

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER MAY 12, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

Before I venture further in the “how to” of evangelizing, or gospeling, others, I wish to reflect on the people we should be reaching out to. I hope that sounds a little strange. But really, who should I be witnessing to?

Of course we can say that we should be seeking to evangelize everyone, you know, make disciples of all nations. And yes, of course, in general this is true. But I would suggest sharing your faith with some particular individual rather than everyone in general. It is like the man who is madly in love with the whole world, but really struggles to love his neighbor.

As Lutherans we join other

Christians in speaking about our baptismal vocations. And we understand three realms in which we are to serve the neighbor. First we are to serve the family that God has placed us in. Seldom do we have any choice in this. We were not consulted at our births or adoptions. God has seen to it that we are taken care of in a family.

Second, our family lives in a community. Most immediately we are surrounded by neighbors. We are called to live our faith, to be little Christs, to our family and our surrounding neighbors in our community. In many cases we had little to do with who these people are.

And third, as baptized be-

lievers we have been joined to a Christian Community, a Church, in which we are part of a family of faith. Sometimes we have some say where this is. Other times, especially when we have been raised in the faith, this too was determined for us. Here also we are called to constantly gospel and serve others.

I say all this, because one of the less than helpful ways evangelism is pictured for us is with complete strangers. Without denying the possibility, it is not a good model. And when we pay attention it is not the way it is usually done in the Scriptures...

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the significance of The Ascension Day Commemoration?

Forty days following Easter the Resurrected Christ ascended to heaven, where as we confess in the Creed, he is seated at the right hand of the Father. The account of the ascension of our Lord occurs in both Luke 24:50-51 and

Acts 1:9-11. As described in these passages Jesus led his disciples up Mount Olivet near Jerusalem where suddenly they witnessed his being elevated up into the sky until a cloud took him away from their sight. This signified his return to heaven where, as we confess in the Creed, he is seated at the right hand of the Father. This enthronement is

a description of the all-inclusive authority he is given by the Father. Christ’s going away necessarily preceded his promised sending of the Holy Spirit. Another hint at the significance of his ascension has to do with his serving as a High Priest interceding for his Church.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 5/11**
11:00am No Prayer Gathering
6:00pm Council Meeting
- Thursday, 5/13**
10:00am Ministerium at Olivet Lutheran Church
- Friday, 5/14**
6:30am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study
10:00am Worship at the Care Center
- Sunday, 5/16** 7th Sunday of Sunday
9:00am Divine Service (also livestreamed)
- Tuesday, 5/18**
11:00am No 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...

Save the Date! We are planning to celebrate our **Ten Year plus One Anniversary** on Sunday, June 6, with Worship at 1pm that day, with an outdoor reception to follow at 2:30pm.

There is no longer any need to notify Pastor Tim if you intend to attend the Divine Services. The **expectation for wearing a mask** will need to continue for some while. And livestreaming will also be continued indefinitely.

Tune in FM 87.9 from the parking lot for the service.

The next meeting at the Church is that of **The Church Council** on Tuesday, May 11 at 6pm. We have completed **Confirmation Instruction** for this school year.

Don't forget **Food Donations** for the Onalaska Food Basket!

Our **Designated Benevo-**

lence for the upcoming month of May is an even split between the Emmanuel Orphan Home in India and New Horizons.

Heidi Traver is scheduled to clean the church the week of May 16. And we will need to have a doodle signup for the rest of the months of 2021.

Especially during this pandemic, utilize your computer to share the faith and promote our congregation's ministries.

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

May 7 Lisa Cash
 May 12 Karissa Bjornstad
 May 14 Stella Roll
 June 13 Paul Hanson
 June 14 Jane Kruse

Anniversaries

May 6 T & L Duesenberg
 May 7 T & N Rislow
 May 23 C & M Bartos
 June 13 M & M Wangen

Top 10 Ways to Know If Your Are In A Bad Church

10. The church has gun racks.
9. The church staff consists of Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, and Socio-Pastor.
8. The Bible they use is the "Dr. Seuss Version."
7. There's an ATM in the lobby.

6. The choir wears leather robes.
5. Worship services are B.Y.O.S. - "Bring Your Own Snake."
4. No cover charge, but communion is a two-drink minimum.
3. One of the services is listed as "Karaoke Worship Time."
2. Ushers ask, "Smoking or

Non-Smoking?"

... and the number one way to know you're in a bad church.

1. The only song the organist knows for prelude music is "In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida."

- I must say, by way of comparison, Gift of Grace Lutheran Church is looking pretty good!

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

5/16 Seventh Sunday of Easter
Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Jarrod Boll
Crucifer: one of the Roll children
Acolyte: not needed at this time
Ushers: tbd
Counters: Jarrod R/Tom Rislow
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: not needed at this time
Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

5/23 Pentecost Sunday
Asst Minister: Cole Warner
Reader: Nikki Hanson
Crucifer: Dawson Staff

Acolyte: not needed at this time
Ushers: tbd
Counters: Connie M/Hannah S
Comm Asst: Hannah Scholze
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: not needed at this time
Livestreamer: tbd

5/30 Holy Trinity Sunday
Asst Minister: Tom Rislow
Reader: Jessica Schoonover
Crucifer: Elyse Schoonover
Acolyte: not needed at this time
Ushers: Jeremy Schoonover
Counters: Hannah S/Cheryl R
Comm Asst: Connie Meunier

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: not needed at this time
Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

6/6 Second Sunday after Pentecost
Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: tbd
Acolyte: not needed at this time
Ushers: tbd
Counters: tbd
Comm Asst: tbd
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: not needed at this time
Livestreamer: 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