

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 12, 2020

A WORD FROM PT

Last week I described how the *law* works to show us our sins, and the *gospel* works to show us our Savior. I ended by saying words to the effect, “that unless we are acutely aware of our predicament we will not appreciate and cling to the one trying to rescue us.” Indeed, a lifeguard sprinting to you while you are standing ankle deep in a wading pool will be a source of embarrassment rather than one to whom you will embrace.

A problem prevailing today in our culture in too many churches is the diminutive and overuse of the *law* in preaching and teaching. It can affect how we go about reading the Scriptures for

ourselves. I will explain.

As already stated, the *law* can be used as a curb, a mirror, and a guide; but it is as a mirror that it helps us the most in receiving the promise of the *gospel*, that Christ our Savior liberates us from sin, death, and the devil. Accordingly, the *law* accuses, condemns, and kills. Ouch! That’s no fun. But in the words of Luther in the Small Catechism, it is important that we realize that “we are lost and condemned persons.” Just so, we are able to see our need for an undeserved Divine pardon.

When we receive the *law* lightly, as primarily a guide, we begin to look to Scripture mostly as “good advice” with loads of practical appli-

cations. The assumption can easily become that I need a little help getting started, thank you Jesus, but now it is up to me to apply Biblical truths to my life. And the tendency, when I compare myself to others, will either be to pride, as in “look at me, how well I am doing;” or to despair, as in “I just don’t seem to do as well as others.”

But note how quickly Jesus loses center stage, and instead of seeing Him as our Savior, He becomes an example and inspiration. Suddenly, Scripture is all about our effort and journey, and not about Jesus’ work on our behalf. Here *law* begins to nullify *gospel*.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

Are announcements necessary? And should they be included as a part of the liturgy?

Not all announcements are necessary! Nor should they be allowed to disrupt the rhythmic flow of the service. It is likewise im-

portant that announcements be kept to a minimum. But certain announcements are important. Information that will enhance participation in the worship, information pertaining to further Christian service, and information for regarding further opportunities for spiritual

edification are such announcements of importance, and they are worthwhile to promote publicly to the assembly. We have chosen the beginning of the worship service as the most helpful and least disruptive placement for announcements.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 8/11

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

Friday, 8/14

6:30am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 8/16 11th Sunday a Pentecost

9:00am Divine Service (face coverings required)

Tuesday, 8/18

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...

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

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

- Don't let your worries get the best of you. Remember, Moses stared out as a basket case.
- Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.
- It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.
- People are funny. They want the front of the bus, the

middle of the road, and the back of the church.

- Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on the front door forever.
- Quit griping about your church. If it were perfect, you couldn't belong.
- If a church wants a better pastor, they might consider praying for the one it has.
- We are called to be witness-

es, not lawyers or judges.

- Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.
- I don't know why some people change churches. What difference does it make which one you stay home from?
- Be ye fishers of men. You catch 'em. He'll clean 'em.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined) a little before service

8/16 11th 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

8/23 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: tbd

8/30 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: tbd
Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: tbd
Counters: tbd
Comm Asst: tbd

9/6 14th 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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Services held at 9am at:
 642 Western Avenue
 A block north and then
 a block west of King Furniture