

*This Week at Grace*  
*Sunday, September 23, 2007*  
*The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*My apologies for This Week at Grace being down for a few weeks. Our new computers are here! Pastor Todd*

**INTRODUCTION**

*Early in the academic year may seem a strange time to think about the final exam, but on this day Jesus reminds us that each of us needs to give an accounting of all that is entrusted to us. In the new logic of God's reign, knowing the riches of grace we possess demands resolute action from us; we risk it all for possessing the lavish love of God offered to us.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**SERMON TITLE:** "The Zinger and the Mission"

**FIRST READING: Amos 8:4–7**

*Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom for a brief period of time. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corruption and an increased gap between rich and poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.*

<sup>4</sup>Hear this, you that trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,  
<sup>5</sup>saying, "When will the new moon be over  
so that we may sell grain;  
and the sabbath,  
so that we may offer wheat for sale?  
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,  
and practice deceit with false balances,  
<sup>6</sup>buying the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals,  
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."  
<sup>7</sup>The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:

Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

**PSALM : Psalm 113**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants <sup>1</sup>of the LORD;  
praise the name <sup>1</sup>of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the name of the <sup>1</sup>LORD be blessed,  
from this time forth for- <sup>1</sup>evermore.**

<sup>3</sup>From the rising of the sun to its <sup>1</sup>going down  
let the name of the <sup>1</sup>LORD be praised.

<sup>4</sup>**The LORD is high a- <sup>1</sup>bove all nations,  
God's glory a- <sup>1</sup>bove the heavens. R**

<sup>5</sup>Who is like the <sup>1</sup>LORD our God,  
who sits en- <sup>1</sup>throned on high,

<sup>6</sup>**but stoops <sup>1</sup>to behold  
the heavens <sup>1</sup>and the earth?**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD takes up the weak out <sup>1</sup>of the dust  
and lifts up the poor <sup>1</sup>from the ashes,

<sup>8</sup>**enthroning them <sup>1</sup>with the rulers,  
with the rulers <sup>1</sup>of the people.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD makes the woman of a <sup>1</sup>childless house  
to be a joyful mother of children. <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! R

**SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

*The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. Here, we learn that primary significance was attached to prayer, especially prayer for the government and for all in authority.*

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

<sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For  
there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,  
Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all —  
this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

**GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13**

*Jesus tells the story of a dishonest man who cheats his employer and then is commended by him*

*for having acted so shrewdly. Even so, he reminds his disciples, "You cannot serve God and wealth.*

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup>So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' <sup>3</sup>Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' <sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' <sup>6</sup>He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' <sup>7</sup>Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' <sup>8</sup>And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup>Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup>No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

#### **THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

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

**MONDAY:** 6:00p Mary Circle  
7:30p Cantori Rehearsal

**TUESDAY:** 9:00a Staff Meeting  
9:30a Ladies Bible Study  
11:00a Pastor's Text Study  
NO Personnel Committee Meeting  
7:30p Lois Circle

**WEDNESDAY:** 9:15a Deborah Circle  
9:15a Martha Circle  
1:15p Ruth Circle  
5:00p Chew-n-Chat  
5:30p Cherub / Chancel Choir Rehearsals  
6:30p Worship Telecast, Cable Ch. 6

	6:30p	Confirmation Classes
	6:30p	Bells of Praise
	7:30p	Adult Choir
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	6:00a	Early Morning Bible Study
	NO	Thursday Evening Bible Study
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	1:30p	ThorneCrest Bible Study
	3:30p	4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> gr. Youth Room
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	9:00a	Red Cross Meeting
<b>NEXT SUNDAY:</b>	8:30a	and 11:00a Worship Services
	9:45a	Sunday School / Education Hour
	9:30a	Coffee Fellowship
	9:30a	Prayer Partner Coffee
	2:00p	Good Samaritan Sunday

**MISSIONARY FOR A DAY:** [Sept. 22: In honor of Bonnie Linder on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday given by Sandy Petersen and Mary Hallum.] [Sept. 23: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Sept. 23: Sunday School] [Sept. 24: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [Sept. 25: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [Sept. 26: GLCW] [Sept. 27: In memory of Hazel Gudmonson given by Sandy Petersen and Mary Hallum].

