

Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635) School Phone: 763-784-6340 Church Year: Pentecost 17 Phone: 763-784-8784 Grades: 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Date: October 1, 2017



# The Doctrines of the Reformation are Still and Will Always Remain Relevant The Means of Grace

## **Opening Prayer**

## **Opening Hymn**

TLH 292, st. 1-4, 8-9: "Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide"

#### Invocation

- Pastor: We begin our service in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- People: Amen. (Spoken)

## **Confession and Absolution**

- Pastor: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- People: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- Pastor: Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
- People: You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- Pastor: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you. Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you. Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
- People: But steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD. (Psalm 32)
- Pastor: As a called servant of God I announce His grace unto you, and by the command of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Therefore the Psalmist declares: "Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!"
- All: Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations. Amen. (Psalm 100)

#### Response

WS 792: "Let All Things Now Living"

- All: A Let all things now living a song of Thanksgiving To God the Creator triumphantly raise,
  Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
  God's banners are o'er us; His light goes before us, A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
  Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, As forward we travel from light into light. A
- Pastor: The Lord be with you.
- People: And also with you. (Spoken)

## **Prayer of the Day**

- Pastor: ...who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.
- People: Amen. (Spoken)

## 1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading

Colossians 3:2-4

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading

Matthew 16:21-27

- Pastor: Alleluia, Alleluia! "Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105) Alleluia!
- People: 🦨 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! 🦨

## **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

- And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

#### Second Hymn

TLH 467: "Built on the Rock the Church Doth Stand"

#### Sermon

Isaiah 55:6-13 – The Means of Grace

#### **The Offertory**

(TLH 50:2: "Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing"

 All: ♪ Thanks we give and adoration For the Gospel's joyful sound.
 May the fruits of Your Salvation In our hearts and lives abound; Ever faithful, ever faithful
 To the Truth may we be found! ♪

#### Third Hymn

WS 775: "Thy Strong Word"

#### The Offering and Hymn

After offering, rise to sing WS 742:1: "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

All: ♪ Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven; To His feet your tribute bring; Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Evermore His praises sing: Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King. ♪

#### Prayer

#### The Lord's Prayer

(Tune TLH 261, "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word")

 All: ♪ O God, our Father, on Your throne, Hear us Your children as we pray: Your name be holy ev'ry day;
 Your kingdom come; Your will be done;

Give us this day our daily bread; Forgive our sins as we forgive; Keep us from sin that we might live; Oh, crush the evil serpent's head.

Yours is the kingdom and the pow'r, All glory Yours alone shall be In time and in eternity. Lord, hear our pray'r in this glad hour. パ

## Choir

"Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word"

#### All: I O Comforter of priceless worth, Send peace and unity on earth; Support us in our final strife And lead us out of death to life. I

## **Communion Preparation – The Preface**

(Tune WS 775, "Thy Strong Word")

Pastor: A May our gracious God be with you.

People: And may God be with you too.

Pastor: His great mercy be upon you.

People: His great love is with you too.

All: Alleluia, alleluia! Christ our Lord for all men died! Alleluia, alleluia! Christ our Lord be glorified!

#### **Thanksgiving Prayer**

Pastor: Dear God, our heavenly Father, ... With joy in our hearts we join the whole company of heaven to sing:

#### **The Sanctus**

(Tune WS 774, "A Mighty Fortress")

All: 

 *A* Holy are You our mighty God!
 You live and reign forever.

 The Father gave His only Son.

 The Son Himself was willing.
 Man's death Christ endured.
 Man's life Christ secured.
 All men are now free
 Who this true Word believe
 By God the Spirit's power.
 *A*

### The Words of Institution

The Lamb of God

(WS p. 19, "Agnus Dei")

All: A O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, Whose blood, once shed, true life restored, Impart Your joy, our faith increase. Sustain with Your mercy And grant us Your peace. A

### The Distribution

TLH 313: "O Lord, We Praise Thee;" Meditative Music

## The Thanksgiving

(Tune WS 774, "A Mighty Fortress")

All: ♪ All thanks and praise to Christ our King, Who gifts to us has given! His very body and His blood, To strengthen faith and gladden. Thank God for His grace. Thank God for His peace. Rejoicing we go, And sing His praise below, Refreshed with His forgiveness. ♪

#### **The Benediction**

(Tune WS 775, "Thy Strong Word")

Pastor: The Lord bless you, the Lord keep you, Make His face to shine on you. May He look with love upon you. May He grant His peace to you.

