

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 27, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

Leslie and I attended a timely conference sponsored by Touchstone Magazine. This magazine labels itself “A Journal of Mere Christianity”. And the conference this year was entitled “No Neutral Ground: The Cost of Discipleship in a Secular Age”. The lineup of speakers were Hans Boersma, Allan Carlson, Rod Dreher, Anthony Esolen, S.M. Hutchens, Peter Leithart, Patrick Henry Reardon, and Carl Trueman. They were excellent!

The annual conference has been held on the campus of Trinity International University in Deerfield, Il (northern Chicago). And of the eight speakers, seven are either Senior or Contributing editors of Touchstone Magazine. The diver-

sity of affiliation with the speakers includes one Evangelical, two Reformed, one Lutheran, one Presbyterian, one Catholic, and one Orthodox. They all have several books and journal articles to their names.

All the presenters were in basic agreement with Rod Dreher, author of “Live Not by Lies: A Survival Manual for Christian Dissidents”, that we are living in a period of increasing soft totalitarianism. That is, there are increasing attempts to control and exercise authority over every aspect of our lives. And this control is not necessarily primarily from the government. It is also from such entities as corporations, academia, the various medias of news, social and entertainment, and

from sports, medical and legal associations, and the list goes on.

Much of this control is unfriendly to Faith and Family. In fact, it is trending toward being militant. The presenters shared many examples of this trend. The reason they label it as *soft* is because, at least now, the control is not by physical force or torture. Instead, it is by WOKE sensibilities with the accompanying ‘cancel culture’. At the present this results in such things as job loss and the defamation of character.

None of this is new to the faith in general. But it may be new for many of us. Accordingly we will need to be well fortified to endure. It is always time to take the faith seriously!

SINCE YOU ASKED...

Does the receiving of money offerings play a significant role in the worship service? Yes, more than you might think! Cash is one of the strongest symbols in modern culture. When we offer our money on the altar it should represent our time and effort –

our very selves. In early Christian worship gifts-in-kind were handled during the weekly assemblage. In our post-industrial societies, we now exchange in paper or metal symbols. The offering of our selves upon the altar is in response to God’s love proclaimed in

the Good News and in anticipation of how God offers back that which is entrusted to him. During the moment of offering we also offer bread and wine upon the altar, and in return these gifts are offered back to us as the very body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 10/26
11:00am Prayer Gathering

Wednesday, 10/27
6:30pm Showing of The Chosen at Holmen Area Community Center

Friday, 10/29
6:30am Men’s Breakfast

Sunday, 10/31 Reformation Sunday
8:00am Choir Practice
9:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:15am Coffee Fellowship

Tuesday, 1/2
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 are hosting a public showing of **The Chosen** Season One on Wednesdays 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.

We look forward to the Rite of Confirmation, now postponed, due to illnesses, until All Saint's Sunday, November 7. Jed Roll and Drew Staff

will be giving Affirmation of their Baptism.

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.

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

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

Heidi Traver is scheduled to clean the church the week of November 21. And the Hanson family has volunteered to clean the church on the week of December 19.

The showing of **The Chosen** affords you an excellent opportunity to witness to your neighbor. Ask if they would be interested to watch the series, 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 26..... Naomi Rislow
 Nov 11..... Sam Schoonover
 Nov 22..... Merl Wangen
 Nov 28..... Heather Roll
 Nov 29..... Sydney Hanson
 Nov 30..... Cyndi Molstad

Anniversaries

You Might Be From Wisconsin If...

...at least twice a year, the kitchen doubles as a meat processing plant.

...your snowblower gets stuck on the roof.

...you think the start of deer season is a national holiday.

...you head south to go to your cottage.

...you frequently clean grease off your barbeque so the bears won't prowl on your deck.

...you find 0 degrees Fahrenheit a little chilly.

...the trunk of your car doubles as a deep freezer.

...you can play ice hockey outdoors for 10 months of the year.

...you know 4 seasons: win-

ter, still winter, almost winter, and road construction.

...you know what to do with a Blatz.

...you actually get these jokes.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

10/31 Reformation Sunday
Asst Minister: Tom Rislow
Reader: Hannah Scholze
Crucifer: Hanson Family
Acolyte: Hanson Family
Ushers: David Bjornstad
Counters: Hannah S/Cheryl R
Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Connie Meunier
Livestreamer: tbd

11/7 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

11/14 25th 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

11/21 Christ the King 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
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Services held at 9am at:
 642 Western Avenue
 A block north and then
 a block west of King Furniture