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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 CONFSSION

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

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Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 23

Date: November 4, 2012

✠ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

Worship Preparation: Psalm 31, TLH p. 130

Opening Hymn: ... TLH 360: Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

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: Jeremiah 11:18-20

The Prophet Jeremiah describes his reaction as a docile lamb to those who schemed against him. Such a spirit is needed by us in this often cruel world.

Gradual:

P: Oh the depths of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

C: How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!

P: For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

C: To Him be the glory forever! Amen.

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

C: And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:30-37

The tongues of the disciples demonstrated that people often "blow their own horn." Our Savior teaches that we are to receive each other in humility.

Confession of Faith: Nicene Creed, TLH p. 22

Hymn: TLH 350: Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

Sermon: James 3:2-10

(2) For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. (3) Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. (4) Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. (5) Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! (6) And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. (7) For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. (8) But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. (9) With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. (10) Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

That Little Tongue of Ours

- 1. When uncontrolled, it can cause great damage*
- 2. When controlled, it can bring great blessing*

Offertory: TLH p. 22 f.

Hymn: TLH 363: To Our Redeemer's Glorious Name

Offering & Prayer:

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

Distribution: TLH 307, TLH 304, TLH 314

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 30, st. 1, 6: Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices

world imposes by rule of men cannot rob the children of God of eternal salvation, for the Savior says, "As many as were ordained unto eternal life believed" (Acts 13:48), and "Neither shall any man pluck My sheep out of My hand" (John 10:28). Divine election is not an excuse to neglect the Word, but reason to hear the Word faithfully and with thanksgiving that our election might be made to us "sure" (2 Peter 1:10) and that we never doubt.

The *Brief Statement* concludes with this assurance drawn from the Scripture, "Therefore: If, by the grace of God, you believe in the Gospel of the forgiveness of your sins for Christ's sake, you are to be certain that you belong to the number of God's elect, even as Scripture (2 Thessalonians 2:13), addresses the believing Thessalonians as the chosen of God and gives thanks to God for their election" (para. 40).

The child of God can confidently affirm even unto death: Before time, the gracious God chose me. In time through baptism He made me His own. Through the atonement of His Son, He washed me from my sin. By the Gospel He keeps me in the true faith unto salvation.

"By grace are you saved, through faith ..." (Ephesians 2:8). As members of "a holy nation" (2 Peter 2:9), thank the gracious Lord for making you part of the "remnant according to the election of grace" (Romans 11:5) by which grace you are comforted in the certain hope of life in heaven. Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Christmas Eve:** Parents, please let Pastor know about the involvement of your children in this year's Christmas Eve service.
- ◆ **Help Needed:** In early December a member of Immanuel of Mankato, Randy King, will be released from the Minnesota State Prison system. Randy is serving time for DWI. He is a recovering alcoholic. He is a sincere Christian, who truly wants to avoid alcohol abuse in the future. He is planning to be married early in 2013, after his fiancée has completed her instruction class, and they have completed pre-marital instruction classes. Randy is convinced that he ought not stay in Mankato, however, where many of his former friends remain alcoholics and could influence him negatively. He would like to move to a city in Minnesota, if possible, with a CLC congregation. Randy is nearly 50 years old and, apart from his abuse of alcohol, is a very fine person. He has worked in numerous manufacturing plants and has also been trained in both commercial and residential painting. He is quite meticulous in his work and very careful in maintaining a clean apartment. He and his wife will be in need of employment and housing. If anyone can help Randy, or would like more information, please, contact Pastor Nolting at paul.nolting@immanuelmankato.org or 507-387-7035. Thank you!
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor John M. Johannes of Detroit Lakes/Ponsford, MN, has returned the call from Rock of Ages in Grand Rapids, MI. ✠ Pastor David Naumann of Clarkston, WA/Orofino, ID, has returned the call of the CLC Board of Missions for foreign missionary to India and East Africa. ✠ Pastor Michael Gurath, Phoenix AZ, has accepted the call from the CLC Board of Missions to serve as part-time visiting missionary to Kenya and Uganda.

SO, WHAT OF IT?

