

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 21, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

Continuing our conversation on evangelism, I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for us to be evangelized, or gospeled, before we can effectively be involved in evangelizing, or gospeling, others! And as was said last time, this is a lifelong process.

In Matthew 4 Jesus invited some fishermen, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Here we see clearly the priority of first following Jesus, and then in the process of following to allow ourselves to be made *fishers of men*. It is probably helpful to say a word concerning the image Jesus uses in Matthew 4 for the evangelizing enterprise. He compares it with fishing!

But it is important we have an accurate picture for this, one that our Lord's originally hearers would have had.

As one who enjoys fishing, I relate to fishing with the use of a hook, line, and sinker. The idea is enticement. You bait the hook, or use a lure with hooks attached. The idea is to fool the fish. It is deceptive by nature. Think of it, man in all his brilliance tries to outsmart a fish! And if you succeed, you set the hook and reel in the scaled swimmer of the sea.

But there is something a little fishy about this image! Would it be fitting to attract folks to God's reign (His Kingdom) by entice-

ment or false advertisement? I don't think so!

It is important to understand the image Jesus used, and the one the people would have had, was not modern recreational fishing, but commercial fishing with nets. And the effort was not one of enticement, baiting, and quickly trying to set the hook. Rather, it is one of casting out, and then drawing. And it would be fair to say, it is not the attempt to entice a fish to come to you. Instead, it is finding and going to where fish congregate and then drawing them to something new. In our case, we can only draw people to where we ourselves are being drawn...

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the Christian's Hope?

In a word, it is the resurrection of the body to life everlasting in the world to come. This is more accurate and complete than just saying "life after death." It is also more helpful than say-

ing "going to heaven." When Jesus returns at the end of the age to judge the living and the dead, baptized believers will be raised bodily! They will share in a resurrection similar to Jesus' resurrection. And being in his presence on that day and for all eternity is not

just a matter of escaping to heaven, but living in his presence in the new heaven and earth. The Lord intends to renew and restore his creation. So our central hope is the resurrection of the dead, with believers inheriting the Kingdom.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 4/20**
11:00am Prayer Gathering
- Friday, 4/23**
6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study
- Sunday, 4/25** 4th Sunday of Sunday
9:00am Divine Service (also livestreamed)
10:30am Confirmation Class
- Tuesday, 4/27**
11:00am No Prayer Gathering
- Wednesday, 4/28**
6:00pm Outreach Team

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...

Save the Date! We are planning to celebrate our **Ten Year plus One Anniversary** on Sunday, June 6, with Worship at 1pm that day, with an outdoor reception to follow at 2:30pm.

We will be celebrating the principle festival of the Church Year, **Easter**, for a week of weeks. There **seven Sundays of Easter**. And no matter what liturgical season, even during Lent, every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord

Jesus Christ.

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

There is no longer any need to notify Pastor Tim if you intent to attend the Divine Services. The **expectation for wearing a mask** will need to continue for some while. And livestreaming will also be continued indefinitely.

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

Basket!

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the upcoming month of April is Youth Camperships.

The Hanson family is scheduled to clean the church the week of April 18. And Heidi Traver is scheduled for the week of May 16.

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

Apr 23 Craig Bartos
Apr 23 Tim Duesenberg
Apr 23 Heidi Traver
Apr 25 David Bjornstad
Apr 29 Calvin Swaney
May 2 Connie Meunier
May 7 Lisa Casch

Anniversaries

May 3 J & J Schoonover
May 6 T & L Duesenberg
May 7 T & N Rislow
May 23 C & M Bartos

Report from the Pastoral Search Committee...

Unable to find a suitable candidate, we have only one promising prospect. The following is our confidential report on the present candidates.

- *continued from last week...*

David: The most promising leader of all until we discov-

ered the affair he had with his neighbor's wife. Also thought to have murdered her husband and used the power of his office to avoid charges.

Solomon: Great preacher but our parsonage would never hold all those wives.

Elijah: Prone to depression - collapses under pressure.

Elisha: Reported to have

lived with a single widow while at his former church.

Hosea: A tender and loving pastor but our people could never handle his wife's occupation.

Deborah: Female.

- *more profiles next week...*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

4/25 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: Cole Warner
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*

5/2 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: tbd

Acolyte: *not needed at this time*

Ushers: tbd

Counters: tbd

Comm Asst: tbd

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: *not needed at this time*

5/9 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: tbd

Reader: tbd

Crucifer: tbd

Acolyte: *not needed at this time*

Ushers: tbd

Counters: tbd

Comm Asst: tbd

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: *not needed at this time*

5/16 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: tbd

Reader: tbd

Crucifer: *not needed at this time*

Acolyte: tbd

Ushers: tbd

Counters: tbd

Comm Asst: tbd

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: *not needed at this time*

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