

*This Week at Grace*  
*Sunday, October 8, 2006*  
*The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**INTRODUCTION**

*The psalmist sings that human beings are the crown of God's creation. Our loving human relationships, though marred by sin, are a sign of the kingdom of God among us. In their mutual respect and love, they symbolize the wholeness intended for all life. Yet neither husband nor wife nor the creation itself is the property of humans to do with as they will. The world, and all that lives within it, belongs to God, who transforms all things through Christ.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (RW)**

Sovereign God, you make us for each other, to live in loving community as families, companions, and friends. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image 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** *Genesis 2:18–24*

*Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live in isolation but in relationship. While speaking of the unity of a man and a woman, the focus of this reading is on human community more broadly considered. Ultimately what unites the man and the woman is their common humanity.*

<sup>18</sup> Then the Lord GOD said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." <sup>19</sup> So out of the ground the Lord GOD formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. <sup>21</sup> So the Lord GOD caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the Lord GOD had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
this one shall be called Woman,  
for out of Man this one was taken."

<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and

they become one flesh.

**SECOND READING**      *Hebrews 1:1–4; 2:5–12*

*Hebrews, an early Christian sermon, emphasizes that Jesus became so fully human that he shared our experience of death. The one, through whom all things exist, is the one who calls us brother and sister.*

**Chapter 1**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,<sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.<sup>3</sup> He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,<sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

**Chapter 2**

<sup>5</sup> Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels.<sup>6</sup> But someone has testified somewhere,

"What are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
or mortals, that you care for them?

<sup>7</sup> You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;  
you have crowned them with glory and honor,  
<sup>8</sup> subjecting all things under their feet."

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them,<sup>9</sup> but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup> It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.<sup>11</sup> For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,<sup>12</sup> saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

**GOSPEL**      *Mark 10:2–16*

*Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two Markan stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.*

<sup>2</sup> Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" <sup>3</sup> He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" <sup>4</sup> They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." <sup>5</sup> But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. <sup>6</sup> But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' <sup>7</sup> 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup> and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup> Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

<sup>10</sup> Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup> He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup> and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

<sup>13</sup> People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup> But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup> And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

### THIS WEEK AT GRACE

<b>TODAY:</b>	8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services 9:30a Coffee Fellowship 9:45a Sunday School/Education Hour 12:00p Youth Ministry Team Meeting
<b>MONDAY:</b>	7:30p Albert Lea Cantori Rehearsal
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	9:00a Staff Meeting 9:30a Ladies Bible Study 11:00a Pastor's Text Study 2:30p 3-D Meeting 6:30and 7:00p Ministry Team Meetings 7:00p Gracious Christianity
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	2:00p Grace Seniors 5:00p Chew-n-Chat 5:30p Cherub/Chancel Choirs 6:30p 7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> gr. Confirmation 6:30p 9 <sup>th</sup> gr. Confirmation 6:30p 10 <sup>th</sup> gr. Confirmation 6:30p Sr. High Bible Study 6:30p Bells of Praise 7:30p Adult Choir

**THURSDAY:** Luncheon Set-up  
6:00a Early Morning Bible Study  
7:00p Evening Bible Study

**FRIDAY:** 11:00a Annual Salad Luncheon  
(Serving from 11:00a to 1:00p)  
1:30p ThorneCrest Bible Study  
3:30p Youth Room for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Graders  
5:00p Wedding Rehearsal

**SATURDAY:** 8:30a Church Council Retreat  
4:00p Wedding of  
Nicole Serrano and Adam Hanson

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

**MISSIONARY FOR A DAY:** [Oct. 8: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Oct. 8: Sunday School] [Oct. 9: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [Oct. 11: GLCW].

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Clayton Nelson.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Ella Anderson (granddaughter of Dan & Bonnie Anderson), Janice Anderson, Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Mark Fisher (father of Lynn Stadheim), 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.

**IN YOUR PRAYERS,** please also remember Jane Edison and family upon the death of aunt, Jean Hyland.

**GREETERS FOR OUR SERVICES** today are Larry & Sandy Petersen, Barb Sanderson, and Viola Matson at 8:30; and LuVerne & Jeanie Godtland at 11:00.

**ACOLYTES** for our worship services are Jeff Thorstad and Fallon Rippentrop at 8:30; and Gracie Thomas and Mitchel Webb at 11:00.

**FLOWERS** this morning are from the wedding of Natasha Yotter and Matthew Grove held here yesterday.

**LESSON READERS** are Marlene Sorenson at 8:30; and Mary Laeger-Hagemeister at 11:00.

**BAPTIZED INTO THE KINGDOM of God** during worship this morning at 8:30 is *Amber Kaye Zemek*, with sponsors Gerhard & Irmgard Kleih; and at 11:00, *Alexia Jo Luce*, daughter of Kristine Flatness and Brandon Luce, with sponsors Tanya Anderson and Cole Oldfather.

**WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS** in Christ throughout the Southeast Minnesota Synod today in praying for United Redeemer Lutheran Church of Zumbrota, St. Paul Lutheran in Harmony, Zumbro Lutheran in Rochester, and Trinity Lutheran Church of Albert Lea.

**EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE** is available for sale today before and after worship services in the waiting area outside the main office.

**ANNUAL SALAD LUNCHEON: Friday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>**

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!

**WE ARE ALSO IN NEED OF MUMS** to decorate the tables for Friday's Salad Luncheon. If you have mums you would like to share for this occasion, please call Cathy Perschbacher (373-8197), or bring them to the church by 9:30a on Thursday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW ADULT FORUM SERIES: Beginning Today, "*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:

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| <b>October 8</b> | "Man in a Hurry" ...Stress Management                      |
| <b>15</b>        | "Citizen's Arrest" ...Anger Management                     |
| <b>29</b>        | "Opie – The Birdman" ...Accepting the Consequence for Your |

Actions

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| <b>November 5</b> | "Mr. McBeevee" ...Matters of Faith |
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**GRACIOUS CHRISTIANITY GROUP: Tuesday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>**

The next meeting of the Gracious Christianity Group will be held Tues., Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, 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! :-)

**GRACE SENIORS: Wednesday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>**

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.*

**NATIONAL SPEAKER, Tony Campolo** will be at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna on Wednesday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 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. 18<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR FALL:**

**Grades 4-6 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> gr. Youth Room** will continue Friday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>. 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. 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**  
This event is for youth in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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.

"*AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH,*" one of the most comprehensive, up-to-date explorations of global warming ever produced, will be presented to the Albert Lea Community, free of charge, today, 6:30p, in the St. John's Lutheran Home Chapel, 901 Luther Pl. People of faith across the country believe that we must lead by example to help save our world – and our children's future – from the impact of global warming. For more information, contact Lenore Fries (373-8858).

**3<sup>rd</sup> gr. STUDENTS** will continue Bible Classes in October on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> (please take note of these dates). Class will be held in the Chapel at 9:45a. Parents are requested to attend with their students.

**REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES** are being served this morning by Tayler

Blake and his parents, Phil & Pat.

### **THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES**

We will be continue our Thursday night Bible Study offering on Thursday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00p. We will meet each Thursday evening through Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, except for Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>). 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:

<b>October</b>	<b>12</b>	Writings Outside the Canon
	<b>19</b>	The Early Christian Struggle for Orthodoxy
	<b>26</b>	The Lutheran "Heresy" and the Continuing Struggle for Orthodoxy
<b>November</b>	<b>2</b>	1 Thessalonians
	<b>9</b>	1 Thessalonians
	<b>16</b>	Romans
	<b>30</b>	Romans
<b>December</b>	<b>7</b>	Romans
	<b>14</b>	Romans

**TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE** to anyone needing a ride to Friday's Salad Luncheon at 11:00a. Please leave your name and address with Lisa in the church office by calling 373-6496.

**CUBSCOUT POPCORN:** Cubscout Pack 72 (chartered by Grace Lutheran) is currently holding it's annual popcorn sale. If you are interested in placing an order, contact Robert Gade at 373-8411.

**TRAINING EVENT** for the new *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* resource will be held on Sat., Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, at Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca. There are also events at Christ Lutheran in Byron on Sat., Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>; and at Central Lutheran in Winona on Sat., Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the training is \$20 per person, however, that includes lunch and each participant will receive their own copy of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. If you are interested in attending this events, please notify Bob Tewes or the pastors no later than this coming Wednesday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **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.

**FEEDBACK FROM OUR CIRCLE** chairs regarding the *Lutheran Woman Today* Bible Study was very good. There will be nine sessions in all focusing on the subject of suffering. The first study dealt with laying groundwork for the rest of the sessions. Our hope is for everyone to go home with food for thought in the understanding of suffering; the 'why' and the 'what now' questions; and of course, good Bible reflection.

**LUTEFISK DINNER:** First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie will be serving a Lutefisk Dinner on Tues., Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:00a-1:00p. Tickets will be available that morning, \$14 for Adults, and \$5 for Children (age 5-12). To place reservations for carryout or to obtain tickets in advance, call Imogene Symes at First Lutheran (583-6621), Mon-Fri from 8:00a-2:00p; or 583-2459 after hours and on weekends.

**UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**BE River Conference WELCA Workshop** Saturday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-11:30a  
at Trinity Lutheran in Albert Lea  
**GLCW Appreciation / Thankoffering Sunday** Sunday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>  
**GLCW Christmas Party** Thursday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30p

**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.

	<b>Sunday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b>
General Fund Giving	\$ 8,957.00	\$ 369,279.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 9,803.00	\$ 382,317.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 41.25	\$ 1,976.50
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 107.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 490; Last Year - 491