

This Week at Grace
Sunday, November 5, 2006
All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. With thanksgiving we remember all the faithful departed, especially those most dear to us who have died. Today's readings are filled with rich images of the eternal life promised to all the saints. The holy meal is a foretaste of that great and promised feast where death or pain will be no more. Even in the midst of loss and grief God wipes away the tears from our eyes and makes all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING *Isaiah 25:6–9*

This reading focuses on the future day when the Lord will fully manifest sovereignty over the universe. On that day, the Lord will host a banquet for God's faithful subjects. This banquet symbolizes the establishment of the Lord's dominion on earth. It symbolizes the joy, companionship, and prosperity that will characterize the Lord's reign.

- ⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
- ⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
- ⁸ he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
- ⁹ It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

PSALM *Psalm 24*

They shall receive blessing from the God of their salvation. (Ps. 24:5)

The earth is the LORD's and all | that is in it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.
² For the LORD has founded it up- | on the seas
and established it up- | on the rivers.
³ Who may ascend the mountain | of the LORD,
and who may stand in God's | holy place?
⁴ Those of innocent hands and puri- | ty of heart,
who do not swear on God's being, nor do they pledge by | what is false.
⁵ They shall receive blessing | from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of | their salvation.
⁶ Such is the generation of those who seek | you, O LORD,
of those who seek your face, O | God of Jacob.
⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O ever- | lasting doors,
that the King of glory | may come in.
⁸ Who is this | King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, might- | y in battle!
⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O ever- | lasting doors,
that the King of glory | may come in.
¹⁰ Who is this | King of glory?
Truly, the LORD of hosts is the | King of glory.

SECOND READING *Revelation 21:1–6*

In the book of Revelation, John describes his vision of heaven, where the saints of God will live in light and glory. Of all the blessings found there, none will exceed that of simply being with God.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."
⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."
Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then he said to me,

"It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

GOSPEL *John 11:32–44*

Through the raising of Lazarus, Jesus offers the world a vision of the life to come, when death and weeping will be no more.

³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY:	8:30a	and 11:00a	Worship Services
	9:30a		Coffee Fellowship
	9:45a		Sunday School/Education Hour
	12:00p		Youth Ministry Team Meeting
	2:00p		Girl Scout Meeting
MONDAY:	7:00p		Book Club
	7:30p		Cantori Rehearsal
TUESDAY:	9:30a		Ladies Bible Study
	11:00a		Pastor's Text Study
	2:30p		3-D Meeting
	7:00p		Long-Term Planning Committee Meeting
WEDNESDAY:	9:00a		Staff Meeting
	2:00p		Grace Seniors
	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	Sr. High Bible Study
	6:30p	Bells of Praise
	7:30p	Adult Choir
THURSDAY:	6:00a	Early Morning Bible Study
	7:00p	Evening Bible Study
FRIDAY:	1:30p	ThorneCrest Bible Study
	3:30p	Youth Room for 4 th -6 th Graders
SATURDAY:	5:00p	Wedding of Diana Wichmann and Heath Reindl
NEXT SUNDAY:		<i>Stewardship Sunday</i>
	8:30a	and 11:00a Worship Services
	9:45a	Sunday School / Education Hour

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [Nov. 5: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Nov. 5: Sunday School] [Nov. 8: GLCW].

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: June Claussen.

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), Theresa Gamble, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Lucille Kittelson, Anna Kycek, Conrad & Rose Masyga (parents of Kris Heine), Vern Nasby, DeAnna Nelson, 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.

IN YOUR PRAYERS, please also remember Gerry & Jerry Vogt, and Steve & Chris Vogt and their families upon the death of sister and aunt, Clarice L. Moen on Nov. 1st.

GREETERS today are Dale & Paula Buendorf and Les & Mary Tufte at 8:30; and Marc Kleih, Phyllis Lynch, Randy Maiers, and Mary Pirsig 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.

LESSON READERS are Judy Menssen at 8:30; and Jeff Thorstad at 11:00.

WE JOIN OUR sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the Southeast Minnesota Synod today in praying for Union Prairie Lutheran Church in Lanesboro, Trondhjem Lutheran of Austin, and Wangen Prairie Lutheran in Cannon Falls.

REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES are being served this morning by Jeffery Slominski and his parents, Marc & Siglinda Kleih.

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM will meet today at Noon in the Conference Room.

FUNDRAISING BEGINS! Youth attending next summer's servant trip to Appalachia are selling

holiday cut-out cookie dough (cookies ready to bake and decorate) and sensational frozen soup. You may choose from cheddar vegetable, New England clam chowder, cream of broccoli w/cheese, vegetable beef, chicken noodle, cream of potato, and chicken w/wild rice. All of these items are perfect for your busy Christmas schedules. The youth are selling these items now through Nov. 13th, with delivery to the church set for Wednesday, Nov. 29th.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We believe there are many times when we are unaware that someone is in the hospital. This can happen for a number of reasons. You don't want to bother the pastors. You enter through emergency or urgent care. You think your name is being placed on the list we have access to and it does not get on the list for some reason. It is our desire to provide pastoral care to all who are hospitalized for whatever reason. Please help us by letting us know you are in the hospital or will be hospitalized. Thank you for your help! -- Pastors John and Todd

NOVEMBER is a Minnesota FoodShare Month.

