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# Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE

Fridley, MN 55432

Email: [jphein@clclutheran.com](mailto:jphein@clclutheran.com)

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

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



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

Phone: 763-784-8784

School Phone: 763-784-6340

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

Church Year: Epiphany 1

Date: January 8, 2012

## † THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: ..... *Psalm 45, TLH p. 133*

Hymn: ..... *TLH 130: O Jesus, King of Glory*

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

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

P: Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel,

**C: Who alone does marvelous deeds.**

P: You are the most excellent of men and Your lips have been anointed with grace.

**C: Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever.**

P: A scepter of righteousness will be the scepter of Your kingdom.

**C: You love righteousness and hate wickedness.**

P: Therefore God, Your God, has set You above Your companions ...

**C: By anointing You with the oil of joy! Glory be to God!**

Gloria in Excelsis: ..... *TLH 131, st. 5*

All glory, Jesus, be to Thee For this Thy glad epiphany;

Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Ghost forevermore.

First Reading: ..... *Acts 10:34-38*

Peter preaches that Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power.

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. The Father said to Me, "You are My servant, Israel, ...

**C: In Whom I will display My splendor." Alleluia.**

Second Reading: ..... *Matthew 3:13-17*

Jesus' baptism begins His ministry.

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

Hymn: ..... *TLH 134: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

Sermon: ..... *Isaiah 42:1-4*

(1) "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. (2) He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. (3) A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. (4) He will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands shall wait for His law." (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

## The Right Man for the Job

I. Jesus has the right qualifications

II. Jesus has the right attitude

III. Jesus gets the right results

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

Hymn: ..... *TLH 129: Hail, Thou Source of Every Blessing*

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

Closing Hymn: ..... *TLH 359: Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

*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 speak with you!*

**Christ is the Center of All Our Hope:** He who does not believe, or will not believe, that Jesus is the Messiah need not know who or where his mother is. Aye, it were better for him never to have heard one word of Scripture; and even better for him if he had not been born. For God has made everything depend on this Man, has directed everything, has turned everything, has given everything into His hand. He who has Him is to have all; he who does not have Him is to have nothing. – Martin Luther

## † THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Among Us:** As announced last Sunday, Don Dahlin has been diagnosed with liver cancer. He is undergoing further tests prior to treatment. Sue Anne Kirkham is undergoing tests to rule out lymphoma and determine why she has a reduced white blood count. This past week Lyle LaCroix was hospitalized due to the flu. Barb and Benno Sydow were blessed with a grandson last Sunday, January 1, 6:05 pm, 8 lbs., 21 inches, Jack Michael Fitzgerald, son of Gretchen and Scott. Psalm 27:1: "The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?"
- ◆ **Funeral:** Former Grace member, Erma Tiefel, mother of Peter Fleischer and Pastor Emeritus Daniel Fleischer, passed away peacefully to eternal glory on Tuesday afternoon, January 3. A worship service of her victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil will be held tomorrow, January 9, 1:30 pm, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato, MN. Visitation will start at 12:30 pm. Following the service light refreshments will be served in the church parlors. (1 Corinthians 15:54-57) So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." (55) "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" (56) The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. (57) But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ◆ **Labels for Education Update:** Campbell's® Labels (also Post,® Bic, Glad,® Emerald,® Dannon®) news. 2,130 UPCs were banked before Dec. 31. That qualified us for another 1,000 UPC bonus. Keep the UPCs coming! Also, check your local newspaper this weekend on January 8, 2012 for the special *Labels for Education*® 100 point bonus offer collection sheet! Help boost our school's earnings. Details and delicious recipes will be posted by the collection bin.
- ◆ **Quilt Day:** Back by popular demand, on Sat., January 14, those who are interested are invited to help assemble two quilts for the ILC after-banquet party. We will be making a sunny stars quilt and a double Irish chain quilt. We hope to start bright and early at 9:00 am and stay until the projects are completed. Please bring something to add to the lunch menu. Sewing machines, irons, ironing boards, and cutting tools will be needed. - Ann Radichel
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #15, First Article, Part 2

## NO RELIGION or WHICH RELIGION

Karl Marx, the preeminent socialist thinker whose philosophy is the foundation and philosophy of many on the political and religious "left" said, "The first requisite for the happiness of the people is the abolition of religion" (Google search). Whether or not the left would identify with the quote, it does reveal a degree of ignorance in their hero. To even suggest it is possible to abolish religion is absurd. By definition religion is the recognition of a supreme being, or a god or gods. It is the practice of sacred rites or observances. It is the recognition of a controlling power in the lives of men which elicits from them a show of reverence or worship.

