

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 3, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

I picked up a helpful principle from an author I enjoy reading. The author is Peter Kreeft. And if you are unfamiliar with him, he is a Professor of Philosophy at Boston College and The King's College. He is a convert to the Roman Catholic Church. I encountered him because he often writes of my favorite literary mentor, C.S. Lewis. Kreeft has authored over 80 books on Christian Philosophy, theology, and apologetics.

Among his fascinating and imaginative books is one entitled "Between Heaven and Hell: A Dialog with John F. Kennedy, C.S. Lewis, and Aldous Huxley". I don't know if you realize this, but the three all died on the same day, on No-

vember 22, 1963. Almost two decades later Kreeft published his book with a fictional, imaginative, and informative conversation taking place among the three. But I digress.

One of Kreeft's important philosophical points he labels "The Principle of First and Second Things". The principle goes something like this. Goods are in a hierarchy, and whenever a greater good, or "first thing", is sacrificed to a lesser good, or "second thing", not only is the "first thing" lost (willingly) but the "second thing" is also lost (unwillingly). This is the psychology of addiction: it spoils the very pleasure it was designed to deliver.

We encountered two such goods in our Gospel Lesson last Sunday. They were 'truth' and 'freedom'. And our Lord Jesus makes it clear that truth is greater. But when the two are reversed, as when freedom is treated as the higher good, not only will truth be sacrificed, but freedom will prove elusive as well. It will end in bondage to sin. It is 'the truth' that sets us free.

There are so many Scriptural truths that can better be understood with this principle. Two examples will suffice. When we seek happiness ahead of serving God, and when we put ourselves before others. In both instances we forfeit the higher and lose the lesser as well.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the significance of All Saints' Day? The significance is expressed in the hymn The Church's One Foundation, the fifth stanza: "*And mystic sweet communion / With those whose rest is won.*" We certainly mourn in death the physical separation with our loved ones, but the Church affirms that the dead in Christ are very much alive

and are present with our Lord. We further believe in the Resurrection of the dead on the last day, and our joyful reunion with the saints of all the ages in the eternal kingdom of our Lord. Therefore we can speak of our dearly departed as being a part of the *Church Triumphant* while we remain the *Church Militant*. On the festival of All Saints

we direct our attention to the richness of Christian history, and the manifold workings of God's grace through the lives of believers who have gone before us. It is also an appropriate time to honor the memory of those members of our congregation who have died.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 1/2
11:00am Prayer Gathering

Wednesday, 11/3
6:30pm Showing of The Chosen at Holmen Area Community Center

Friday, 11/5
6:30am Men's Breakfast
10:00am Service at Care Center

Saturday, 11/6
9:30am Fruitfulness On the Land Conference

Sunday, 11/7 All Saints' Sunday (Rite of Confirmation)
8:00am Choir Practice
9:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:15am Coffee Fellowship

Monday, 11/8
Pastor Tim to STS Retreat

Tuesday, 1/9
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...

We are hosting a public showing of **The Chosen** Season One on Wednesdays at the Holmen Area Community Center. There are eight episodes that will be shown on consecutive Wednesdays with the exception of November 24, the week of Thanksgiving. The viewing and discussion will start at 6:30pm and end no later than 8:30.

We look forward to the Rite of Confirmation this Sunday, November 7, on the occasion of All Saint's Sunday. 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 November is to Didi and Serafina Panzo, the missionaries we

sponsor through the World Mission Prayer League.

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!

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

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

Professional Hymns

for **Dentists** — Crown Him With Many Crowns

Weathermen — There Shall Be Showers of Blessing

Contractors — The Church's One Foundation

Tailors — Holy, Holy, Holy

Golfers — There Is a Green Hill Far Away

Politicians — Standing on the Promises

Optometrists — Open My Eyes That I Might See

IRS Agents — I Surrender All

Gossips — Pass It On

Electricians — Send Out Thy Light

Shoppers — Sweet By and By

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

11/7 All Saints' Sunday
Asst Minister: Cole Warner
Reader: Jed Roll
Crucifer: the Hanson family
Acolyte: the Hanson family
Ushers: Dan Molstad
Counters: Hannah S/Dan M
Comm Asst: Drew Staff
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Cyndi Molstad
Livestreamer: tbd

11/14 25th Sunday after Pentecost
Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad
Reader: Mike Meunier
Crucifer: tbd

Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: David Bjornstad
Counters: David B/tbd
Comm Asst: tbd
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: tbd

11/21 Christ the King Sunday
Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Nikki Hanson
Crucifer: Hanson family
Acolyte: Hanson family
Ushers: tbd
Counters: tbd
Comm Asst: Connie Meunier

Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Leslie Duesenberg
Livestreamer: tbd

11/28 First Sunday in Advent
Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: tbd
Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: tbd
Counters: Connie M/tbd
Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad
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