> All: Alleluia, alleluia! Praise and glory, honor be! Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to God eternally!

## **Final Hymn**

TLH 52: "Almighty Father, Bless the Word"

## **Silent Prayer**

#### Our Lutheran Confession from the Brief Statement of 1932

Of the Means of Grace

21. Although God is present and operates everywhere throughout all creation and the whole earth is therefore full of the temporal bounties and blessings of God, Col. 1:17; Acts 17:28; 14:17, still we hold with Scripture that God offers and communicates to men the spiritual blessings purchased by Christ, namely, the forgiveness of sins and the treasures and gifts connected therewith, only through the external means of grace ordained by Him. These means of grace are the Word of the Gospel, in every form in which it is brought to man, and the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and of the Lord's Supper. The Word of the gospel promises and applies the grace of God, works faith and thus regenerates man, and gives the Holy Ghost, Acts 20:24; Rom. 10:17; 1 Pet. 1:23; Gal. 3:2. Baptism, too, is applied for the remission of sins and is therefore a washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, Acts 2:38; 22:16; Titus 3:5. Likewise the object of the Lord's Supper, that is, of the ministration of the forgiveness of sins, as the words declare: "Given for you," and: "Shed for you for the remission of sins," Luke 22:19, 20; Matt. 26:28, and "This cup is the New Testament in My blood," 1 Cor. 11:23; Jer. 31:31-34 ("New Covenant").

# ✤ The ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Grace Hosting Conference: This is a reminder that Grace is hosting the Minnesota Pastoral Conference this week on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Dorcas Guild committee #1 is organizing the meals. May the Lord richly bless the conference with a study of His Word. Members may listen in on sessions if they wish.
- ♦ October Voters Meeting: Due to the pulpit rotation in October, the Voters meeting on October 15 is being revised. President Eli Wales changed it to 6:30 pm that same Sunday since Pastor will be at Mankato that morning to preach there.
- ♦ Box Tops for Education: We have about a month left before we will be mailing in the Box Tops for Education. We would like to encourage everyone to keep clipping those Box Tops! We are shooting for a goal of \$150.00. We are currently at \$65.
- ◆ 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Series: This October we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation and the important doctrinal truths it has and continues to faithfully proclaim. We will be focusing on five unique and important doctrines of the Reformation, through a "pastor exchange" with other CLC congregations in Minnesota. Each pastor will rotate to the five congregations and present a Bible Class study and worship service/sermon on one of these important Biblical truths. Lord, through our study of Your Word grant us understanding of these important truths, comfort us in Your abounding mercy and grace toward sinners, and give us strength to live our lives to Your glory.
  - Oct. 1: The Means of Grace (Pastor John Hein Fridley)
  - Oct. 8: The Theology of the Cross (Pastor Rob Sauers Morris)
  - Oct. 15: Vocation (Pastor Nathanael Mayhew Sleepy Eye & New Ulm)
  - Oct. 22: Justification (Pastor Joe Naumann Mankato)
  - Oct. 29: The Two Kingdoms (Pastor David Baker Red Wing)
- ◆ Joint Worship: The Minnesota Area CLC Reformation Festival for the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation will be held Oct. 29, 4 pm, at Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN. The theme will be "Celebrating God's Grace." A fellowship meal will be served following the service. Guests planning on attending the meal afterwards are being asked to bring a dessert of any kind to share. Those who wish to participate in the joint choir may get the music from our choir director. The children are invited to sing in the children's choir which rehearses at 3:30 pm and will be singing "Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain," something the Sunday School children are working on and will be singing here at Grace that morning. As we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, let's take the time to join together with our fellow CLC brothers and sisters in Christ here in Minnesota to support and encourage one another with God's grace in Christ Jesus and with our Biblical Lutheran heritage in these last days.

