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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)

Phone: 763-784-8784

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 16

Date: September 8, 2013

✠ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

Worship Preparation: Psalm 90, TLH p. 142

Hymn: TLH 296: Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth

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

Introit:

P: Rise up, O God, and defend Your cause;

C: Remember how fools mock You all day long.

P: Do not let the oppressed retreat in disgrace;

C: May the poor and needy praise Your name.

P: Hasten, O God, to save me;

C: O Lord, come quickly to help me. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: WS 775, st. 6: Thy Strong Word

God the Father, light-creator,

To Thee laud and honor be.

To Thee, Light from Light begotten,

Praise be sung eternally.

Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.

Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

First Reading: Psalm 90:1-17

Lord, teach us to number our days and apply our hearts to wisdom.

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. The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, ...

C: Piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, ... and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Alleluia.

Second Reading: Luke 10:38-42

Mary focuses on the one thing needful.

Confession of Faith: Apostolic Creed, TLH p. 12

Hymn: TLH 588: I Would Not Live Alway

Sermon: 1 Peter 1:22-2:3

²²Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, ²³having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ²⁴because "All flesh *is* as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, ²⁵But the word of the Lord endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. ²⁴ Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, ²as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious. (NKJVTM)

"Your One-Time Shot"

I. Your days are numbered

II. Your days are opportunities

Offertory: TLH, p. 12 f.

Hymn: TLH 625: Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall

Offering, Prayers, Benediction: TLH p. 14

Sunday School Teachers Installation:

Hymn: WS 780: Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give

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 visit with you!

Request for Prayers for Maleah Rojas

Many of you have heard that our school experienced what the world would call a “tragedy.” Sunday September 1 a VW Beetle was hit by a pickup truck that ran a red light. Two girls (10 years old) were killed and another girl (8 years old) is in critical condition in Tampa General Hospital with head injuries. Two of the girls (Mikaila, who was killed and Maleah, who is in the hospital) attended our school. Another girl in the front seat, Audrey, also attends our school, but she was not injured. The grandmother (Linda Mercer) was driving the car and was just released from the hospital on Friday.

The mother with the two little girls in our school was not a member of any church. That first night in hospital she confided that she was glad that I was her pastor. Her sister and her husband are taking instruction at this time. In fact, we had just finished an instruction class on Sunday just before the accident happened. I also have been visiting the grandmother in the hospital who is having a rough time processing what has happened.

There are no answers that I can provide them as to why this happened. It has been remarkable to see the healing power of the Word as these families find hope and comfort in Jesus and His promises. My first devotion was based on Psalm 46:1-2 and 10-11, “Be still and let God work.” The mother remarked that she had a deeper sense of the Father’s love which moved Him to willing give His only Son for us. It has been an emotional roller coaster and will be in the days and months to come. They cling to the simple promises of God.

Some have asked what they can do. The main thing you can do is pray that God’s will be done for Maleah and her family and pray for our school children and teachers. Maleah remains in critical condition, but she is responsive. She opened her beautiful eyes when I prayed with her yesterday. The doctors also are trying to take her off the ventilator. She also has six broken ribs, so they are worried about her lungs and pneumonia. The family is in for a long and difficult race as they seek to run it with endurance looking to Jesus.

There was no insurance for burial expenses. However, the community has stepped up with multiple fund raisers. We are not sure how much the insurance will pay for the prolonged hospital stay. This is not high on the families priorities right now. We have established a memorial fund to help the family with the multitude of unexpected expenses (Mercer Memorial Fund).

Thank you for your concerns and prayers. We don’t realize how blessed we are to know the Scriptures from childhood and to have a Spirit-created faith. My text for this Sunday is Job 1:20-22, Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD.” In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

Written by Rev. John Schierenbeck, 9/7/2013

A Daily Win-Win

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:57-58).

People talk about having or gaining a “win-win” situation. “Win-win” means that under the right circumstances there are two outcomes, either of which or both of which would be a good thing. If you’re in a win-win situation, you can’t lose. But we know from experience that many things in life are not in the category of a win-win. This is not the case, for example, in a baseball game, where there are no ties, or on the battlefield when a winning force beats a losing force and there are many casualties, even for both sides. A win-win seems so impossible when facing the kind of opponent who is dead-set on beating you and has the firepower to do it.

