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Grace Lutheran Church & School

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Home Page: www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org
Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635) **Phone:** 763-784-8784
School Phone: 763-784-6340 **Grades:** 1st-8th
Church Year: Pentecost 9 **Date:** August 14, 2011

As with all gifts from God, prayer is one that is beneficial for our well-being. We have a line of communication with the Lord which is always open and always functional. The Holy Spirit provides us this access, even when we are speechless before God. May the Holy Spirit communicate with your heart this morning as you listen to the Word of our Lord.



† **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 18, p. 125 f.*
Hymn: *TLH 234: Holy Ghost, with Light Divine*
Liturgy: *TLH, p. 5 ff. (Also available on laminated sheet in pew)*
Introit (*followed by Gloria Patri, The Kyrie*): *TLH, pp. 6-7*
P: Your Word is a lamp to my feet
C: And a lamp to my path.
P: Teach me Your way, O Lord, and I will walk in Your truth;
C: Give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name.
P: I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart;
C: For great is Your love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave. Glory be to God!
Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 508, st. 1, 4*
**C: Thou whose almighty word Chaos and darkness heard
And took their flight, Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the Gospel day Sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light!**

**Holy and blessed Three, Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might! Boundless as ocean's tide,
Rolling in fullest pride, Thro' the earth, far and wide,
Let there be light!**

First Reading: *Joel 3:12-16*
The harvest of the Last Day is prophesied even in the Old Testament.

Gradual:
P: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
C: His greatness no one can fathom.
P: I will meditate on Your wonderful works,
C: And I will proclaim Your great deeds.
P: Alleluia. Alleluia. My Word that goes forth from My mouth ...
**C: It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Alleluia.**

Second Reading: *Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*
The Lord Jesus tells a parable about the great harvest that will occur at the end of the world. Jesus then explains that this harvest will occur when He comes again. The tares (weeds) are those doomed to eternal punishment, the grain are those reserved for eternal life. The warning here is to watch out lest one lose his faith. The comfort here is the Lord takes home those who are His.

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

Hymn: *TLH 457: What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Sermon: *Romans 8:26-27*
(26) Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (27) Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God.*

***SPEECHLESS BEFORE GOD?
THE GREAT COMMUNICATOR STEPS IN!***

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*
Hymn: ... *TLH 226, st. 1, 4-7: Come, Oh, Come, Thou Quickening Spirit*
Offering, Prayers, Benediction: *TLH p. 14*
Hymn: *WS 785: Children of the Heavenly Father*

