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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635) **Phone:** 763-784-8784
School Phone: 763-784-6340 **Grades:** Kindergarten-8th
Church Year: Last Sunday of Church Year **Date:** November 25, 2012

✠ ***THE ORDER OF WORSHIP*** ✠

Worship Preparation:Psalm 118, TLH p. 148 f.

Hymn:..... TLH 608: *Let Thoughtless Thousands Choose the Road*

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

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

- P: We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth.
- C: In which righteousness dwells.**
- P: Show me, O Lord, my life's end and the number of my days;
- C: Let me know how fleeting is my life.**
- P: You have made my days a mere handbreadth;
- C: The span of my years is as nothing before You.**
- P: But now, Lord, what do I look for?
- C: My hope is in You. Glory be to God!**

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

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

First Reading:..... Daniel 12:1-3
 Daniel's prophecy of the Last Day in which there will be the great resurrection.

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. Jesus promises: "I am the Alpha and the Omega,
C: The First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." Alleluia.

Second Reading:..... **John 5:25-29**
 Jesus tells of the Last Day and how He is the one with authority to judge.

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

Hymn: **TLH 429: Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart**

Sermon:..... **James 5:1-11**

(1) Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! (2) Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. (3) Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. (4) Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. (5) You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. (6) You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you. (7) Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. (8) You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. (9) Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! (10) My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. (11) Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord; that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful. (NKJVTM)

"Upon What is Your Heart Established in These Last Days?"

- 1. The destruction of your perishing riches?***
- 2. The compassion of your coming Lord?***

Offertory: TLH p. 12 f.

Hymn: **TLH 606: O'er the Distant Mountains Breaking**

Offering, Prayers, Benediction: TLH p. 14

Closing Hymn:..... **TLH 568: We Praise Thee, O God**

✠ *THE ANNOUNCEMENTS* ✠

- ◆ **Among Us:** Curt Miesen continues to be hospitalized at the University Medical Center. A test this past week showed that he still has leukemia. Since chemotherapy is no longer an option, plans are being made for some experimental treatment. Please pray for our Christian brother, that the Holy Spirit would grant him comfort and peace as he faces his physical challenges.
- ◆ **Midweek Advent Services:** On Wednesdays, Dec. 5, 12, and 19, at 7 pm. Our last midweek service on December 19 will be our annual candlelight service preceded by the congregational Christmas meal at 6 pm.
- ◆ **Christmas Meal:** Please join us for a fellowship meal at 6 pm prior to the Candlelight service on December 19. Those attending may bring sandwiches, salads, or a dish to share.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Service:** This is the rehearsal schedule:
 - ◆ Sun., Dec. 2: 12-2 pm (luncheon at church and may start a bit early)
 - ◆ Sun., Dec. 9: 12-2 pm (luncheon at church and may start a bit early)
 - ◆ Sun., Dec. 16: 12-2 pm (luncheon at church and may start a bit early)
 - ◆ Sun., Dec. 23: 8:45-9:45 am (please be here at 8:45 am so that we can start promptly in order to get through everything)

December is a busy month, but please understand the importance of these rehearsals for a successful Christmas Eve service. Each child should attend at least 2 out of the 3 afternoon sessions, but attending all three is obviously the most preferable. The children have a wonderful opportunity to express the Good News of our salvation through Jesus Christ. The parents' help is greatly appreciated to make everything go well, as is evident by how well things have gone the past few years.
- ◆ **Christmas Worship:** Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 6:00 pm with our children presenting the Christmas Gospel. The theme this year is: *The Cross in the Christmas Tree*. Christmas Day worship will be held at 10:00 am.
- ◆ **Poinsettias:** A sign-up sheet is by the guest book for those who wish to purchase poinsettias for use in the sanctuary.
- ◆ **2013 Cleaning:** The 2013 cleaning sign-up list is now posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please consider signing up.
- ◆ **Catechism Class:** Class will be suspended on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 for the Christmas break. Class will resume on Jan. 9.
- ◆ **Annual Evangelism Workshop:** This will be held at 3 pm today at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. A chili supper will be served.

