

This Week at Grace
Sunday, October 28, 2007
The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

New Member Sunday at 8:30 Service!
GLCW Appreciation Sunday!

INTRODUCTION

Signs of the end time fill today's gospel. Christ will come again "to judge the living and the dead," we confess in the creed. How, then, shall we live, knowing that everything around us will one day pass away? We can live with hope if we know that history is heading toward the God who loves us. Yet we also live in the present moment ready for action, making the most of the time given to us as a gift.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Malachi 4:1–2a

Malachi, whose name means "my messenger," warns that the day of the Lord is coming and that it will bring doom to the evil but vindication to those who fear God.

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

PSALM: Psalm 98

In righteousness will the LORD judge the world. (Ps. 98:9)

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done ¹ marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have ¹ won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made ¹ known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight ¹ of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the ¹ house of Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen the victory¹ of our God.

**⁴Shout with joy to the LORD,¹ all you lands;
lift up your voice, re-¹joice, and sing. R**

⁵Sing to the LORD¹ with the harp,
with the harp and the¹ voice of song.

**⁶With trumpets and the sound¹ of the horn
shout with joy before the¹ king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and¹ all that fills it,
the world and those who¹ dwell therein.

**⁸Let the rivers¹ clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to¹ judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the¹ world with righteousness
and the peo-¹ples with equity. R

SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:6–13

Some members of the community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, preferring to live on the generosity of other members of the community. Paul warns them that if they want to eat, they need to work.

⁶Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹²Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:5–19

Luke's presentation of Jesus' teaching about the last days emphasizes the necessity for responsible behavior in the time between Jesus' ascension and the second coming.

⁵When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, ⁶As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.

⁷They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" ⁸And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

⁹When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Nation will rise

against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹²But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY:		<i>GLCW Appreciation/Thankoffering Sunday</i>
	8:30a	and 11:00a Worship Services
	9:30a	Reception for New Members
	9:45a	Sunday School / Education Hour
	2:00p	Good Sam Sunday
	4:00p	Cantori Concert
MONDAY:	1:30p	Bone Builders Group
	6:30p	Grieving Parents Support Group
TUESDAY:	9:00a	Staff Meeting
	9:30a	Ladies Bible Study
	11:00a	Pastor's Text Study
	6:30p	Circle Bible Study Leaders Meeting
	6:30p	Bells of Praise Rehearsal
WEDNESDAY:	NO	Sewing Day
	6:30p	Thanksgiving Worship Service
	7:30p	Adult Choir
THURSDAY:		<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>
		Offices and Building Closed
FRIDAY:		Offices and Building Closed
NEXT SUNDAY:	8:30a	and 11:00a Worship Services
	9:30a	Coffee Fellowship
	9:45a	Sunday School / Education Hour

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [Nov. 18: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Nov. 18: Sunday School] [Nov. 19: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [Nov. 20: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [Nov. 21: GLCW].

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: (no one reported).

THE CHURCH OFFICE AND BUILDING will be closed on Thursday and Friday of this week for the Thanksgiving holiday.

FRIDAY YOUTH ROOM will not be held Nov. 23rd also due to the Thanksgiving Break.

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, Jan Guse, Tara Hanson, Edna Herfendal, Mildred Hopperstad, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Norman Johnson, Lisa Koenecke (daughter of Dave & Elaine Long), Glenn McDaniel, Ethel McGill, Vern Nasby, Dave & Kelli Nelson, LeMoyné Oakland, Lissa Parrish, Mike Ranney, Morgan Rasmussen, Jackson Schrock (grandson of Vince & Corrine Tims), LaVon Stewart, Carter Tappe, Naomi Tatarek (daughter of LuVerne & Jeanie Godtland), Paige Thompson (great-niece of Judy Anderson), Leland Wadding, Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS in Christ throughout the SE Minnesota Synod today in praying for Trinity Lutheran Church of Hayfield, West Freeborn Lutheran in Hartland, and Whalan Lutheran of Whalan.

REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES are being served today by Tyler Stahl and his parents, Terry & Julie.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR) Handcraft Project

Did you know that more than one billion people live on less than \$1 a day? Another 2.7 billion struggle on less than \$2 a day. And income equality is increasing around the world. Globally, nearly 200 million people are unemployed, while millions more are underemployed and don't have enough work or income to support their families. More than ever, women are entering the labor force, often as the head of household and sole income earner. They are less likely than men to find formal employment and are often paid less for comparable work. For 60 years, Lutheran World Relief has worked throughout the world to combat the causes of poverty and restore the dignity it robs from people's lives. The LWR Handcraft Project advocates for fair trade that helps artisans earn a better income. **Today these wonderful crafts will be available for purchase and are on display in the office reception area.** They are handmade by artisans using locally available natural resources. Your support of these artisans helps them to support their families and create a better future.

SPECIAL THANKS to Mike Cottrell 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.

COULD YOU HELP? Our GLCW is currently seeking volunteers to co-chair a month in 2008 for Caring and Sharing. Sign up with a friend. Your help would be greatly appreciated! Sign-up sheets are located on the GLCW table in the narthex.

ADDITIONAL SINGERS are invited to sing in the Adult Choir for a shorter commitment, as we prepare music for Advent and Christmas. We will sing a Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, Dec. 23rd. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 7:30-8:30, in the balcony. If you have questions, call Sherry Seberson (377-9329).

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS! This morning at our 8:30 worship service we will receive those listed below into member at Grace Lutheran Church. We rejoice that they have chosen Grace Lutheran as their church family. Between our morning services, there will be a reception held downstairs in the Fireside Room in honor of our new members. Please join us as we welcome them into our Grace Family.