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Alton Dahl, and Pastor John Henriksen.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Elizabeth Baker, Larry Bergo, Paula Burkart (niece of John & Beth Ruud), Kathy Diaz, Lyle Dickson, Miff Eglund, Ray & Janet Ewing, Theresa Gamble, Jeanie Godtland, Mike Greiner, Jan Guse, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, Edna Herfendal, Mildred Hopperstad, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Norman Johnson, Helen Lykken, Glenn McDaniel, Ethel McGill, Gary Mesch (son-in-law of Dick & Arlyss Haug), Vern Nasby, DeAnna Nelson, LeMoyne Oakland, Lissa Parrish, Morgan Rasmussen, Bob Richerson (brother of Nancy Greiner), Jackson Schrock (grandson of Vince & Corrine Tims), Mark Stevens, LaVon Stewart, Carter Tappe, Leland Wadding, Mabel Wadding, Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

**IN YOUR PRAYERS,** also remember the family of Hazel Gudmonson whose funeral was held this week.

**WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS in Christ** throughout the SE Minnesota Synod today in praying for Scheie Lutheran Church in Mabel, West St. Olaf Lutheran of Byron, South Blue Earth Lutheran of Bricelyn, and Zion Lutheran Church in Lemond.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Vern & Marlys Jahnke who celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

Sept. 21.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Bill Leland who is serving as van driver this morning. Our church van picks up riders every Sunday for the 11:00 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.

**GRACE MEAL MINISTRY** has been called in to service for the first time. This is a ministry that is available to families who are experiencing a time of increased stress. It may be due to an illness, injury or surgery. It may be due to a period of prolonged confinement. There may be someone who is experiencing a period of depression that interferes with daily routines. Whatever the reason, the Meal Ministry Team is available to help out by providing a meal/meals for an individual or family. If you would like to consider this for your family or for family members or friends who are Grace members, please call Lisa at the Grace office. She will see that the message is passed on to the team leaders.

**OUR THANKS** to the Altar Guild workers for this month: Arlene Hobbiebrunken, Carol Roberts, Carolyn Schmitz, and Kathie Rogers; and to the September Caring and Sharing group for serving and providing desserts for the recent funerals and Heritage Luncheon held here.

**ADULT FORUM TODAY** will continue the theme of *Emerging Ministry: Being the Church Today*. Today's session will continue to reflect on the emerging spiritual landscape of Albert Lea and then move on to talking about the Gathered and Gathering Community.

**PRAYER PARTNER COFFEE:** Mark your calendars for Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> for a "get to know your prayer partner coffee." We will be meeting at 9:30 in the back of Fellowship Hall that morning. Please RSVP to Denae Juntunen to let her know if you can or cannot make it. We would like to hear from everyone who signed up to do this so we may notify your partner if you will not be able to make it. You may call the church to contact Denae, 373-6496.

**IT'S TIME AGAIN** for Grace Lutheran to send out college care packages to our college students. If you have a child in college and would like for them to receive a care package from the church, please fill out their college address on the sheet provided in the back of the narthex.

**NEEDED: Cookie Bakers for our College Students**

We will be sending out care packages to our college students and are in need of many, many cookies. We take cookies, bars, candy – whatever you are willing to prepare. If you are able to help out with this project, please sign up on the sheet located in the back of the narthex. FYI – the youth who received cookies from last year *loved* the fresh baked goodies in their boxes!

