

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 13, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

Upon the recommendation of the Senior of the Society of the Holy Trinity I have taken up the spiritual classic, "The Imitation of Christ", by Thomas a Kempis. This fifteenth century work has been for the last five hundred years the most widely read book of Christian devotion in the world. And although not a thick volume, it begs to be read devotionally, a chapter a day.

The Imitation is subdivided into four lesser books, each comprised of many chapters: twenty five in the first book, twelve in the second, fifty-nine in the third, and finally eighteen in the fourth book. The chapters can be read in a matter of minutes,

but they contain contemplation for the rest of the day. I plan to take the better part of four months to read a chapter a day.

There can be a mistaken notion as Lutherans that the attempt to imitate Christ smacks of works righteousness, that is, too much concentration on our efforts. And of course there is always the danger that we might start to rely on our own efforts instead of trusting and relying in what Christ alone was able to accomplish on our behalf! But that being said, when Christ bids a man to come and follow him, he means what he says!

When Jesus says he is the way, the truth, and the life

(Jn 14:6), he certainly means coming to him is the way to the heavenly Father. It is also clear that in being drawn to him we are also drawn into a new manner of life, one in which he himself leads us.

Of course we need to be discriminating. You may remember the bracelets with WWJD engraved on them. The letters stood for "What Would Jesus Do?" That notion took a lot of criticism, some of which I think was too extreme. Yes, there are some things only Jesus does! He alone is the Savior. And yet, he also exemplifies how we are to live! (cf Jn 13:15; 1 Pe 2:21) He has, in fact, left us an example!

SINCE YOU ASKED...

Why is incense used in some churches?

The use of incense is not unique to Christianity or Judaism and is used in many of the world's religions to enhance special times and places by sight and smell. In Christian worship incense is

effectively used at the beginning of the Service of the Word and in preparing for receiving Holy Communion. The burning of incense is associated with the prayers of worship rising before God (cf. Psa 141:2; Rev 8:4). Good worship should engage all the human sens-

es. In this connection it should be pointed out that the olfactory sense is perhaps the most sensitive of the five senses; it continues to function even during sleep. (Indebted to Aidan Kavanah in his "Elements of Rite".)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 10/12

11:00am Prayer Gathering
6:00pm Council Meeting

Thursday, 10/14 - Saturday, 10/16

Touchstone Theological Conference

Sunday, 10/17 21st Su a Pentecost

8:00am Choir Practice
9:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
10:45am Confirmation Class
6:00pm Council Gathering

Tuesday, 10/19

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...

We will be starting a public showing of **The Chosen** Season One, on Wednesday, October 20 at the Holmen Area Community Center. There are eight episodes that we be shown in consecutive Wednesdays with the exception of November 24, the week of Thanksgiving. The viewing and discussion will start at 6:30pm and end at 8:30.

The Council will meet Tuesday, October 12, at 6pm.; and then again gather on Sunday, October 17 at

6pm.

 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.

 Look for **Confirmation Sunday** to coincide with Reformation Sunday, on October 31.

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

 Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of October is Voice of the Martyrs.

 Hannah Scholze and Cheryl Ruud are scheduled to clean the church the week of October 17. Heidi Traver is signed up for the week of November 21.

 The showing of **The Chosen** affords you an excellent opportunity to witness to your neighbor. Ask if they would be interested, and invite them to attend with you!

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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**

Oct 15 Tom Kruse
 Oct 26 Naomi Rislow

Anniversaries

Oct 6 B&P Benrud
 Oct 7 D&K Bjornstad

Good News/Bad News for a Pastor

... continued from last week - more Good News/Bad News ...

Good News: The trustees finally voted to add more church parking.

Bad News: They are going to blacktop the front lawn of the parsonage.

G: Church attendance rose

dramatically the last three weeks.

B: You were on vacation.

G: Your deacons sent you to the Holy Land.

B: They are stalling until the next war.

G: Your biggest critic just left your church.

B: He has been appointed the Head Shepherd of your denomination.

G: The youth in your church come to your house for a surprise visit.

B: It's the middle of the night and they are armed with toilet paper and shaving cream to "decorate" your house.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

10/17 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier

Reader: Dan Molstad

Crucifer: tbd

Acolyte: tbd

Ushers: tbd

Counters: Connie M/ Tom R

Comm Asst: Connie Meunier

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: Lisa Cash

Livestreamer: Hannah Scholze

10/24 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg

Reader: Karri Bjornstad

Crucifer: Roll Family

Acolyte: Roll Family

Ushers: David Bjornstad

Counters: Dan M/ Jarrod R

Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: Ruth & Hannah Scholze

Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

10/31 Reformation Sunday

Asst Minister: Tom Rislow

Reader: Hannah Scholze

Crucifer: tbd

Acolyte: tbd

Ushers: tbd

Counters: Hannah S/ Cheryl R

Comm Asst: tbd

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: Connie Meunier

Livestreamer: tbd

11/7 20th All Saints' Sunday

Asst Minister: tbd

Reader: tbd

Crucifer: tbd

Acolyte: tbd

Ushers: tbd

Counters: tbd

Comm Asst: tbd

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

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