

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 8, 2020

A WORD FROM PT

What is heavy on my mind this week is Christian Faith formation and Biblical literacy. In general, both aspects are suffering greatly in our culture. Two reasons especially stand out. We are too distracted by entertainments. And second, given an overly sentimental approach to the Faith, we end up being lazy, undisciplined followers of our Lord.

We are vulnerable to the many assaults of the enemy when we are ill equipped to recognize falsehood, and the half-truths spewed by the devil, the world, and our sinful nature. It takes time and effort to have a well-formed Biblical mindset. Mining Scriptures for little tidbits here and there, in preaching this is called

“proof texting”, is not a good way to have our minds formed. Rather, it is a way to pick and choose ammunition to bolster ideas we already have.

It takes time and effort to read the Bible comprehensively. Sometimes there is an initial excitement to do so, but usually early on it can be frustrating and painstaking. Like a lot of things worthwhile, it may take some while of dogged determination until we develop a taste for beauty and truth, and have a sense of reward accompanying the effort.

Contrary to what some might say, you need help from Pastors, from mature Christians, and from the

Christian Tradition with its doctors and creeds. They can help you with the overall storyline or narrative of the Bible as a whole. For instance, if the Bible were a play, there would be at least Five Acts. Act one would involve God’s good creation. Act two would involve the good creation being tarnished by sinful rebellion. Act three would involve God’s selection of a people, Israel to bring about the redemption of His creation. Act four would be Jesus fulfilling Israel’s mission. And Act five would be Christ carrying on His work through the Church until the end of the age.

Expect advice in the weeks ahead for being formed in God’s Word.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What does the Pastor’s Stole signify? (*the stole is the colored strip of cloth that loops around the back of the neck and hangs from both shoulders*)

The stole represents a yoke such as would be used to link and employ an ox with

a plow or cart. When a work animal is yoked to a task, that animal comes under the rule and guidance of its master. As Christians we are to be yoked to Christ (cf. Mt. 11:28-30).

We are to fear, love, serve, and obey the Lord Jesus Christ. The Pastor’s stole is

therefore not only a sign of ordination in the Lutheran Church, but it visibly reminds the whole congregation of our servant hood to Christ.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 7/7
1:00pm Prayer Gathering

Friday, 7/10
6:30am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 7/12 6th Sunday a Pentecost
8:00am Mask Required Shortened
Divine Service
9:00am Divine Service

Tuesday, 7/14
1:00pm Prayer Gathering
6:00pm Church Council

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...

We will be offering two services on Sundays. **First**, at 8am we will offer an **abbreviated Divine Liturgy** without any singing. Masks will be required for this service. And **second**, at 9am there will be a **full Divine Liturgy**. Masks are recommended, especially to and from, but they are not mandated. Please email PT by 4pm on Fridays if you plan to attend one of these two services.

We will continue to **live-stream** the 9am Divine Lit-

urgy and make it available on our Face Book Page.

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** meets 6:30am on Fridays. You are encouraged to wear a mask to and from this gathering.

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of July will be directed to Lutherans for Life.

Don't forget to bring non-perishable food items for **The**

Food Basket serving Holmen and Onalaska.

No one is currently signed up for cleaning the church the week of July 19. I will soon need to put together a list for the next six months.

Having compassion and showing mercy to our neighbors is always the finest witness that we can do.

GIFT of GRACE

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**

July 9..... Alex Uy
July 12 Sophie Schoonover
July 27 Emeron Christensen
July 29 Buff Peterson

Anniversaries

July 4..... E & G Eade
July 9..... B & C Peterson

Tidbits

Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.

The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

I drive way too fast to worry about cholesterol.

Support bacteria. They're the only culture some people have.

Monday is an awful way to spend 1/7 of your week

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

Get a new car for your spouse. It'll be a great trade!

Plan to be spontaneous tomorrow.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined) a little before service

7/12 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: tbd

Reader: tbd

Crucifer: tbd

Acolyte: tbd

Ushers: tbd

Counters: tbd

Comm Asst: tbd

Accompanist: tbd

Fellowship: tbd

Acolyte: tbd

Ushers: tbd

Counters: tbd

Comm Asst: tbd

Accompanist: tbd

Fellowship: tbd

Accompanist: tbd

Fellowship: tbd

8/2 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: tbd

Reader: tbd

Crucifer: tbd

Acolyte: tbd

Ushers: tbd

Counters: tbd

Comm Asst: tbd

Accompanist: tbd

Fellowship: tbd

7/19 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: tbd

Reader: tbd

Crucifer: tbd

7/26 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: tbd

Reader: tbd

Crucifer: tbd

Acolyte: tbd

Ushers: tbd

Counters: tbd

Comm Asst: tbd

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