At this writing we in Minnesota do not know how the vote will fall on the question of whether or not homosexual dalliances should be given the status of being called a marriage*. Unless one will vote to approve immorality and that which Scripture condemns, the Christ-believer of faith and conscience has no other option than to reject such "marriages." As the ballot is written, a "yes" vote is the defense of marriage as God ordained it.

(*In Minnesota such marriages are already against the law. The question here is whether definition of marriage should be placed in the state constitution).

People supporting homosexual "marriage" are either confused, ignorant of, or simply rejecting Scripture. To this point we still enjoy in the country a right to privacy. We respect that. We do not want the constitution defining every aspect of our private life. However, when we are confronted with the question that touches on morality, we have no option but to vote for what is moral, and reject what Scripture calls sin!

Our purpose here is not to discuss the issue itself. But our attention was drawn to an article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of Nov. 1, 2012, in which the headline said, "Pastor honored for gay rights support." The *Pioneer Press* reported that *Atlantic Magazine* included the preacher in its list of "Brave Thinkers." So how shall we look upon "brave thinkers," in churches (including those within Lutheranism, most notably the ELCA) who condone homosexual "marriage?" All of the men (or women) of the cloth will of course claim to be Bible preachers.

So we have some questions? If one claims to believe the Bible and claims to represent the Lord of the Scriptures, how can he (or she, which itself poses a question) reject what Scripture says in Genesis 19, Leviticus 18:22, or Romans 1:22ff. How shall we look on such "brave thinkers?" Do they actually believe the Bible as given by the Lord God, or do they believe a bible fashioned by deceit of their own mind and/or the whims of society? If the Bible they profess to preach is subject to change according to the whim or existing political correctness of the moment, who determines what in the Bible is truth to be believed and practiced?

Assuming they see the Bible as more than a book of philosophy, they might well claim that what the Bible says about the way to heaven and heaven itself is truth to be taught and believed. But then if the prevailing attitude is to pick and choose what is truth how can they be sure that what Scripture says of life hereafter is truth, for after all is not the same God Who speaks of salvation in Christ also the Author of what they reject? How can God be the God of Truth in one place of Scripture, and a liar in the other? Further, to preach salvation without being honest about what Scripture calls sin (because allegedly we know better than God what sin is) is a waste of breath; for without the knowledge of sin (Romans 6:23), the message which brings the gift of salvation (Romans 6:23) falls on plugged ears!

We suspect that they who reject the parts of the Bible they don't like do not believe what the Bible says of itself, when it says "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God ..." (2 Timothy 3:16). To deny the inspiration of Scripture finally means that one does not believe the Bible at all!

In this season of the Reformation we are reminded of how Rome picked and chose from Scriptures, and how what was to be believed was determined by the church authorities. Consequently the church promoted work righteousness, teaching that their way to salvation was, if not in whole, in part dependent on man's works. That error of Rome was refuted by Martin Luther who turned to Scripture (Romans 3:20 – 28, Romans 1:17, Ephesians 2:8). Yet the teaching of salvation by works of men persists in Rome to this day, as well as in the charismatic churches which promote "Christ in you" at the expense of Christ outside of you. We are *not saved* by Christ in the heart. We are saved by grace through faith in the Christ outside of us Who in space time history died on the cross *for* us, and rose again from the dead. We are justified through Christ's work, not through His indwelling.

Yes, Christ lives in the heart. But the indwelling of Christ is the consequence of the Spirit opening the heart to Christ Who takes up His abode in the believer's heart. Christ in the heart is the power unto sanctification which is the fragrant fruit of the new life that Christ achieved for us through His atonement.

If the elementary truth of the Word of God which teaches that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us, the ungodly (Romans 5:6), and that through His blood we are washed, cleansed, sanctified, and saved is twisted and distorted, is it any wonder that men choose what is right in their own eyes? Is it any wonder that those who promote sin are honored as "brave thinkers?" To go against God is foolhardy, not brave! Such foolhardiness reaps its own reward, as Scripture shows repeatedly.

God help us to understand the warning, as well as the blessing of which Psalm 1 speaks:

¹ Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. ⁴ The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. ⁶ For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish. (NKJV)

Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 11/2012

ELECTION:

In our free republic we still enjoy the right to vote. Through our vote we elect officials who are to administer their responsibilities for the good of the citizens of the various communities and states, as well as the country. For the privilege that it is to vote, elections have become wearisome, if not because of the incessant campaigning, because of the nastiness that accompanies elections. For the most part it seems, political campaigns bring out the worst in human nature. As evidence we submit that lying, greed, slander, and defamation of character are a staple of political campaigns. Further we submit to our shame that such behavior is a reflection of the constituents they represent for which reason the Holy God warned against such sins in the 10 commandments.