In the spiritual realm we notice such an enemy, the devil, whose mission statement amounts to this: using our sins against us to bring about our death and our condemnation before God. If we take him on one on one, we’re going to lose. But thanks be to God for sending Jesus to this sin-cursed earth to be sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21) and a curse for us (Galatians 3:13). Thanks be to Christ for His unwavering march to the cross and the grave, on which (the cross) and over which (the grave) He won a permanent victory for Himself, for His Father and the Holy Spirit, and for us and all of His people. It’s the ultimate win of eternal life, which Paul announces with grateful triumph: *“‘Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?’ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:54-57).*

Let’s understand full well that this victory is already won for us, already given to us, and it’s quite comprehensive. It is the complete victory over all of our sins, because Jesus paid for every single one of them to the satisfaction of the Father, who has forgiven them all because of His Son. Likewise, it is the victory over death, making our grave just like His, a temporary holding place from which the body of every buried believer will rise fully restored, completely healthy, in a state that is sin-free and death-free forever. Because of the risen

Christ we face our own death, whenever that may be, as the day we receive the grand prize of the ultimate win, our own entrance into His glory.

Now what about all the other days, the time we have between now and then? That too is meant to be win-win, as we hear in these words: *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”* (1 Corinthians 15:59). Notice the sequence. We don’t work for the Lord to gain the victory of life. It’s the other way around. We already have that victory by faith; we claim it now by trusting what Jesus did in our place and trusting what is promised, what is assured to us in the Gospel. When Paul says, *“Therefore”* – because of that victory – *“be steadfast, immovable,”* he is talking about the solid ground, the firm foundation, the safe place where our faith needs to plant both feet and stay put. It’s the safe place of the Gospel Word from God, which brings us the knowledge of who our Savior is and the assurance of what this Savior has done for us in His life, death, and resurrection.

Once we are in that safe, *“immovable”* position, however, we don’t lounge around doing nothing. The Lord has given you and me opportunities to serve Him each day. Paul sums it up as *“always abounding in the work of the Lord.”* Surely this includes what we do as pastors in the pulpit and teachers in the classroom. It extends to what we do in His name as husbands and fathers, friends and co-workers. It especially extends to all that we do as individual Christians and also together as congregations, as a church body, and a school dedicated to the mission of glorifying His name and bringing His victory of life to those who do not know it. And when these efforts get to the intensive level of *“labor,”* or toil done for Him, it cannot be in vain, for it has His acceptance, His blessing, His victory attached to it.

The Easter victory of Christ makes every day a win-win for us and for Him. If God extends our time on earth and our calling as His people who are in the world but not of the world, we can make it a win for Jesus by living our lives His way, using our time and resources to His glory, and working for the advancement of His kingdom. And when that final day comes, our expectant hope becomes, by His grace, the eternal triumph in heaven. May each day between now and then bear the mark of Paul’s words in our hearts and lives: *“Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”*

Professor Steven Sippert / Immanuel Lutheran College President
CLC Coordinating Council – April 2013

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✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ **Church Picnic:** Next Sunday there will be a church picnic here on the church grounds following our regular church service. Plans are to set up an inflatable jumping gym for the children. Grilled meat will be provided. Members are asked to bring a dish to share, including things like salads, chips, and/or desserts. Folks may help out as needed with serving and cleanup.
- ◆ **Sunday School Teachers:** This year’s S.S. teachers are: Age 4-K: Rachel Eichstadt; 1st-3rd: Ann Radichel; 4th-5th: Jan Davis; 6th-8th: Mark Wales. May the teachers and students be richly blessed around the Word: *“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”* Isaiah 55:11
- ◆ **Grace School:** After starting off with 10 students, our school benefited this week from the addition of four new children. Grace now has 14 students. This is the highest enrollment our school has had in the past decade. We thank the Lord for each child of God we have an opportunity to minister unto. The enrollment currently stands at: 1st Grade: J. Broder, G. Gillenwater, N. Story, A. Baker; 2nd Grade: H. Broder, D. Flesner; 3rd Grade: S. Broder, N. Story; 4th Grade: C. Flesner, D. Hein; 5th Grade: K. Baker, R. Broder; 6th Grade: P. Baker; 7th Grade: J. Hein. We pray that our students will be richly blessed through the spiritual training they will receive through daily contact with God’s Word. We also pray that our teachers will be upheld by God’s promises that their work is not in vain but is done to the glory of God and for the welfare of His kingdom.
- ◆ **Thanks:** Many thanks to the congregation for their prayers and loving support over the months of Corine’s decline and illness, and for their participation in events surrounding her memorial service. Your kind words and expressions of condolence have been most comforting in our time of loss, and we rejoice to be a part of Grace’s fellowship of believers, knowing that our beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother now enjoys the perfect peace and perfect joy promised by our Lord. Jack and Sue Anne Kirkham and Family
- ◆ **Commissioning Service:** On Monday evening, Sept. 23, there will be a commissioning service held at Messiah in Eau Claire, WI, for Pastor Edward Starkey, who has accepted the call to serve as a CLC foreign missionary in India. The service will begin at 6:30 pm, and all CLC members and friends are invited to attend. Pastor Starkey and his wife, Janice, plan to depart for India in late Sept. or early Oct.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Two children attending Immanuel Lutheran School (CLC) in Winter Haven, FL, died in a car accident last Sunday. A report from Pastor John Schierenbeck is included in today’s bulletin. Please keep this situation in your prayers.

