

This Week at Grace
Sunday, September 24, 2006
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

(Note that I have changed the name of our weekly email. Grace Notes Online seemed confusing with our monthly newsletter. And that confusion is more so now that both the contents of this email and Grace Notes are available on our web site at www.gracealbertlea.org.)

INTRODUCTION

In worship we learn the reversals in the kingdom of God: greatness is not defined by wealth, power, or prestige. Rather, all people are welcomed in the name of Christ. The children in our midst are a sign of the hospitality that God offers to all persons regardless of their status in the world. We go forth from the liturgy to be servants who find greatness in humble service on behalf of those who are often forgotten or rejected in society.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, whom with you and the Holy Spirit we worship and praise, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING *Jeremiah 11:18–20*

Today's reading tells of the suffering of a just man, the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's message of impending doom only to receive opposition. The common idea of the just sufferer seems to have influenced the early Christians as they sought to understand the sufferings and death of Jesus.

¹⁸ It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.
¹⁹ But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.
And I did not know it was against me

that they devised schemes, saying,
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!"
²⁰ But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

SECOND READING *James 3:13—4:3; 4:7–8a*

James contrasts the wisdom from above, with all its good characteristics, with the desire to "have things," which leads to conflicts and disputes in the community. Meaning in life does not come from cravings for possessions or pleasure, which only breed competition.

Chapter 3

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵ Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶ For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Chapter 4

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ² You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

GOSPEL *Mark 9:30–37*

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed

into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY: 8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services
9:30a Coffee Fellowship
9:45a Sunday School/Education Hour
2:15p 7th-12th gr. Good Samaritan Sunday

MONDAY: 6:00p Mary Circle
7:30p Albert Lea Cantori Rehearsal

TUESDAY: 9:00a Staff Meeting
9:30a Ladies Bible Study
2:30p 3-D Meeting (*Please note change of day and time.*)
4:00p Widow's Support Group
7:00p Personnel Committee Meeting
7:30p Lois Circle

WEDNESDAY: 9:15a Deborah Circle
9:30a Martha Circle
1:15p Ruth Circle
5:00p Chew-n-Chat
5:30p Cherub/Chancel Choirs
6:30p 7th-8th gr. Confirmation
6:30p 9th gr. Confirmation
6:30p 10th gr. Confirmation
6:30p Sr. High Bible Study
6:30p Bells of Praise
7:30p Adult Choir

THURSDAY: 6:00a Early Morning Bible Study
1:00p Widower's Support Group

FRIDAY: 1:30p ThorneCrest Bible Study
3:30p Youth Room for 4th-6th Graders

NEXT SUNDAY: 8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services
 9:30a Coffee Fellowship
 9:45a Sunday School / Education Hour

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [Sept. 24: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Sept. 24: Sunday School.] [Sept. 25: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [Sept. 26-27: In memory of Ruth Pleiss given by Bob & Doris Miller, and Burnette Grunhvd.] [Sept. 27: GLCW] [Sept. 28: In memory of Elnor Sanvik given by Dorothy Michaelis.] [Sept. 29-Oct. 1: Given by Hazel Spiering.]

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: (no one reported).

PLEASE REMEMBER those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Ella Anderson (granddaughter of Dan & Bonnie Anderson), Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Lucille Kittelson, Anna Kycek, Conrad & Rose Masyga (parents of Kris Heine), Vern Nasby, LeMoyne Oakland, Marian Odson, Lissa Parrish, Joyce Schreiber, Sally Skrlin, LaVon Stewart, Marliiss Sward (sister of Marlene Sorenson), Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

GREETERS FOR OUR SERVICES today are Phil & Kathie Rogers, and Al & Judy Menssen at 8:30; and Carlyle & Dona Matheson, and Ron & Betty Mathews at 11:00.

ACOLYTES are Amber Zemek and Jordan Mondeel at 8:30; and Andrea Crom and Troy Seberson at 11:00.

LESSON READERS this morning are Bill Leland at 8:30; and Nancy Greiner at 11:00.

