

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 22 AND 29, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

Last week I shared with you a verse I labeled as being pivotal. It was from Acts 2:42. Again, to refresh your memory, it reads, “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” This is largely a description of the activity of those recently baptized and incorporated into the Body of Christ.

Words matter. Pay attention to the word *devoted*. This indicates intentionality, constancy, attentiveness, steadfastness, and unremitting care. The description does not read, *And they occasionally considered*. The activities were not left to whim, fancy, or feeling. And the “who” matters. It is *they*. The devotion is a joint com-

mitment. There is shared responsibility. There is no mention here of individual choice.

So what are they devoted to? They are devoted to at least four things. But in each instance it involves a communal participation. Let’s briefly take a look at the four.

First, there is the devotion to the apostles’ teaching. And what was the central content to what the Apostles taught? Perhaps it is better to ask, “And who is the central figure being taught?” It is the Lord Jesus Christ. And their contention, as they had been taught by Christ himself, is that all Scripture points to Christ and what he accomplishes for us. So the basic

curriculum is the Bible.

Second, there is the devotion to *the* fellowship. The Greek word *koinonia* indicates a very deep and intimate bond in community. And the New Testament teaches it is made possible by forgiveness, humility, and service to one another even onto the point of death!

Third, there is the devotion to the breaking of bread, which in the early church was a common way to refer to what we refer to as the Lord’s Supper.

And fourth, there is the devotion to *the* prayers. The definite article is in the Greek! It indicates a collection of such prayers, certainly the Psalms. You see why this verse is pivotal!

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What does the Pastor’s Stole signify? (*the stole is the colored strip of cloth that loops around the back of the neck and hangs from both shoulders*)

The stole represents a yoke such as would be used to link and employ an ox with

a plow or cart. When a work animal is yoked to a task, that animal comes under the rule and guidance of its master. As Christians we are to be yoked to Christ (cf. Mt. 11:28-30). We are to fear, love, serve, and obey the Lord Jesus Christ. The Pastor’s stole is

therefore not only a sign of ordination in the Lutheran Church, but it visibly reminds the whole congregation of our servant hood to Christ.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, 9/24

6:30am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 9/26 18th Sunday a Pentecost

8:00am Choir Practice

9:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion

10:15am Coffee Fellowship

10:45am Confirmation Class

Tuesday, 9/21 - Thursday, 9/30

Pastor at Society of the Holy Trinity Retreat in Chicago

Friday, 10/1

6:30am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 10/3 19th Sunday a Pentecost

8:00am Choir Practice

9:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion

10:15am Coffee Fellowship

10:45am Confirmation Class

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...

There is an upcoming **Congregation Meeting** scheduled for Sunday, October 3, immediately following the Divine Service. The one item of business is an up or down vote on some minor changes in the NALC Constitution.

Look for an announcement soon for some **Adult Education and Fellowship opportunities**.

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.

We are looking into public space for the public showing of the mini series entitle **The Chosen**. We think this might be a great outreach and educational endeavor.

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

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of Sep-

tember 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.

Don't overlook the possibility of forwarding such congregation resources such as *Grace Notes*, the *Daily Devotionals*, or *The Gift of Grace Lutheran Congregation at Prayer* to family, friends, and potential members via cyberspace.

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 15..... Butch Fisher
 Sep 21..... Debera Uy
 Sep 30..... Cheryl Ruud
 Oct 1..... Wendell Halderson

Anniversaries

Sep 18..... J&H Roll
 Sep 25..... R&A Stutzman
 Oct 6..... B&P Benrud
 Oct 7..... D&K Bjornstad

New Laodicean Hymnal

Titles to Hymns

- *continued from last week...*

"Amazing Grace, How Interesting the Sound"

"Go Tell It on the Speed Bump"

"Lord, Keep Us Loosely Connected to Your Word"

"Praise God from Whom All

Affirmations Flow"

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Much"

"O, God, Our Enabler in Ages Past"

"Pillow of Ages, Fluffed for Me"

"When Peace Like a Trickle"

"Blessed Hunch"

"Above Average Is Thy Faith-

fulness"

"Just As I Am, With Lots of Excuses"

"Be Thou My Hobby"

"My Faith Looks Around for Thee"

"We Are Milling Around in the Light of God"

"Blest be the Tie That

Doesn't Cramp My Style"

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

9/26 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Cole Warner

Reader: Mike Meunier

Crucifer: Hanson family

Acolyte: Hanson Family

Ushers: tbd

Counters: Tom R/Dan M

Comm Asst: Leslie Duesenberg

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

10/10 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: tbd

Reader: tbd

Crucifer: tbd

Acolyte: tbd

Ushers: tbd

Counters: tbd

Comm Asst: tbd

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: tbd

10/17 21st 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