

This Week at Grace
Sunday, February 11, 2007
The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
7 Day to Minnesota Twins Spring Training

INTRODUCTION

A fundamental decision is placed before us this day: Will we choose the way of blessing or the way of woe? The death and resurrection of Jesus is the pivot on which the decision turns. To be in Christ means that we get planted by streams of water and are rooted among those who thirst for God's reign. The eucharistic acclamation points the path to life: "Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Living God, in Christ you make all things new.
Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

FIRST READING *Jeremiah 17:5–10*

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings (17:5-11) that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

⁵ Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.
They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,

and it does not cease to bear fruit.
⁹ The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse —
who can understand it?
¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

PSALM *Psalm 1*

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel¹ of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats¹ of the scornful!
²**Their delight is in the law¹ of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching¹ day and night. R**
³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with
leaves that¹ do not wither;
everything they¹ do shall prosper.
⁴**It is not so¹ with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind¹ blows away.**
⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when¹ judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council¹ of the righteous.
⁶**For the LORD knows the way¹ of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall¹ be destroyed. R**

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 15:12–20*

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ — whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.
²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

	8:00p	Church Council Meeting
WEDNESDAY:	12:00p	Grace Seniors Valentine Luncheon
	5:00p	Chew-n-Chat
	5:30p	Cherub/Chancel Choir Rehearsals
	6:30p	Confirmation Classes
	6:30p	Sr. High Bible Study
	6:30p	Bells of Praise
	7:30p	Adult Choir
THURSDAY:		<i>March Newsletter Deadline</i>
	6:00a	Early Morning Bible Study
	2:30p	Sr. Tower Friendship Group
	7:00p	Evening Bible Study
FRIDAY:	1:30p	ThorneCrest Bible Study
	3:30p	4 th -6 th gr. Youth Room
NEXT SUNDAY:	8:30a	and 11:00 Worship Services
	9:30a	Coffee Fellowship
	9:45a	Sunday School / Education Hour
	10:00a	Departure for Jr. High Ski Trip
	2:00p	Girl Scout Meeting

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [Feb. 9: Given by Marshall & Helen Bendixen in honor of their 55th wedding anniversary.] [Feb. 11: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Feb. 11: Sunday School] [Feb. 12: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [Feb. 13: Given by Pastor Walsh.] [Feb. 14: GLCW].

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Glenn McDaniel (St. Mary's, Rochester).

PLEASE REMEMBER those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Marlene Bergeson, Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Mark & Carol Fisher (parents of Lynn Stadheim), Theresa Gamble, Jan Guse, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Bonnie Linder (Good Samaritan Center), Ethel McGill, Vern Nasby, DeAnna Nelson, LeMoyne Oakland, Marian Odson, Lissa Parrish, Joyce Schreiber, Sally Skrlin, LaVon Stewart, Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS in Christ throughout the Southeast Minnesota Synod today in praying for Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lanesboro, Bethel Lutheran of Rochester, Bethany Lutheran of Frost, and Christ Lutheran Church in Faribault.

GREETERS for our worship services this morning are Phil & Kathie Rogers, and Gerry & Jerry Vogt at 8:30; and Les & Diane Shaunce, Sue and Amanda Smith, and Hazel Spiering at 11:00.

ACOLYTES are Lars Gjersvik and Jenna Bowman at 8:30; and Jordan Mondeel and Makenzie Johnson at 11:00.

FLOWERS TODAY are from the funeral of Ruth Loken held this past week. Please remember her family and loved ones in prayer.

LESSON READERS this morning are Dale Buendorf at 8:30; and Dave Larson at 11:00.

REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES are being served this morning by Marissa Loge and her grandmother, Helen Hamberg.

GRACE SENIORS Valentine's Luncheon: Wednesday, Feb. 14th, 12:00 Noon
Grace Seniors will hold their annual Valentine's get-together in Fellowship Hall at Grace Lutheran with a catered noon meal, followed by love stories shared by everyone. To attend, reservations are necessary by Feb. 11th. The cost is \$8.00 per person and should be paid in advance. Please call Irmi at 826-3176.
If you need a ride to a Grace Seniors activity, please call Lisa at the church office or the Kleih's.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! Soup suppers served during Lent are just around the corner! We need people to make soups, chilies, and bread for us. Please consider volunteering your cooking skills one night during Lent. Sign up sheets are located in the narthex this morning, or contact Jill at 373-6496.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS for Sunday, February 18th:
Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-43a

YEAR-END GIVING STATEMENTS for 2006 are available in the narthex area.

