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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)

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School Phone: 763-784-6340

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Epiphany 2

Date: January 15, 2012

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

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

Hymn: *TLH 473: The Church's One Foundation*

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: *Psalm 122*

Let us gladly go to the house of the LORD!

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.

CDS Hymn: *WS 717: Bright and Glorious Is the Sky*

Second Reading: *1 Peter 2:1-10*

As the Church of God, we are built upon Christ as our Cornerstone.

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

Hymn: *TLH 469: Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken*

Sermon: *1 Corinthians 1:3-10*

(3) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

(4) I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was

given to you by Christ Jesus, (5) that you were enriched in everything by

Him in all utterance and all knowledge, (6) even as the testimony of Christ

was confirmed in you, (7) so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting

for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, (8) who will also confirm you to

the end, *that you may be* blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(9) *God is* faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord. (10) Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of

our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 in the same judgment. (NKJVTM)

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT

1. Membership is evidence of what you are

2. Membership is evidence of what you receive

3. Membership is evidence of what you believe

4. Membership is evidence of what you achieve

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 467, st. 1, 4-7: Built on the Rock*

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

Closing Hymn: *TLH 658, st. 1-2: Onward Christian Soldiers*

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

◆ **Meetings Today:** The Voters and Dorcas Guild meet today.

◆ **Among Us:** This week the doctors informed Sue Anne Kirkham that she does not have lymphoma. Instead they speculate that she may have had a viral infection that caused her symptoms. We thank the Lord for His goodness and mercy!

◆ **Quilt Day:** Thanks to those who participated in the quilt day yesterday!

◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #15, First Article, Part 2

Council Meeting Notes – January 8, 2012

The meeting was opened with prayer. The minutes of the December 18 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report:

- Offerings were \$1,800 short of the budget for December.
- Insurance premiums are coming due.
- Offerings for CLC were very strong in December and put the giving for the year over the target.

Pastor's Report:

- Rona Flesner, and children Dayne and Gavin, were baptized in a private service on the afternoon of Christmas Eve. Rona gave her profession of faith at the Christmas Day worship service.
- A motion passed to ratify Rona's communicant membership, and accept her children – Cole, Dayne, and Gavin – as baptized souls under their mother's care, and to recommend this action to the voters.
- Christmas Eve service attendance was 168, the best attendance since Pastor Hein's arrival.
- Christmas Day service attendance was 88.

Elders Report:

- Motion to include a New Year's Eve service in the 2012 calendar passed. To be recommended to the Voters.

Board of Education Report:

- Christmas treat bag distribution for the children went well (60 made).
- The urinal in the school boy's restroom has been repaired.
- Ann Radichel will substitute for Janelle Hein so she can attend the funeral for Erma Teifel.
- The school field trip to the Minnesota Zoo is scheduled for Jan. 24.
- Mark Wales is coordinating with Berea our joint participation in the Don Brandt Memorial Tournament to be held in Eau Claire March 9-10.
- The school science fair has been re-scheduled from Friday, March 30th, to Thursday, March 29th.
- The Spring Lake Park School District will begin the required health screening of our students.
- The new board (post annual meeting elections) will work on home visits to student homes.
- Mark Wales recently visited the Baker family.

Trustee's Report:

- Work continues on the drafting of a harassment policy.
- A report on the progress of the development of a policy for checking the background of non-member volunteers was requested. Response: Work continues with nothing to report to date.

Old Business:

- A motion to ratify a council action conducted by e-mail passed. The motion ratified was to raise the parsonage exclusion for the following year from the current level of \$1,200 to \$6,000. Both votes, the vote by e-mail and the vote to ratify, were unanimous.
- Discussion followed on the proper procedure and guidelines for future "virtual meetings" conducted via e-mail, on-line conference, or other electronic means. A motion authorizing the chairman to appoint someone to study the proper form of and procedure for the use of virtual meetings passed. Chairman Rosendahl appointed Benno Sydow to conduct the study.
- Communications services.
 - Current expenses: Cable TV - \$63/mo. (pastor); Qwest telephone - \$67/mo (church); internet - \$50 - \$54/mo. (church)
 - Current internet speed is slower than what we are paying for due to the distance from the "drop" from the main cable to the modem location.
 - A Comcast representative recommended moving the "drop" closer by laying an underground cable to a point adjacent to the building and closer to the modem – something we qualify for as a multi user because of the school, church, and parsonage being combined.
 - An additional recommendation resulted from a call by a Comcast conflict resolution representative: a subscription to a Triple Play service package (phone, TV, and internet combined) for \$119/mo.
 - A motion to approve the change to the Triple Play service package and the improved connection passed.
- A motion to round the workers' gifts to the nearest dollar passed.
- Pastor invited contributions from council members to the board reports for the annual meeting.
- Offering counting and reporting procedures and computer software.
 - Paul Lentz reported on the review of a new counting program developed by Phil Radichel, and recommended that a new counting procedure be developed to compliment the new program.
 - Consensus was that we wait for the presentation of the new program to the voters meeting before we begin work on new counting guidelines.
 - It was noted that reducing the amount of data entry would help with accuracy. This could be accomplished by eliminating the entry of needless information like check numbers – something neither the church nor the bank needs.
 - The compilation of a list of those who are able to operate the computer was recommended for the purpose of providing counting teams a list of "go-to people" in the event they find themselves without a computer-capable team member.

A CASE FOR ESTABLISHING, USING, AND MAINTAINING OUR CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS...

...AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL: The very nature of parental responsibility toward the children God has placed in their care makes the case for faithfully bringing up God's children in "the fear and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). As congregations are charged with tending the sheep and lambs under their care a case can also be made that the congregation should do all within its power and means to *assist* parents in their responsibility. Recognizing that, congregations among us have always placed a high priority on the Christian education of the youth in their midst. Over the years many have established and maintained Christian Day Schools.

The positive case for our schools can be made by the word of our Lord Who said, "Permit the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:13-14). Indeed, this can be done without a Christian Day school, but surely the Lord's exhortation teaches us to utilize every avenue to place them at Jesus' feet. A Christian Day School is one of these avenues. Scripture teaches us to train them up in the way they should go. This too can be done without a Christian Day School, but will a Christian parent not appreciate the help that can be afforded by a Christian school? How better can a child grow in the knowledge of God's love evident in God's creation and providential care, and be moved to use the gifts that God has given to the student than by placing them regularly at the feet of Jesus whether in religion class, as well as history and science class where they are taught from a Biblical perspective. How in fact can history and science be taught without acknowledging the Lord who guides and directs it? How can literature be taught meaningfully without a Christian perspective?

And most importantly of all, the children are daily exposed to the gospel in devotion and religion classes. They are nourished in the message of God's love as He shows it in the person of Jesus who is the Savior from sin. In word and song they learn and sing the praises of Jesus who has given them an inheritance in heaven.

Many of our congregations are too small to support such a school. Many do not have a large number of children. Unfortunately over the years many of our congregations have had to close their schools because of the diminished size of the congregation, and the consequent diminution of the child population in the congregation. But to the latter we might pose a question: How many children are necessary for a school? Perhaps the school cannot have a basketball team. But then that is not essential to the real

responsibility parents have to see to it that their children are educated in the way of salvation, and in the appreciation of a life lived under the gracious hand of a loving Heavenly Father.

We also acknowledge the logistical difficulties parents may have in utilizing the nurseries of Christian education in the congregation. Further, it is an economic fact that a congregation may have all that it can do maintain a pastoral presence in its midst. Be that as it may, where there is no school the responsibility to instruct the children weighs even the more heavily upon the parents. In such circumstances the congregation will want to do all that it can to have other avenues through which it can assist parents in bringing the Word of life to young children, most notably Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Catechism classes, and, yes, even Bible Camps.

Whatever the case, surely the blessing of Christian education as well as the value of our Christian elementary schools should be obvious to Christian parents and members who are concerned about worldly influences that are beckoning the children, a good part of which are imposed by the government education system which is becoming increasingly intrusive in our lives.

Education involves training the mind. Such education, however, is incomplete if it does not educate them in making God-pleasing and God-fearing decisions when confronted with the issues of life, and if it does not prepare them for the life to come. The latter can only be done through bringing them to knowledge of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Such knowledge can only be attained through the Word of God.

"My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, And search for her as *for* hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding ..." (Proverbs 2: 1-6).

Therein lies the benefit and blessing of Godly education both for this life and in preparation for that prepared for us in heaven.

