

Grace

THANKSGIVING SERVICE



Lutheran Church

460 75th Ave NE

Fridley, MN 55432

Web: www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.org

Pastor: John Hein

Email: jphein@clclutheran.com

Church Year: Thanksgiving Eve

Organist: Janelle Hein

Web: www.JustifiedByGrace.org

Date: November 25, 2015

Worship Preparation:..... *Psalm 100, TLH, p. 144 f.*

Hymns: *TLH 574; TLH 39; TLH 36; TLH 568*

Other: *CDS: For the Fruit of His Creation; Choir: Sing to the Lord of Harvest*

Scripture Reading:..... *Psalm 100*

The Thanksgiving Message:..... *Psalm 135*

PRAISE THE NAME OF JEHOVAH!

WELCOME To God's house on this eve of Thanksgiving. May your dear Lord and Savior grant you the precious blessings of a truly thankful heart which sees the loving, caring, providing and protecting heart and hand of God in your life as one of His beloved children by faith.

ADVENT Beginning next Wednesday, **Midweek Advent Services** will be held at 7:00 pm. The service on **December 16** will be our candlelight service with a congregational Christmas meal preceding the service at 6:00 pm.

CHRISTMAS EVE RECITATIONS & SONGS were recently distributed to all of our Sunday School children. **Students (and Parents)** – please see that your child's individual parts are ready for this Sunday. **Christmas Eve rehearsals** will be the next three **Sundays**, from 12-2 pm. **December 20** will be the dress rehearsal from 8:45-9:45 am. Attendance is very important.



As a young man, I once spent the weekend at the home of a good friend. It was a rather unusual home. The family had seven children, but the house had only three bedrooms. It seemed like only a shoebox for all those people! A plaque on the kitchen/dining room wall spelled out the mom's philosophy for running the household. It was only one word: "Kwiltchyerbellyakin." Now, this was a caring Christian household, and you can be sure that when one of the children was hurting or really needed attention, the parents were right there for them. But when it came to your average, everyday complaining and grumbling, there simply wasn't any time for that. Whenever someone started to whine, mom simply pointed to that word on the wall, and that said it all.

Did you know that the Lord has a similar message for us? Boy, do we need it! It sometimes seems like "belly-aching" is our national pastime. We complain about our health, our lack of money, our jobs, and the weather. We complain about our politicians, our neighbors, our co-workers, and even (sometimes especially) our spouses or family members.

Do we have a good reason to be concerned about these things? Of course -- and our gracious God wants to hear from us about them. "Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you," the Bible says (1 Peter 5:2). But I think we can all tell the difference between appealing to God for help with a problem, and simply complaining about it. This kind of grumbling dishonors God, first of all because we're really blaming Him for how bad things are, and secondly because we fail to give Him thanks for the many blessings He gives us that we take for granted.

The Christian, in particular, has no excuse for a complaining heart. Isn't it true that we would have been lost and condemned in our sins if God had not sent Jesus to die for us? Didn't Jesus give Himself up to death on the cross to give us forgiveness and life, as a free gift of grace? Hasn't He promised to call us from the grave and take us home to heaven? Hasn't God consistently provided for all our needs through the years? Hasn't He promised to be with us, to see us through every heartache and problem? Given all this, is there any sense at all in having a grumbling and complaining heart? To put it simply, it's important to be aware of when your own heart is grumbling and "Quit your belly-aching!" Instead, follow St. Paul's advice in Philippians chapter 4: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

-- Pastor Bruce Naumann

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