

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 11 AND AUGUST 19, 2021

#### A WORD FROM PT

This is no time to be slack in regards to the Christian Faith! There are so many distractions competing for our attention. Learn from Martha and Mary in Luke 10. Jesus said, "One thing is necessary." He was commending Martha's sister, Mary, who was sitting at his feet attentive to his word. Martha had been distracted by lesser matters!

Surveys are indicating a growing pessimism in our culture concerning the future. And such pessimism is frankly sober and realistic! How can the following ominous signs be overlooked? Drug use and addiction is up. Suicides are up. Violent crimes and homicides are up. Political and cultural wars are more polarized and heated. Racial tensions are

mounting. Church affiliation and attendance is declining, in some cases precipitously. Charitable giving is in decline. Stable families are in decline. And none of these factors have been lessened or mitigated by the lengthy struggle with the pandemic.

What should concern us the most is the drift of our communities away from the Christian Faith! Folks are leaving the churches in droves. What is daunting is the fact that this might not represent an abandonment of the faith. It could very well indicate those lightly along for the ride in the first place, those who were not well catechized, formed, and initiated into the mysteries of the faith.

When confronted with unfavorable numbers the temptation is to go into the marketing mode, spin our wheels, and strategize how to reverse the trend. But just this reaction is what has been the reaction for decades now. If the so-called *Church Growth* movement actually worked there would be positive overall growth, and not just a larger percent of the declining numbers showing up in fewer churches.

What is the antidote? It is to attend ourselves to the one thing necessary. And then it is to share this one thing necessary within the sphere of influence to which we have been placed. Are you well studied and prepared to catechize others? Don't be slack!

#### SINCE YOU ASKED...

**What is the purpose of the Psalm Reading? And why do we often sing (chant) the Psalm?**

"The appointed psalm is sung as a meditation on the First Lesson, a response to it, and a bridge to the Second Lesson. ... Hearers of the lessons need a chance to

assimilate the First Lesson before the Second Lesson begins. The required use of a psalm between the lessons provides for the restoration of psalm singing to its traditional place in the life of the church and gives the worshiper the opportunity to participate in the singing (or

reading) of a portion of Scripture..." (from *Manual on the Liturgy* companion to the LBW, from Augsburg Pub.)

Chanting can be thought of as "exalted speech". It sets the speech apart from regular speech and the slower cadence allows for reflection.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 8/10**  
11:00am Prayer Gathering  
6:00pm Council Meeting
- Friday, 8/13**  
6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study
- Sunday, 8/15 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday a Pentecost**  
9:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion  
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
- Tuesday, 8/17**  
11:00am No Prayer Gathering
- Friday, 8/20**  
6:30am No Men's Breakfast
- Saturday, 8/21**  
10:00am Kornfest Parade
- Sunday, 8/22 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday a Pentecost**  
9:00am Divine Service of the Word  
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](http://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).

We are planning on participating in the **Kornfest Parade** in Holmen on Saturday morning, August 21. Please join us walking the parade route and passing out seed packets and candy.

We plan to **livestream** our services indefinitely, but not as a convenient option for

those who can otherwise attend 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 Dona-**

**tions** for the Onalaska Food Basket!

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of August is the St. Clare Health Mission.

Karri Bjornstad and Connie Meunier are scheduled to clean the church the week of August 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

Aug 12..... Dawson Staff  
 Aug 13..... Jessica Schoonover  
 Aug 25..... Pam Benrud  
 Aug 29..... Jeremy Schoonover  
 Sept 2..... Karri Bjornstad  
 Sept 9..... Anne Warner

#### Anniversaries

Aug 17..... W&C Halderson  
 Aug 19..... M&C Meunier  
 Aug 28..... B&A Fisher  
 Sept 8..... J&D Uly

### Food for Thought

- If the #2 pencil is so popular, why is it still #2?
- If you ate pasta and antipasto, would you still be hungry?
- Why is the alphabet in that order? Is it because of that song?
- If I melt dry ice, can I take

a bath without getting wet?

- Could crop circles be the work of a cereal killer?
- Crime doesn't pay ... does that mean that my job is a crime?
- Did Noah keep his bees in archives?
- How can there be self-help groups?

- How do they get the deer to cross at that yellow road sign?
- How do you know that honesty is the best policy until you have tried some of the others?
- How do you throw away a garbage can?

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

**8/15** 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Asst Minister:** Jeremy Schoonover

**Reader:** Jarrod Roll

**Crucifer:** the Rolls

**Acolyte:** the Rolls

**Ushers:** Hannah Scholze

**Counters:** Jarrod R/ Cheryl R

**Comm Asst:** Jarrod Roll

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow

**Fellowship:** Connie Meunier

**Livestreamer:** Jarrod Roll

**8/22** 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Asst Minister:** Naomi Rislow

**Reader:** Jeremy Schoonover

**Crucifer:** tbd

**Acolyte:** tbd

**Ushers:** Cheryl Ruud

**Counters:** Hannah S/ Connie M

**Comm Asst:** *not needed at this service*

**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Fellowship:** Lisa Cash

**Livestreamer:** Jeremy Schoonover

**8/29** 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Asst Minister:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Reader:** Karri Bjornstad

**Crucifer:** tbd

**Acolyte:** tbd

**Ushers:** David Bjornstad

**Counters:** David B/ Tom R

**Comm Asst:** Karri Bjornstad

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow

**Fellowship:** Ruth & Hannah Scholze

**Livestreamer:** tbd

**9/5** 15<sup>th</sup> 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