

*This Week at Grace*  
*Sunday, October 7, 2007*  
*The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**INTRODUCTION**

*Faith is the foundation of our worship, not hope for any reward based on our deeds. We adore the God who has brought us into loving relationship, and we receive God's grace that continues to build up our faith.*

*On this day we celebrate the ministry of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, who died this day in 1787. Muhlenberg worked as a Lutheran pastor and missionary to transplant the Christian faith to the North American continent.*

***Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787***

*Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe to send someone who could take charge and unite their work. Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans. Among other accomplishments, his liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4**

*The injustices of the Judean king and the violence of the Chaldeans (Babylonians) move this prophet to write during the years leading up to the Babylonian exile of Judah. The central issue for the prophet is: How can a good and all-powerful God see evil in the world and seemingly remain indifferent?*

**Chapter 1**

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

<sup>2</sup>O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,  
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!"  
and you will not save?

<sup>3</sup>Why do you make me see wrongdoing

and look at trouble?  
Destruction and violence are before me;  
strife and contention arise.

<sup>4</sup>So the law becomes slack  
and justice never prevails.  
The wicked surround the righteous —  
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

## Chapter 2

I will stand at my watchpost,  
and station myself on the rampart;  
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,  
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

<sup>2</sup>Then the LORD answered me and said:  
Write the vision;  
make it plain on tablets,  
so that a runner may read it.

<sup>3</sup>For there is still a vision for the appointed time;  
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.  
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;  
it will surely come, it will not delay.

<sup>4</sup>Look at the proud!  
Their spirit is not right in them,  
but the righteous live by their faith.

## PSALM: Psalm 37:1–9

<sup>1</sup>Do not be provoked by <sup>1</sup> evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those <sup>1</sup> who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup>**For they shall soon wither <sup>1</sup> like the grass,  
and like the green grass <sup>1</sup> fade away.**

<sup>3</sup>Put your trust in the LORD <sup>1</sup> and do good;  
dwell in the land and <sup>1</sup> find safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup>**Take delight <sup>1</sup> in the LORD,  
who shall give you your <sup>1</sup> heart's desire. R**

<sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust <sup>1</sup> in the LORD,  
and see what <sup>1</sup> God will do.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD will make your vindication as clear <sup>1</sup> as the light  
and the justice of your case like the <sup>1</sup> noonday sun.**

<sup>7</sup>Be still before the LORD and wait <sup>1</sup> patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in <sup>1</sup> evil schemes.

<sup>8</sup>**Refrain from anger, leave <sup>1</sup> rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads on- <sup>1</sup> ly to evil.**

<sup>9</sup>For evildoers shall <sup>1</sup> be cut off,

but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land. **R**

## **SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 1:1–14**

*These words preserve a personal message to a prominent leader in the early Christian church. In the face of hardship and persecution, Timothy is reminded that his faith is a gift of God and is encouraged to exercise that faith with the help of the Holy Spirit.*

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

<sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup>I am grateful to God — whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did — when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. <sup>4</sup>Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup>I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. <sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; <sup>7</sup>for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

<sup>8</sup>Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, <sup>9</sup>who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup>but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. <sup>11</sup>For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, <sup>12</sup>and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. <sup>13</sup>Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup>Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 17:5–10**

*On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus instructs his followers concerning the duties of discipleship. He wants his disciples to exhibit mutual support and forgiveness, to realize the power of faith, and to adopt the attitude of servants who do what is right without thought of reward.*

<sup>5</sup>The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" <sup>6</sup>The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

<sup>7</sup>Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? <sup>8</sup>Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? <sup>9</sup>Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? <sup>10</sup>So you

also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, "We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!"

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

- TODAY:** 8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services  
9:45a Coffee Fellowship  
9:45a Sunday School / Education Hour
- MONDAY:** 6:30p Girl Scout Meeting  
7:00p MS Society Meeting  
7:30p Cantori Rehearsal
- TUESDAY:** 9:00a Staff Meeting  
9:30a Ladies Bible Study  
11:00a Pastor's Text Study  
6:30 and 7:00p Ministry Team Meetings
- WEDNESDAY:** 2:00p Grace Seniors  
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
- THURSDAY:** 6:00a Early Morning Bible Study  
NO Thursday Evening Bible Study
- FRIDAY:** 11:00a Salad Luncheon (Serving 11:00a to 1:00p)  
1:30p ThorneCrest Bible Study  
3:30p 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> gr. Youth Room  
5:30p Wedding Rehearsal
- SATURDAY:** 8:30a Church Council Retreat  
4:00p Wedding of Melissa Madson and Brian Johannsen
- NEXT SUNDAY:** 8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services  
9:30a Coffee Fellowship  
9:45a Sunday School / Education Hour  
2:00p Good Samaritan Sunday

**TODAY WE WELCOME** Dr. Dennis & Paula Loftstrom to Grace Lutheran. They are missionaries in Tanzania, serving in Mwana, a community of half a million on Lake Victoria. Their medical mission includes building a hospital and clinic in an area in dire need of medical care and facilities. They will share a greeting with us during worship and also speak during adult forum in the Fireside Room. Plan to be there. They are great story tellers who bring Tanzania to life for us.

**FAIR TRADE COFFEE**, tea, baking cocoa, hot chocolate mix, and candy bars are for sale before the first service and between services today. Plan to stock up!

