

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 16, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

Christianity is relational! Doctrine, faith, and compassion all matter. But at the heart of the Christian Faith is our relationship to our Heavenly Father.

Being created in the image and likeness of God means, at least in part, that humans are meant to share in the fellowship of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And we were meant to be in community with others made in God's image!

It is by God's grace, through faith in Christ, with the help of the Holy Spirit that estranged sinners have been forgiven and reconciled to God. In spite of our fallen state from fellowship with the Lord in the Garden of Paradise, through the

work of Christ our Lord we have been re-reunited to him.

I mention all this, because at the heart of evangelism is relationship. Let's call it friendship. This provides an important understanding of how to go about evangelizing (gospelizing) others. Make friends! But to have a friend, we must be a friend. That is, we need to take an interest in others, engage them, enter into conversation with them, show yourself trustworthy and willing to support and come to the aid of them.

Then there is one more thing. We need to be open about who we believe we are as Christians. And quite unlike the spirit of the age,

rather than a personal quest of self-discovery or self-assertion, we can share that we have been given an identity. Let your friends know that you are a Christian, that you belong to God, that you are his and that is what you are living for. He came and sought us. He is reclaiming that which he first created for himself, but then became estranged due to our rebellion.

The making of friends on that basis is evangelism. And we must continue to be a friend whether or not those we befriend come to the faith. The friendship after all is a gift, indeed a witness in itself! It testifies to the importance of relationships!

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!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Friday, 6/18**
6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study
- Sunday, 6/20** 4th Sunday a Pentecost
9:00am Divine Service (also 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...

During the summer months we will be using Setting V found in the **With One Voice Hymnal** (Blue hymnal).

The Men's Breakfast Bible Study continues to meet on Friday Mornings, 6:30am, at the Church. Pastor Tim serves a hot breakfast to accompany the Study.

Tune in FM 87.9 from the parking lot for the service. The service is also livestreamed.

 Sunday, July 11, we have reserved the **West Shelter** at the **Halfway Creek Park** for the Divine Service and a potluck picnic to follow. We will gather for the Divine Service at 10am, and then plan on the Potluck Picnic at 11:30am.

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

 Our **Designated Benevo-**

lence for the month of June is The Hunger Task Force.

 No one is presently scheduled to clean the church the week of June 20. The Duesenbergs are signed up for the week of July 18.

 Be a good friend to those around you. And then be sure to let people know that you identify as a Christian, and without being pushy, invite your friends to learn more about the Christian Faith.

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

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

Lexophilia & Paraprodsokians

- When fish are in schools, they sometimes take de-bate.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.
- The batteries were given

free of charge.

- A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- A boiled egg is hard to beat.
- When you've seen one

shopping center you've seen a mall.

- Police were called to a day care center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
- Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

6/20 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Naomi Rislow

Reader: Mike Meunier

Crucifer: Roll Family

Acolyte: not needed at this time

Ushers: tbd

Counters: Hannah S/Jarrold R

Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: Connie Meunier

Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

6/27 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier

Reader: Nikki Hanson

Crucifer: tbd

Acolyte: not needed at this time

Ushers: tbd

Counters: Hannah S/Connie M

Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

7/4 Sixth 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

7/11 7th 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
 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