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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: Lent 4 Date: April 3, 2011

✠ **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** ✠

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 42-43, p. 133*

Hymn: *TLH 4: God Himself Is Present*

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

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

P: The Lord is my strength and my shield;
C: My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped.
 P: The Lord is the strength of His people,
C: A fortress of salvation for His anointed one.
 P: Save Your people and bless Your inheritance;
C: Be their shepherd and carry them forever. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 245, st. 1,6*

1. God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.

6. Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To Thee, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

First Reading: *Hosea 5:15-6:3*

Spirit-led repentance brings spiritual healing.

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: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
C: That whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Second Reading: *Romans 8:1-10*

With no condemnation through Christ, we are to walk by the Spirit.

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

Hymn: *TLH 403: Savior, Thy Dying Love*

Sermon: *Mark 10:42-45*

(42) But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. (43) "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. (44) "And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. (45) "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (NKJVTM)

Climbing Down the Ladder of Christianity

1. In the kingdom of the world, everyone scrambles for the top
2. In the kingdom of God, Christ calls us to the bottom!

Offertory: *TLH p. 22 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 390: Drawn to the Cross*

Offering & Prayer:

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

Distribution: *TLH 171: Upon the Cross Extended*

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 †

- ◆ **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 Fleischer will preach on, "Blessed are the pure in heart."
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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 Breakfast:** A sign up sheet is posted in the fellowship hall for those willing to volunteer to help at the breakfast.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Arise and Shine Retreat:** A retreat to strengthen and encourage those in their 20's and 30's. Thursday June 9th - Sunday June 12th. Camp JIM in Pillager, MN (about 1 hour north of St. Cloud). Registration is open! 2011 info has been updated at www.ariseandshineretreat.com. This year's theme is "The Struggle between Fear and Faith" based on Mark 9:24, "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief!" To inquire about a scholarship, please email Alana at alanaahrens@yahoo.com.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #25, Sacrament of Altar 1

Last Week's Stats: Mar. 27, 2011 Sun.: 112 S.S.: 18 B.Cl.: 39 Wed.: 70					
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,438.51	CLC:	\$767.00	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	910.91	CLC:	500.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,850.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+499.32	CLC:	+307.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$37,370.77	CLC:	\$12,763.50	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	37,050.00	CLC:	12,480.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+320.77	CLC:	+283.50	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	25.00	Tuition:	225.00	
GLC Other:	80.45	MDF:	5.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	270.00	ILC Bldg.	115.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 3.00

* Correction from last week: \$1,303 was donated to the Immanuel Tour Choir, not \$2,488. A software glitch caused this error.



DENOMINATION DOES NOT MEAN DOMINATION:

In Bible class a question was asked about nondenominational churches. Shortly thereafter *Newsmax* (4-11) reported that, according to a recent Baylor Survey on Religion, nondenominational congregations represent the fastest growing group of Protestant churches in America. So what is a nondenominational church?

There is no easy definition of such churches in this age anymore than there is a clear definition of a Lutheran church. "Nondenominational" generally refers to one of two forms of independence: theological or ecclesiastical polity. Such independence may come about because of a religious disagreement or a distinction on how congregations govern themselves.

Nondenominational churches generally reject the idea of a formalized denominational structure as a matter of principle, holding that each congregation must be autonomous. They claim no legitimate authority of the church beyond the local congregation. Members of non-denominational churches often consider themselves simply "Christian." They claim that description defines the purest form of fellowship. Being autonomous congregations, however, does not necessarily mean that they have no association with others of their kind. One pastor of such a church said, "We belong to a loose group of (300) churches ... very loosely structured. We don't have any overseer. We do share a common statement of faith. Although the individual practices within the churches might vary." Another said, "... Each church is autonomous and each church is self-governing. It is, however, an association of churches ... It is an association of like-minded fellowships that associate with each other because they have the same philosophy."

Finally another said, "Being a part of the organization that I am, every church is independent. You're part of an organization but we're (the congregation is) independent. So we're not being dictated to by the organization on what to do and how to do it and all. It just becomes a body where we are organized and have the strength, being strong for unity, for advice. We have counseling where we can advise, but we cannot make the churches do anything ... The individual churches own their own property. They have their own constitution."

