

This Week at Grace
Sunday, August 5, 2007
The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

We do much more than support the work of our congregation as we make our contributions. We actually reorient ourselves toward what we possess and what we value most. God's word speaks to us about this fundamental realignment of our lives.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING *Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14; 2:18–23*

The book of Ecclesiastes collects thoughts of a philosopher who reacts against the simplistic belief that the good are rewarded and the evil are punished.

Chapter 1

² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹² I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, ¹³ applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

Chapter 2

¹⁸ I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me ¹⁹ — and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

PSALM *Psalms 49:1–12*

My mouth shall speak of wisdom. (Ps. 49:3)

- ¹Hear this, | all you peoples;
 give ear, all you who dwell | in the world,
²**you of high de- | gree and low,
 rich and | poor together.**
³My mouth shall | speak of wisdom,
 and my heart shall meditate on | understanding.
⁴**I will incline my ear | to a proverb
 and set forth my riddle up- | on the harp. R**
⁵Why should I be afraid in | evil days,
 when the wickedness of those at my | heels surrounds me,
⁶**the wickedness of those who trust in | their own prowess,
 and boast of | their great riches?**
⁷One can never re- | deem another,
 or give to God the ransom for an- | other's life;
⁸**for the ransom of a life | is so great
 that there would never be e- | nough to pay it,**
⁹in order to live forev- | er and ever
 and never | see the grave.
¹⁰**For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stu- | pid they perish
 and leave their wealth to those who come | after them.**
¹¹Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to |
generation,
 though they had named lands af- | ter themselves.
¹²**Even though honored, they cannot | live forever;
 they are like the | beasts that perish. R**

SECOND READING *Colossians 3:1–11*

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes in order to put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things — anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another,

seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

GOSPEL *Luke 12:13–21*

The Gospel of Luke not only tells how Jesus brought good news to the poor, but also how he sought to seek and save those who were rich. Here he warns against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY:	8:00a	and 10:00a	Worship Services
	9:00a		Outdoor Coffee Fellowship
ALL WEEK:			Vacation Bible School Daily, 9:00a-12:00p
MONDAY:	7:00p		Book Club
TUESDAY:	9:00a		Staff Meeting
	11:00a		Pastor's Text Study
	1:30p		Service at ThorneCrest
	7:00p		Health Cabinet Meeting
THURSDAY:	6:00a		Early Morning Bible Study
	1:00p		Service at St. John's Home
	6:00p		GLCW Board Meeting
	7:00p		Thursday Evening Worship Service

FRIDAY: 1:30p ThorneCrest Bible Study
6:00p Relay for Life at Freeborn Co. Fairgrounds

NEXT SUNDAY: 8:00a and 10:00a Worship Services
9:00a Outdoor Coffee Fellowship

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [July 28: In memory of Leon Lageson given by Alice Lageson.] [Aug. 5: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Aug. 5: Sunday School] [Aug. 5: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [Aug. 7: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [Aug. 8: GLCW].

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Marie Gilbertson, Jeanie Godtland, and Lu Ryan.

PLEASE REMEMBER those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Miff Eglund, Theresa Gamble, Mike Greiner, Jan Guse, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, Edna Herfendal, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Norman Johnson, Glenn McDaniel, Ethel McGill, Gary Mesch (son-in-law of Dick & Arlyss Haug), Vern Nasby, DeAnna Nelson, LeMoyne Oakland, Lissa Parrish, Bob Richerson (brother of Nancy Greiner), Mark Stevens, LaVon Stewart, Carol Thompson, Lauri Vietrum, Leland Wadding, Mabel Wadding, Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

GREETERS FOR OUR SERVICES this morning are Al & Pat Arends, and John & Linda Laurie at 8:00; and Pam Sharpsteen, Les & Dianne Shaunce, and Sue Smith and Amanda at 10:00.