- ◆ **School Doorbell:** A doorbell was recently installed at the school door. If you need to get in during the day, please ring the bell.
- ◆ **Funeral:** "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." As announced last week, the Lord delivered Adelgunde Schaller from this vale of tears to the glories of heaven. Mrs. Schaller served the Lord for many years at ILC. A victory service is planned for Sat., Dec. 1, at Messiah, Eau Claire, beginning at 1:00 pm. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Correspondence can be sent to Messiah, 2015 N. Hastings Way, Eau Claire, WI 54703.
- ◆ **ILC Recital:** The ILC Piano/Organ Recital will be held on Sun., Dec. 9, at 3:30 p.m. in the ILC Fieldhouse.
- ◆ **ILC Christmas Concert:** This year's Christmas concert is this Fri., Dec. 21, 7:30 pm, at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. For those who wish to sign up for a ride on the bus, there is a signup list for the trip. Plans are for the bus to depart around 4:45 pm.
- ◆ **New Book:** Now available at the CLC Bookhouse for \$14.95, and just in time for Christmas: *Preaching to Preachers* by Norman A. Madson. "Don't let the title fool you. Although the sermons were written and delivered primarily to those in the preaching and teaching ministries, every Christian home would benefit from these scripturally-based and well-written devotions. Rev. Madson's application of Law and Gospel toward the servants in the public ministry will give you an insightful and instructive glimpse into the lives of your pastors and teachers as the gifts that God means them to be for you." See clcbookhouse.org.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor Thomas Schuetze of Faith in Coloma, MI, has received the call to be full-time resident pastor at Rock of Ages in Grand Rapids, MI.
- ◆ **From the Elders:** All loose offerings collected during December will be distributed equally among the congregation's called workers.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Christmas Eve Individual Parts

Last Week's Stats: Nov. 18, 2012				Sun.: 114	S.S.: 13	B.Cl.: 42	Wed.: 88
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$5,441.25	CLC:	\$883.00			
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	\$467.85	CLC:	\$175.00			
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,030.00	CLC:	960.00			
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+2,879.10	CLC:	+98.00			
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$133,320.38	CLC:	\$41,057.00			
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	142,410.00	CLC:	45,120.00			
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-9,089.62	CLC:	-4,063.00			
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	204.00			
GLC Other:	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	50.00			
ILC Student Aid:	25.00*	ILC Bldg.	255.00**	IIF:	0.00	CEF:	0.00

* \$25 Ruth Sydow Memorial; ** \$85 Ruth Sydow Memorial

What are you seeking?

This is what you will find among us:

- The Bible preached as it is — the living Word of the living God; not the preaching of social, political, theological, or ethical opinions of men.
- Man acknowledge as he is — born in sin, prone to error and doomed to hell unless rescued by God Himself; not man morally capable of redeeming himself.
- Jesus Christ worshipped as the Son of God made flesh to redeem lost and condemned mankind; not a Christ molded to accommodate the modern mind.
- God confessed as He has revealed Himself: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost — three divine Persons, one divine Essence; not some god fashioned either by the hand or the mind of man.
- Salvation proclaimed by grace through faith in the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; not by the works or efforts or striving of man.
- The Gospel preached and the Sacraments administered as the means of grace whereby the Holy Spirit creates and preserves faith; not self-induced religious experience or any so-called faith apart from that which is created by the Spirit through the Gospel.
- The Church accepted in faith as the congregation of believers — the creation of the Spirit of God; not a human organization subject to the manipulations of men.
- The business of the Church considered to be the preaching of forgiveness for the regeneration of individuals into eternal life; not the redemption of the world to conform to some social pattern of men.
- Ecumenism as Spirit-created unity in the Gospel; not as 'agreement to disagree' for the sake of power, organization, or the demands of expediency.
- Christian liberty in all that is neither forbidden nor commanded by our Lord; bondage to no word of man.
- All the Bible teaches — nothing more, nothing less.



