Lenten Soup Suppers** will be held before every Lenten service starting at 6 pm. If you are interested in bringing soup and/or serving at one or more supper(s), please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.
- ◆ **Student Fair:** This coming Friday, March 25, at 7 pm, the children of the Christian Day School will hold their student fair. The subject area this year is animals. Please come and support the school.
- ◆ **Note to Hospitality Teams:** Extra food for hospitality is no longer located in the freezer, but is located in the left side of the tall pantry cupboard. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Lentz.
- ◆ **Easter Flowers:** There is an Easter flower sign-up sheet on the cupboard in the narthex if you are interested in purchasing either an Easter Lily or other spring flower for our Easter service. Please see Jackie Radichel if you have any questions.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Caleb Schaller of Redemption in Lynnwood, WA, has received the call to Ascension in Batavia, IL (Chicago area).
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #24, Baptism 2

Last Week’s Stats: Mar. 13, 2011 Sun.: 90 S.S.: 14 B.Cl.: 33 Wed.: 62

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$1,865.00	CLC:	\$471.00	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	815.35	CLC:	151.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,850.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-169.65	CLC:	-338.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$31,187.80	CLC:	\$10,560.50	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	31,350.00	CLC:	10,560.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-162.20	CLC:	+0.50	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition:	295.00	
GLC Other:	53.00	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	0.00	IIF:	20.00
				CEF:	0.00

“HAS GOD INDEED SAID ...?”

The devil in the cloak of the serpent posed the question that ensnared Adam and Eve. Indeed God said, “... but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat...” (Genesis 2:17). Satan asked, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?” (Genesis 3:1)?

God had declared the consequence of disobedience. If Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, they would “surely die” (Genesis 2:17). Satan flatly contradicted God, “You will not surely die” (Genesis 3:4). God said what He meant, and meant what He said! With sin came death—spiritual, physical, and eternal. With the sin of Adam and Eve “... death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Romans 5:12).

But God is gracious. He gave to the fallen couple the wonderful promise of a Savior from sin. (Romans 5:18). He promised the Seed of the woman Who in suffering as man’s substitute under the divine law would suffer a bruised heel in the fearful battle through which He would deliver a mortal wound to the devil. To the devil He said, “He shall crush your head” (Genesis 3:15). The Seed of the woman was the Lord Jesus Christ through Whose righteous act “the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life” (Romans 5:18). While humanity must suffer the bitter consequence of sins in this life—the greatest of which is death—in Christ eternal death has been conquered and is no longer a threat to any who believe in Christ as John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” Yes, in Christ Jesus God the Father reconciled the whole world unto Himself (2 Corinthians 5:19). Blessed are all who by power of the Spirit believe the Gospel promise and believe in Him Who is the personification of the Gospel, for Scripture says, “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8: 1).

Mark records, “He who believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (16:16). John records, “God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:11, 12).

Nevertheless, unbelieving man out of the deceit of his own heart contradicts God as the devil did. We recently read (*St. Paul Pioneer Press* from the *New York Times*- 3/5/11) of a “most influential evangelical pastor” who has a problem with the teaching-- as he describes it-- that “a select few Christians” will go to heaven “while the rest of humanity spends forever in torment and punishment in hell with no chance for anything better.” He calls it “misguided and toxic.” Such a deceiver is neither a

Christian pastor nor an evangelical. He is a purveyor of death! Yes, in this world everyone is free to believe what he chooses to believe, and he is free to preach what he chooses to preach. But one who denies that only those who believe in Christ will go to heaven while those who reject Christ will go to hell is not a spokesman of God but makes of God a liar. This purveyor of false doctrine who is described as "part of the emerging church movement, which caters to younger believers" speaks the imagination of his own mind.

Does God the Father desire the eternal death of any sinner? Absolutely not! It is His desire that all people turn from their unbelief and wickedness and live (Ezekiel 33:11, 2 Peter 3:9). In this regard God again said what He meant, and meant what He said! For that very reason He promised the Savior, nurtured that promise through the Old Testament, and ultimately brought it to pass through the birth and the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Christ died for all!