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Baptisms:** This afternoon Alexandra and Alex Baker will be baptized in a private service here at church. Alexandra is daughter to Kevin and Tracy Baker. Their other children, Patrick and Kathleen, are non-member children attending Grace school. Such contact has led to this wonderful gift of God's grace! In addition, Alex Baker is engaged to be married to Bonnie Story and is also brother to Kevin. Alex has been taking instruction and desired to be baptized upon learning about it. He is not far from concluding his instruction. We praise God for how He leads people to be connected to the Means of Grace!
- ◆ **Memorial Service:** This past Wednesday Matthew Snyder was found dead in his apartment. He had been having challenges with seizures. Matthew had been faithfully attending services in Eden Prairie and recently (at our July voters meeting) became a member at Grace through his profession of faith. His Memorial Service is planned for this coming Wednesday, August 17, 2011, at 1:00 pm. It will be held where Matthew attended worship, at Albin Chapel: 6855 Rowland Road; Eden Prairie, MN 55344. Cards may be sent to Matthew's parents: John & Carol Snyder; 5000 Acorn Ridge; Minnetonka, MN 55345. 2 Timothy 1:10: Our Savior Jesus Christ ... has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel ...
- ◆ **Thanks:** to all those who helped out with the school cleaning yesterday. A lot was accomplished!
- ◆ **Sunday School:** Those interested in teaching Sunday School this coming year may speak with Pastor or with superintendent Rick Nelson.
- ◆ **VBS Crafts:** Some various craft projects are found on a table in the fellowship hall. Please make sure you have your child's as those left over will be disposed.
- ◆ **ILC Opening:** The Monday morning (Aug 22) Opening Service of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will be streamed with live video. You may find the link at www.ilc.edu. The service is scheduled to begin at 9:55 am.
- ◆ **You can be a Lifesaver!** We will be holding a blood drive here at church on September 25th. The purpose of this drive is simply to raise awareness for the need for blood. Before Memorial Blood Center will commit to bringing their bus here, we have to verify that there is enough interest. There is a sign-up sheet by the guest book. This does not mean you are committed to that date. We are simply showing MBC that we have enough willing individuals. Please talk with Rick Nelson if you have any questions.
- ◆ **Golf Tournament:** Details about the annual Snell Memorial golf outing are found in brochures by the guest book. The event will be held Saturday, Sept. 24.
- ◆ **Women's Retreat:** Fun and learning awaits you at our 7th annual Women's Retreat in Chadron, Nebraska. Send your registration form to Kay Morrison (402-376-1549) in Valentine, before August 19th. If you need a registration form call Tracy Ohlmann at 402-376-1391. The dates of the Retreat are Sept. 9, 10, and 11th, 2011. We hope to see you there.
- ◆ **Professor Nominations:** The Board of Regents for Immanuel Lutheran College invites "all pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession" (CLC Constitution) to nominate an individual or individuals to fill the vacancy which will be created on the ILC faculty by the retirement of Professor Michael Buck at the end of the 2011-12 school year. The man (men) nominated must be able to teach biology, physical science, and health at both the high school and college levels. Duties will commence with the 2012-13 school year. Those placing nominations are encouraged to include information regarding their nominee's educational background and teaching experience. They may also indicate how their nominee(s) might help our school in supervising extracurricular activities or serving in administrative positions. Please send your nominations, postmarked or e-mailed no later than August 20, 2011, to: Mr. Craig Ryan, secretary; ILC Board of Regents; 499 Country Lane; Fulda, MN 56131. cryan@page1printers.com
- ◆ **Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day:** Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day is November 11th beginning at 10:05 a.m. in the ILC filedhouse for chapel. It will feature presentations and classroom visits until 2:50 p.m. Come and learn more about your church's college and a continuing education with Christ. We will attempt to provide lodging, if needed, Thursday or Friday nights for those attending College Visitor's Day and these visitors will be our guests at meals. (No special activity is planned for Thursday evening.) Friday evening there is also the opportunity to see the ILC fall play. It will be performed both Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m. A band concert will precede it both nights at 7:00 p.m. Speak with your pastor about questions and attendance. Someone please convey attendance information and any housing requests to Prof. John Ude, the ILC academic dean, before November 9th. His ILC office phone is 715-836-6631, home phone is 715-955-4127, and e-mail is john.ude.ilc@gmail.com.
- ◆ **Mission Helper:** David Lueck (member of Immanuel, Mankato, MN) is currently serving as a (self-funded) Mission Helper in India while Pastors Koenig and Ude are back in the U.S. on furlough. You can read of his work and travels on his blog at: <http://lueck.lutheranmissions.org/>.
- ◆ **Call News:** Pastor John Schierenbeck of Immanuel at Winter Haven, FL, has received the call to Prince of Peace at Hecla, SD.

EDUCATING THE CHILDREN (II):

Education of the children, in the secular or spiritual realm begins at home. Nevertheless when they attain a certain age, they go off to school. Schools in reality are not replacements for the home, but are assistants to the parents with whom lies the responsibility to educate their children. Unfortunately, too many parents have abdicated their responsibility in the home and turned it over willingly or by default to schools, and thereby in the public sector to the government which is becoming more and more intrusive in our lives. The breakdown of home life, as well as the government's intrusiveness is sadly evident in the poor education of the youth of this country. We do not lay this at the feet of the competent teachers who teach, but at the feet of political forces inside the schools, administration, and teacher organizations as well as on the system and philosophy of secular and humanistic education. And yes, recently we witnessed the spectacle of teachers outside the schools with protest signs because they felt abused. Is that the message we want the teacher to give our child. What is the message? "If you do not get your way, protest, skip class, stand on the curb." Enough of that! Observant parents who care about their children can observe what is happening.

We recognize that many fine teachers in the public sector are themselves frustrated by the rampant political correctness, inability to exercise discipline, lack of positive parental involvement, and the general disrespect of authority on the part of many students. We know of such a teacher who a few years ago at the behest of a meddling parent had to teach with the parent's lawyer in the classroom with the child.

Martin Luther recognized the value of general education for boys and girls. He said, "You parents cannot prepare a more dependable treasure for your children than an education in the liberal arts. House and home burn down and disappear, but an education is easy to carry off" (WLS, Vol. I, p. 447). But he also declared that there is no thorough education without religion. "Above all things, the principle and most important subject of study, both in the higher and lower schools, should be the Holy Scriptures" (p. 449). So he advised that no one send his child where the Word of God does not rule.

If that was true in Luther's day, it is true if not more so today. Government schools to a great extent have become workshops of social engineering—the aforementioned teacher was in a school that recently was beset by the ACLU defending the introduction of a club for homosexuals in the school. While political correctness has run amok in the schools, teachers reference God in the school at their own risk. No Christian parents dare turn their children's education over to the schools (any school—including Christian schools!) without being observant and involved in the education of their child. Again, remember, education begins in the home. Simply to turn the child over to the schools is an abdication of one's parental responsibility before God!