GOOD EARTH VILLAGE will hold it's Annual Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 18th, 2:00p, in their Log Lodge. If you are interested in being a delegate from Grace that day, please see Pastor John or Pastor Todd.

BOOK CLUB will hold it's next meeting on Monday, Mar. 5th, 7:00p, and will focus on the book *Among the Lilies* by Mary Adriano. Plan to join us!

AT LAST MONTH'S ANNUAL MEETING of the congregation, both resolutions were approved. The Church Council will proceed with the process of installing pew cushions in the sanctuary and chapel. A ministry team will be formed to work on this project, so if you are interested please let the pastors or the congregation president, Jerry Dahl, know. The

same mission partners we had for our Missionary for a Day funds were again designated for 2007, and the proposed budget of \$525,009 was approved. At the organizational meeting of the Church Council, officers for 2007 were elected – Jerry Dahl, president; Dale Buendorf, vice-president; and Sue Barber, secretary.

MISSING SOMETHING LATELY?

Many items have accumulated in our Lost and Found located in the narthex. Check it out.

JR. HIGH SKI TRIP to Welch Village, Feb. 18th and 19th: Cost of the overnight is \$55.00 and includes housing, rental, lift ticket, pizza on Sunday night, and breakfast on Monday morning. We will leave from Grace at 10:00a on Sunday morning, and return between 4:00-5:00p Monday afternoon. Sign up is on the board outside of Denae's office.

SR. HIGH SKI TRIP to Giant's Ridge in Biwabik, Mar. 9-11th: Cost of the weekend is \$110.00 which includes housing, rental, lift ticket, and some meals. Please sign up on the board outside of Denae's office if you would like to attend.

9th-12th GRADE STATE-WIDE YOUTH GATHERING: Mar. 30th-Apr. 1st, Crowne Plaza, St. Paul

This weekend is filled with informative classes, great music, an opportunity to take a class at Luther Seminary, and the chance to meet some great people from all over the state. I believe there is even a toga party planned! The cost of the weekend is \$80.00 and includes housing, three meals, and a t-shirt. Please sign up on the board outside of Denae's office if interested in attending. If you have any questions about this or any other youth event, please contact Denae.

LOAVES AND FISHES: Sign-up sheets for Loaves and Fishes are available in the narthex this morning. We are in need of volunteers for the month of March. (When signing up, please be sure to include your phone number.) Your help would be appreciated by many.

HEARTS TOUCHING HEARTS in the Lord, a book written by retired Grace Pastor Milt Ost detailing Grace Lutheran's mission work in Latvia and Russia, continues to be available for purchase in the church office during the week.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY is seeking individuals interested in serving on a selection committee dealing with the applications from families in need of homes. For more info, contact Renee at 377-4375.

CHECK OUT the new GLCW Information Table in the narthex. This is where we will be having our sign-up sheets for upcoming events, starting with serving afternoon coffee at St. John's Home on Sunday, Mar. 4. We are in need of desserts and workers.

GLCW PRAYER PETITION JOURNAL is also displayed on the information table. This journal is honoring **BOLD WOMEN** of our congregation. We have started an "Honorary Caring and Sharing Members" list. These are women who have faithfully

served for GLCW Caring and Sharing both in the past and present who are unable to continue serving because of age and/or illness, as well as those women who are no longer with us but served in their lifetime. This journal will be displayed for 20 weeks in honor of the 20th anniversary of WELCA. Members are encouraged to add comments to the pages already listed and also to add additional names and comments. Also, anyone wanting to be taken off the active Caring and Sharing list and put on the Honorary Caring and Sharing list, please call the church office and give your name and phone number and we will take care of that for you.

WE ARE IN NEED of donations for our GLCW stewardship projects. There will be a Lutheran World Relief shipment in May and we need several things to get ready. We need items for layettes, sewing kits, and health kits; along with monetary gifts to help with the shipping costs. (A complete list of needed items can be found in the GLCW Handbook.)

GLCW would like to thank Jean Severson for donating two gold candle sconces which have been hung in the Fireside Room

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A QUARTER? Put it in the offering plate. All quarters are given directly to the World Hunger Appeal. Thank you!

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, Feb. 4th	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 9,980.00	\$ 47,274.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 50,480.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 66.75	\$ 246.25
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 132.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 400; Last Year - 540