

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

I recently finished rereading the book of Job (pronounced Jobe), and got more out of it this time around than anytime I can remember. I read through this book at least once a year. And why it was so poignant and informative this time I can only guess. Certainly the difficult times many of are experiencing may have something to do with it. And no doubt it was the Holy Spirit's work to capture my attention, focus, and the ability to make connections.

Before continuing my train of thought, let me hasten to draw a general principle. It pays to keep plugging away in reading and meditating on Scripture. Of course it is frustrating, but some of that

angst can be the result of the misguided notion that learning should come easy. It seldom does. Like a thousand piece puzzle, patience and diligence pay off in the end. When it comes to learning what is taught by God's Word, we never finish the puzzle! But in time we are rewarded with a greater sense of the contours, form, and magnificent beauty of the holy mysteries, and the fulfillment of communion with God.

In this round's reading of Job, I concentrated on the nature of Job's lament and the glib answers provided by his friends. Although it can be read that way, I don't think Job is protesting his total innocence, as though he were perfect. He

does know himself be righteous in the sense that we too would recognize it. He loves, trusts, and fears God, and this results a godly life. And yet Job recognizes some who don't even pretend to fear God often have a life of ease, while he (and others) can have near insurmountable suffering.

The problem with his friends' answers was not that they did not contain elements of truth. But they were simplistic and assume no room for legitimate doubt and questioning. Yes, in the end Job needs to be humbled and told to trust even in the face of true perplexities. But Job's friends were more severely reprimanded by God for their most unhelpful counsel!

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What good purpose is there in signing oneself (making the sign of the cross with the hand over one's head and breast)?

This gesture's main purpose is to remind us of our baptism where the sign of the

cross was first made on our foreheads. The cross is a powerful symbol which reminds us of the depths of God's love for us – He loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for us. In Holy Baptism we have been joined to Christ. Every time we sign ourselves we

declare that we belong to Christ and that we desire to live for Him. We give visible expression that we serve the One, True God who has revealed Himself to us in three persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 9/7**
11:00am Prayer Gathering
- Friday, 9/10**
6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study
- Saturday, 9/11**
11:00am Mission District Convo
- Sunday, 9/12 16th Sunday a Pentecost**
9:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
- Tuesday, 9/14**
11:00am No-Prayer-Gathering
6:00pm Council Meeting

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...

This Sunday, September 12 we will back in the **Lutheran Book of Worship** for the liturgy.

Look for **Choir Practice** to begin back up at 8am on Sunday, September 12.

The continued **livestreaming** is for those who cannot otherwise attend in person! It is a good outreach tool and a way for shut-ins to connect.

The Wisconsin/Upper Michi-

gan Mission District **Annual Convocation** is on Saturday, September 11 in Wausau. Our Vice President, Jarrod Roll, will accompany Pr. Tim and Leslie Duesenberg, and will serve as our congregation's delegate.

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

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of September is Lutherans for Life.

Cole and Ann Warner are scheduled to clean the church the week of September 19. Hannah Scholze and Cheryl Ruud are signed up for the week of October 17.

Be willing to take a risk, and look for opportunities to pivot on something said or shared to allude to an aspect of the Christian Faith. You might be surprised at where such an effort will lead. One doesn't need to be pushy, and of course we need to be sensitive when for whatever reason we touch a nerve.

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

Sep 2..... Karri Bjornstad
 Sep 9..... Anne Warner
 Sep 10..... Carol Halderson
 Sep 10..... Hannah Scholze
 Sep 15..... Butch Fisher

Anniversaries

Sep 8..... J&D Uy
 Sep 18..... J & H Roll

Committee Poem

Oh, have some pity, I'm on a committee
 Which means that from morning to night,
 We attend and amend and contend and defend
 Without a conclusion in sight.
 We confer and concur, we defer and demur,
 And re-iterate all of our thoughts,

We revise the agenda with frequent addenda,
 And consider a load of reports.
 We compose and propose, we suppose and oppose,
 And the points of procedure are fun,
 But though various notions are brought up as motions,
 There's terribly little get done.

We resolve and absolve, but we never dissolve,
 Since it's out of the question for us.
 What a shattering pity to end our committee
 Where else could we make such a fuss!

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

9/12 16th Sunday after Pentecost
Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Jarrod Roll
Crucifer: Roll Family
Acolyte: Roll Family
Ushers: Jessica Schoonover
Counters: Jarrod R/Naomi R
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Cyndi M/the Rolls
Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

9/19 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Asst Minister: Tom Rislow
Reader: Hannah Scholze
Crucifer: tbd

Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: tbd
Counters: Connie M/tbd
Comm Asst: Connie Meunier
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

9/26 18th Sunday after Pentecost
Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: Mike Meunier
Crucifer: tbd
Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: tbd
Counters: Tom R/
Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad

Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: tbd

10/3 19th 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
 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