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END OF THE CHURCH YEAR:

Today is the last Sunday of the church year. Next Sunday will be the first Sunday in Advent. The transition from an end to a beginning inspires the thought that living our lives wisely means that we will LIVE NOW FOR ETERNITY. There can be no future without the present. There is no present (now) worth living if there is no future. People who live only for the present minding only "earthly things" will be too busy to set their eyes on "heavenly things." It is easy for Christians also to get caught up in the chase for the fleeting things of life, instead of taking time to sit at the well of salvation to drink of the water of life. Scripture establishes the proper perspective to be cultivated by the child of God when it says, "Set your mind on things above," (the future), "not on things on the earth, (the present), (Colossians 3:2). The gift of eternal life that Jesus won for us by His life and at His cross assures the blessed future of all who believe in Him, and who treasure their future. Life upon earth is itself a gift of God to be lived and appreciated. Life is a time of grace. It is fraught with trial and affliction. It is for the Christian a life lived in a foreign environment, that is, the society in which the Christian lives here is not Christian-friendly. In fact our society is anti-Christian because it is anti-Christ. It behooves us as Christ-believers to live our life then with an eye on something better than that which we now have. That "better" is in heaven. So the question is, "What is our priority? What is our treasure?" That question calls for self-examination and self-assessment of what is important to us, and what it is for which we hope. Scripture says, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21). If our heart is anchored on this earth and is tethered to the things of this life, then it is even difficult to see the purpose of this life whose treasure is no more valuable than fool's gold. Our Lord who through His atonement has gained for us a better future and Who through His apostle exhorts us to set our heart on things above, Himself tells us, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal...(Matthew 6:19-20).

Scripture itself compares the attainment of such treasure to a race. We know that there are many influences in life that the devil, the world and our own flesh use to get us in a concerted effort to get us off the track, and to lose sight and ultimately lose hold of the "treasure house." We read in the book of Hebrews, "... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-2). Christ is our Strength and Stay. He who has redeemed us will keep unto life eternal all who look unto Him. It is He who makes living now for eternity well worth the well-spent time for the joy that is set before us.

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Ed Lentz

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

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

Hospitality Team 4: Mark & Trudy Wales; Karen Auel; Bob &
Suki Vandever

Church Cleaners: ??

School Cleaners: None

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

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

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

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

Church Cleaners: Kitzman

School Cleaners: K. Baker

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

- Sun., Nov. 25:** 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
10:00 am – Worship Service
11:15 am – Hospitality
3:00 pm – Evangelism Seminar @ Eau Claire, WI
- Wed., Nov. 28:** 4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
- Sun., Dec. 2:** 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
12:00-2:00 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
- Wed., Dec. 5, 12:** 7:00 pm – Midweek Advent Worship
- Sun., Dec. 9:** 12-2 pm – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
3:30 pm – ILC Piano & Organ Recital
- Wed., Dec. 19:** 6:00 pm – Congregational Christmas Dinner
7:00 pm – Candlelight Worship
- Thu., Dec. 20:** 2:00 pm – Christian Day School Concert at Northtown Mall
- Fri., Dec. 21:** 7:30 pm – ILC Christmas Concert
- Sun., Dec. 23:** 8:45 am – Christmas Eve Rehearsal
12:00 Council Meeting
- Mon., Dec. 24:** 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship
- Tue., Dec. 25:** 10:00 am – Christmas Day Worship
- Sun., Dec. 30:** 10 am – Worship Service
(Bible Class, Sunday School, Hospitality suspended)
- Mon., Dec. 31:** 7:00 pm – New Years Eve Worship w/Lord's Supper

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