- ◆ CLC Seminar: The Great Lakes conference is hosting a seminar to 10 of our congregations. The theme is, "Some Questions Are Eternal," looking at three events in the life of Martin Luther where God in His Word supplied answers to the following questions: 1) How can I find acceptance with God?; 2) Are Bible truths worth dying for?; 3) Where does faith come from?. The presenters are Pastor Em. John Schierenbeck, Pastor Caleb Schaller, and the pastor of the host congregation. Here is the travel schedule:
  - Sept. 29-Oct.1 Appleton, Marquette, Eau Claire
  - Oct. 13-15 Milwaukee, Fond du Lac, Markesan
  - Oct. 20-22
     Coloma, Middleton
  - Oct. 27-29 Detroit, Saginaw
- ♦ 2018 CLC Mission Helper Trip: Applications are being accepted for the 2018 Mission Helper Trip to Africa. You can find more information and apply online at: www.mht.lutheranmissions.org/
- Mission Festival and Blood Drive: This year's blood drive will be following the Mission Festival church service on Nov. 26. Because you can only donate whole blood every 8 weeks, if you plan on supporting this drive you CANNOT donate any time after Oct. 1 leading up to the event. Last year we missed our goal by 8 units. If we are to continue this tradition we will need to make an improvement on this number. Hope to see you at the drive.
- Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day: is Nov. 10 beginning at 10 am in the ILC gymnasium for chapel. It will feature presentations and classroom visits until 3 pm. Come and learn more about your church's college and a continuing education with Christ. Housing can be provided along with meals. Friday evening there is the opportunity to see the ILC fall musical: Anne with an E. It will be performed both Fri. and Sat. evenings at 7:30 pm with music to preface at 7 pm. Speak with pastor about questions and attendance or contact Prof. John Ude, by Nov. 7 (W: 715-836-6631/H: 715-600-6210/john.ude@ilc.edu).
- CLC News: Miss. Miriam Bernthal of Fond du Lac, WI, has received and <u>accepted</u> the call to be the pre-school teacher at Peace Thru Christ Lutheran in Middleton, WI, the goal to startup in January 2018.
- Sunday School Memory Work: #3 First Commandment

Last Week's Stats: Sept. 24	4, 2017 🗧	Sun.: 107 S.S.	:12 B.C	I.: 36 Wed.: 23
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,273.65	CLC:	\$640.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	950.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-424.91	CLC:	+35.00
Year-to-Date Offering:: Year-to-Date Need: Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace: Grace: Grace:	\$122,651.13 125,400.00 -2,748.87	CLC: CLC: CLC:	\$34,902.00 36,100.00 -1,198.00
GLC Other: 37.30 SAF Endowment: 0.00 ILC Student Aid: 0.00	Living Fai MDF: ILC Bldg.	,	Tuition / Kinship: IIF: 0.00	Aid: 30.50 0.00
Current Delenses	Dorling	at: 00.0E1.7E	Tuition	A:d. 605 10*

Current Balances: Parking Lot: 28,951.75 Tuition Aid: 605.12\* \* \$5,087.50 was paid for Grace's 3 students attending Immanuel Lutheran H.S.



What it means: The payment for the sins of all people was completed, once for all, with Jesus' death on the cross, but only those who trust in Christ alone will receive

eternal life (John 3:16). The question now is "How does God *deliver* this forgiveness to sinners, so that the Holy Spirit can lead them to faith, and keep them in faith?" The answer is that He does this through His Word in the Bible, and through the promise of His Word in Holy Baptism and in the Lord's Supper:

Rom. 10:17 - Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Eph. 5:25-26 – Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.

Matthew 26:26-28 – "Take, eat; this is My body...Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Why it's important: Faith is the conviction that God is gracious to you because of Christ. You can know this is true because God promises it to you personally in the Bible, poured it out on you personally in your Baptism, and gives it to you personally with Jesus' body and blood which are truly present in the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. These are the means by which you come into direct contact with Jesus; these are the ways God uses to give forgiveness and eternal life directly to you!

Who says otherwise: Only confessional Lutheran churches offer this certain delivery of forgiveness in the way that the Bible presents it. In the Roman Catholic Church people are offered only a little forgiveness at a time, with strings attached, and only by the pope's authority through a priest. In many Protestant churches it is the individual who has to "make a decision" for Christ; in other words, you are your own means. Prayer is presented as a means of grace, when it is really a response to grace. Many non-denominational and charismatic church-goers strive for a direct connection with God through emotions and supposed miracles; in this way they miss out on meeting Jesus where He is actually found – in Word and Sacrament.

