

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 1, 2020

#### A WORD FROM PT

Forgiveness and reconciliation are related, but they are not the same. For reconciliation to take place, forgiveness is a prerequisite. But without something in addition to forgiveness, reconciliation will fail to happen. I will explain.

When harm is given in a relationship between two people, that relationship suffers damage. This results in a division of mistrust and injury. We speak appropriately of a broken relationship. And so long as the provocation continues, or is not apologized for, the wound and dysfunction continues.

The injury to a relationship needs healing. To be sure, the offended party in the

relationship must be able to forgive. But a restored relationship and the mending needed is dependent on something from both parties! From the one having given offense, or still offending, a couple of things are needed. There obviously needs to be an end to the provocations. There also needs to be an acknowledgment for having wronged the other with an apology. In Christian terms, we call this "asking for forgiveness."

Of course as Christians we know in no uncertain terms that we are to forgive others for their sins against us. Our Lord simply stated it this way, "If you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Mt

6:15). There is no wiggle room here. I think we can assume Jesus means what He says!

Now forgiving someone who has, or who continues to, injure us is well-nigh impossible! But if God expects it of us, He will also equip us to be able to do so. The job will still be hard, but it will be doubly difficult if we think forgiveness means reconciliation. Without the offender ceasing their provocation and asking for forgiveness, we are not asked to feel warm and fuzzy about him or her! Rather, we are asked with God's help to let go of trying to return injury. Instead of wishing harm, we are to pray for the offender!

#### 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.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Tuesday, 6/30**

4:00pm Prayer Gathering

**Friday, 7/3**

6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

**Sunday, 7/5 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday a Pentecost**

8:00am Mask Required Shortened

Divine Service

9:00am Divine Service

**Tuesday, 6/30**

4:00pm Prayer Gathering

#### 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))

## 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 June will be directed to The Food Basket serving Holmen and Onalaska.

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

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

June 25 ..... Mary Bartos  
 June 26 ..... Tom Rislw  
 July 9..... Alex Uly  
 July 12 ..... Sophie Schoonover  
 July 27 ..... Emeron Christensen  
 July 29 ..... Buff Peterson

#### Anniversaries

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

### Tidbits

Save the whales. Collect the whole set.

A day without sunshine is like, night.

On the other hand, you have different fingers.

I just got lost in thought. It was unfamiliar territory.

42.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.

99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

I feel like I am diagonally parked in a parallel universe.

Honk if you love peace and quiet.

Remember, half the people you know are below average.

He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined) a little before service

**7/5** 5<sup>th</sup> 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

**7/26** 5<sup>th</sup> 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** 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Asst Minister:** tbd

**Reader:** tbd

**Crucifer:** tbd

**Acolyte:** tbd

**Ushers:** tbd

**Counters:** tbd

**Comm Asst:** tbd

**7/12** 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Asst Minister:** tbd

**Reader:** tbd

**Crucifer:** 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