We do not apologize for encouraging that *where possible* Christian parents make use of the Christian day school in their congregation and Immanuel Lutheran College, at very least, for the high school years (ILHS). We do not say this because the teachers are necessarily better teachers or more competent than teachers in the public sector. But we do know that teachers who teach under a divine call know they are responsible for the spiritual welfare of the children under their

care. We further know that everything from math to history to science is taught from recognition of the Lord's hand. How can history or science be taught meaningfully without recognizing the hand of the Lord? We also know that under the authority of Holy Scriptures children are brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Luther said again "Human reason teaches only the hand and foot of a man; God alone touches the heart" (p. 450).

Sitting at the feet of the Lord in religion class, students are confronted with the law of God- what is right and wrong in His sight. Yes, they are confronted with God's judgment against sin. But they also find their comfort in the message of the gospel—Jesus died on the cross to take away their sin and prepare for them a place in heaven. They learn that moral living is not an option, but a fruit of faith. True love is not self-serving, but a reflection of the Savior's love for them. Yes, they learn that they are sinners who daily need to go to the Lord in repentance. By the same Word they learn that God is gracious and merciful.

What they learn in a Christian Day school or at ILHS is nothing that they have not learned in a Christian home from faithful parents. It is reinforcement of that which they have been taught by faithful parents.

What any student gets from school depends to a great extent on what he puts into it, as well as on the interest parents put in the student's education! But we can say assuredly that in our Christian schools, students are not confronted with the contradictions that confronted one student many years ago. Albeit it, it was in college, but he was told that by the time he graduated he would no longer believe what he had been taught in his youth. Sadly, in this case he didn't! Why place young and impressionable children in harm's way?

It takes a great commitment on the part of a congregation, a church- body, and above all on parents to support and utilize our schools. It takes a commitment of time and money on the part of parents. It is not easy for parents to send a child off to ILHS, away from home for the school months. But those who do are acknowledging that it is worth it because public schools at any level "can never thoroughly tell us what sin and righteousness are in the eyes of God, how we can get rid of sins, become pious and just before God, and pass from death into life ..." (p. 449). These are found in the Bible alone, said Luther. We well know that the Bible is not and cannot be included in the curricula of public schools! Yet we know that public education is rife with religion- the religion of secular humanism and evolution from which our children can be protected only in our Christian schools and at ILHS.

Speaking of commitment, parents who cannot utilize our schools are to be commended for home schooling their children, especially as that effort includes keeping their children in touch with the Word at home and in church.

We appreciate the fact that not every parent who would like to is able to utilize the education our Christian schools offer. But we certainly hope and pray that the thought will not be simply rejected without prayer and meditation in the Word. We pray that no one fails to use our schools under the mistaken notion that they do not measure up to the real needs of God's children. The real need is the educating of our children unto salvation, as well as clothing them in the armor of God to resist and stand against the arrows of the evil one.

The wisdom of the Lord is life to the soul. Whatever the circumstance, parents, let the Word of God be the foundation of your life and of the educational life of the children God has placed under your care.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 7/2011

† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

Organist: Maureen Ochsner *Elder:* Larry Nelson
Ushers: Benno Sydow, Brian Eichstadt, Gary Gunther, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter, Larry Nelson
Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Michael Ude

Church Cleaners: Ochsner

† **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** †

Ushers: Benno Sydow, Brian Eichstadt, Gary Gunther, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter, Larry Nelson
Counting Team 4: Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner

Church Cleaners: P. Radichel

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †

Today: 9:00 am – Worship Service
 11:00 am – Council Meeting
Mon., Aug. 15: 7:00 pm – Grace School Ice Cream Social
Wed., Aug. 17: 1:00 pm – Matthew Snyder Memorial Service
Sun., Aug. 21: 9:00 am – Worship Service
Mon., Aug. 22: 9:55 am – Opening Service at ILC
Mon., Aug. 29: 8:00 am – Opening Service for Grace School
Wed., Aug. 31: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
Sat., Sept. 24: Snell Memorial Open (Golf – details forthcoming)

Last Week's Stats: August 7, 2011 Sun.: 144

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,159.80	CLC:	\$626.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,850.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+309.80	CLC:	-334.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$92,289.60	CLC:	\$27,534.50	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	91,200.00	CLC:	30,720.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+1,089.60	CLC:	-3,185.50	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	5.00	Tuition Aid:	205.00	
GLC Other:	15.00	MDF:	105.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	16.00	ILC Bldg.	58.00	IIF: 5.00	CEF: 15.00

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9

GRACE

*Grace Lutheran
 Church & School*



The Spirit also helps in our weaknesses ...

Romans 8:26