Adam and Eve were religious before the fall as well as after the fall. Sadly, Satan enticed them with his own religion when he told them that if they ate of the forbidden fruit they would become as gods, and would be as wise as God. Inexplicably they listened! Graciously the Lord reclaimed them from the consequence of their fall into sin. Nevertheless, since the fall every human conceived and born in the natural manner is born in sin.

Natural man is incurably religious but the religion of natural man is false. Paul said to the Athenians: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD ..." (Acts 17:22-23). He proceeded to tell them the truth.

There are two religions in the world. One is heathenism, the other Christianity. Both, though diametrically opposed to each other, will endure until the end of time. That which is established on Christ will prevail!

Within heathenism there are myriad manifestations of idolaters and idolatrous practices. Every heathen culture has a god and is religious. Heathen build idols, offer sacrifices, and engage in all manner of incantations and activities in order to appease their supreme being. They do so out of fear because they cannot quite rid themselves of the thought that they may have to face a judge who will determine their fate after death. Even those who deny the existence of the God of Scripture and/or reject Him are religious, including Karl Marx. Atheism claims there is no God. Atheists are liars. They have a god. It is their corrupt reason. They are gods unto themselves. Heathenism of which evolution is one tenet is the product of corrupt minds, fanciful imaginations, and subjective feelings which are in a constant state of flux. In so far as the public education system in our land *promotes evolution, secularism, and humanism* it supports heathen philosophy and leads away from the true God.

Secularism: secular spirit or tendency, especially a system of political or social philosophy that rejects all forms of religious faith and worship; The view that public education and other matters of civil policy should be conducted without the introduction of a religious element.

Humanism: any system or mode of thought or action in which human interests, values, and dignity predominate.

Philosophy: a variety of ethical theory and practice that emphasizes reason, scientific inquiry, and human fulfillment in the natural world and often rejects the importance of belief in God.

The following quote is a strong indictment of heathenism: "There is one single fact which one may oppose to all the wit and argument of infidelity, namely, that no

man ever repented of being a Christian on his death bed" (Hannah More in note on page 246 of *What Luther Says*, Volume 1).

To define Christianity we turn to Scripture. The very term "Christianity" defines the substance of what it is in its pure form. "No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11). There is no *Christianity* without *Christ* Jesus. The Christian faith is built upon the "foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:20). Christianity is not a religion of works, but of faith, of trust in Christ: (*What is Christianity?* Pieper, p. 5). True Christianity has as its foundation and its power divine revelation. It rests on an objective Word, the Word of God which does not change.

Biblical Christianity proclaims God's Law which uncovers sin and condemns the sinner. Such preaching serves the Gospel. The primary emphasis of Christian teaching is the message of eternal salvation. Man's radical need was addressed only through the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus Christ. He took man's sin on Himself and by His perfect life, His shed blood, His innocent suffering and death, and triumphant resurrection from the dead has reconciled the world unto God. Salvation is by *grace through faith* in the Lord Jesus Christ as Scripture clearly teaches (Ephesians 2:8). Our Lord declared that this Gospel should be preached in all the world (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15)

However, honesty compels us to recognize that within the broad definition of religion there are many different ideas and teachings that are promoted in the name of Christianity by those who without attachment to a church claim to be Christian, as well as by churches which claiming the Christian name nevertheless promote and emphasize another gospel, social gospel.

Social gospel: the social teachings of Jesus and their applicability to public life.

Social gospel fellowships point to James: "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble" (James 1:27). What they conveniently choose to forget is that the sanctified Christian life which exercises itself in such work of love is an exercise or fruit of faith. It is not the primary essence of Christianity but the beautiful and pure expression of faith which is rooted in Christ and draws its nourishment from Christ. Works themselves do not define Christianity. Faith and trust in Christ does!