## The Machinery to Effect the Harvest: The Means of Grace

Written by Pastor John Hein, Excerpt from 2006 CLC Convention Essay

Here in America we like things bigger and better. This same concept applies to farmers with combines. When I first worked at Case IH as a combine engineer, we had a model called the 1620. It was the runt of the manufacturing line, its 145 horsepower engine paling in comparison to the 235 horsepower engine of its massive brother, the 1680. Nevertheless, with its smaller size it was perhaps the sturdiest machine Case IH sold at the time. But sales were fading fast, threatening its production on the manufacturing line. Being fresh out of college and having come from a smaller farm myself, my outlook was idealistic in defending continuation of this midget. Since the cost of production for the machine was much more than the revenue we got from sales, it didn't take long for many of us advocates to change our minds. So in 1991 the 1620 was sadly discontinued. With sales diminishing, it no longer seemed relevant for today's agricultural environment.

Holding fast to the inerrancy of God's Word and the truth of the Biblical teachings upheld in our Lutheran Confessions, we in the Church of the Lutheran Confession may feel at times that this is the case for us. Even though the population has grown in America, our membership has remained steady at nearly the same levels as 20 years ago. Meanwhile, some churches today are experiencing significant growth. Are we still relevant in today's spiritual environment?

Recently I was attending one of my son's baseball games. Three of us parents were visiting, discovering that we all sent our children to private schools. Upon finding out that I was a pastor and that our school at church had ten students, one of the gentlemen cleverly set me up. He asked me how many attend our church followed by how many are actually members. He got the reply he was seeking, knowing that attendance average would likely be well below the number of members. Then he said, "We have the opposite problem." From there he took over the conversation by reveling in how his mega-church, Eagle Brook Church, had 500 members with 5,000 people attending. He explained how his church had a service called "The Edge" which had really loud, cutting edge music that appealed to the young people. Knowing that we held only one service during the weekend, he later asked me what I believe he was really getting at: "How do you keep your message <u>relevant</u> for all the different age groups attending in only one service?"

We all very likely have had conversations like this. They can easily get us down if we fail to keep a proper perspective. By stressing relevancy, people may imply that our message is obsolete, just like the Case IH 1620. Perhaps even we are tempted to feel the same way. On Eagle Brook's website, the only word that dynamically flashes for eye appeal is the word "relevant." But what do they mean by that? Relevant is defined as "having some bearing on or importance for real-world issues, present-day events, or the current state of society." Regrettably, the real-world messages that many offer are really Laworientated rather than Gospel-orientated, e.g., how to be a better husband, how to be a better volunteer, how to be positive, how to do this or that.

When it comes down to it, how much more relevant can we be in today's world than to have our preaching and teaching focus on sin and grace? Sin is a real-world issue that impacts present-day events and the current state of society. That makes God's grace as relevant today as it was in the First Century. The outcome of Jesus' work of redemption is needed just as much now as it was then. Throughout the centuries the Gospel message has always been relevant because it is needed just as much for us as it was for Adam and Eve. Up until recently, there was no need among churches to separate our flocks into distinct generations with various needs. It was recognized that the need was the same: salvation in Christ Jesus.

This doesn't mean that the message we share should not keep up with the issues on people's minds today. Jesus taught in parables and handled the questions that people addressed to Him. Pastors, in particular, are called upon to be *"able to teach"* (1 Timothy 3:2) with communication that will not get in the way of understanding the Gospel. But in reality, all real-world issues in life come back to the basic premise of sin and grace.

Growing up on my father's farm I had become accustomed to operating a combine with a header 16 feet wide. The difference in machinery on the custom harvest crew was dramatic. I operated a new Gleaner R70 rotary combine with a header 30 feet wide, nearly twice as large in size and thrice as mighty in horsepower. Having learned all about the engine, drives, and mechanisms inside and how they functioned, my perception of this massive machine was that I was in full control of the most powerful, advanced harvesting equipment in the world. All its controls were within instant reach of my fingertips.

