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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Fridley, MN 55432

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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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Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 19

Date: October 7, 2012

✠ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

Worship Preparation: Psalm 116, TLH p. 148

Opening Hymn: TLH 279: Today Thy Mercy Calls Us

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

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

P: I will extol the Lord at all times, His praise will always be on my lips.

C: My soul will boast in the Lord, let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

P: Glorify the Lord with me;

C: Let us exalt His name together.

P: I sought the Lord, and He answered me;

C: He delivered me from all my fears.

P: The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;

C: He delivers them from all their troubles. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: TLH 570, st. 1, 8

1. Praise, oh, praise our God and King, 8. Glory to our bounteous King,
Hymns of adoration sing; Glory let creation sing;
For His mercies still endure, Glory to the Father, Son,
Ever faithful, ever sure. And the Spirit, Three in One!

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-10

A prophecy of the shame our Savior would experience by His enemies during His Passion. In response He would react in mercy toward them.

Gradual:

P: These are they who have come out of the great tribulation;

C: They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

P: Blessed are those whose strength is in you,

C: Who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. This is the Lord, we trusted in Him;

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation. Alleluia.

Second Reading: Mark 8:27-35

As Jesus looks to the cross He must bear for our sakes, He reminds us that those who believe in Him shall bear their own cross when following Him.

Confession of Faith: Nicene Creed, TLH p. 22

Hymn: WS 779: Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven

Sermon: James 2:1-13

(1) My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with partiality. (2) For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, (3) and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," (4) have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? (5) Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be rich* in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? (6) But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? (7) Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called? (8) If you really fulfill *the royal law* according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; (9) but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. (10) For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all. (11) For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. (12) So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. (13) For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment in the Church

Offertory: TLH p. 22 f.

Hymn: TLH 464: Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Offering & Prayer:

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

Distribution: TLH 315: I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

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 314, st. 4-5: Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Mission Festival:** Prof. John Ude, former pastor here at Grace, will be our guest speaker for Mission Festival next Sunday. He recently was on a mission trip to Nepal. Following the worship service there will be a potluck in the fellowship hall. Please bring a dish to share.
- ◆ **Blood Drive:** A blood drive will be held next Sunday after our Mission Festival worship through 2 pm that afternoon. If you have any questions about donating, please speak with Rick Nelson.
- ◆ **Baby Shower:** A baby shower for Jessica Ude will be held this coming Saturday here at church. Details can be found on the invitation on the bulletin board. Please let Heidi Nelson know if you will be attending.
- ◆ **Parking:** Just a reminder for our younger and/or able-bodied members ... in consideration of others, please park further away to permit the elderly and those with physical impairments to be able to park closer to the church.
- ◆ **Alaskan Cruise:** Some CLC members are organizing an Alaskan Cruise in June or July of 2014. Although many details are not yet available, a website has some general information at www.CLClutheran.net/cruise. Also, information is posted on the bulletin board by the mailboxes. Glenn Oster can also answer any questions (goster@CLClutheran.com, 803-361-2739)
- ◆ **Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day** will be held on Nov. 9. It will introduce students to the Immanuel foundation and experience. Come and learn more about your church's college and a continuing education with Christ! Lodging and meals will be provided. Speak with your pastor about questions and attendance. Please convey attendance information and any housing requests to Prof. John Ude, the ILC academic dean, before Nov. 6: work phone 715-836-6631; home phone: 715-955-4127; e-mail john.ude.ilc@gmail.com.



CLC E-Devotion

Monday, August 20, 2012

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

GOOD GRIEF?

“Good Grief . . . I can’t stand it!” So said Charlie Brown, the lovable loser of the Charles Schulz comic strip “Peanuts.” When things went bad or something disappointing happened, Charlie Brown didn’t curse or swear, he just said, “Good Grief” or “I just can’t stand it!” Charlie Brown’s catch phrase raises a question.

Is there such a thing as “good grief”? Are we to think of trials and troubles as good or evil? We learn from the Word of God given to James that we Christians should grow up and think of trials as a good thing. For God uses trials to add endurance to our faith and to teach us to pray for wisdom.

It’s easy to be joyful when things go well. But it’s not so easy to be joyful when things go poorly. Still, we are told to “count it all joy” when we fall into various trials and are tested.

Trials may come as a result of life in this sinful world. They may come in the form of sickness, disease, and stress. When trials come we are often sad and too easily feel sorry for ourselves. But God’s servant James, writing by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, has a different message: “Be Happy and consider all trials and troubles a joyful thing!” Is he kidding? Is this impossible and completely unrealistic? Be happy?

We may bear every trial with joy because we know God’s purpose beforehand! God seeks our spiritual growth and maturity through trials! Trials serve to test our faith, to reveal our faith’s weak spots. He wants us to learn like the Apostles and respond to trials like they did, rejoicing to be counted worthy to suffer for Him (Acts 5:41). He wants us to learn that we can completely trust Him without reservation. It’s vital that we remember that God doesn’t allow trials to punish us or lead us to despair, but to give our faith endurance.

Long distance runners train and push their bodies to run better and gain endurance. Trials, both physical and spiritual, are a means by which God gives our faith endurance, patience, and steadfastness.

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!

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

In this deceitful world all manner of scammers try to take advantage of the populous in general, the gullible, as well as senior citizens. So we are warned, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

Hardly it seems are there more proficient scammers than politicians. Hardly are there any better practitioners of "false witness" (8th commandment) than politicians who without a hint of conscience attack the person and reputation of the opponent (slander, defamation of character). They are also artful at promising more than they can deliver. Lest we think too highly of ourselves, remember: sins against the 8th commandment are common to all flesh since the fall into sin.

