

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 3, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

It is hard enough to contemplate taking advantage of Individual Confession and Forgiveness without the added burden of confusing just what is required. This week we continue to look at the obstacles in taking advantage of this great gift.

Private Confession does not necessitate a lot of talking. The Penitent needs to get to the point at hand, namely, to confess troubling sins, express the desire to be forgiven, and to promise with God's help to do better.

There is a cathartic effect that can easily be confused for what takes place in confession and forgiveness!

What do I mean by *cathartic*? At its root the word

means a *cleansing* or a *purg-ing*. In modern parlance it refers to the relief of tension. In conversation you can be relieved of the emotional burden of a sin simply by sharing it with another, especially someone you trust. That person may say, "Well, you're not the only one to have done such a thing." Or, "to err is human, welcome to the human race." If someone does not recoil at the divulging of your sin, you can walk away feeling much better. What a relief not to have to bear the burden alone! Well and good. But this is not Confession and Forgiveness!

The cleansing and purifying of sins in the Christian Faith has to do with forgiveness

and the cleansing made possible by Jesus' blood. It is the truth of His Word telling us that Jesus took our sins upon Himself, bore them on the Cross, and thereby atoned for them.

It is important in Private Confession that identifiable sins are named. Use words such as *I lied, spoke shamefully, stole, dishonored, disobeyed, was lewd or crude, lusted, was unfaithful, committed adultery or fornication, betrayed a trust, etc.* To say, "I get this way when I lack sleep," or "this is what happens when I get angry", is offering excuses, not offering a confession. Forgiveness is offered in light of sins confessed.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

Why do we say in the Creeds that Jesus Christ "is seated at the right hand of the Father"? Does this mean that our Lord is far away from us?

This has little to do with Christ's physical location.

Instead it has to do with the authority he assumes. For a King to be seated on a throne is a symbolic gesture of his rule and authority. Heaven itself is a reality that transcends time and space. It is the unseen and timeless realm that underlies the visible and temporal world.

We confess Christ to be seated at the right hand of the Father because we believe him to be the rightful King of the universe. Indeed, Jesus is Lord!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 3/2**
11:00am Prayer Gathering
- Wednesday, 3/3**
6:00pm Outreach Team Meeting
- Friday, 3/5**
6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study
- Sunday, 3/7** Third Sunday in Lent
9:00am Divine Service (also livestreamed)
10:30am Confirmation Class
- Tuesday, 3/9**
11:00am Prayer Gathering
6:00pm Council Meeting

KEY ATTRIBUTES OF LCMC & NALC

- *Christ-Centered*
- *Mission-Driven*
- *Traditionally-Grounded*
- *Congregationally-Focused*

LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ)

NALC (North American Lutheran Church) (www.thenalc.org)

THIS AND THAT...

Look for your **Lenten Mid-week Devotion** to be sent to you by email at least a day ahead of Wednesday.

Tune in FM 87.9 from the parking lot for the service.

For those able to worship in person, there remains the need to **notify Pastor Tim by email** no later than 4pm on Friday

Don't forget **Food Donations** for the Onalaska Food

Basket!

The **Outreach Team** will meet on Wednesday, March 3, at 6pm

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** meets every Friday, at 6:30am

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of March is the NALS, the North American Lutheran Seminary.

The Roll family is scheduled

to clean the church the week of March 21. The Hanson family is scheduled for the week of April 18

If you would like to commune but are not ready to do so in person at the Divine Service, contact Pastor Tim to discuss ways in which **the meal consecrated at Altar** can be extended to you.

Especially during this pandemic, utilize your computer to share the faith and promote our congregation's ministries.

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LUTHERAN CHURCH

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God. - Eph 2:8

HUMOR DEPARTMENT

Celebrations

Birthdays

Feb 24 Jed Roll
 Mar 16 Jon Uy
 Mar 17 Linda Anderson
 Mar 18 Nikki Hanson

Anniversaries

May 3 J & J Schoonover
 May 6 T & L Duesenberg
 May 7 T & N Rislow

Ole and Lena

Ole wore both of his winter jackets when he painted his house last July. The directions on the can said "put on two coats".

Lars: "Ole, stand in front of my car and tell me if da turn signals are vorking". Ole: "Yes, No, Yes, No, Yes, No,

Yes, No..."

Lena was being interviewed for a job as maid for the very wealthy Mrs. Diamond, who asked her: "Do you have any religious views?" "No," said Lena, "but I've got some nice pictures of Norway."

Lars was staggering home

after a night in the tavern. A Lutheran minister saw him and offered to help him get home safely. As they approached the house, Lars asked the minister to step inside for a moment. He explained, "I vant Lena to see who I have been out vith."

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined, positions filled late in the week)

3/7 3rd Sunday in Lent

Asst Minister: Tom Rislow
Reader: Karri Bjornstad
Crucifer: *not needed at this time*
Acolyte: *not needed at this time*
Ushers: *not needed at this time*
Counters: David B/Hannah S
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: *not needed at this time*

Acolyte: *not needed at this time*
Ushers: *not needed at this time*
Counters: Cheryl R/Jarrod R
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: *not needed at this time*

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: *not needed at this time*

3/14 4th Sunday in Lent

Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Jessica Schoonover
Crucifer: *not needed at this time*

3/21 5th Sunday In Lent
Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: Jarrod Roll
Crucifer: *not needed at this time*
Acolyte: *not needed at this time*
Ushers: *not needed at this time*
Counters: David B/Jarrod R
Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad

3/28 Palm/Passion Sunday
Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: *not needed at this time*
Acolyte: *not needed at this time*
Ushers: *not needed at this time*
Counters: Cheryl R/tbd
Comm Asst: tbd
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: *not needed at this time*

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church
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Services held at 9am at:
 642 Western Avenue
 A block north and then
 a block west of King Furniture