**MISSIONARY FOR A DAY:** [Oct. 7: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Oct. 7: Sunday School] [Oct. 8: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [Oct. 9: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [Oct. 10: GLCW].

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Kristin Larson and baby Brekyn, and Evelyn Wakefield.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Kathryn Arnann (mother of Beth Ruud), 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, 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, LeMoyné Oakland, Lissa Parrish, Morgan Rasmussen, Bob Richerson (brother of Nancy Greiner), Jackson Schrock (grandson of Vince & Corrine Tims), Mark Stevens, LaVon Stewart, Carter Tappe, Naomi Tatarek (daughter of LuVerne & Jeanie Godtland), Leland Wadding, Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

**IN YOUR PRAYERS**, please also remember Dan Purdy and family upon the recent death of his father, Roy Purdy.

**WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS in Christ** throughout the SE Minnesota Synod today in praying for Pilot Mound Lutheran Church in Chatfield, Trinity Lutheran of New Richland, Rushford Lutheran of Rushford, and Rejoice! Lutheran Church in Northfield.

**OUR CONGRATULATIONS** to Matt & Kristin Larson upon the birth of their son, *Brekyn William*, on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**GREETERS FOR OUR SERVICES** this morning are Richard & Evelyn Hovland, and Rick & Ginny Loberg at 8:30; and Dennis & Helen Hamberg, Lucille Gripentrog, and Shirley Gold at 11:00.

**ACOLYTES** are Brielle Schreiber and Karizma Hamberg at 8:30; and Alexa McCune and Cody Wichmann at 11:00.

**FLOWERS TODAY** are from the wedding of Jackie Montag and Alan Attig held here at Grace

yesterday.

**LESSON READERS** for our worship services are Al Tullberg at 8:30; and Pat Palmer at 11:00.

**ASSISTING WITH COMMUNION** are Paula Buendorf and Terry Gjersvik at 8:30; and Les & Diane Shaunce at 11:00.

**COMMUNION BREAD AND WINE** is given today in memory of Andy Munyer by the Munyer Family.

**REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES** are being served today by Sarah Anderson and her parents, Bill & Shari.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Steve Bracker 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.

**GRACE SENIORS: Wednesday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2:00p**

The group will meet that day in the Fireside Room to hear Jeanie Jackson (herself a fosterparent) who will speak about the ups and downs of fosterparenting. Jeanie is also a member of our church and you will find her program very much of interest. Come and bring a friend with you! (This program was rescheduled from an earlier date.)

**ANNUAL SALAD LUNCHEON: This Friday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>**

Our thanks to all, giving of their time and resources to help with planning, arranging, and serving the event, and by preparing the delicious salads. See you at the Salad Luncheon to enjoy the great food and fellowship!

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who so graciously donated items toward the stewardship kits for Lutheran World Relief. Because of your generosity this year, we were able to send out 51 layettes, 52 school kits, 32 health kits, and 29 sewing kits. 2 Corinthians 9:7 “...*God loves a cheerful giver.*”

GLCW Stewardship Committee

**TIME AND TALENT SUNDAY: Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>**

Time and Talent Sunday is fast approaching, and your Stewardship Ministry Team wants you to understand, not only what opportunities for service are available, but also what commitment you are making when you sign up on the Time and Talent sheets. In the past, Time and Talent sheets

and information have been passed along from year to year, so people often have not known if they should sign up again, or when and if they should ask to have their name removed from a particular list. In an effort to make certain that you understand what commitment you are making when you sign up to share your Time and Talent, and because it is important to have up-to-date information for our ministry teams to work with, we are asking you to sign up for all the areas you wish to serve in... **EACH YEAR!** We want you to know, that once the Time and Talent sheets are compiled this year, the data from all previous years will no longer be used. Please take the time to prayerfully consider all of the opportunities for service here at Grace and be ready to renew your faithful and much appreciated commitment (maybe even sign up for something new!).

**Remember...** we are each BLESSED to be a BLESSING!!

**STUDENTS AND PARENTS of 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Next Sunday at both worship services, students will be called forward for the *Stepping Stones* blessing. Please plan to attend either service that day.

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN HOME** will hold a Service of Dedication for the new stained glass windows in the chapel, next Sunday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:45a, during their regular worship service. A light reception will follow. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

**GRACIOUS CHRISTIANITY Bible Study** will meet on Thursday evening, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00p, at the home of David & Carol Larson (111 South Lane). Attend for a time of thought-provoking discussion.

**LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE of Minnesota Adoption** is holding an informational meeting at its offices in Mankato on Tuesday, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30-8:30p, in the basement level of Bethlehem Lutheran Church (710 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Mankato). LSS can assist families in adopting children in Minnesota and from countries around the world. Call Angela Bruns at 507-625-7660, extension 247 to register. Walk-ins are also welcome. For more information, visit [www.minnesotaadoption.org](http://www.minnesotaadoption.org).

**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!

**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. 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b>
General Fund Giving	\$ 7,301.00	\$ 381,990.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 393,744.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 40.50	\$ 1,802.25
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 693.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 414; Last Year – 487

***31<sup>st</sup> Annual  
Grace Lutheran Church  
SALAD LUNCHEON***

***Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>***

**Serving from 11:00am to 1:00pm**

***Hot BBQ Sandwiches and  
many delicious Salads***

**Cost: \$6.00**

***Sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church Women  
and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Chapter #31179***

***Wheelchair Accessible***

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Albert Lea, Minnesota**  
**NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
October 7, 2007