

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 19, 2020

A WORD FROM PT

We have been discussing the tension between “law and gospel”. In Lutheran theological jargon this is often referred to as the “law/gospel dialectic.” Aren’t you glad I used the word “tension”?

“Opposites”, would also work. In any event, I discussed last week the harm of the overuse of the law without the gospel. When this is done, law, or “demand”, is often used lightly. Instead of a voice that accuses and condemns, it is used only to advise and direct us.

By way of reminder, when the law is used in such a light manner, we reduce our need for Jesus to merely a need for a good exam-

ple and for inspiration. However, when we are shown our utter failure to love God fully and to love our neighbor as ourselves we then recognize we deserve nothing but punishment.

So that was the shortcoming of the neglect of the weightier purpose of the law, along with its diminutive overuse. But it is also true that we can try to get by with just the gospel, that is, the promises based on what God has done on our behalf. I’ve heard it said, if I must err, I wish to err on the side of the gospel.

Well, that sounds good. But indeed it is to err! Remember how we have said, law and gospel are to be distin-

guished but not separated? It turns out that when we try to let the gospel stand alone, it really doesn’t end up being the gospel at all! In theological terms this is called “gospel reductionism”.

The heart of the gospel is Jesus’ costly death on the cross to atone for our sins so that we might receive forgiveness of sins which enables our salvation. But to receive forgiveness implies a turning from sin. Gospel without law is nothing but “sloppy agape” (*agape, pronounced ‘ah-gah-pay’ is the Greek word for ‘love’*). It is not a turning from sin, but a “get out of jail free card” so that we can go on sinning with impunity.

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, 8/18

4:00pm Prayer Gathering

Thursday, 8/20

10am Ministerium in Rushford, MN

Friday, 8/21

6:30am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 8/23 12th Sunday a Pentecost

9:00am Divine Service

Tuesday, 8/25

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)

THIS AND THAT...

We are offering two ways to participate in **the Divine Service at 9am on Sundays**. First, for those who are venturing out, we have "space-limited" seating. Face coverings are required for this service. Please email PT by 4pm on Fridays if you plan to attend this service. Otherwise, you can participate in the **livestream** made available on our Face Book Page.

Although **the livestream of the 9am Divine Service** remains as a recorded video that can be accessed later, we

highly recommend, whenever possible, to participate in it as a livestream at 9am. It is a good habit, and gratifying that we are participating at the same time.

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** meets 6:30am on Fridays. You are expected to wear a mask to and from this gathering and whenever we are not eating. We are serving coffee, donuts, orange juice, and breakfast biscuits.

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of August will be directed to Mercy House Global.

Don't forget to bring non-perishable food items for **The Food Basket** serving Holmen and Onalaska.

The Duesenbergs are signed up to clean the week of August 16. The Harwoods have the week of September 20.

The one with **hope** lives differently...

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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

Aug 12..... Dawson Staff
 Aug 13..... Jessica Schoonover
 Aug 20..... Eric Eade
 Aug 24..... Mary Devine
 Aug 25..... Pam Benrud
 Aug 29..... Jeremy Schoonover

Anniversaries

Aug 17..... W & C Halderson
 Aug 19..... M & C Meunier
 Aug 28..... B & A Fisher

Christian One-Liners

- Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.
- Don't put a question mark where God put a period.
- Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- God does not qualify the qualified, He qualifies the called.

- God grades on the cross, not on the curve.
- God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.
- If God is your Co-pilot, swap seats!
- The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.
- If we don't change the message, there is the chance that the message will change us.

- Prayer: Don't give God instructions, just report for duty!
- Fruits of the Spirit are to be preferred over a collection of religious nuts.
- Mathematical equation:
 1 cross
 + 3 nails
 = 4 given

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

8/23 12th 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
Counters: tbd
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Accompanist: tbd
Fellowship: tbd

Accompanist: tbd
Fellowship: tbd

8/30 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: tbd

9/6 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: tbd
Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: tbd
Counters: tbd
Comm Asst: tbd

9/13 15th 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