(Above quotes from on-line sources)

Nondenominational churches tend to be strong on “What would Jesus do?” religion, rather than on substantive law and gospel preaching. Their emphasis on Christian living diminishes the preaching of sin and grace. Many are heavy on emotion without an understanding of the means of grace—the gospel in Word and Sacrament. The biblical teaching of fellowship as the joint worship and church work of hearts and minds united in teaching “all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20) is foreign to them though they “associate with each other because they have the same philosophy.”

We are a Christian Church. However, since that description is used so loosely it is essential that we define what our confession is both in the world at large as well as in the church world. That in itself sets us apart from nondenominational churches.

We are Lutheran. That is our denomination. Within the denomination known as Lutheran, there are many different beliefs and confessions. The days are long gone, if ever they were, when it is enough to say, “I am a Lutheran.”

Congregations of our particular fellowship are members of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC). Each congregation joined the CLC voluntarily. Each congregation within the CLC is autonomous -- self governing. The CLC does not dictate to member congregations “what to do and how to do it.” Each congregation confesses the Word of God as divinely inspired and inerrant. Each believes that God-pleasing fellowship is based upon the whole Word of God, and recognizes the authority of Scripture in all things. Each congregation accepts the instruction of the Lord through the apostle Paul “that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and the same judgment” (1 Corinthians 1:10) in matters of doctrine. Most notably we of the CLC are bound by Scripture and the confessions of the *Book of Concord* of 1580, the latter because they are drawn from the Bible and are solidly built on the foundation of Holy Scripture. The CLC has one rightful expectation of its congregations, namely, that each faithfully confesses and teaches the Word of God, and hand in hand with that, that its practice supports its confession!

All congregations voluntarily subscribe to the statement: “It is our single purpose to be a Christian church that proclaims the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible. This Gospel is the only way people can know the true God and the way to eternal life ...

We reject the idea of some that the main work of the church is to promote political and social causes. Our right of existence as a church body has been established by our Lord’s commission to “*preach the gospel to every creature*” (Mark 16:15). Therefore we are committed to say with the Apostle Paul: ‘*I am determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified*’ (1 Corinthians 2:2). As individuals, Christians will show fruits of their faith by concern for social and political issues, letting their light shine before others to the glory of God” (*CLC Statement of Faith and Purpose*).

Each CLC congregation conducts its own ministry and in Christian love is committed to engage in mutual activities and work as determined in a representative convention. As the Lord gives the ability, each congregation is determined to participate in educational and mission programs consistent with programs agreed upon in convention. The first question we ask is not “What does the CLC (synod) say?” or “What is Lutheran?” but “What does Scripture say?” In matters to which Scripture speaks we are bound by what Scripture says. In such matters that Scripture does not address there is freedom to pursue the course we choose. We are bound only to minister to the glory of God and in mutual love for one another within the fellowship.

Being a member of a specific fellowship within the denomination known as Lutheran identifies us in contrast to nondenominational churches with no identifiable confessional position. As the Word of God is faithfully taught among us, we are not ashamed to be identified by such as say, “O, you are the Lutheran church that teaches ...”

Others, whether denominational or nondenominational, may hide their identity in interest of attracting people. We are not nondenominational nor do we desire to be. We are Lutheran, and within that denomination we are a confessional Lutheran Church. Over 100 years ago a conservative Lutheran theologian C. P. Krauth wrote — and it is even truer in our apostate age, “The signs of the times must be lost on our people if they are not waked up to a more just appreciation of their Church”(*Conservative Reformation and its Theology*, p. 161).

Our position before the world is: We **dare not** hide our identity! We **cannot** do so and still claim to be faithful to our Lord, or to the Reformation legacy that is ours.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 4/2011

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

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

Church Cleaners: M. & T. Wales School: K. & T. Baker

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

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 4: Mark & Trudy Wales; Karen Auel; Bob &
Suki Vandever

Church Cleaners: M. & T. Wales School: K. & T. Baker

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Sun. School & Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
11:15 am – Hospitality

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

April 8-9: Grace School Upper Grade Class Trip

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

Fri., April 15: Immanuel High School Visitors Day

April 15 & 16: 7:30 pm – ILC Play: "Charlie Brown"

Sun., April 17: PALM SUNDAY
11:30 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

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

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

Sun., Apr. 24: EASTER
7:30 am – Easter Breakfast
9:00 am – Easter Worship (Please note time)

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Whoever

wants to

become great

among you

Mark 10:43

must be your

servant.