So "Has God indeed said" that only believers in Christ Jesus will go to heaven and spend eternity with Him? "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'" (Matthew 25:34). "And thus we shall always be with the Lord" (2 Thessalonians 4:17). Has He said that those who deny and reject Him will go to hell for eternity "with no chance for anything better?" He will say to those who do[es] not have the Son of God (1 John 5:12) and who do not believe (Mark 16:16), "'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his wicked angels' ... And these will go away into everlasting punishment" (Matthew 25:41,46) from which there is no release (Luke 16:23-26).

The God of Scripture is the living God Who loves all. What more could He have done and offered to manifest that love and His desire for the salvation of the sinner? How much more could He have done than what He did?! Concerning both the salvation of those who believe in Him or the judgment of those who reject Him in unbelief, He is faithful to His Word!

People can deny the truth. They cannot change it! "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). Thus saith the Lord. Blessed are we and all who believe for we shall see heaven!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 3/20/2011

CLC E-Devotion

Friday, March 18, 2011

Luke 23:33 When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there.

WHO CRUCIFIED CHRIST?

The Romans nailed the crucified to their crosses. Jesus was no exception. So the question "Who Crucified Christ?" -- often asked in newspaper articles during this time of the year -- seems to be an easy one to answer.

But when we reread the Bible record we end up with an unusually long list of people whose "fingerprints were left at the scene." The executioner. The centurion in charge of the detail. Pontius Pilate, who ordered this man put to death. The Jewish leaders who first sentenced Him to death and inflamed the mob to pressure the Roman procurator to issue his verdict. The members of those crowds that cried for His blood. Judas who betrayed Him.

So no one person, no one sin is solely responsible. It is the doing of many, this nailing up of the Son of God. Also guilty of joining in are those standing at the foot of the cross and those unconcernedly going about their business in the city ... in Jerusalem ... and in Detroit ... in Minneapolis ... and in Seattle. Those sitting in pews ... and those standing in pulpits.

Annas and Caiphas, Pilate and the soldiers, Peter and the apostles. They were guilty of selfishness, pride and envy, of hatred, cruelty, slander and greed, of thoughtlessness and disloyalty. These sins nailed Christ to His cross. Sins of men long ago and today. Their sins and ours.

"Ah! I also and my sin wrought Thy deep affliction. This indeed the cause hath been of Thy crucifixion."

Jesus suffered and died to atone for our sins too. Our sins also nailed Him to that cross. The thought is terrible and true. Yet the cross of Christ does not fill us with despair and terror. Instead of shuddering, we sing:

We sing the praise of Him who died,
Of Him who died upon the tree
Here we see that God is love,
Christ bears our sins -- brings us mercy from above.

Council Meeting Notes – March 13, 2011

Meeting opened with prayer at 12:11. Roll Call taken. Minutes of 2/13/2011 council meeting were approved as read with one correction: The date of the ILC Tour Choir visit is March 20, not May 20.

Treasurer's Report:

- Giving for CLC is in line with our year-to-date goal.
- Paul asked for the council's direction on the placement of a memorial offering recently received. Direction was found in the GLC handbook and reaffirmed by the council and remained compliant with the expressed wishes of the donor.

Pastor's Report:

- The GLC Yearbook has been completed and distributed electronically to those who have e-mail, and published and placed in the narthex for members who desire the printed version.
- The Emergency Call List has been updated and distributed.
- Instruction classes for Rona Flesner and Alex Baker are going well and are 50% complete.

