

*Grace Notes Online  
for Sunday, September 17, 2006  
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**INTRODUCTION**

*Those who confess Jesus as Messiah are called to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Christ. As we face the suffering of the world and the brokenness of our own lives, we learn the meaning of losing our lives for the sake of the gospel. Each time we make the sign of the cross, and share the broken bread and the cup of salvation, we remember the good news that our baptism into Christ's death is also the promise of the resurrection.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may rebuke the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow 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**    *Isaiah 50:4–9a*

*This reading gives good advice to sufferers: trust in God even (and especially) in the midst of pain. The servant remains faithful throughout trials, knowing that God is with and for the sufferer in the midst of pain.*

<sup>4</sup> The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens —  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.  
<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.  
<sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.  
<sup>7</sup> The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
<sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
<sup>9</sup> It is the Lord GOD who helps me;

**SECOND READING**      *James 3:1–12*

*The author of James warns against the power of human speech and the difficulties of controlling the tongue. With our mouths we have the capacity both to bless God and to curse.*

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup> For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup> If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup> Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup> So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup> For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup> but no one can tame the tongue — a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup> From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup> Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

**GOSPEL**      *Mark 8:27–38*

*This story provides the turning point in the Markan gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.*

<sup>27</sup> Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" <sup>28</sup> And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup> He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." <sup>30</sup> And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

### **THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

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

**MONDAY:** 7:30p Albert Lea Cantori Rehearsal

**TUESDAY:** 9:00a Staff Meeting  
9:30a Ladies Bible Study  
11:00a Pastor's Text Study  
2:30p 3-D Meeting (*Please note change of day and time.*)  
5:00p Parish Nurses Meeting  
6:30p Circle Bible Study Leaders Meeting  
7:30p Altar Guild Meeting

**WEDNESDAY:** 9:00a Sewing Day  
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:** 6:00a Early Morning Bible Study  
2:30p Sr. Tower Friendship Group  
7:00p Evening Bible Study

**FRIDAY:** *SE MN Synodical WELCA Convention*  
1:30p ThorneCrest Bible Study  
3:30p Youth Room for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Graders

**NEXT SUNDAY:** *Presentation of Bibles to Third Graders*  
8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services

9:30a Coffee Fellowship  
9:45a Sunday School / Education Hour  
2:30p 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> gr. Good Samaritan Sunday

**MISSIONARY FOR A DAY:** [Sept. 17: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Sept. 17: Sunday School.] [Sept. 17: In memory of Ruth Pleiss given by Larry & Lanae Thorstad.] [Sept. 18: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [Sept. 19-28: Given by Jean Severson.] [Sept. 20: GLCW] [Sept. 21-Oct. 10: Given by Paul & Dorothy Field.]

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

**PLEASE REMEMBER** those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Ella Anderson (granddaughter of Dan & Bonnie Anderson), Gertrude Baran (mother of Jeanette Beamer), 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, LeMoyné 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.

**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. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00p, at the home of Jeanne Gross. Our featured book is *The Kite Runner* by Khalad Hosseini.

**REQUEST FOR PHONE NUMBERS:** A growing number of people are no longer using traditional landline telephone service and use wireless (cell phone) service exclusively. We would very much appreciate it if you would provide the church with that information so we can contact you if necessary. You may notify the church office by phone (373-6496), or by e-mail, [gracelc@smig.net](mailto:gracelc@smig.net).

**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.

### **7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> gr. GOOD SAMARITAN SUNDAY**

This is a new program at Grace Lutheran. The last Sunday of each month will be Good Samaritan Sunday. Starting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September, at 2:30p, 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. 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>**

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.

**4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> gr. Youth Room** will continue Friday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</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.

## **NEW SUNDAY YOUTH ROOM HOURS starting today:**

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.

## **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. 30<sup>th</sup>. Tentative dates for this trip: July 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 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** are needed on a continual basis which are packed into kits to be sent on the Lutheran World Relief truck twice each year. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Items still needed for School Kits include: cloth bags (12 x 14" with cloth handles), pencil sharpeners, rulers (12" or 30 centimeters), blunt scissors, and spiral notebooks (lined, 10½ x 8"). Now is a great time to pick up items for this project with many sales for school supplies still available. Items can be left in the GLCW Stewardship Collection Box located in the narthex. Thank you.

**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. 24<sup>th</sup>, and Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

<b>Today</b>	<b>Background Information – History and Process</b>
Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Overview of the "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" Liturgies
Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Presentation/Exploration of the Hymn List

**SALAD LUNCHEON AND BAKE SALE** will be held at Lunder Lutheran Church, Saturday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11:30a-1:00p. (Lunder Lutheran is located on Highway 69 to County Rd. 13.) Cost: \$6.00, Adults; and \$3.00, Children 6-12 (children 5 and under are free). Matching funds are provided by *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans*. Everyone is invited.

**THIRD GRADERS** will be presented with Bibles at both worship services next Sunday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. (A reminder to parents that Bible classes will begin in October for parents and students. Please plan to attend.)

**MARY CIRCLE** meets Monday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:00p, in the church kitchen with LaJean Westeng as hostess.

**UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:**

<b>Grace Lutheran Salad Luncheon</b>	Friday, Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup>
<b>GLCW Appreciation Day</b>	Sunday, Nov. 19 <sup>th</sup>

**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, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
General Fund Giving	\$ 13,578.00	\$ 343,954.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 9,803.00	\$ 352,908.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 63.75	\$ 1,839.50
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 115.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 442; Last Year - 496

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Albert Lea, Minnesota

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

September 17, 2006