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Grace Lutheran Church & School

For as the
BODY
without the
SPIRIT
is dead,
so
FAITH
without
works is
dead also.

James 2:26





GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Grades: K -8th

Church Year: Reformation Sunday

Date: October 28, 2012

✠ *THE ORDER OF WORSHIP* ✠

Worship Preparation: Psalm 46, TLH p. 134

Opening Prayer: *Luther's Morning Prayer*

C: In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen. We give thanks unto Thee, heavenly Father,
through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, that Thou hast kept
us this night from all harm and danger; and we pray Thee
that wouldst keep us this day also from sin and every evil,
that all our doings and life may please Thee. For into Thy
hands we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls, and
all things. Let Thy holy angel be with us that the wicked
foe may have no power over us. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: WS 774: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Invocation & Greeting:

P: *In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

C: [Sung] **Amen.**

P: *The Lord be with you.*

C: [Sung] **And with thy spirit.**

P: *Let us prepare our hearts for our confession of sins:*

Response: TLH 295:5

C: **The Law is good; but since the Fall**

Its holiness condemns us all;

It dooms us for our sin to die

And has no power to justify.

Confession & Absolution: *Luther's Explanation, 5th Petition*

P: *Let us confess our sins before the Lord God. With what words does Jesus teach us to pray in the Lord's Prayer?*



C: **Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

P: *How did Luther explain this in his answer to the question, "What does this mean?"*

C: **We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look on our sins nor deny our prayer because of them. We are not worthy of things for which we are asking, neither have we deserved them. However, we ask that our Father would by His grace give us what we ask even though we sin often every day and indeed deserve nothing but punishment. We too will from our hearts gladly forgive and do good to all those who sin against us.**

P: *Be it unto you as you believe. And now according to the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, and in His place, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

Response: TLH 297:1

C: **The Gospel shows the Father's grace,
Who sent His Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died
That man might thus be justified.**

Collect:

P: *Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all enemies of Your Word, and bestow on the Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

C: **[Sung] Amen.**

P: *Let us now prepare for hearing the Word of our Lord.*

Response: TLH 261:1

C: **Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word;
Curb those who fain by craft and sword
Would wrest the Kingdom from Thy Son
And set at naught all He hath done.**

S.S Children: TLH 286: How Shall the Young Secure Their Hearts

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Although the Lord was like a patient husband with His people, the children of Israel rejected Him by breaking the old covenant. But now the Lord promises that the days are coming in which He will establish a new covenant with His people. One of the hallmarks of the Reformation was the return of the teaching that we are saved by grace alone, apart from any worthiness on our part. This is truly Good News for the sinner!

Choir:..... **We Would Serve the Lord**

Gospel Reading: **Mark 10:17-27**

Jesus points out that it is the Father's will to do His commandments. But these are not done to earn heaven. We fall short of doing them perfectly as He expects. It is only possible to get to eternity by God's call through grace!

Confession of Faith: **Augsburg Conf., Art. IV, Justification**

C: It is taught among us that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for His sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us. For God will regard and reckon this faith as righteousness.

Hymn: **TLH 377, st. 1, 3, 6, 9-10: Salvation unto Us Has Come**

Sermon: **James 2:14-26**

NIV (14) What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? (15) Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. (16) If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? (17) In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (18) But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. (19) You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that-- and shudder. (20) You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? (21) Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? (22) You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. (23) And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. (24) You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. (25) In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? (26) As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

"Faith – Works = Faith + Works"

- 1. James speaks to the Christian's complacency***
- 2. Paul speaks to the sinner's desperation***

Response to Sermon: TLH 292:6,8

C: The haughty spirits, Lord, restrain
Who o'er Thy Church with might would reign
And always set forth something new,
Devised to change Thy doctrine true.
A trusty weapon is Thy Word
Thy Church's buckler, shield, and sword.
Oh, let us in its power confide
That we may seek no other guide!

Hymn:..... TLH 416: Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways

Offering, Prayers, Lord's Prayer, Benediction:

C: [Sung] Amen. Amen. Amen.

Hymn:..... TLH 154: Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

✠ *THE ANNOUNCEMENTS* ✠

- ◆ **Joint Reformation Worship:** Today at 4:00 pm the Minnesota Joint Reformation Worship Service will be held at Berea Ev. Lutheran Church in Inver Grove Hts., MN (9308 Rich Valley Blvd.) A fellowship meal will follow in which you may bring a dish to share. An adult choir will rehearse at 3:15 pm and the children's choir at 3:30 pm.
- ◆ **Reformation Fellowship and Movie:** This coming Wednesday, October 31, is Reformation Day. We will be gathering in the fellowship hall at 6:30 pm for pizza and to watch a movie about the life of Martin Luther. In order to know how much pizza to order, please sign the list by the guest book with the number of people who plan to come.
- ◆ **Work Day:** Thanks to all those who helped out yesterday!
- ◆ **Among Us:** Curt Miesen will need to continue his treatment for leukemia. He will have a brief recovery period but will be treated at the University of MN hospital.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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)

PUMPKINS or the REFORMATION?

What do pumpkins and the Reformation have in common? Nothing except that pumpkins, a pleasant fall fruit, have been associated with what most people know as Halloween which is identified with October 31. However, to faithful Lutherans October 31 is Reformation Day. If one has *forgotten* that October 31 is Reformation Day then one has fallen victim to the diminution of an important Lutheran observance.