Violet Bos
Nick Bremer and Ava
Jessica Breuer and Alexa
Lyle & Sharon Dickson
Jeff & Michelle Distad, Tyler, Hunter and Dalton
Kevin & Valerie Fox and Tyson
John & Kay Goodmanson
Nicholas & Amy Hanke, Gavin and Mya
Jessica Jacobsen
Laura McKibbin
Lonnie Orris
Dean Slater

GLCW THANKOFFERINGS

Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings and support our partnership with God in making Christ known to all the world. We are called to offer with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given us. Offering our thanks is something we should do daily, but frequently we need a gentle reminder to do that. The Thankoffering Box is a visual reminder to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). All donations go to support women of the ELCA programs and services and help the church reach out in ministry worldwide.

MISSION PARTNER: Heifer International

Heifer is a great way to support developing nation families with your gift in a unique way. It is particularly a good way for children to learn about helping others. When you are planning your Christmas giving this year, please consider giving the gift that keeps on giving: a gift to Heifer International. Through Heifer International, your donation will provide an animal (heifer, pig, goat, llama, rabbits, chickens, bees) that will help a hungry family to become more self-sufficient. Stop by the table in the narthex to learn more about Heifer or make your donation. Gift cards will be available.

9th-12th GRADERS: The summer 2008 trip has been announced! Youth in 9th-12th grades are invited to sign up for the Midwest Meets Adventure weeklong excursion. We will travel to Camp Emmaus in northern MN, journey for our adventure part of the trip to Devil's Lake State Park in Wisconsin, and then off to inner city Chicago for mission work. Dates for this trip are July 13th-19th. Cost will be \$150.00 plus fundraising. Sign up deadline is Dec. 16th. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside of Denae Juntunen's office.

MISSING THAT FAVORITE BOWL OR PAN? Several containers have been left downstairs in the kitchen following October's Salad Luncheon and recent funerals. Stop down to see if any belong to you.

IT'S WITH GREAT SADNESS that we announce the resignation of our Youth Director, Denae Juntunen. Denae feels that due to family demands and Dan's change of employment, she is unable to adequately meet the demands of her Youth Director position. Denae has been a great blessing to our Youth Ministry and overall ministry here at Grace and we will miss her on staff. She has offered to help as much as she is able during the transition time when we will be looking for someone to fill the Youth Director position.

DURING THE LAST FEW WEEKS you have heard a number of comments about the *Simply Giving* program and may have some questions about it. It is a program funded by Thrivent Financial that provides the means for someone to have their offerings electronically withdrawn from their checking or savings account. Thrivent offers this program as a means of helping church members make sure their contributions are given as a convenience or when they are unable to attend worship. If you are interested in this kind of program, please contact the Stewardship Ministry Team or one of the pastors if you have questions. Enrollment forms are available in the church office.

IT'S ALMOST HERE! What? **THE ADVENT FESTIVAL!** Sunday, Dec. 2nd.
Join your Grace Family in preparing our church for the Advent/Christmas season.

BOOK CLUB will hold their next meeting on Monday evening, Dec. 3rd, 7:00p, at the home of Hazel Spiering (2122 Grand Ave.). The featured book is *Ten Thousand Charms* by Allison Pittman.

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, Nov. 11th	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 8,544.00	\$ 443,121.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 454,320.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 96.50	\$ 2,540.00
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	42.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 427; Last Year - 428



2008 Grace Lutheran Church Women Officers:

<i>Jeanette Beamer</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Cheryl Page</i>	<i>Vice President</i>
<i>LaJean Westeng</i>	<i>Past President</i>
<i>Brenda Wieland</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Peggy Bangert</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Pat Searles</i>	<i>Wedding Committee</i>
<i>Karen Hendrickson</i>	<i>Wedding Committee</i>
<i>Linda Bryan</i>	<i>Program Committee</i>
<i>Dara Gjersvik</i>	<i>Program Committee</i>
<i>Sue Smith</i>	<i>Caring and Sharing</i>

<i>Melody Munden</i>	<i>Caring and Sharing</i>
<i>Nancy Brandt</i>	<i>Education/Historian</i>
<i>Lynn Stay</i>	<i>Stewardship Secretary</i>
<i>Nancy Greiner</i>	<i>Stewardship Secretary</i>
<i>Ardis Bang</i>	<i>Quilting Chair</i>
<i>Kathie Rogers</i>	<i>Quilting Chair</i>
<i>Pastor John Henriksen</i>	<i>Advisor</i>
<i>Pastor Todd Walsh</i>	<i>Asst. Advisor</i>

Purpose Statement

Women Together: “As a community of women, created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.”

Leader: We would like to thank all of the women who have been faithful and we invite all women of Grace Lutheran, our GLCW women, to become active and join us in our mission of service. We are truly empowered by the gift of the Holy Spirit to live as called disciples in the church, the society, and the world.

He asks us to come from home and work to gather in community and to enter into His presence with joy, praise, singing, and thanksgiving.

Women: Act boldly, speak in Jesus’ name!

Leader: He asks us to be cleansed from sin and to be robed in His righteousness.

Women: Act boldly, speak in Jesus’ name!

Leader: He asks us to respond to the needs of the everyday people in our lives as we have been cared for, nurtured, and mentored by faithful women down through the ages.

Women: Act boldly, speak in Jesus’ name!

Let us pray. Lord, we thank you for these women and their gifts that they share. We ask your blessing on them. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Albert Lea, Minnesota
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
 November 18, 2007