You can make a donation of cash/check or non-perishable food items any time during the month. Thank you for your generosity.

TODAY, ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY, is the day that we celebrate the great communion of believers in Christ – all who are saints. As members of this great communion of saints, we take time to remember all who have gone before us who have been faithful witnesses to the faith and are now at rest with our Lord. We also give special remembrance to those who have died this past year. Despite the grief that is felt by their passing, and because of Christ's death and resurrection, we all live with the assurance of the sure and certain hope of the resurrection for our loved ones and for ourselves. We join the heavenly chorus in praising God for their memory and their faithfulness. The following saints were called home to the Lord since last November 1st. Blessed be their memory.

Virgil Lee Anderson
Charles Frederick Lange
Marvin Harold Miller
Priscilla Ovedia Fodness
Darryl Grant Rosenberg
Lillian Johansen Barker
Christopher James Hallum

LaVerne Clarence Reese
Brian W. Jahnke
Luther Leslie Olsen
Richard C. "Dick" Hanson
Evelyn Kathryn Brunsvold
Ruth Evelyn Pleiss

A RED ROSE will be placed on the altar this morning, by the Altar Guild, for every person whose funeral was conducted through Grace Lutheran this year. Families are invited to come up and take their rose home after the worship service.

COULD YOU HELP? Grace Lutheran will be serving coffee at St. John's Home on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 26th. We are asked to provide assorted desserts, along with two workers to serve that day. Sign-up sheets are located in the narthex this morning. Your help would brighten the holiday season for many residents and their families.

GRACE LUTHERAN Guide Book Directories have arrived in the mail. If you did not receive one and would like one, some are available in the narthex and office waiting area for you. If you would like to share one with someone as a way to introduce Grace, please do so. Thank you to the advertisers who made the guide book possible!

EQUAL EXCHANGE Coffee/Chocolate, Equal Exchange Craft Fair, and African Team Ministries will all be here next week and Nov. 19th. They will be set up in the waiting area near the offices.

GRACE SENIORS: Wednesday, Nov. 8th, 2:00p

Join us for a meeting that day in the Fireside Room to hear speaker, Mike Woitas, Freeborn County Fair Board Member, with details about "How to Organize the County Fair – Entertainment Department." This is an opportunity to hear the inside story you always wanted to know. Bring a friend with you – it will be interesting. (There will also be a sign-up sheet for our December Christmas Party.) *If you need a ride, please call Lisa in the church office, or the Kleih's at 826-3176.*

CONFIRMATION SERVICE TELECAST

Last Sunday's Confirmation Service will be telecast on Sunday, Nov. 12th, 10:30a, Cable Channel 6.

DON'T HAVE TO BAKE – BUT GIVE LIKE YOU DID!

GLCW will be holding a "No Bake" Bake Sale on Sunday, Nov. 19th, GLCW Appreciation Day. Please consider donating the amount you would normally put on your donated baked good to sell at a traditional bake sale. Cake pans will be used as collection plates and will be part of the GLCW display in the narthex. This "bake sale" is to help raise funds for the GLCW general budget. The GLCW Board voted to hold this fundraiser instead of participating in the September Mall Charity Day fundraiser (because of the poor customer outcome last year) in hopes to make more money for our 2007 budget.

ADULT FORUM SERIES: Concludes Today, "Stories of Love and Faith from Mayberry"

Gary Schindler leads 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:

Today "Mr. McBeevee" ...Matters of Faith

OUR THANKS to all who helped cook and serve for Loaves and Fishes during the month of October. Because you cared, many lives were touched.

DON'T FORGET – your Thankoffering Boxes will be collected on Sunday, Nov. 19th.

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

We will meet each Thursday evening 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).

THE GLCW BOARD is still in need of a Program Co-Chair. If you would like information about this position, or know of someone whom you feel would be a good candidate, please feel free to contact one of the GLCW Board members.

BECKNELL DUO IN CONCERT: Sunday, Nov. 19th, 7:00p

LaJuanda Menssen (violinist) and Hollie Shaver (pianist) founded the Becknell Duo this spring in the metropolitan Atlanta area. Their mission is to extend their love of music to the world through quality performance and educational outreach. Their inaugural season has included performances, lectures, and clinics at schools, churches, and their private teaching studios. The concert will include J.S. Bach's second suite for unaccompanied viola and Johannes Brahms's second sonata for viola and piano, along with Rebecca Clarke's *Passacaglia on an Old English Tune*. (LaJuanda Menssen is married to Jason Menssen, son of Grace members, Allen & Judy Menssen.) The concert is free and open to the public. (A freewill offering to help defray transportation expenses will be received.) Please join the Becknell Duo for an enlightening and enjoyable evening of chamber music!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS to attend our annual **GLCW Christmas Gathering** which will be held on Thursday, Dec. 7th, 6:30p. The Albert Lea High School Chorale will again be providing the program. All Grace members (husbands, wives, friends) are invited to attend. Christmas goodies will be served following the concert.

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, Oct. 29th	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 11,941.00	\$ 406,435.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 9,803.00	\$ 421,529.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 42.75	\$ 2,210.25
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 127.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 746; Last Year - 728

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Albert Lea, Minnesota

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

November 5, 2006