**QUILT AUCTION:** Due to flash flood warnings in August, the Good Earth Village Quilt Auction was postponed and will be held today at Good Earth Village. This special event raises funds to help cover the cost of Camper Scholarships and help keep camp affordable for everyone. The auction begins at 1:00p and will feature 175 quilts and quilted wall-hangings. Quilt review and concessions will begin at 11:30a. (Quilts will be displayed in Log Lodge with the auction held outside under the big-top tent.) Enjoy a wonderful day at your camp, support the kids, and go home with a cherished heirloom. For more information check their web site at

[www.GoodEarthVillage.org](http://www.GoodEarthVillage.org) or call 346-2494.

**THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY** will not be starting this week as originally scheduled. Please keep an eye on *Grace Notes* or your weekly worship folder for coming announcements.

**YOUR GLCW BOARD** has been calling and asking for new officers for 2008. Thank you to all who have said *yes!* We are still in need of someone to fill the position of Vice President which is a 3 year commitment (first year as VP, second year as President, and third year as Past President) one prepares you for the next. Also needed is a volunteer to help as Program Co-Chair. If interested, call LaJean Westeng at 826-3726.

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH:** Sign up for a weekend on the Luther College campus for Church Youth Fest. This is an annual weekend retreat filled with great classes, meeting new people, hanging out at Luther, super fun games, events, speakers, etc...! November 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, cost is \$20.00. Contact Denae with any questions you may have. Youth signing up before Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> get a free t-shirt!

**THE SALAD LUNCHEON** needs your help. Over 150 fliers have been distributed to area churches and businesses. If your workplace does not have a flyer and would like to advertise the Salad Luncheon, please pick up a flyer (or 2) at the GLCW table in the narthex. Thank you.

**THIRD GRADE STUDENTS** will receive Bibles at our worship services next Sunday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. Bible Class will begin on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> and continue for four weeks. Parents are asked to attend class with their student.

**ST. JOHN'S HOME Annual Auxiliary Benefit Luncheon** is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. The luncheon is held in the St. John's chapel from 11:00a to 1:00p. There is a free-will donation for the fundraiser and a drawing for a quilt made by St. John's Quilting Circle. All proceeds are designated to resident's needs.

**STUDENTS AND PARENTS of 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Mark your calendars for Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>. At both worship services students will be called forward for the *Stepping Stones* blessing. Plan to attend.

**BENEFIT BREAKFAST AND SILENT AUCTION** for Grace member, Carter Tappe, will be held next Sunday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:00a to 1:00p, at the New Richland City Hall. Carter has been diagnosed with Primary Congenital Glaucoma, an extremely rare condition affecting fewer than 0.05% of children which leads to vision problems and possible blindness. He has undergone several expensive surgeries and will need further surgery, plus continuing treatment and costly medications. The family welcomes your prayers and support. All proceeds raised will be matched by *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans*.

**GOOD SAM SUNDAY: Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2:00p**

Come with us to visit residents of the Good Samaritan Center and play some games, assist them getting to and from coffee hour, or just talk with them. After our time with the residents we come back to the church, share a meal, and have a time of fellowship. Youth and adults of every age are

welcomed to participate.

**SEPTEMBER CIRCLE MEETINGS**

**Mary Circle** will meet Monday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00p, at the home of Julie Drommerhausen, 1621 Hale Dr.

**Lois Circle** meets Tues., Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:30p, at the home of Bernice Moreau, 1019 Wood Park Ln. Gwen Groskurth will lead the Bible Study.

**Deborah Circle** will meet Wed., Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:15a, in the church kitchen. Virginia Sorenson will serve as hostess, and Bible Study Leader will be Peggy Bangert.

**Martha Circle** meets Wed., Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:15a, at St. John's Home, 801 Luther Pl. Janell Johnson will serve as hostess, and Evelyn Hovland will lead the Bible Study.

**Ruth Circle** will meet Wed., Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:15p, at the home of Dorothy Michaelis, 1209 Foothills Circle. Bible Study Leader is Ardis Bang.

**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. 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b>
General Fund Giving	\$ 9,509.00	\$ 367,303.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 373,552.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 47.00	\$ 1,711.75
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 112.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 438; Last Year - 431

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Albert Lea, Minnesota**  
**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
September 23, 2007