BAPTIZED INTO THE KINGDOM of God at our 11:00 worship service are *Todd Calvin Earl*, and *Brendan Joel Earl*, son of Todd & Heather Earl. Brendan's sponsors are Brandon Greiner and Derrick Greiner.

WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS in Christ throughout the Southeast Minnesota Synod today in praying for Scheie Lutheran Church of Mabel, West St. Olaf Lutheran in Byron, South Blue Earth Lutheran in Bricelyn, and United Lutheran Church of Red Wing.

OUR THANKS to last month's Altar Guild workers:
Arlene Hobbiebrunken, Carol Roberts, Lois Undahl, and Kathie Rogers.

TIME IS HERE AGAIN for serving Loaves and Fishes. A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. Your help is greatly appreciated!

ARE YOU MISSING THAT FAVORITE CAKE PAN OR BOWL? Many items have accumulated in our church kitchen following various events. Stop down to see if any containers belong to you.

PLEASE REMEMBER to lock your vehicle when attending services or other events here at Grace.

OCTOBER BOOK CLUB will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, Oct. 2nd, 7:00p, at the home of Jeanne Gross. Our featured book is *The Kite Runner* by Khalad Hosseini.

MEAL MINISTRY: A number of volunteers signed up to assist with our new Meal Ministry last week. More volunteers are needed. Please consider adding your name to the list in the narthex to help provide meals for families experiencing challenges due to illness, death, or family crisis. If you would like more information, notify Lisa in the church office.

TELECAST UPDATE: Over the past weeks we have experienced problems with the video of the worship service. We have attempted to find the problem. It appears to be several things which we have attempted to correct. We are sorry if this has caused any inconveniences for our viewers. We would like to again ask if anyone is interested in joining this ministry! We are planning to make some changes that may require additional personnel to operate. The changes should make the broadcast stronger. However, even without the improvements one more person to assist would be great. If you have any interest, regardless of gender or age, please notify the office or one of the recorders. We very much could use some new help. After losing one of our members about a year ago no one has expressed interest in helping with this ministry. Please come forth and offer what assistance you can.

TODAY: 7th-12th gr. GOOD SAMARITAN SUNDAY

(Youth who have signed up will need to meet here at Grace at 2:15p. If additional people wish to attend, please talk to Denae. The more the merrier!) This is a new program at Grace Lutheran. The last Sunday of each month will be Good Samaritan Sunday. Starting this afternoon we will head out to Good Samaritan Center to spend about an hour with the residents, playing games and engaging them in conversation. After that we will head back to the church to share a meal together and spend the rest of the evening in the Youth Room. The hours of this event will run from 2:30-6:00p, the last Sunday of every month. We will also be looking for volunteers from the congregation to provide a meal during this program for youth who participate. (This program takes the place of last year's Sunday night Youth Room.)

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR FALL:

Grades 4-6 Good Earth Village Youth Blast, Oct. 6th-7th

Youth who are in grades 4-6 are invited to spend an overnight at GEV to learn about Bible heroes, have fun and play games. Cost of the overnight is

\$15 and includes transportation, food, and overnight stay at GEV. Sign up is on the bulletin board outside Denae's office.

4th-6th gr. Youth Room will continue Friday, Sept. 29th.

Youth are invited to come hang out and play from 3:30-5:00 on Fridays after school.

Grades 9-12 Luther College Church Youth Fest, Nov. 11th-12th

This event is for youth in 9th-12th grades and runs from Saturday morning through Sunday afternoon. Held on campus at Luther College, this yearly offering is filled with fun classes, musical guest Ken Medema, and special guest Pastor Larry Clark. Our time at Luther also includes open gym time, swimming, games, and talent show. Cost for the weekend is \$20. Sign up in on the bulletin board outside of Denae's office.

NEW SUNDAY YOUTH ROOM HOURS CONTINUE:

Youth who attend the 8:30a church service and also attend the required Bible Study during the Sunday school hour will be able to hang out in the Youth Room after the Bible Study is over. (Youth who are interested in being in the Youth Room during this time will need to turn in their sermon notes that were filled out during the first service to Denae as they come into the Youth Room.) Anyone arriving late will not be allowed to enter the Youth Room. *Attending the first service is a requirement for being in the Youth Room during this time.* The room closes at noon.

