

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 28 AND AUGUST 4, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

A couple of faith conversations stood out last week that I would like to share with you. They are worth sharing because I think they reflect some perceptions and objections to Christianity that are common today.

The first conversation was with a lady who I judged to be a little older than myself, perhaps in her early 70s. She shared with me that she had been brought up Lutheran, but now had become affiliated with another mainline denomination. What she likes about the church she now attends is that they emphasize compassion and tolerance. Being "Bible Focused" was a turnoff to her, and her new congregation seems to avoid this focus.

I asked this person why she did not like a strong emphasis on Scripture. Her response was that it is a really old book that chronicled events a long time after they purportedly took place. In other words, it did not teach reliable history. She believed it instead taught the unenlightened views of long ago.

This person, with whom I am just becoming acquainted, was unaware that almost all the New Testament writings were penned within a few decades of Jesus' death. She certainly is right that when Moses writes of the events of creation up until the time of Abraham, he is writing many centuries later.

The second conversation

was with a younger woman, whom I would judge to be in her early 30s. She had left the Roman Catholic Church but let me know she was religious. She identified insights from a number of religions we would consider pagan, including the Druid religion. She shared with me that she thought Christianity was opposed to science, especially in denying evolution.

Space does not permit my response. But I do want to say two things. First, it is not hard to strike up a religious conversation. And second, many today are suspicious of "older things" and many believe, rightly or wrongly, that Christian claims are at odds with science.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

Why do we stand during the reading of the Gospel Lesson?

By standing we are giving expression of special respect and adoration. In the Gospel Accounts we meet our Lord Jesus Christ in a special way. In these writings

we are presented with Jesus' Judean and Galilean ministry. We also have a record of the very words of our Lord (his teachings, parables, dialog, etc.). We hear the accounts of Jesus' death and resurrection, the work of our salvation.

Although the entire Bible is the Word of God, it is in the Gospels that our Lord is most directly presented to us. So you might say that Christ himself is being presented before us in the Gospel Lesson. It is therefore most appropriate that we stand at attention.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 7/27**
11:00am Prayer Gathering
- Friday, 7/30**
6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study
- Sunday, 8/1** 10th Sunday a Pentecost
9:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
- Tuesday, 8/3**
11:00am No Prayer Gathering
- Friday, 8/6**
6:30am No Men's Breakfast
- Sunday, 8/8** 11th Sunday a Pentecost
9:00am Divine Service of the Word
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
- Tuesday, 8/10**
11:00am 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...

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, and for August the St. Clare Health Mission.

 Karri Bjornstad and Connie Meunier are scheduled to clean the church the week of July 18. Cole and Ann Warner are signed up for the week of September 19.

 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 27..... Emerson Christensen
 Aug 12..... Dawson Staff
 Aug 13..... Jessica Schoonover
 Aug 25..... Pam Benrud
 Aug 29..... Jeremy Schoonover

Anniversaries

Aug 17..... W&C Halderson
 Aug 19..... M&C Meunier
 Aug 28..... B&A Fisher

Food for Thought

- If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest have to drown too?
- What are Preparation A through Preparation G?
- In a country of free speech, why are there phone bills?
- Did Washington flash a quarter when asked for ID?

- How come there aren't B batteries?
- How do "Do not walk on the grass" signs get there?
- Why do black olives come in cans and green olives come in jars?
- Is a metaphor like a simile?
- Before they invented drawing boards, what did they

go back to?

- How do I set my laser printer on stun?
- How is it possible to have a civil war?
- If all the world's a stage, where is the audience sitting?
- If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

8/1 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Cole Warner
Reader: Craig Bartos
Crucifer: tbd
Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: Mary Bartos
Counters: Mary B/Dan Molstad
Comm Asst: Jessica Schoonover
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Connie Meunier
Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

8/8 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad
Reader: Cole Warner
Crucifer: tbd

Acolyte: tbd

Ushers: David Bjornstad
Counters: David B/Cole Warner
Comm Asst: *not needed at this service*
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Heidi Traver
Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

8/15 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Jarrod Roll
Crucifer: the Rolls
Acolyte: the Rolls
Ushers: Hannah Scholze
Counters: Jarrod R/tbd
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

8/22 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Jeremy Schoonover
Crucifer: tbd
Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: tbd
Counters: Hannah S/Connie M
Comm Asst: *not needed at this service*
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

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