

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 10, 2021

#### A WORD FROM PT

As was suggested last week, Private Confession allows for the declaration of the gift of forgiveness up close and personal. And just so, it can be more encouraging and reassuring in overcoming doubts so that we can cling to our Lord's promise of mercy.

At the same time, the idea of going to Private Confession can be frightening for a number of reasons. First, it can be scary in its unfamiliarity. Do Lutherans actually believe in Private Confession? And does anyone take advantage of it? And what might I expect if I were to contact the Pastor to make confession and to receive absolution in person? And then secondly, there can be

a number of reasons why confessing your sins out loud in the hearing of another person can be overwhelming. After all, it is private and personal!

Concerning the lack of familiarity I will share a couple of things. First, it is helpful to reflect in the Small Catechism what Luther had to say about the practice. I will resend by email the Small Catechism so you can reflect on it. And secondly, it is helpful to actually look at the rite of Individual Confession And Forgiveness in the Lutheran Book of Worship on pages 196 and 197. I will also send an adaption of the rite to you this week by email. The rite itself, with its ru-

brics, helps to educate and acquaint you with the practice.

As a Pastor, I stick to the script, so in looking over the rite you would largely know what to expect. I cannot emphasize enough that the recipient of your confession is not the pastor, but the Lord! But it is in the hearing of the Lord's ambassador so that he can audibly speak the absolution in the Lord's stead.

Concerning the difficult aspect of disclosing personal sins before your Pastor, I intend to deal with that matter in the upcoming weeks in this column. Stay tuned.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

**Friday, 2/12**  
6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

**Sunday, 2/14** Transfiguration Sunday  
9:00am Divine Service (also livestreamed)  
10:30am Confirmation Class

**Tuesday, 2/16**  
1:00pm Prayer Gathering

**Wednesday, 2/17**  
7:00pm Ash Wednesday 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](http://www.thenalc.org))

#### SINCE YOU ASKED...

**Why is the Triune Name of God repeated so frequently in our worship services?**

The mystery of the Trinity is one of the most distinctive elements of our Christian Tradition. Christianity is not alone in claiming to

be monotheistic (*belief in one Supreme Being, one god*). But Christianity holds that this One, True God has revealed himself to us as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Scripture teaches that God the Father has revealed himself through God the Son

and in God the Spirit. Only the Son can be seen, and only through the Spirit are we enabled to believe in the Father and the Son. And so we often invoke the name of the Triune God in the mystery of our faith.

## THIS AND THAT...

Kudos and thanks to **Naomi Rislow** and **Carol Peterson!** Naomi has taken a break from the chair of the Worship Team after years of leadership. And Carol announced that she too is retiring from head of the Altar Guild, that she has always held at GGLC.

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

Feb 24 ..... Jed Roll

#### Anniversaries

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

### One Liners

- Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember Moses started out as a basket case.

- Many people want to serve God, but only as advisors.

- The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

- Opportunity may knock

once, but temptation bangs on the front door forever.

- Quite griping about your church; if it were perfect, you couldn't belong.

- We're called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

- God Himself doesn't propose to judge a man until he is dead, so why should you?

- Some minds are like con-

crete; thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

- Peace starts with a smile.

- I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?

- A lot of church members singing "Standing on the Promises" are just sitting on the premises.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

### 2/14 Transfiguration of Our Lord

**Asst Minister:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Reader:** Jessica Schoonover

**Crucifer:** not needed at this time

**Acolyte:** not needed at this time

**Ushers:** not needed at this time

**Counters:** Hannah S/Connie M

**Comm Asst:** Jeremy Schoonover

**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:** Connie Meunier

**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Fellowship:** not needed at this time

### 2/21 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday In Lent

**Asst Minister:** Mike Meunier

**Reader:** Jarrod Roll

**Crucifer:** not needed at this time

**Acolyte:** not needed at this time

**Ushers:** not needed at this time

**Counters:** Jarrod R/Cheryl R

**Comm Asst:** Jarrod Roll

**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Fellowship:** not needed at this time

### 2/28 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

**Asst Minister:** Karri Bjornstad

**Reader:** Hannah Scholze

**Crucifer:** not needed at this time

**Acolyte:** not needed at this time

**Ushers:** not needed at this time

**Counters:** David B/Tom R

**Comm Asst:** Jarrod Roll

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow

**Fellowship:** not needed at this time

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church  
 Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg, STS  
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 (608) 797-7837

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

### 2/17 Ash Wednesday

**Asst Minister:** Naomi Rislow

**Reader:** Mike Meunier

**Crucifer:** not needed at this time