

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 15, 2023

A WORD FROM PT

I have lately been trying to write and share something that will be helpful to our task as evangelists, for we are all to point to Jesus by how we live, share, and talk. And I intend to keep up with this encouragement for quite a while.

This week it strikes me that a prerequisite for giving witness is that we have fostered a friendship with our Lord Jesus. In using the word 'friendship' I am a little hesitant. Indeed, on one occasion Jesus named His handpicked disciples 'friends' (Jn 15:14-15). Interestingly, the disciples never call Jesus "my friend". Instead, they called Him Rabbi, Master, Lord, Christ, etc.

Part of my hesitancy has to

do with the respect with great reverence that is always owed to God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are not equals. We are not 'buddy buddies'. And yet, we are called into relationship to and with our Lord Jesus. This is a familial relationship. It is intimate. It needs to be fostered. It involves growth. Although the relationship is not dependent upon our emotions, that does not mean that our emotions are not involved. Indeed, every aspect of our being is involved. And genuine interpersonal relations involve affection and warmth.

You may have heard it said of parenting that it is not the quantity of time you take with your children, but the quality of the time.

Well, for the most part that is hogwash. Quantity becomes quality, and much time with conversation and shared experiences are necessary to build strong and good relationships. Things are no different with our heavenly Father, His beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit.

When it comes to sharing Christ with someone else, you can only share what you have. Christ establishes a relationship with us in Baptism, and He continues to nurture it with His Word and Sacraments. But we need time for listening, for conversation, and for walking with our Lord. The better 'friend' of Jesus we become the better witnesses we will be.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

Are announcements necessary? And should they be included as a part of the liturgy?

Not all announcements are necessary! Nor should they be allowed to disrupt the rhythmic flow of the service. It is likewise im-

portant that announcements be kept to a minimum. But certain announcements are important. Information that will enhance participation in the worship, information pertaining to further Christian service, and information for regarding further opportunities for spiritual

edification are such announcements of importance, and they are worthwhile to promote publicly to the assembly. We have chosen the beginning of the worship service as the most helpful and least disruptive placement for announcements.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Monday, 3/13**
6:00pm Church Council
- Tuesday, 3/14**
9:00am Winkel Gathering at Prince of Peace Lutheran in West Salem
- Wednesday, 3/15** Lenten Midweek
6:30pm Soup, Vespers/Meditation
- Thursday, 3/16**
9:30am Prayer Gathering
10:00am LCMC Ministerium
6:30pm Confirmation Instruction
- Friday, 3/17**
7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study
- Sunday, 3/19** Fourth Sunday in Lent
8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service with Communion
10:15am Fellowship
10:45am Adult Study on 1 Thess
- Wednesday, 3/22** Lenten Midweek
6:30pm Soup, Vespers/Meditation



Making Disciples for Life

LCMS (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod) (LCMS.org)

THIS AND THAT...

It's not too soon to be anticipating our **Holy Week Observances**. At our April 6 Maundy Thursday gathering we will enjoy at sitdown dinner at 6:30pm called **The Agape Feast**. And on Good Friday, April 7, we will gather at 7pm for **The Tenebrae Service**.

The Theme for the **Mid-week Services** involves reflections on the 2nd Article of the Creed, starting with a soup supper on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and then continu-

ing with the Vespers, Evening Prayer Service

Pay attention to all the **Sign Up** Sheets in the kitchen.

The continued **livestreaming** is for those who cannot otherwise attend in person!

Don't forget non-perishable **Food Donations** for the Food Basket!

The Warners are scheduled to clean the week of March 19.

And Heidi Traver is scheduled for the week of April 16

The March **Designated Benevolence** is for **New Horizons**.

It is hard to introduce a stranger to someone you know. When you don't know the person very well, what do you say? How well do you know Jesus? Spend time with Him and get to know Him better. Let Him speak to you from His Word (the Bible). Walk with Him.

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

Mar 16 Jon Uy
 Mar 17 Mike Meunier
 Mar 18 Nikki Hanson
 Mar 26 Asher Roll
 Mar 26 Benjamin Roll

Anniversaries

Apr 27..... T & P Betlach
 Mary 3 J & J Schoonover

Southern Medical Dictionary

Artery - The study of painting.

Bacteria - Back door to cafeteria.

Barium - What doctor's do when patients die.

Benign - What you be, after you be eight.

Caesarean Section - A

neighborhood in Rome.

Cat Scan - Searching for Kitty.

Cauterize - Made eye contact with her.

Colic - A sheep dog.

Coma - A punctuation mark.

Dilate - To live long.

Enema - Not a friend.

Fester - Quicker than some-

one else.

Fibula - A small lie.

Impotent - Distinguished, well known.

Labor Pain - Getting hurt at work.

- more to follow next week...

4/6 Maundy Thursday

Reader: Karri Bjornstad
Usher: David Bjornstad
Comm Asst: Tim Betlach
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Livestreamer: Tim Betlach

4/7 Good Friday

Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Mike Meunier
Usher: Jarrod Roll
Accompanists: Leslie Duesenberg
Livestreamer: Jed Roll

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

3/19 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Asst Minister: Tom Rislow
Reader: Dan Molstad
Crucifer: Stella Roll
Acolyte: Asher Roll
Ushers: Jarrod Roll
Counters: Tom R/Dan M
Comm Asst: Mike Meunier
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Jessica S/tbd
Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

3/26 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Asst Minister: Cole Warner
Reader: Cole Warner
Crucifer: Jed Roll

Acolyte: Stella Roll
Ushers: Dan Molstad
Counters: Connie M/Naomi R
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Heidi T/tbd
Livestreamer: Cole Warner

4/2 Psalm/Passion Sunday

Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Jessica Schoonover
Crucifer: Asher Roll
Acolyte: Benjamin Roll
Ushers: Jarrod Roll
Counters: Cole W/tbd
Comm Asst: Tim Betlach

Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Connie M/tbd
Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

4/9 Easter Sunday

Asst Minister: Cole Warner
Reader: Jeremy Schoonover
Crucifer: Drew Staff
Acolyte: Dawson Staff
Ushers: Jeremy Schoonover
Counters: Jeremy S/Paula B
Comm Asst: Tom Rislow
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: no fellowship this day
Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll