

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 14, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

In a recent Touchstone Magazine article, the following words grabbed my attention. "American conservative Christians are not as biblical as we think we are. While we are clearly commanded always to be ready to make a defense to anyone who asks a reason for the hope that is within us (1 Pet. 3:15), vast swaths of us think it is somehow unspiritual to obey this biblical commandment."

What the author, Donald T. Williams, is writing about in his article, "The Complete Apologist: Four Essentials Every Christian Is Called to Embrace", is that we have wrongly been poisoned to think that argument, persuasion, and mounting a defense in favor of Christian truths has no place in our conversa-

tions with others.

Before I continue, it may be helpful to explain theologically what is meant by *Apologetics*, or offering an *Apology*. Here it is not meaning "I am sorry!" Instead, the theological use comes from the Greek word *apologia*. And specifically, this word means presenting evidence or reasoning to defend a claim. And yet, even with this understanding we might be hoodwinked into thinking that argument and clear reasoning have no place in witnessing to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Please understand, I am using *argument* in the best sense of the term, namely, using good logic and reasoning to convince someone of something. It should not be

thought of as getting angry and trying to outshout someone. In the best sense, having an argument with someone is not the same as having a fight with them!

We need to be careful not to overlook how the Apostles went about their witnessing and teaching of the faith. In their preaching we see plenty of examples of verbs being used such as "reasoned", "argued", and "persuaded". In the Book of Acts the Apostle Paul began his public ministry by "proving" to the Jews in Damascus that Jesus was the Christ (9:22). He did this by "arguing" (9:29). In Thessalonica he "reasoned" and "gave evidence" (17:2-3).

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the meaning of the "KYRIE" (kir-E-A)?

KYRIE is a Latin term which in turn is a transliteration of a Greek word meaning "Lord." In the Latin Mass the term KYRIE was combined with the term ELESION meaning "have mercy." In addition, the Mass included a three-fold response:

KYRIE ELEISON, CHRIS TE ELEISON, KYRIE ELEISON, which translated is "Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy." In our Lutheran Worship Service we utilize a prayer from the Latin Mass known as a Peace Litany. A Litany is a responsive prayer. This Litany is usually led by our Assisting Minister, and the

congregation response is the KYRIE ELEISON. And so the Assisting Minister begins, "In peace let us pray to the Lord," and the congregation responds to this and each succeeding petition with, "Lord, have mercy." (with help from the *Manual on the Liturgy a companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*, publ. by Augsburg).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, 7/15

10:00am LCMC Ministerium

Friday, 7/16

6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 7/18 8th Sunday a Pentecost

9:00am Divine Service with Holy

Communion

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.

We plan to **livestream** our services indefinitely, but not as a convenient option for those who can otherwise at-

tend in person, but for shut ins and for people looking for a church so they can have a chance to view our service and learn about our congregation.

When you **travel over the weekend**, be sure to find a place to **worship**. Whether Lutheran or not, let me know what you learned from the experience.

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

Basket!

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of July is for Didi and Serafina Panzo, missionaries with the World Mission Prayer League.

The Duesenbergs are scheduled to clean the church the week of July 18. Karri Bjornstad and Connie Meunier are signed up for the week of August 15

Share with others the reason for the hope within you!

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

July 9..... Alex Uy
 July 12..... Sophie Schoonover
 July 27..... Emeron Christensen
 Aug 12..... Dawson Staff
 Aug 13..... Jessica Schoonover

Anniversaries

Aug 17..... W&C Halderson
 Aug 19..... M&C Meunier

Food for Thought

- Do cemetery workers prefer the graveyard shift?
- Do Lipton employees take coffee breaks?
- Can I yell "movie" in a crowded firehouse?
- Can you be a closet claustrophobic?
- How do a fool and his money GET together?
- How do you know when its time to tune your bagpipes?
- How is it that a building burns up as it burns down?
- If a train station is where the train stops, what is a work station.
- If nothing ever sticks to

Teflon, how do they make Teflon stick to the pan?

- If a pen is mightier than the sword, and a picture is worth a thousand words, how danger is a fax?
- If the police arrest a mime, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

7/18 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Naomi Rislw

Reader: Nikki Hanson

Crucifer: Roll Family

Acolyte: Roll Family

Ushers: tbd

Counters: Tom R/ Jeremy S

Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist: Tom Rislw

Fellowship: Heather & Stella Roll

Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

7/25 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad

Reader: Dan Molstad

Crucifer: Dawson Staff

Acolyte: tbd

Ushers: tbd

Counters: David B/Connie M

Comm Asst: Nikki Hanson

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: Connie Meunier

Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

8/1 10th 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 Rislw

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: tbd

8/8 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: tbd

Reader: tbd

Crucifer: tbd

Acolyte: tbd

Ushers: tbd

Counters: tbd

Comm Asst: tbd

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: tbd

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