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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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



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

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Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 7

Date: July 15, 2012

✠ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

Worship Preparation: Psalm 143

Hymn: TLH 3: Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

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

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

P: Even in the darkness light dawns for the upright,

C: For the gracious and compassionate and righteous man.

P: Praise the Lord. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in His commands.

C: Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.

P: He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

C: His heart is secure, he will have no fear; in the end he will look in triumph on his foes. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: TLH 36, st. 3

All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven:
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore!
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

First Reading: Ezekiel 2:1-5

God calls Ezekiel to be a prophet to a rebellious nation.

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. May Your priests be clothed with righteousness;

C: May your saints sing for joy. Alleluia.

Second Reading: Mark 6:1-6

Jesus is not accepted as a prophet in his home country.

Confession of Faith: Apostolic Creed, TLH p. 12

Hymn: TLH 374: *Grace! 'Tis a Charming Sound*

Sermon: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

(7) And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. (8) Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. (9) And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (10) Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (NKJVTM)



"The Lord's Strength in Our Weaknesses"

Offertory: TLH p. 12 f.

Hymn: TLH 413: *I Walk in Danger All the Way*

Offering, Prayers, Benediction: TLH p. 14

Hymn: TLH 644: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ♦ **Voters & Dorcas Guild** will meet today following the worship service.
- ♦ **Vacation Bible School:** This is scheduled for August 6-10. A registration sheet is on the narthex table.
- ♦ **CLC News:** Pastor Michael Roehl of St. Paul in Bismarck, ND, has returned the call as missionary to India and East Africa. † Rev. Michael Schierenbeck, member and former pastor of Faith in Markesan, WI, has accepted the call to serve Living Hope Lutheran in Appleton, WI.

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!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Part 5

EARLY CHILDHOOD:

BAPTISM: Isn't he or she beautiful? How much did he weigh? How long was she? So much hair! Looks like Daddy; no, like Mother! So sweet and innocent lying there in his basket.

Does all this sound familiar? Certainly, and it's natural to make a fuss — especially over a first child or first grandchild.

But we dare not for a moment forget that even as Adam begot a son “after his image,” so we parents — millennia later — are still begetting and bringing forth sons and daughters after our image. What is the nature of that image? David — called in Scripture “a man after the heart of God” — confessed in the fifty-first Psalm:

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Psalm 51:5.

Our Lord Jesus described man's natural condition very thoroughly, yet succinctly:

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. John 3:6

“Flesh” is the opposite of “Spirit.” We come into this world diseased in our minds, emotions, and wills by sin. Sinning comes as naturally as sucking. Attraction for error, prejudice in favor of self-righteousness — these are the tendencies innate in a newborn child, awaiting self-expression as the child matures.

What's to be done? Pretending that the child is innocent when guilty, rationalizing that the child cannot be accountable until it reaches the age of discernment is not the answer to the problem of inherited sin and guilt. Instruction in the Gospel is also not the answer, for that must await the awakening of the mental faculties of the child. Our Creator-God knows the limitations of a newborn child, but our Creator-Savior God also knows the capabilities of His Spirit, the power of His saving Word, and what spiritual things can be worked in a human heart. So our Savior-God provided a way to bring salvation to a newborn child. He combined His

saving Word of Grace with water in a simple washing that St. Paul calls a “*washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit*” Titus 3:5. Baptism is a washing of water by the Word which the Spirit uses to regenerate and renew a child. The Spirit is the active agent, working faith in the heart of the child — which faith in turn grasps all the blessings of Christ the Savior: forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Ask not how this can be done? Who knows the HOW of the Spirit's activity — in an adult or in a child? Let no one set arbitrary limitations on the power of the Spirit — telling Him that He cannot work faith until the mind of the child is developed enough to know who Jesus is and what He has done for the child and all mankind. Let no one make of faith a mental exercise! Still worse, let no one reduce faith to a decision on the part of man, whereas it is, in fact, an amazing creative act in man by the Spirit of Truth.

Let us take our reason captive and believe what the Scriptures say of baptism — that it is a divinely appointed means for delivering the blessing of salvation to an individual — child or adult.

He who believes and is baptized will be saved ... Mark 16:16.

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38.

Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins ... Acts 22:16.

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Romans 6:3.

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Galatians 3:27.

There is also an antitype which now saves us; baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) ... 1 Peter 3:21.

The first and greatest thing any Christian parents can do for their child is to bring it to the “washing” that regenerates by the Word. Through baptism the Spirit works faith in the heart of the child and so places it in the proper relationship to its Savior-God — the Father becoming the Father, the Son the Savior, and the Spirit the Sanctifier of the child.

✝ TODAY AT GRACE ✝

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Larry Nelson

Ushers: Pat Paplow, Dan Degnan, Brian Eichstadt, Eric Eichstadt, Ryan Oman, Brandon Paplow

Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Brandt Wendland

Church Cleaners: ??

✝ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✝

Ushers: Pat Paplow, Dan Degnan, Brian Eichstadt, Eric Eichstadt, Ryan Oman, Brandon Paplow

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

Church Cleaners: Welker

✝ OUR SCHEDULE ✝

Sun., July 15: 9:00 am – Worship Service
10:30 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings

Sun., July 22: 9:00 am – Worship Service

August 6-10: Vacation Bible School

Sat., Aug. 11: 9:00 am – Grace School Work Day

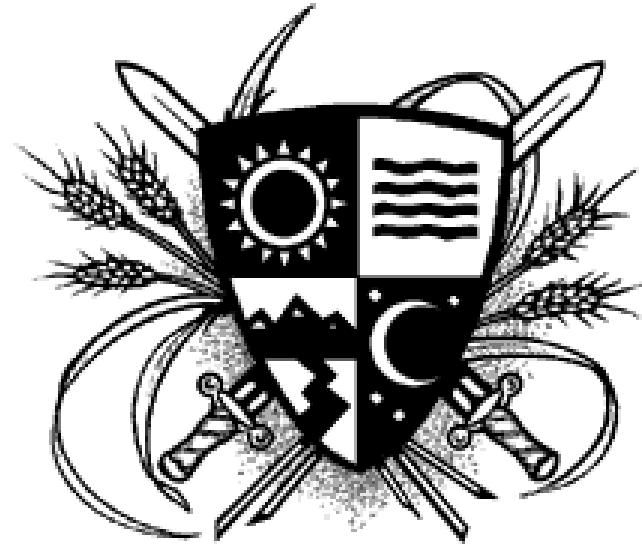
August 20: ILC School Year Begins

August 27: Grace School Year Begins

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 LORD IS
THE STRENGTH
OF HIS PEOPLE.**

PSALM 28:8