

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 19 & 26, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

And now, after mentioning that we should focus our evangelistic efforts on those to whom we have been put in close proximity, I will embark a little in the “how to” of sharing the faith.

Our mindset is important. We need to keep in mind that we are called to give *witness* and to *share* the faith. In our consumerist society we can easily succumb to thinking we need to make a sale, or sign a new recruit. This way of going about it is actually warned against in Scripture. The Apostle Paul insists, “For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God’s word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ” (2Co 2:17).

Think of it terms of *sharing*. We hope to be able to share the reason for our hope and joy. That is, we hope to speak about Jesus, share who he is, and what we have discovered as his disciples. The Apostles’ Creed with Luther’s explanations can prompt us on important things to share. This includes Jesus’ unusual birth and identity. It includes the centrality of his death on the cross, and what that accomplished. It includes the hope his resurrection gives, and the connection his death and resurrection has on the forgiveness of sins. And it certainly includes his promise to return at the end of the age.

We hope to come to that

point. But commensurate to sharing this amazing love in words, we first begin to share our lives in compassion and genuine interest in others. Again, Paul put it this way, “We were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us” (1Th 2:8).

In short, begin your witness by taking a genuine interest in those around you. Show compassion. Take chances now and then to share about Jesus, but respect whether a person is ready to listen to what you have to share.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the significance of the Day of Pentecost?

A principal Festival, The Day of Pentecost (Jewish harvest festival) was the occasion when the promised gift of the Holy Spirit was sent and poured out on the expectant church. It accord-

ingly marks the culmination of the Easter Season. It occurs 50 days after Easter Sunday. Jesus had promised his followers that when he departed from them (the ascension, not the crucifixion) that he would not leave them as orphans. In fact, until his return at the end of

the age, it would be to their advantage that he was departing, for then he would send the Holy Spirit as one called alongside them to comfort them, teach them, guide them, and empower them, even as the Holy Spirit continued to sanctify them (to make holy).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 5/18

11:00am No Prayer Gathering

Friday, 5/21

6:30am No Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 5/23 The Day of Pentecost

9:00am Divine Service (also livestreamed)

10:15am Coffee Fellowship

Tuesday, 5/25

11:00am Prayer Gathering

Friday, 5/28

6:30am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 5/30 The Holy Trinity Sunday

9:00am Divine Service (livestreamed)

10:15am Coffee Fellowship

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.

Face coverings are no longer required at Gift of Grace. You certainly may choose to wear them and we will respect that choice. Also, we are beginning to gather after the service for coffee and refreshments.

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

Although it is a ways off, you might want to mark your calendar for Sunday, July 11. That is the date we have reserved the West Shelter at the Halfway Creek Park for our **Park Worship Gathering and Picnic**

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

Our **Designated Benevolence** 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 12..... Karissa Bjornstad
May 14..... Stella Roll
June 13 Paul Hanson
June 14 Jane Kruse
June 25 Mary Bartos
June 26 Tom Rislow

Anniversaries

May 23..... C & M Bartos
June 13 M & M Wangen
June 22 P & N Hanson

Forrest Gump died and went to heaven. At the Pearly Gate St. Peter asked a few questions that had to be answered correctly for admittance.

1. Name two days of the week that begin with T?
2. How many seconds are in a year?
3. What is God's first name?

Forrest needed a couple of minutes to come up with the answers, but he finally answered.

swered.

1. The two days of the week starting with a "T" are Today and Tomorrow.
2. There are 12 seconds in a year.
3. God has two first names: Andy and Howard.

St. Peter responded. "OK, I will give you Today and Tomorrow. But how did you get 12 seconds in a year, and why did you think God's first name was either

Andy or Howard?"

Forrest replied, "Well, January 2, February 2, March 2, etc."

"OK, I give" said Peter. "But what about the God's first name stuff?"

Forrest replied, "Well from the song, *Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me. Andy tells me I am his own* and the prayer *Our Father who art in Heaven Howard be thy name.*"

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

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: tbd

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: tbd

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: tbd

Livestreamer: tbd

6/13 Third Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: tbd

Reader: tbd

Crucifer: tbd

Acolyte: not needed at this time

Ushers: tbd

Counters: tbd

Comm Asst: tbd

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

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