We wish we could be sure that what politicians promise they will deliver. But when we hear promises tailored to the particular constituency of the moment, we do well to remember, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

Indeed lying, slander, and promising what is not possible to deliver was practiced first in the garden. Satan practiced it when he tempted Adam and Eve. What were the *lie*, the slander, and defamation of character? Satan *lied* and *slandered* God when he suggested that *God* lied! Though God had said that Adam and Eve would die if they disobeyed Him and ate of the forbidden tree, Satan said, "You will not surely die" (Genesis 3:4). Satan *lied* and *slandered* God when he promised, "You will be like God" (Genesis 3:5) if they would eat of that which God had said they should not. Satan *slandered* God by diminishing God, suggesting that the created being would be elevated to the level of the Creator.

Adam and Eve learned some lessons: What God says and promises is true! They also learned that what anyone other than God promises has to be taken with a grain of salt, particularly if it sounds too good to be true.

With the introduction of sin began the decline of what had God had originally pronounced perfect. By Adam's sin death came into the world (Romans 5:12). They died *spiritually* and morally. They hid from God and they lied to Him (Genesis 3:8,10). They did not immediately drop dead but they eventually died *physically*. Further, with the introduction of sin came the judgment to *eternal death*. Scripture tells us of those who die in sin: "Their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh" (Isaiah 66:24). Those who die in sin and unbelief suffer eternally the living death of hell.

All that God says is true including the judgment that He pronounces upon evil and upon the ungodly and unbelieving. To many this sounds too harsh to be true. *But as God says it, it is true!*

On the other hand what God promises the sorrowing and penitent sinner concerning eternal life in heaven sounds too good to be true, *but it is true. God who cannot lie has promised*, "For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us... was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God ..." (2 Corinthians 1:19-20).

Consider therefore what the Lord Jesus Who is the resurrection and the life tells us, "He who believes in *Me*, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in *Me* shall never die" (John 11:25-26). All who by the power of the Spirit possess spiritual life and thereby are alive in Christ shall die in due time according to their body (unless the Lord returns before one dies), but the reality is that that one who is alive in Christ never dies, but lives eternally. That is why the apostle could say "For me to live is, Christ, to die is gain for me" (Philippians 1:21). This is also why he could "desire to depart and to be with Christ which is far better" (Philippians 1:23). Life with Christ after this veil of tears is far better than life on this earth. How could Paul be so sure? He could be sure because the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world according to promise. Jesus died for and in the place of sinners. Jesus received the wages we had earned (Romans 6:23). Isn't that a unique concept?! Jesus endured the dread punishment of hell. Jesus rose again from the dead and restored the quality of life that God intended for man when He created him—life in paradise forever. "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). There is no double jeopardy in the Father's plan. Christ suffered. We do not have to suffer eternal death. Our debt has been paid! If that sounds too good to be true, *it nevertheless is true!* Blessed are all who believe it.

In His holy Word our Lord tells us concerning the future life which at the present moment is beyond our comprehension "They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat ... And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 7) "... There shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21). If that sounds too good to be true, *it nevertheless is true!* What a future for those who believe it!

Dear fellow believer in Christ Jesus, Joshua's God is your God. In his farewell to Israel shortly before he was to enter into the promised rest Joshua said, "And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed" (Joshua 23:14).

We are blessed to be able to consider all that the Lord has said to us and done for us from the vantage point of the empty tomb. As Christ is risen from the dead all that our God has said has and shall come to pass. **Too good to be true? Not if God said it!**

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: **Jan Davis**

Elder: **Ed Lentz**

Ushers: **Paul Lentz, Brad Kitzman, Rick Nelson, Keith Radichel,
Bob Vandevener, Bobby Vandevener, Matt Vandevener**

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

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

Church Cleaners: **B. Rust**

School Cleaners: **Flesner**

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: **Benno Sydow, Gary Gunther, Larry Nelson, Jacob
Rhinesmith, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter**

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

Hospitality Team 4: **BYE – Mission Festival: Mark & Trudy
Wales; Karen Auel; Bob & Suki Vandevener**

Church Cleaners: **B. Rust**

School Cleaners: **Flesner**

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Oct. 7: 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
11:15 am – Hospitality
12:00 pm – Council Meeting

October 9-10: Minnesota Pastoral Conference @ Red Wing, MN
Wed., Oct. 10: 4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Sun., Oct. 14: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Mission Festival Worship Service
11:15 am – Mission Festival Potluck
11:00-2:00 pm – Blood Drive

October 17-19: CLC Teachers Conference @ Hales Corners, WI

Sun., Oct. 21: 11:30 am – Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings

Sat., Oct. 27: 9:00 am – Congregational Work Day at Grace

Last Week's Stats: Sept. 30, 2012 Sun.: 145 S.S.: ? B.Cl.: ?

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,008.38	CLC:	\$600.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,030.00	CLC:	960.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-21.62	CLC:	-360.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$110,179.73	CLC:	\$34,603.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	121,200.00	CLC:	38,400.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-11,020.27	CLC:	-3,797.00
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	0.00
GLC Other: 0.11	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	100.00
ILC Student Aid: 20.00	ILC Bldg.	130.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 50.00

Grace Lutheran Church & School



Blessed
are the
merciful:
for they shall
obtain mercy.

Matthew 5:7