

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 15, 2020

#### A WORD FROM PT

The most important thing to learn in being formed in the Faith by the Bible is to understand that all of Scripture is about Jesus! That will not be readily apparent by reading the Book cover to cover. But our Lord Jesus himself helps us in the Gospels with this important interpretive key.

In John 5:39 Jesus spoke to the religious scholars of the day. He said, "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have life; and it is they that bear witness about me." As another example, consider the resurrected Jesus' words to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24:27. There we read, "Beginning with Moses and all the prophets, [Jesus]

interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."

A temptation to the reader of the Holy Book is to assume that the Bible is "God's Book of Rules." Accordingly then, the narratives become moral tales. And certainly there are rules and moral lessons to be learned. Another temptation is to treat Holy Writ as a book of mysteries that the careful and meditative reader uses to try to unlock higher spiritual truths.

There are indeed many things that beneficially can be taken from the Bible, not the least of which is practical advice for daily living. But until we understand that all Scripture points to

Jesus we will miss the chief aim of God's Word. Until we recognize that Jesus is the hero, the main actor, and the climax of the overarching narrative, we will have missed the primary purpose of the Bible.

The Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob point to Jesus, as do Moses, Samuel, Elijah, and King David. The tabernacle and the temple point to Jesus. The animal sacrifices, the Exodus, all the wars, all the poems, and even the genealogies point to Jesus!

If we think the Bible primarily tells us how to live, we will miss what Jesus accomplished by dying and rising for us, and the implications of this for our lives.

#### SINCE YOU ASKED...

**Why do we say in the Creeds that Jesus Christ "is seated at the right hand of the Father"? Does this mean that our Lord is far away from us?**

This has little to do with Christ's physical location.

Instead it has to do with the authority he assumes. For a King to be seated on a throne is a symbolic gesture of his rule and authority. Heaven itself is a reality that transcends time and space. It is the unseen and timeless realm that underlies the visible and temporal world.

We confess Christ to be seated at the right hand of the Father because we believe him to be the rightful King of the universe. Indeed, Jesus is Lord!

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

##### Tuesday, 7/14

4:00pm Prayer Gathering  
6:00pm Church Council

##### Friday, 7/17

6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

##### Sunday, 7/19 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday a Pentecost

8:00am Mask Required Shortened  
Divine Service  
9:00am Divine Service

##### Tuesday, 7/21

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 July will be directed to Lutherans for Life.

Don't forget to bring non-perishable food items for **The**

**Food Basket** serving Holmen and Onalaska.

Hannah Scholze and Cheryl Ruud are signed up to clean the week of July 19. The list is yet to be filled in for the month of August.

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

July 12..... Sophie Schoonover  
 July 27..... Emeron Christensen  
 July 29..... Buff Peterson

#### Anniversaries

July 9..... B & C Peterson

### Tidbits

Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.

The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

I drive way too fast to worry about cholesterol.

Support bacteria. They're the only culture some people have.

Monday is an awful way to spend 1/7 of your week

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

Get a new car for your spouse. It'll be a great trade!

Plan to be spontaneous tomorrow.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined) a little before service

**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  
**Accompanist:** tbd  
**Fellowship:** tbd

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**Ushers:** tbd  
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**Accompanist:** tbd  
**Fellowship:** tbd

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**Fellowship:** tbd

**7/26** 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Asst Minister:** tbd  
**Reader:** tbd  
**Crucifer:** tbd

**8/2** 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
**Asst Minister:** tbd  
**Reader:** tbd  
**Crucifer:** tbd  
**Acolyte:** tbd  
**Ushers:** tbd  
**Counters:** tbd  
**Comm Asst:** tbd

**8/9** 10<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

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