As Christians let us ask the Lord to guard our hearts and tongues from evil speaking, seek forgiveness for our own sins, and pray for leaders who will govern to the good of and for the benefit of the citizens they represent. Further we will pray for the faith to accept what God wills for us and this nation. Scripture tells us, "Righteousness exalts nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). If the Lord chooses to bless a nation we accept it as an expression of His grace and long-suffering. If He chooses to punish an ungodly nation to call it to repentance we bow to His will. In witness of such faith we submit the example of Abraham's fervent prayer for the welfare of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18).

As believers in Christ we may nevertheless live confidently in this present evil world by virtue of another election. Totally different from the imperfect process of which we spoke! Its parameters are not determined by men. There is no campaign managed by men. This election was determined in heaven and issued from the heart of God the Father *before the world began!* Since it is from eternity and is of God it transcends our ability to comprehend it. Man is in no way involved in the process. He is only the object of the **election of grace**. The blessing of it for our earthly pilgrimage is the comfort and assurance of that which is the ultimate purpose of it—our eternal salvation!

We confess with thanksgiving that "...God before the foundation of the world, from pure grace, because of the redemption of Christ, has chosen for His own a definite number of persons out of the corrupt mass and has determined to bring them through Word and Sacrament, to faith and salvation" (*Brief Statement*, para 39). The teaching of election leaves no room for salvation by works. God's will for the elect is accomplished in time through the Gospel and in connection with Christ's atoning sacrifice—never apart from the Gospel and Christ! Christians can be assured of their eternal election. Paul addressed the congregation in Ephesus as the elect of God (Ephesians 1:1-6); likewise the Thessalonians (2 Thessalonians 2:13). Peter likewise addressed the "elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father ..." (1 Peter 1:2).

This precious doctrine is *not for speculation, but for the comfort* of redeemed sinners. Divine election is a cause of why the elect are brought to faith in time; it is not the cause of why men are lost (*Brief Statement*, para.37)! Scripture tells us, "The Lord is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). It tells us, "God will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that *whoever believes in Him* should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Martin Luther said, "Gaze upon the wounds of Christ and the blood shed for you; there predestination will shine forth." All who cling to Christ and His cross may live in the supreme confidence that whatever this

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Phil Radichel

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

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Mark Wales, Don Auel, Ole Olmanson, Adam Wales, Eli Wales, Brandon Wendland, Brandt Wendland

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

Hospitality Team 2: Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz; Jenny Kleifgen

Church Cleaners: Olmanson

School Cleaners: A. Baker

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

- Sun., Nov. 4:** 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
11:15 am – Hospitality
- Mon., Nov. 5:** 9:00 am – MN Pastoral Study Club at Inver Grove Hts.
- Wed., Nov. 7:** 4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class
- Fri., Nov. 9:** Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors' Day
- Nov. 9-10:** 7:30 pm – ILC Play @ Eau Claire, WI (Moriarty's Revenge)
- Sun., Nov. 11:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality
12:00 pm – Council Meeting
- Wed., Nov. 21:** 7:00 pm – Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Last Week's Stats: Oct. 28, 2012 Sun.: 139 S.S.: 18 B.Cl.: 42 Wed.: 21

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,987.20	CLC:	\$670.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,030.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-42.80	CLC:	-290.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$121,468.53	CLC:	\$38,569.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	133,320.00	CLC:	42,240.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-11,851.47	CLC:	-3,671.00	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	405.00	
GLC Other:	2.00	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	20.00	ILC Bldg.	155.00	IIF: 20.00	CEF: 0.00

SAF Endowment: \$35.00

*Grace Lutheran
Church & School*



LET THE WORDS OF
MY MOUTH

— AND THE —

MEDITATION OF
MY HEART

BE ACCEPTABLE TO YOU,

O LORD,
MY ROCK

— AND —

MY REDEEMER.

PSALM 19:14, NRSV

