

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 31, 2022

A WORD FROM PT

The vote at the Congregation Meeting, Sunday, August 28, to affiliate with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod passed by the required two-thirds margin. It would certainly be desirable if all such votes could be unanimous, but that often does not happen. Roughly 20 percent of the voters were not in favor of the decision. It should go without saying, but everyone matters!

I want to challenge us to think in other ways than there being winners and losers. I don't think that is how a local expression of the Body of Christ tries to discern God's will. Instead, we study God's Word for direction. We commit ourselves to prayer. We try to open ourselves to the Holy

Spirit's leading. And grounded in all of this, we carry on discussions and have deliberations.

Wouldn't it be great if in everything I just mentioned we built a consensus and were of a unanimous mind concerning a decision or a course of action? We certainly would always hope and work for this. And this possibility for people of faith should never be discounted. But as we all know this does not always happen. Perhaps it seldom happens?

We must not be discouraged by this. If we take 'original sin' seriously, as a part of the fallen world each one of us is fallible. The Apostle Paul states it this way in 1 Corinthians 13:12, "For now we see in a mirror

dimly." This helps to explain why despite our best intentions we will not always see eye to eye on things.

Voting sometimes becomes necessary as a last resort in being able to move forward. And with some courses of action, it is wise that a two-thirds majority be required. This in itself does not ensure that the right discernment was made, rather, it is the imperfect means for settling on a course of action believed by many to be God's leading. Our harmony will depend on humility and respect for the good intentions of others, and then a willingness to accept the less than perfect means for discernment as we seek to be faithful to the Lord of His Church.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is meant by the term "catholic" as when we confess, "I believe in the holy catholic Church?"

The term "catholic" means whole and refers to a church which receives the Christian faith intact without altera-

tion or selection of matters of the faith. The opposite of catholic is heretic, one who picks and chooses which parts of the faith to accept. Thus "catholic" is more specific than "Christian" and is not a synonym for "ecumenical" or "worldwide". (from "Manual on the

Liturgy" companion to the LBW, from Augsburg Pub.)

- often when the "C" is capitalized "Catholic" is referring to the Roman Catholic Church, and when the "c" is lower case "catholic" is referring to the Church receiving the whole of the faith.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, 9/2

10am Service at the Onalaska Care Center

Saturday, 9/3

6pm Preside at Emmanuel Lutheran in Rochester

Sunday, 9/4 13th Sunday a Pentecost
9am Divine Service with Communion
10:15am Fellowship

Tuesday, 9/6

6pm Potential Council Meeting

Friday, 9/9

7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

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...

The **Friday Morning Men's Breakfast Bible Study** will start back up on Friday, September 9. We meet at 7am for an hour over breakfast and a Bible Study.

The **Church Council** will either next meet on Tuesday, September 6, or on Tuesday, September 13. Stay tuned for the possibility of meeting the first Tuesday of the month.

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 non-perishable **Food Donations** for the Food Basket!

The Betlachs are scheduled to clean the church the week of September 18. And the Duesenbergs and Emeron Christensen will clean the week of October 16.

The September **Designated Benevolence** is for Luther-

ans for Life.

Evangelism falls under the category of outreach, that is, rather than expecting people to come to us, we will find ways to go to them. We each of us individually are encounter unchurched people all the time. Do we pray for those we encounter and take chances to share the Faith? We can also explore ways we can do outreach together. But it starts when we leave the doors of our church building and encounter the community out there.

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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

Aug 25 Pam Benrud
 Aug 29 Jeremy Schoonover
 Sept 2 Paula Betlach
 Sept 2 Karri Bjornstad
 Sept 9 Anne Warner
 Sept 10 Carol Halderson
 Sept 10 Hannah Scholze

Anniversaries

Aug 28 B & A Fisher
 Sept 8 J & D Uy
 Sept 18 J & H Roll

Sayings. Just Saying...

"Monday is an awful way to spend 1/7 of your week."

"A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory."

"Change is inevitable, except from vending machines."

"Get a new car for your spouse. It'll be a great trade!"

"Plan to be spontaneous to-

morrow."

"Always try to be modest and be proud of it!"

"If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments."

"How many of you believe in psychokinesis? Raise my hand."

"What's the speed of dark?"

"If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something."

"When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane."

"Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now."

"How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges?"

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

9/4 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier

Reader: Jessica Schoonover

Crucifer: Ben Roll

Acolyte: Ahser Roll

Ushers: Jarrod Roll

Counters: Cole W/Tom R

Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

9/11 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Naomi Rislow

Reader: Connie Meunier

Crucifer: Dawson Staff

Acolyte: Drew Staff

Ushers: Paula Betlach

Counters: Mary B/Paula B

Comm Asst: Nikki Hanson

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

9/18 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg

Reader: Naomi Rislow

Crucifer: Jed Roll

Acolyte: Stella Roll

Ushers: Jeremy Schoonover

Counters: Dan M/Naomi R

Comm Asst: Connie Meunier

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Cole Warner

9/25 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover

Reader: Jeremy Schoonover

Crucifer: Drew Staff

Acolyte: Elyse Schoonover

Ushers: Dan Molstad

Counters: Jeremy S/Connie M

Comm Asst: Jessica Schoonover

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Mike Meunier

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