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Janelle Hein Elder: Brandt Wendland
Ushers: Pat Paplow, Alex Baker, Kevin Baker, Dan Degnan,
 Brian Eichstadt, Ryan Oman, Brandon Paplow
Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack
 Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Brandt Wendland
Hospitality Team 6: Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian &
 Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt Wendland
Church Cleaners: P. Radichel School: Bergstrom

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Pat Paplow, Alex Baker, Kevin Baker, Dan Degnan,
 Brian Eichstadt, Ryan Oman, Brandon Paplow
Counting Team 4: Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl;
 Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner
Hospitality Team 1: Bye (Church Picnic)
Church Cleaners: Fleischer School: A. Baker

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

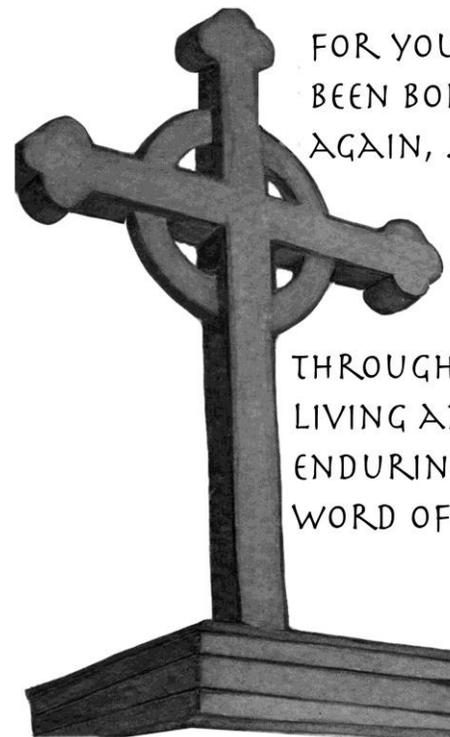
Sun., Sept. 8: 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality
 12:00 pm – Council Meeting
Mon., Sept. 9: 7:00 pm – Grace School Open House
Wed., Sept. 11: 4:30 pm – Catechism
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class
Sun., Sept. 15: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Grace Church Picnic
Sun., Sept. 22: 3:00 pm – MN Delegate Conference @ New Ulm, MN
Wed., Sept. 25: CLC Coordinating Council Meeting
October 8-9: MN Pastoral Conference
Sun., Oct. 13: Mission Festival w/Raju Bhitrakoti

Last Week's Stats: Sept. 1, 2013 Sun.: 114

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,770.36	CLC:	\$921.25	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,000.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+770.36	CLC:	-38.75	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$104,326.73	CLC:	\$34,308.75	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	105,000.00	CLC:	33,600.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-673.27	CLC:	+708.75	
GLC Other:	555.00	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	450.00
SAF Endowment:	0.00	MDF:	100.00	Kinship:	190.00**
ILC Student Aid:	50.00	ILC Bldg.	170.00	IIF:	20.00
				CEF:	0.00

* \$435 Fire Alarm; \$120 Kirkham Memorial; ** \$25 Kirkham Memorial

*Grace Lutheran
 Church & School*



FOR YOU HAVE
 BEEN BORN
 AGAIN, ...

THROUGH THE
 LIVING AND
 ENDURING
 WORD OF GOD.

1 PETER 1:23