

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 18, 2020

A WORD FROM PT

The twenty-four hour news is enough to fill anyone full of anxiety. It is not that the news media invents such things as a new corona virus, COVID-19, or a wild downturn in the stock market. Rather, it can amplify, dramatize, and analyze the "what ifs" to death.

By way of comfort, and for starters, my advice is that we limit the amount of exposure to news and commentary that we take in each day. Ignorance is not bliss. But endless exposure to negativity, and to ranting and raving, produces anxiety and will drain a person.

Although we may be baptized believers, it is still important that we remind ourselves and each other

that we are to think and act as Christians. This reminding is necessary because we have been well conditioned by our fallen, sinful nature; the world's wisdom, and the lies of the devil. In baptism we were gifted with a new nature! But without vigilance we easily fall back into old habits. This results in thinking and acting in a worldly way.

Believers are not exempt from trials and tribulations. And we know that the world in this present age is passing away. But as Christians we know the promises that attend to our Lord Jesus' victory over sin, death, and the devil. We belong to the kingdom that is permanent, and moves beyond

this present age. And we know of the promise of our Lord's abiding presence and the working for our good even in the midst of the trials (Mt 28:20; Ro 8:28).

To be sure, as Christians when we are cut we bleed. We are not immune to fears and afflictions. Yet, we also know where and who to turn to in our plight. We know how to pray. "Lord, have mercy." And we can pray, "Our Father who art in heaven." And we know the promises are recorded in Sacred Writ.

No matter what we face in the coming days, we will find ways to be connected and sustained with God's life-giving Word!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Wednesday, 3/18**
6:30pm Lenten Midweek Service
- Friday, 3/20**
6:30am Men's Breakfast at church
- Sunday, 3/22 4th Sunday In Lent**
8:00am Choir Practice
9:00am Divine Service
10:45am Adult Class
- Wednesday, 3/25**
6:30pm Lenten Midweek 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)

SINCE YOU ASKED...

Why do we celebrate Holy Communion nearly every Sunday?

The celebration of the meal we call Holy Communion has consistently been the chief act of Christian worship since the age of the Apostles. The Lutheran

Reformation did not break with this tradition of 1,500 years. In fact the Augsburg Confession (our principal statement of faith) declares Holy Communion to be the chief act of worship for Lutherans on Sundays and festivals (Art. 26). *(from "Manual on the Liturgy" companion to the LBW,*

from Augsburg Pub.)

You might think of Holy Communion as spiritual bread and drink for our journey (pilgrimage), for our Lord's Body and Blood is true nutrition indeed!

THIS AND THAT...

Our Wednesday, **Lenten Midweek Services** are under way. We gather for soup at 6:30pm and then at 7 we pray the Holden Evening Prayer Service. The theme for the meditations is "Baptized By Water And God's Word: Our Baptismal Journey."

The Biblical narratives for our Lenten Midweek Services will be as follows: **3/4** The Spirit hovering over the waters at Creation; **3/11** The Flood, Noah and the Ark; **3/18** The Crossing of the Red Sea;

3/25 Naaman's leprosy cleansed at the Jordan; **4/1** Jesus walks on Sea of Galilee while after a few steps, Peter almost drowns.

With the concern over the **COVID-19** virus, use your own best judgment and stay away from services and activities at church if you feel sick, or if you are at higher risk if you become infected.

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of March will be directed to the

North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS).

Don't forget to bring non-perishable food items for the **Holmen/Onalaska Food Pantry.**

The Duesenbergs are signed up to clean the church the week of March 15. Heidi Traver is listed for week of April 19.

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

Mar 16..... Jon Uy
 Mar 17..... Mike Meunier
 Mar 18..... Nikki Hanson
 Mar 18..... Aimee Stutzman
 Mar 26..... Asher Roll
 Mar 26..... Benjamin Roll
 Mar 29..... Phyllis Christensen

Anniversaries

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

Random Humor

- A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby sitter."

- A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother,"

she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

- At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother

noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny, what is the matter?" Little Johnny answered, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

- Two boys heard a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad."

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

3/22 Fourth Sunday in Lent
Asst Minister: Cole Warner
Reader: Heather Roll
Crucifer: Benjamin Roll
Acolyte: Stella Roll
Ushers: David Bjornstad
Counters: Heather R/David B
Comm Asst: Heather Roll
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Hannah S/tba

3/29 Fifth Sunday in Lent
Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg
Reader: Mike Meunier
Crucifer: Alex Uy

Acolyte: tba
Ushers: Jon Uy
Counters: Cheryl R/Mary B
Comm Asst: Connie Meunier
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Connie M/tba

4/5 Sunday of the Passion/Palm Su
Asst Minister: tba
Reader: tba
Crucifer: tba
Acolyte: tba
Ushers: tba
Counters: tba
Comm Asst: tba

Accompanist: tba
Fellowship: tba

4/12 Resurrection of Our Lord
Asst Minister: tba
Reader: tba
Crucifer: tba
Acolyte: tba
Ushers: tba
Counters: tba
Comm Asst: tba
Accompanist: tba
Fellowship: tba

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church
 Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg, STS
 642 Western Avenue
 Holmen, WI 54636
 www.giftofgracelc.org
 giftofgracelc@gmail.com
 (608) 797-7837

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