Finally, a most important component of care for our youth is prayer. Whatever means we have for their education in "the one thing needful" (Luke 10:42) we implore the Lord to bless faithful efforts as we educate our children in the home and in the congregation to grow in wisdom unto salvation.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 12/2011

† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Larry Nelson

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

† **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** †

Ushers: Roger Ochsner, Jeremiah Boe, Don Dahlin, Arnold Gehrls, Bob Maki, John Maki, Joel Stifter

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

Hospitality Team 5: Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick; Frank & Ann Radichel

Church Cleaners: Kirkham School: Flesner

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †

Today: 10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality
11:30 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

Wed., Jan. 18: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Sun., Jan. 22: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality

Sat., Jan. 28: 9:00 am – Congregational Work Day

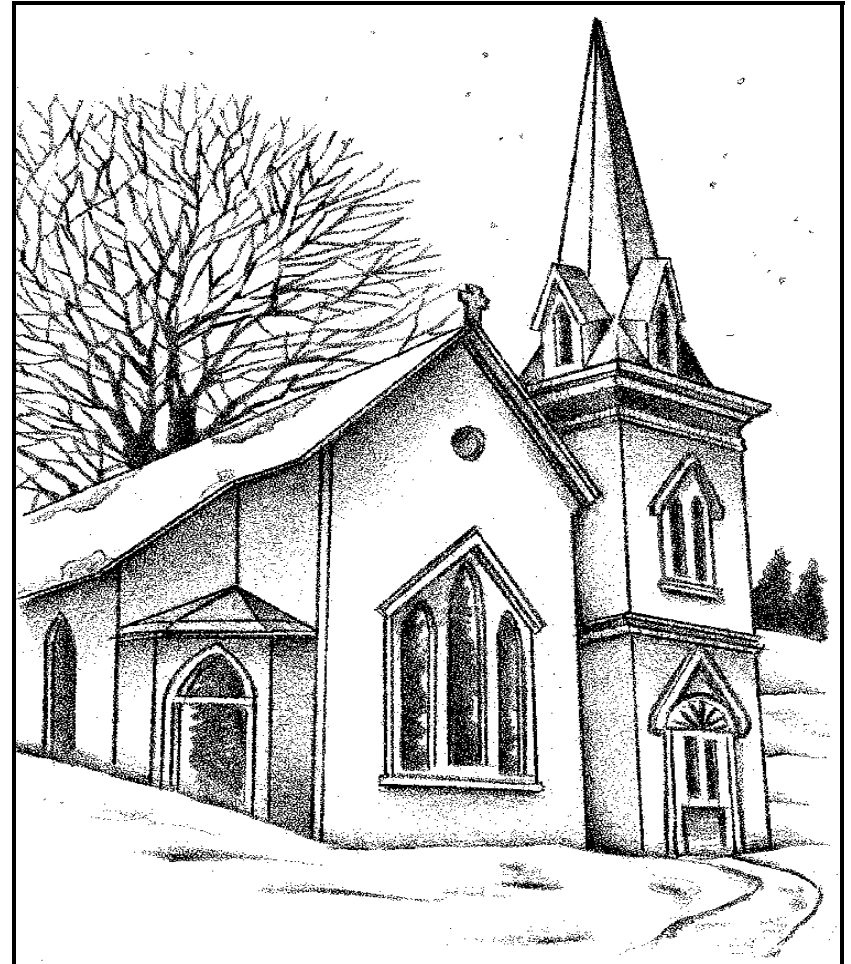
Wed., Feb. 22: Ash Wednesday

Last Week's Stats: Jan. 8, 2011 Sun.: 136 S.S.: ?? B.Cl.: 42 Wed.: 29

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,166.39	CLC:	\$1,369.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,030.00	CLC:	960.00*	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+136.39	CLC:	+409.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$5,293.99	CLC:	\$2,304.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	6,060.00	CLC:	1,920.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-766.01	CLC:	+384.00	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	5.00	Tuition Aid:	100.00	
GLC Other:	216.60	MDF:	150.00	Kinship:	55.00
ILC Student Aid:	20.00	ILC Bldg.	75.00	IIF: 5.00	CEF: 5.00

\$100 was also donated to the ILC Student Aid Fund Endowment in memory of Erma Tiefel
* \$960/week based off last year's CLC estimate (yet to be set for 2012)

*Grace Lutheran
Church & School*



You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9