

This Week at Grace
Sunday, October 1, 2006
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

The disciples ask Jesus how to deal with those who are doing good in his name, but are not a part of their company. The Lord's response assures them that the reign of God can be served in many and diverse ways. Such words invite the contemporary church to be attentive to those who serve Christ in new or unexpected ministries. Even as Jesus encourages us to be seasoned with salt and to be at peace with one another, James urges us to confess our sins and to pray for the healing of all who are sick.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (RW)

Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord, whom with you and the Holy Spirit we worship and praise, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING *Numbers 11:4–6, 10–16, 24–29*

What constitutes legitimate need and legitimate leadership is the focus of this reading. While in the wilderness, God provides sustenance as manna, yet the people crave meat. What is truly needful? God bestows the spirit on seventy elders in order to provide leadership for the people, yet complaints are heard when two men not designated as leaders prophesy in the power of God's spirit. What constitutes real leadership?

⁴ The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat!" ⁵ We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; ⁶ but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

¹⁰ Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. ¹¹ So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me?" ¹² Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,' to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? ¹³ Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' ¹⁴ I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. ¹⁵ If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once — if I have found favor in your sight — and do not let me see my

misery."

¹⁶ So the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you." ²⁴ So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. ²⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

²⁶ Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷ And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." ²⁸ And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" ²⁹ But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!"

SECOND READING *James 5:13–20*

The epistle of James is a letter offering advice to the church concerning a variety of common problems. In these verses, however, the author concludes with an uplifting picture of what the church can be: a community of prayer and praise, restoration and healing.

¹³ Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷ Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰ you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

GOSPEL *Mark 9:38–50*

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize these words apply to them as well as to others.

³⁸ John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹ But Jesus said, "Do not stop him;

for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴² If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹ For everyone will be salted with fire.

⁵⁰ Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY:	8:30a	and 11:00a	Worship Services
	9:30a		Coffee Fellowship
	9:45a		Sunday School/Education Hour
MONDAY:	7:00p		Book Club
	7:30p		Albert Lea Cantori Rehearsal
TUESDAY:	9:00a		Staff Meeting
	9:30a		Ladies Bible Study
	11:00a		Pastor's Text Study
	11:30a		Freeborn County Ministerium
	2:30p		3-D Meeting
	7:00p		Health Cabinet Meeting
WEDNESDAY:	9:00a		Sewing Day
	1:00p		Service at Good Samaritan Home
	5:00p		Chew-n-Chat
	5:30p		Cherub/Chancel Choirs
	6:30p		7 th -8 th gr. Confirmation
	6:30p		9 th gr. Confirmation
	6:30p		10 th gr. Confirmation
	6:30p		Sr. High Bible Study
	6:30p		Bells of Praise
	7:30p		Adult Choir
THURSDAY:	6:00a		Early Morning Bible Study

9:00a BERC Pastor's Meeting
6:30p GLCW Board Meeting
7:00p Evening Bible Study

FRIDAY: 1:30p ThorneCrest Bible Study
3:30p Youth Room for 4th-6th Graders
5:00p Wedding Rehearsal

SATURDAY: 4:00p Wedding of
Natasha Yotter and Matthew Grove

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

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [Oct. 1: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Oct. 1: Sunday School.] [Oct. 2: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [Oct. 4: GLCW].

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Janice Anderson (Rochester), Chuck Gaines, Vi Matson, and Rich Oliphant.

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, Marliss Sward (sister of Marlene Sorenson), Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

GREETERS FOR OUR SERVICES today are Mark & Lynnette Rasmussen, and Kelvin & Amy Rehnelt at 8:30; and Roger & Arladeen Dahl, and Craig & Becky Loehr 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 Becky Tennis Hanson at 8:30; and Gerald Bizjak at 11:00.

COMMUNION BREAD AND WINE is given today in memory of Andy Munyer by the Munyer Family.

ASSISTING WITH COMMUNION are Gary & Karen Ohlmann at 8:30; and David & Kim Moen at 11:00.

WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS in Christ throughout the Southeast Minnesota Synod today in praying for Zion Lutheran Church of Lemond, St. Matthew Lutheran in Granger, Zion Lutheran in Stewartville, and St. Paul Lutheran Church of Conger.

ANNUAL SALAD LUNCHEON: Friday, Oct. 13th

Be thinking of what kind of salad you may be able to bring and if you would be able to help by working for the event. Sign up sheets are located in the narthex this morning. Chairwomen are Pat Arends, Bev Field, and Joyce Langerud. See you there to enjoy the great food and fellowship!

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

OCTOBER BOOK CLUB will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, Oct. 2nd, 7:00p, at the home of Jeanne Gross, 323 Willamor Circle. 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.

A NEW WORSHIP BOOK "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" will be published this fall. We invite everyone to the adult forums concluding today to learn what this new worship resource is about. There will be opportunity for questions. 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 forum:

Today Presentation/Exploration of the Hymn List

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, Oct. 6th.

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.

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.

GRACIOUS CHRISTIANITY GROUP: Tuesday, Oct. 10th

The next meeting of the Gracious Christianity Group will be held Tuesday, Oct. 10th, at the home of Carol & David Larson, 111 South Lane, Albert Lea, from 7:00-8:30p. (Phone: 377-3561) We will continue to seek understanding of how to apply the radical love of Jesus to those we perceive as dangerous enemies. Bring a guest! :-)

REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES are being served this morning by Zachary Battleson and his parents, Mike & Brandy Boettcher.

NEW ADULT FORUM SERIES: Beginning Oct. 8th, "Stories of Love and Faith from Mayberry"

Gary Schindler will lead a four-part discussion and Bible Study using episodes of the Andy Griffith Show as a springboard to discuss issues of concern for all Lutherans. The subjects to be covered include:

	October 8	"Man in a Hurry" ...Stress Management
	15	"Citizen's Arrest" ...Anger Management
	29	"Opie – The Birdman" ...Accepting the Consequence for Your
Actions		
	November 5	"Mr. McBeevee" ...Matters of Faith

FAIR TRADE COFFEE is coming again to Grace next Sunday, Oct. 8th. We should have chocolate too! You can buy coffee in the waiting area before and after worship at both services. Remember, the church doesn't make any money on this effort. We sell it to support developing country growers with a fair price for their coffee.

GRACE SENIORS: Wednesday, Oct. 11th

Grace Seniors will meet that day in the Fireside Room for a presentation by Rocky Trail of *Trail's Truck Stop* here in Albert Lea who will speak about "God and Business." This promises to be an interesting topic, so come out with all your friends! Following and during the coffee hour, there will be a discussion with a representative of School District 241 about the new school referendum and that will be helpful to all of us. *If you need a ride, please call Lisa in the church office, or the Kleih's at 826-3176.*

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.)*

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. 24th	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 8,428.00	\$ 360,322.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 9,803.00	\$ 372,514.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 59.75	\$ 1,935.25
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 417.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 487; Last Year - 525