The question is not whether religion in the broad sense or Christianity itself will be abolished. It won't! What is essential is that we who confess the Christian faith understand the difference between religion which is of man and glorifies man, and that which is of God and testifies of the true God. That which is of man is rampant heathenism and continues in our age as it has since the fall into sin. It is also our challenge in this "religious" age to distinguish the true expression of the Christian faith which is of God, and which glorifies God, and our Savior Jesus Christ from the counterfeit Christianity that proclaims another gospel.

The Church in Pergamos was told, "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is." In the face of that reality may it also be said of us, "And you hold fast to My name and did not deny the faith ..." (Revelation 2:13). In order that we may stand against the wiles of the devil, and hold fast the true Christian faith, "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16). To that end "... give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine" (1 Timothy 4:13).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 1/2012

## Voters Meeting Notes – December 18, 2011

The meeting opened with prayer. The November minutes were approved.

### Treasurer's Report:

- Expenses and income were good for November.
- Offerings to CLC were slightly low but remained close to target.
- Offering counting and deposit errors reported by the bank remain at an average of one per month.

### Pastor's Report:

- Pastor is working on a number of issues which he is unable to discuss presently. Pastor requested that we all keep our fellow congregation members in prayer.
- The expense for the bus to the concert at ILC has been paid (\$632.00). Pastor reported that this expense was usually more than covered by special donations, but donations for this year were low.

### Elder's Report:

- 2012 Calendar: There is no New Years Eve service this year because a regular Sunday worship follows the next day. Should we continue with a policy of not conducting a New Years Eve service when it falls on a Saturday? The consensus was yes.

### Board of Education Report:

- Singing at Northtown by the school children is suspended for this year.
- Treat bags for the children to be passed out on Christmas Eve.
- Four school desks have been purchased to replace some of the oldest.
- Deliberations continue with regard to offering Kindergarten for the next school year. A definitive decision will be made in February or March.
- Work continues on a flyer promoting the school.
- Two new students, Abiygal and Uriah Cook, began attending Grace School. They are non-members whose father is pastor of a non-denominational church. Their mother will be a volunteer assistant for some classes. With this addition, the school now has 9 students.
- A discussion followed around the question of permitting non-members to serve as classroom assistants in a volunteer capacity.

### Board of Trustees Report:

- Work continues on an Abuse & Harassment Policy.
- The cry room crib is to in compliance with current safety regulations.

### New Business:

- A new usher team list has been posted.
- A new program for counting and processing the offerings has been written for Phil Radichel. Phil will give a demonstration in the future.
- Pastor reported his accountable expenses for the year: travel - \$ 6,000; professional services - \$1,800; health care not covered by insurance - \$3,600; and, parsonage exclusion - \$1,200.

Adapted from minutes written by Secretary Jack Kirkham

† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

Organist: Maureen Ochsner     Elder: Larry Nelson  
Ushers: Roger Ochsner, Jeremiah Boe, Don Dahlin, Arnold Gehrls, Bob Maki, John Maki, Joel Stifter  
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: Paplow     School: Cook

† **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** †

Ushers: Roger Ochsner, Jeremiah Boe, Don Dahlin, Arnold Gehrls, Bob Maki, John Maki, Joel Stifter  
Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel; Pat Paplow  
Hospitality Team 4: Mark & Trudy Wales; Karen Auel; Bob & Suki Vandever  
Church Cleaners: Kirkham     School: Cook

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †

**Today:** 10:00 am – Worship Service  
 11:15 am – Hospitality  
 12:00 Council Meeting  
**Mon., Jan. 9:** 1:30 pm – Erma Tiefel Funeral  
**Wed., Jan. 11:** 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class  
**Sat., Jan. 14:** 9:00 am – Quilt Day  
**Sun., Jan. 15:** 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class  
 10:00 am – Worship Service  
 11:15 am – Hospitality  
 11:30 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings  
**Sat., Jan. 28:** 9:00 am – Congregational Work Day  
**Wed., Feb. 22:** Ash Wednesday

**Last Week's Stats:** Jan. 1, 2012 Sun.: 88

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,127.60	CLC:	\$935.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,030.00	CLC:	960.00*
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-902.40	CLC:	-25.00
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	25.00	Tuition:	210.00
GLC Other: 50.00	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid: 120.00	ILC Bldg.	100.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00

\* \$960/week based off last year's CLC estimate (yet to be set for 2012)

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