The LORD has given us the necessary machinery to carry out the work of <u>His</u> harvest; and that tool is the Means of Grace, the Gospel in God's Holy Word, Holy Baptism, and Holy Communion. We as operators in the LORD's harvest have at our fingertips the most powerful, advanced equipment through which God the Holy Spirit does the work of gathering redeemed souls. This machinery directs minds and hearts to Christ Jesus! Through the preaching of the Gospel in Word, we have at our disposal the *"power of God to salvation"* (Romans 1:16). Through the administration of Holy Baptism, the Spirit adds to the LORD's Church as He *"sanctifies and cleanses her with the washing of water by the word, ..."* (Ephesians 5:26). Through the distribution of the Lord's Supper in bread and wine, we receive Christ's body and blood which were *"given"* and *"shed for many for the remission of sins"* (Luke 22:19, Matthew 26:28). This is the machinery that God has selected to accomplish His harvest work of impacting the hearts of human beings. Even in the Great Commission two forms of the Means of Grace are mentioned, that of the Word and that of Holy Baptism.

Once one begins discounting the power available in the Means of Grace, the power is sought elsewhere. The effectiveness of any church's ministry is judged solely by its numerical growth. So in turn, the power for adding souls is believed to be found in activities, programs, gimmicks, or whatever else adds to numbers. It is, after all, the American way that bigger is better. Craig Parton, a former Evangelical, writes in his book, **The Defense Never Rests**: "The 'Holy Trinity' of newness (i.e., be hip), numbers (i.e., be big), and needs (i.e., be relevant) now provides the dominant 'means of grace' within much of Evangelicalism."

Our success is not to be judged by the results. Leave those to God! Our task is merely to operate faithfully the machinery the LORD has given us: "In all forms of the Great Commission we have the responsibility of communicating, not of converting. It is demanded of us that we be faithful, it is never demanded that we be successful. Our Savior calls us to take action, He does not call on us to produce results." Obviously the method of harvesting the crop today is much different than it was in Jesus' day. Today the farmer can climb into his air-conditioned, 370 horsepower combine and cut, thresh, and separate the crop with one fell swoop. But the power we have at our disposal in the Means of Grace is far more impressive than any modern machinery. It is never outdated. It is sufficient to complete the work. It is what adds souls to God's kingdom. It is always relevant!

ቱ Today At Grace ቱ

<u>Organist:</u> Jan Davis

*Elder*: Benno Sydow

<u>Ushers</u>: Larry Brandt; Jeremiah Boe; Nick Duehlmeier; Dale Enns; Duane Enns

<u>Counting Team 3</u>: Brian Eichstadt; Duane Enns; David Hein; Chad Hestekin; Benno Sydow

<u>Hospitality Team 1</u>: Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice Sandhoefner

<u>Church Cleaners</u>: Rosendahl <u>School</u>: Ecker

## NEXT WEEK AT GRACE 🕆

<u>Ushers</u>: Brian Eichstadt; Kevin Baker; Dan Degnan; Brandon Paplow; Pat Paplow

<u>Counting Team 4</u>: James Bomber; Brad Kitzman; Paul Lentz; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust

<u>Hospitality Team 7</u>: Jan Davis, Chad & Amanda Hestekin; Ryan & Mikey Oman; Eli & Laura Wales

Church Cleaners: F.&A. Radichel School: Ecker

ት OUR SCHEDULE ት

October Sun.:	Lutheran Reformation 500 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Series
Sun. Oct. 1:	9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
	10:00 am – Worship Service (Reformation #1) w/Lord's Supper
	11:00 am – Hospitality; 12:00 pm – Council Meeting
October 3-4:	Minnesota Pastoral Conference @ Grace (starts at 10 am)
Wed., Oct. 4:	12:00 pm – MN Pastoral Conference Ends
	4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
	7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class
Sun. Oct. 8:	8:30 am – Choir Practice
	9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School
	10:00 am – Worship Service (Reformation #2)
	11:00 am – Hospitality
Sun., Oct. 15:	Voters and Dorcas Guild Meetings (6:30 pm for Voters)
Oct. 16-20:	Grace School – Fall Break
	Parent/Teacher Conferences
	CLC Teachers' Conference @ Mankato, MN
	School Field Trip @ Ordway, "Diavolo"
Sat., Oct. 28:	9:00 am – Grace Work Day
Sun., Oct. 29:	4:00 pm – Joint Reformation Service @ Mankato, MN
October 31:	500 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation
Nov. 6-24:	Pastor Hein's Mission Trip to Liberia
Fri., Nov. 10:	Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day
Nov. 10-11:	7:30 pm – ILC Musical, "Anne with an E" (Music @ 7 pm)
Wed., Nov. 22:	7:00 pm – Thanksgiving Eve Worship