

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 24, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

The Apostles' Creed has been divided into three parts by Dr. Martin Luther in his Small Catechism. The First Article is the shortest. You know it. "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth." And wouldn't you know it; Luther's explanation is quite a bit longer than the actual article! No wonder I like Luther!

The first part of his explanation goes, "I believe that God has created me and all that exists. He has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers." When we are well formed by Scripture we recognize that the human being is a composite of body and soul. In succinct form

Luther gets it right, and his explanation helps us to distill important lessons from the Book of Genesis, as well as the rest of Holy Writ.

Body and soul! God created us that way. This is not an accident. This is not a case of the soul, being our authentic self, somehow being tapped in a physical body. This is not a case of our bodies being a mere shell, and a rather pitiful one at that. This is not a case of evil lying primarily in the physical, material aspect of creation, including our human bodies.

When God completed calling things into existence out of nothingness, and then ordering and harmonizing the beings He called into

existence – both things seen and unseen (the physical and the spiritual) He said it was all "very good" (Ge 1:31). Yes, this included sky and earth, land and sea, vegetation and animal life residing in the sea, on the land, and able to fly. And it certainly included humans who had specifically been fashioned in God's image.

Evil comes later. It comes with unbelief, rebellion, and disobedience. Body and soul worked together in getting out of line. Were the body's appetites the only thing askew, the wickedness would have been less perverse. But the soul's involvement makes man's injury monstrous.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What are we observing on "The Sunday of the Passion?"

The Sunday of the Passion mixes triumph and tragedy, the palms and the passion, observing Christ's triumphant entry

into Jerusalem as well as looking ahead to his passion and death on the cross. As the prelude to the Sunday of the Passion focuses on reading the Passion Narrative, the Procession with Palms provides an appropriate

burst of joy which does not lose sight of the solemn goal of Jesus' triumphal entry. *(taken from the Lutheran Planning Calendar, publ. by Augsburg Fortress)*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 3/23**
11:00am No Prayer Gathering
- Friday, 3/26**
6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study
- Sunday, 3/28 Palm/Passion Sunday**
9:00am Divine Service (also livestreamed)
- Tuesday, 3/30**
11:00am Prayer Gathering
- Thursday, 4/1 Maundy Thursday**
7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship
- Friday, 4/2 Good Friday**
7:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service

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...

It's coming up soon! **Holy Week** that is. It starts with the Divine Service on **Palm/Passion Sunday**, March 28. It continues with the **Maundy Thursday Service** at 7pm on April 1. And then there is the **Good Friday Tenebrae Service** at 7pm on April 2. And it culminates with the Divine Service on **Easter Sunday**, April 4.

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!

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

Mar 17..... Linda Anderson
 Mar 17..... Mike Meunier
 Mar 18..... Nikki Hanson
 Mar 26..... Asher Roll
 Mar 26..... Benjamin Roll
 Mar 29..... Phyllis Christensen
 Apr 1..... Jarrod Roll

Anniversaries

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

Ole and Lena

Little Ole was sitting at the kitchen table doing his school homework. He had a puzzled look on his face as he considered the assignment that was due - writing an essay about his origin. He turned to question his mother. "Mama, vere did Grandma come from?" he asked. "Da stork brought her," answered mama Lena.

"And vere did yew come from?" asked Little Ole. "Da stork brought me," his mother answered. "And vere did I come from?" Little Ole inquired. "Vell, son, da stork brought yew tew," mama Lena replied. With a scowl on his face, Little Ole picked up his pencil, turned to his school tablet, and began writing his essay: "Dere have been no natural births in our family

for three yenerations."

Ole bought Lean a piano for her birthday. Lars asked Ole how she was doing with it. "Oh," said Ole, "I persuaded her to svitch to a clarinet." "How come?" asked Lars. "Vell," Ole answered, "because vith a clarinet, she can't sing."

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

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

Acolyte: not needed at this time
Ushers: not needed at this time
Counters: not needed at this time
Comm Asst: tbd
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: not needed at this time

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: not needed at this time

4/1 Maundy Thursday
Asst Minister: Naomi Rislow
Reader: Karri Bjornstad
Crucifer: not needed at this time

4/4 Resurrection of Our Lord
Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: not needed at this time
Acolyte: not needed at this time
Ushers: not needed at this time
Counters: Hannah /tbd
Comm Asst: tbd

4/11 Second Sunday of Easter
Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad
Reader: Dan Molstad
Crucifer: not needed at this time
Acolyte: not needed at this time
Ushers: not needed at this time
Counters: David B/tbd
Comm Asst: Jessica Schoonover
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