A NEW WORSHIP BOOK "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" will be published this fall. We invite everyone to a series of adult forums beginning today and continuing Sept. 24th, and Oct. 1st to learn what this new worship resource is about. There will be opportunities for questions at each session and the last two sessions will present opportunities for listening and participating. The Worship and Music Ministry Team wants people to learn about this new resource and experience it before we as a congregation make any decisions. Our Music Director, Bob Tewes, will lead the forums as follows:

Today Overview of the "Evangelical Lutheran Worship"

Liturgies

Oct. 1st Presentation/Exploration of the Hymn List

3rd gr. STUDENTS will begin Bible Classes in October on the 1st, 15th, 22nd, and 29th (please take note of the days). Class will be held in the Chapel at 9:45a. Parents are requested to attend with their students.

7th gr. STEPPING STONES RECOGNITION: A special day has been planned just for you on Oct. 8th. A presentation will be held during both worship services that day for our Confirmation students and parents. Please make plans to attend one of these services as a family. Mark your calendar.

YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMER 2007 TRIP ANNOUNCED

Next summer's trip is all about service/mission. Grace, along with Shetek Lutheran Ministries of Slayton, MN, will be sponsoring a trip to Appalachia, more specifically the Tennessee area of Appalachia. This area of the southern United States has been hit with economic hardship, poverty, and health/hunger issues. Shetek Lutheran Ministries has been hosting church groups from around the country to this area for a number of years. The need is great for groups to assist families of this area in many ways, primarily in home repair and maintenance. If you are interested in serving families of this area, please sign up on the bulletin board outside of Denae's office. The deposit for this trip is \$150. The deadline for sign up is Sept. 30th. Tentative dates for this trip: July 8th-15th, 2007 (there may be a day or two added for travel). We will know more when Shetek finalizes their 2007 calendar. Please contact Denae if you have any questions.

STEWARDSHIP PROJECT ITEMS still needed to complete kits to be sent on the LWR truck in October include: baby blankets, diapers, construction paper, erasers (2½" long), metal nail files (or nail clippers with file attached), tooth paste (5-7 oz.), hand towels, wash cloths, and cloth bags (12x14"). Any donations of these items, or cash donations to help purchase additional items are greatly appreciated.

GLCW BOARD is still seeking two women to serve in leadership positions for 2007. If you would like to volunteer or have a name to suggest, please call Becky (373-7275). Serving on the Board provides a great opportunity for fellowship. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

Grace Lutheran Salad Luncheon	Friday, Oct. 13 th
BE River Conference ELCW Workshop	Saturday, Nov. 4 th , 8:30-11:30a at Trinity Lutheran in Albert Lea
GLCW Appreciation / Thankoffering Sunday	Sunday, Nov. 19 th
GLCW Christmas Party	Thursday, Dec. 7 th , 6:30p

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN HOME invites you to a presentation by Diane Hill, RN. MA., entitled, "*Live, Love, Laugh, and Last.*" This free presentation, held in conjunction with National Pastoral Care Week, will be offered on Tuesday, Oct. 26th, 1:30-3:15p, in St. John's Chapel. For more information, please contact Rev. Jeff Laeger-Hagemeister, Chaplain, at 373-8226.

YOUTH IN 7th and 8th gr. INTERESTED IN 2007 SUMMER TRIP:

New for this age group is an adventure trip out to Klein Ranch in South Dakota. Spend time on horseback, explore the mini badlands, visit neighboring ranchers and a Native American church, as well as other experiences. Dates for the trip are July 22nd-27th. Sign up and a deposit of \$150.00 are due to Denae Juntunen by Oct. 1st. Please talk to Denae if you have any additional questions.