We were reminded of this again as we saw propped against a bulletin board at a Lutheran church what appeared to be a hobo with pointed hat and overalls with pumpkins at hand. It was an attractive Halloween display. But then we wondered: If a child would ask his parents, "Why is there a man with a pumpkin sitting by the church sign," what would the Lutheran parent answer? While we thank the Lord for the steadfastness of Dr. Martin Luther we do not idolize him. Nevertheless, would it not be more appropriate to have by a Lutheran Church on October 31 perhaps a paper mache figure of Martin Luther pointing to the Bible? Surely we would not be wrong, would we, if we believed that a Lutheran parent could answer a child's "why" question.

The Reformation of 1517 remains one of the most historic events in the history of the world because it affected so many aspects of life. Faithful Lutherans of course remember it because of the impact it had and continues to have on personal spiritual life as well as upon the life of the Church. Christian Church historians as well as political historians, if only by trying to denigrate the Reformation or reinterpret it, are still talking about it because its impact cannot be denied.

The Reformation began innocently as Martin Luther for the purpose of debate posted 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg challenging unscriptural teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. The spur was the sale of a pardon from certain church ordained penalties. The lucrative business of indulgence sales soon was interpreted as purchase of freedom from punishment of purgatory (itself an invention of the Roman church), as well as a way to heaven.

Out of the Reformation came principles that sadly are being lost as many churches today that bear the Lutheran name accommodate themselves more and more to the world. Out of the Reformation came the principles BY SCRIPTURE Alone, BY GRACE Alone, BY FAITH Alone. Only God's Word (The 66 divinely inspired books of the Bible) is absolute truth and only God's Word alone determines doctrine and matters of faith, not the church, not the papacy (Pope), not hierarchical church pronouncements! Eternal salvation is by GRACE, grace as a quality of God manifest chiefly in the person and work of the Father's Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! This gift of grace is the sinner's own through FAITH, without the works of the law (Ephesians 2:8), or the deeds of the law (Romans 3:20).

As Rome pushed back against these principles of Scripture there was spawned the sterling witness offered by Luther and others who identified with what Scripture taught. In Leipzig, Worms, Wartburg, Augsburg, and Wittenberg the clear testimony of God's Word was heard. Of the Reformation period was born Dr. Luther's Small and Large Catechisms, the Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, and the Formula of Concord! The thoroughly Scriptural content of these Lutheran Confessions is largely lost today in Lutheran churches that have imbibed the philosophies of the world.

Frequently we are told that the church has to be more relevant to our age. We *are* relevant to all the needs of pilgrims in this life when we teach, promote, and accept what our Lord Jesus taught, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). But if being relevant means adapting what we teach to something that appeals to an apostate age, forget it! There is already more than enough such relevancy. What we as faithful confessional Lutherans dare never lose sight of is that we are to be relevant to the needs of people caught in sin, facing death, and eternal judgment. What sinful human beings need can only be met through faithful proclamation of the Word of God (BY SCRIPTURE Alone, BY GRACE Alone, BY FAITH Alone).

If what is taught in the Lutheran Church is not Scripture it is NOT Lutheran. Unless we ourselves appreciate the privilege and blessing garnered through worship, study of the Scriptures, steadfastness to Scripture, and through study of the aforementioned confessions, we too will become theologically irrelevant. The Lutheran church that no longer stands on the biblical principles enunciated 495 years ago and so consequently and subsequently loses its Lutheran identity ultimately has no more to offer than a hobo sitting on the church steps with a pumpkin!

Who we are as Christians and our eternal hope is born of the Spirit of God through the Scripture and is sustained by Scripture. Who we are as Lutherans begins with and is sustained by appreciating our Reformation Lutheran heritage and history.

The Reformation ushered in a "... rediscovery and the renewed proclamation of the pure Gospel of the forgiveness of sins" (Sasse). It is that which we stand to lose in the church and lose to the harm of our soul, if we forget or diminish the Reformation and the principles enunciated through it, BY SCRIPTURE Alone, BY GRACE Alone. BY FAITH Alone!

On October 31, pause and remember the significance of the day with thanksgiving to the Lord for blessings of that event, and pray for strength to be bold confessors of the truth preserved to us, as well as entrusted to us in this apostate age!

Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 10/2012

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: **Janelle Hein**

Elder: **Phil Radichel**

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

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

Hospitality Team 6: **Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt Wendland**

Church Cleaners: **Sandhoefner** School Cleaners: **Hein**

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

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

Hospitality Team 1: **Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice Sandhoefner**

Church Cleaners: **Olmanson** School Cleaners: **Hein**

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Oct. 28: 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
 10:00 am – Reformation Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality
 11:30 am – Voters Meeting
 4:00 pm – MN Reformation Festival Worship @ Berea

Wed., Oct. 31: 4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 6:30 pm – Reformation Fellowship & Movie

Sat., Nov. 3: Daylight Saving Time Ends (Turn clocks back 1 hour)

Sun., Nov. 4: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
 11:15 am – Hospitality

Wed., Nov. 21: 7:30 pm – Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Last Week's Stats: Oct. 21, 2012 Sun.: 101 S.S.: 12 B.Cl.: 34 Wed.: 20

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,602.51	CLC:	\$841.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,030.00	CLC:	960.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-427.49	CLC:	-119.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$118,657.33	CLC:	\$37,899.00
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	130,290.00	CLC:	41,280.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-11,632.67	CLC:	-3,381.00
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	20.00
GLC Other:	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	ILC Bldg.	84.00	IIF: 4.00	CEF: 0.00