Board of Elders Report:

- The Easter Breakfast volunteer list has been posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board by Ed Lentz. Ed has also made arrangements for the food to be served at the breakfast.
- The Board is examining the new Federal Tax Credit associated with participation in the new Federal HealthCare Law.
 - ◆ Motion (by Paul Lentz) made, seconded, and passed: That investigation of the pros and cons, and ramifications of participation be conducted by an accountant to be hired by GLC.
 - ◆ Pastor raised a question: "How will this impact us doctrinally and in light of proper separation of church and state?"
 - ◆ Al Rosendahl recommended that the Board examine information on this topic recently published by the Missouri Synod.
- The CLC Convention Moderator has requested that congregations conduct a survey about lay delegate participation at CLC conventions. The Elders will present reaction to the Voters in April.
- Spokesman offer for a limited time: four free subscriptions. Benno volunteered to submit the request and assign the subscriptions.
- A review of attendance of 2010 Voters Meetings has been completed. No concerns were noted. There are now 37 members on the roster of voters.

Board of Education Report:

- Grading for the 4th period has been completed.
- A "Plan B" is being prepared in case inclement weather should affect the original plans for the class trip. The class trip fund-raising efforts were a success and provided funds to cover all activities planned.

- Preparations are being made for the school play.
- Ann Radichel will substitute teach for Janelle Hein on April 14 and 15.

Board of Trustees Report:

- Waiting for delivery of the four sky lights and good weather to complete the window project.
- A work day has been scheduled for April 23. It was noted that attendance at the last work day was extremely poor. Methods of getting the word out to the congregation were discussed.
- An updated list of key holders is being prepared.

Old Business

- Discussion of proposed constitutional and bylaw changes with regard to the configuration of the church council.
 - ◆ Feedback from the congregation: Council members are only aware of feedback from one person to date. They expressed concern over the reduction of board membership from three to two citing the work could be too much for two. This concern would be abated if the change included the addition of an ad-hoc member in the person of one of the annual officers.
 - ◆ Ed Lentz stressed the importance of the council reaching a consensus on the question before it comes to a vote at the voters meeting.
 - ◆ After some discussion, the council could not reach a consensus and deferred the question to the next council meeting.
- Proposed change to the wording in the GLC Handbook regarding the Tuition Aid Fund : Language change in two places replacing the word "tuition" with the words "room and board." The purpose of the change would be to maximize the tax benefits for students and their families.
 - ◆ Discussion followed on legal ramifications and proper wording.
 - ◆ There should be no impact on the church, but this change should benefit aid recipients.
 - ◆ Benno will formulate final wording and submit it for approval.

New Business

- Brandon requested that counters begin to consistently bundle offering envelopes with the date of the offering report exposed on the outside of the bundle for easy identification.
- Paul Lentz requested clarification and guidance from the council on two items.
 - ◆ Tour choir donations: From which budget is a supplement donation extracted should the amount collected at the concert prove insufficient? Answer - Board of Elders budget.
 - ◆ Stipend amount for non-called worker guest speakers: Should it be the same as that for called workers? Answer – Yes.

Adjourned with prayer at 1:28.

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Maureen Ochsner Elder: Frank Radichel

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

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

Hospitality Team 1: Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice
Sandhoefner

Church Cleaners: Rosendahl School: Story

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

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

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

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

Church Cleaners: Rosendahl School: Story

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Sun. School & Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality
6:30 pm – Children Practice with Tour Choir
7:00 pm – Immanuel Tour Choir Concert @ Grace

Wed., Mar. 23: 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
6:00 pm – Lenten Soup Supper
7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship Service

Fri., Mar. 25: 7:00 pm – Grace School Student Fair

Sun., Mar. 27: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sun. School & Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality

April 8-9: Grace School Upper Grade Class Trip

Fri., April 15: Immanuel High School Visitors Day

Fri., April 22: 7:00 pm – Good Friday Worship w/Lord's Supper

Sat., April 23: 9:00 am – Grace Work Day

Sun., Apr. 24: 7:30 am – Easter Breakfast
9:00 am – Easter Worship

Grace Lutheran Church & School



FOR THE WAGES
OF SIN IS DEATH,
BUT THE GIFT OF GOD
IS ETERNAL LIFE IN

Christ Jesus
O U R L O R D .

ROMANS 6:23, NIV