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

IN YOUR PRAYERS, please also remember the Churchwide Assembly held this week in Chicago. Copies of the Pre-Assembly Report are available in the narthex or the office reception area this morning. Feel free to pick one up.

OUR THANKS to Gwen Groskurth for serving as organist for our worship services.

ACOLYTES today are Alex Wieland and Shane Louks at 8:00; and Ashley Gilbertson and Courtney Hanna at 10:00.

THE ROSE IN THE CHANCEL is given in celebration of the baptism of *Dominick LeRoy*, son of Nick & Lisa Pederson.

LESSON READER for our 8:00 worship service is Harlan Bang.

COMMUNION BREAD AND WINE is given in memory of Lindsey (Loehr) Diemer by her family.

ASSISTING WITH COMMUNION are Steve Vogt, and Emma Dahl at 8:00; and LuVerne Godtland, and Chuck & Sherry Seberson at 10:00.

REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES are being served today by the Grace Lutheran Relay for Life team. Show your support for this important cause, and share in fellowship!

SPECIAL THANKS to Marsha Rafdal who is serving as van driver this morning. Our church van picks up riders every Sunday for the 10:00 worship service. If you or anyone you know is interested in riding the van, please call the church office to be added to the pick up schedule.

BOOK CLUB will meet Monday evening, Aug. 6th, 7:00p, at the home of Pat Arends (1645 Masee St.). The featured book for August is *Hearts Touching Hearts* written by Pastor Milt Ost (copies are available in the church office). Pastor Ost will also be present that evening to lead discussion. Join us for great fellowship.

GRACE LUTHERAN Relay for Life team members will be selling luminaries between church services in the narthex area. Please consider buying a luminary for \$10.00 to honor a loved one who is struggling with cancer or to remember one who has been lost to cancer. Also, there will be an opportunity to contribute to the team effort through offerings that will be collected after the church services today. Also, plan on joining us for coffee and fellowship between services this morning when Relay team members will provide and serve special treats and coffee. Thanks very much from the team members for all of your support!

****All Grace members walking on ANY Relay for Life Teams:** Stop at the Relay table in the narthex and pick up a button – *Walking With Grace* – to show Grace’s commitment to this wonderful effort.

SHINE FEST WEEK 2007 – Aug. 5th-12th

ShineFest is made up of many faith communities working together on local community projects. Grace Lutheran has chosen Brookside School as a special project on Aug. 9th to help with landscaping, painting, playground restoration, and general clean up. We have also chosen to pass out ShineFest magnets that include a Bible verse. If you would like to help with the Brookside project or any of the other projects held during ShineFest week, please call Melvin (826-3703) or Mona (377-3131). These are two very good mission projects on God’s agenda for Grace Lutheran. (More information detailing other projects scheduled can be found on today’s insert.) Please come and help us – there is work to be done!

LIKE TO BAKE COOKIES? Vacation Bible School is held this week, Aug. 6th-10th, and lots of delicious cookies are needed for daily snack time. Any donations of cookies or pre-sweetened kool-aid mix can be dropped off for Jill in the Education office. The kids thank you ☺ !!

GRACE LUTHERAN'S Relay for Life Team is inviting Grace members who are currently living with cancer to join them as their guests at the potluck dinner being held at the team campsite. This will begin at about 5:00p on Friday night, Aug. 10th, prior to the opening ceremonies of the Relay for Life Walk.

PANS! PANS! PANS! There are a large number of unclaimed cake pans in the kitchen above the sink area. They have been there for many months. If the pans are not claimed by September 1st they will be donated to the Epilepsy Foundation. PLEASE pick up your cake pans. Thank you.

COMING TO GRACE: HARMONY JUNCTION Barbershop Chorus will be singing at both worship services on Sunday, Aug. 12th. You won't want to miss it!

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, July 29th	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 6,153.00	\$ 303,431.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 302,880.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 43.50	\$ 1,390.75
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 137.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 322; Last Year - 307

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Albert Lea, Minnesota
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
 August 5, 2007