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN, Oct. 5th

We will be resuming our Thursday night Bible Study offering on Thursday, Oct. 5th, at 7:00p. The first meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall, but will meet in the Fireside Room when that space is available. We will meet each Thursday evening at this time from Oct. 5th through Dec. 14th, except for Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 23rd). Please join us as we study the culture and struggles during the era of the Apostle Paul's ministry, and take a look at what was his first preserved document (1 Thessalonians) and his last (Romans). Our topics will include:

October	5	Varieties of Judaism
	12	Writings Outside the Canon
	19	The Early Christian Struggle for Orthodoxy
	26	The Lutheran "Heresy" and the Continuing Struggle for Orthodoxy
November	2	1 Thessalonians
	9	1 Thessalonians
	16	Romans
	30	Romans
December	7	Romans
	14	Romans

WE LOOK FORWARD to a new Adult Forum series beginning on Oct. 8th, entitled, "*Stories of Love and Faith from Mayberry.*" Gary Schindler will lead a four-part Bible Study using classic episodes of the Andy Griffith Show to discuss issues of faith, love, the Golden Rule, and living a simpler life.

NATIONAL SPEAKER, Tony Campolo will be at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna on Wednesday, Oct. 18th, at 7:00p. Mr. Campolo will be speaking on the subject "*What It Means to be a Christian in Today's World.*" (There are no Wednesday night education classes on Oct. 18th, due to MEA.) Adults and youth are encouraged to attend this event. If you are interested in going and would like to ride-share, please talk to Denae. Mr. Campolo is an engaging and insightful speaker who was able to capture the attention of 25,000 youth and adult leaders at the National Youth Gathering in San Antonio last summer. It is a gift to have him speaking in our area. Please consider attending.

**30th Annual
Grace Lutheran Church
SALAD LUNCHEON**

Friday, October 13th

Serving from 11:00am to 1:00pm

*Hot BBQ Sandwiches and
many delicious Salads*

Cost: \$6.00

*Sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church Women
and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Chapter #31179*

*Wheelchair Accessible
(The Church Van will pick up those needing transportation.
Please call the church office for arrangements.)*

CIRCLES WILL BEGIN meeting again on Sept. 25th, 26th, and 27th. The Bible Study will be taken from the *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine this year. You will need to reorder your magazine for the coming year by calling 1-800-328-4648. The subscription usually starts in November, but just request it to start in October so you will have one for next month's Circle study. (There will be handouts available in the narthex for anyone who does not subscribe.) This year's Bible Study will consist of nine sessions, all under the title "Hope in God in Times of Suffering." Each session is important and informative and builds up to the next session. We hope you enjoy this study and find it useful and inspiring. If you haven't joined a Circle yet, details are listed below for this month's meetings. New members are always welcome! Remember that where two or three are gathered in His name, Christ is present. (Matthew 18:20)

SEPTEMBER CIRCLE MEETINGS:

Mary Circle will meet Mon., Sept. 25th, 6:00p, in the church kitchen.
LaJean Westeng will serve as hostess and Bible Study Leader.

Lois Circle meets Tues., Sept. 26th, 7:30p, at the home of Irmgard Kleih, 24106 Walnut Dr.
Gwen Groskurth will lead the Bible Study.

Deborah Circle will meet Wed., Sept. 27th, 9:15a, at the home of Gloria Seberson, 613 Cherry Ave.
Bible Study Leader is Ona Meyer.

Martha Circle meets Wed., Sept. 27th, 9:30a, at the home of Evelyn Hovland, 820 Minnie Maddern.

Ruth Circle will meet Wed., Sept. 27th, 1:15p, at the home of Dorothy Michaelis, 1209 Foothill Circle.

Charlotte Hovey will lead the Bible Study.

(Bible Study Information is available on the table in the narthex this morning.)

GIVING AT GRACE:

The Property and Finance Ministry appreciates your generous support.
Your faithful stewardship is essential for us to continue to support our ministries at Grace.

	Sunday, Sept. 17th	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 7,940.00	\$ 351,894.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 9,803.00	\$ 362,711.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 36.00	\$ 1,875.50
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 1,116.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 431; Last Year - 391

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Albert Lea, Minnesota**

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 24, 2006**