

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 3, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

This week we segue from the consideration of Confession and Absolution declared by the Pastor in our corporate gathering for worship, to the same declaration of forgiveness in Private Confession.

An immediate question can be anticipated, "If the Church appointed ambassador declares the forgiveness of sins upon the joint confession of sins in the Brief Order for Confession, why would it be encouraged or beneficial to seek this gift of forgiveness in Private Confession?"

Good question! One way to attack this question is to ask what is the most helpful way to help us overcome our doubts and to trust in

God's rich promises. To the point with confession and absolution, it is necessary to come to believe and trust God in at least two matters. First, we need to trust His verdict that we are sinners. When we come to believe this we become *convicted*. And such conviction can indeed be painful. But it also can move us to seek forgiveness.

And secondly, it is necessary that we come to believe and trust that Christ atoned for our sins on the Cross and that the gift of forgiveness is freely offered to repentant sinners who confess their sin and ask for forgiveness. If we did not believe that this gift was intended for us, there

would be little point in confessing our sins.

A personal word is likely to be more reassuring than a general word that indeed the gift of forgiveness is for me! When I hear the words that Christ died for the sins of the world, my doubt may kick in with the thought "Well He might have died for most people's sins, but I'm not sure that it did for mine. Perhaps I'm an exception?" What a comfort to hear up close and personal, "Pastor Tim, Christ died for your sins," and then to hear, "I forgive you your sins, in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What good purpose is there in signing oneself (making the sign of the cross with the hand over one's head and breast)?

This gesture's main purpose is to remind us of our baptism where the sign of the

cross was first made on our foreheads. The cross is a powerful symbol which reminds us of the depths of God's love for us – He loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for us. In Holy Baptism we have been joined to Christ. Every time we sign ourselves we

declare that we belong to Christ and that we desire to live for Him. We give visible expression that we serve the One, True God who has revealed Himself to us in three persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 2/2
1:00pm Prayer Gathering

Friday, 2/5
6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study
10:00am Worship at Care Center

Sunday, 2/7 5th Sunday a Epiphany
9:00am Divine Service (also livestreamed)
10:30am Confirmation Class

Tuesday, 2/9
12:45pm STS Leadership Retreat
4:00pm No-Prayer-Gathering
6:00pm Church 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...

In addition to being allowed to visit parishioners at Spring Brook Assisting Living, Pastor Tim was asked this week to lead **Worship at the Onalaska Care Center** nursing home on the first Friday of the month.

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

The Season of **Lent** is just around the corner as **Ash Wednesday** is February 17.

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

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of February is the Onalaska/Holmen Food Bank.

The Roll family is scheduled

to clean the church the week of February 21. Cole and Anne Warner are scheduled for the week of March 21

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.

GIFT of GRACE

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

Jan 21 Elyse Schoonover
Jan 26 Marge Wangen
Jan 27 Ann Fisher
Feb 24 Jed Roll

Anniversaries

Jan 11 E & P Christensen
May 3 J & J Schoonover
May 6 T & L Duesenberg
May 7 T & N Rislow

One Liners

- I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder.

- Shin: a device for finding furniture in the dark.

- How do you tell when you run out of invisible ink?

- Laughing stock: cattle with a sense of humor.

- Why do psychics have to ask you for your name.

- Wear short sleeves! Support the right to bare arms!

- OK, so what's the speed of dark?

- Corduroy pillows: They're making headlines!

- Black holes are where God divided by zero.

- All those who believe in psychokinesis raise my hand.

- I tried sniffing Coke once, but the ice cubes got stuck in my nose.

- If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

2/7 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

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: Hannah S/David B

Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: not needed at this time

Acolyte: not needed at this time

Ushers: not needed at this time

Counters: tba

Comm Asst: tba

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: not needed at this time

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: not needed at this time

2/21 1st Sunday In Lent

Asst Minister: tba

Reader: tba

Crucifer: not needed at this time

Acolyte: not needed at this time

Ushers: not needed at this time

Counters: tba

Comm Asst: tba

Accompanist: tba

Fellowship: not needed at this time

2/17 Ash Wednesday

Asst Minister: tba

Reader: tba

Crucifer: not needed at this time

Acolyte: not needed at this time

Ushers: not needed at this time

Counters: tba

Comm Asst: tba

2/14 Transfiguration of Our Lord

Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg

Reader: tba

Crucifer: not needed at this time

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg, STS
642 Western Avenue
Holmen, WI 54636
www.giftofgracelc.org
giftofgracelc@gmail.com
(608) 797-7837

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