

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 23, 2023

A WORD FROM PT

As I have been mentioning in recent weeks in my column there is a lot of mischief being done with words. This is intentional. It causes confusion and it distorts meaning. It also allows falsehoods to slide under the radar. It lends itself to propaganda, which in turn takes the place of good arguments. Certainly, you know the source of all falsehood! If not, read John 8:44.

There are so many things to be said, but why don't we start with the Biblical notion that truth matters. Jesus said, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (Jn 8:31-32).

Again, Jesus identified God's Word as being true in John 17:17. And we are admonished as disciples to "speak the truth in love" (Ep 4:15).

The truth is always conducive to health and wellbeing, but as Ephesians 4:15 reminds us it is necessary that the truth be spoken in love. Mere true words can be used to bludgeon someone. There are times when truth is better spoken privately instead of publicly. There is also the consideration of timing. There may be other matters that need to come first. But in no instance is truth itself bad.

Lies, on the other hand, never serve health and wellbeing. They distort reality

and breakdown the bond of trust that makes living in community possible. They hide and they obfuscate. They create a fog and darkness.

So, what do you do when someone insists that you use his preferred pronouns, but the pronouns don't correspond to his sex? And what about when an individual has for her preferred pronouns, *they*, *their*, *them*? Good questions! We can be sensitive and creative. For the sake of truth, we must avoid false pronouns. Look for ways not to be unnecessarily confrontational. In direct conversation with such a person, we can say *you* and we can also call a person by his or her name.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

Why do we say in the Creeds that Jesus Christ "is seated at the right hand of the Father"? Does this mean that our Lord is far away from us?

This has little to do with Christ's physical location.

Instead, it has to do with the authority he assumes. For a King to be seated on a throne is a symbolic gesture of his rule and authority. Heaven itself is a reality that transcends time and space. It is the unseen and timeless realm that underlies the visible and temporal world.

We confess Christ to be seated at the right hand of the Father because we believe him to be the rightful King of the universe. Indeed, Jesus is Lord!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 8/22
5:30pm Ladies Night Out at Three Rivers Lodge

Friday 8/27
7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 8/27 13th Su after Pentecost
9am Divine Service with Comm
10:15am Fellowship

Friday, 9/1
7am Men's Breakfast at McDonald's
10am Worship at Care Center

Sunday, 9/3 14th Su after Pentecost
9am Divine Service with Comm
10:15am Fellowship



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

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

THIS AND THAT...

Please consider whether you would be a part of a team to help with a **Sunday School Program**. We need people ready to teach the children of families we hope to attract to Gift of Grace.

We are also looking for a chair (coordinator) for our **Outreach Team**.

Brochures concerning the **Lutheran School Initiative** are on the usher's table. They are meant to be distrib-

uted to the community with the invitation in the brochure for the community to take a short survey. Please help to distribute them to people you know in the community. Thanks.

The **Friday Men's Breakfast Bible Study** is gathering at the McDonalds Restaurant on County OT during the summer months at 7am.

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

Food Pantry!

The Rolls are scheduled to clean the week of August 20. And the Betlachs are scheduled for the week of September 17.

The August **Designated Benevolence** is for the **Faith Lutheran Campus Ministry**.

God created humans in His own image and He created them male and female (Ge. 1:27). Talk about nobility!

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

Aug 10 Carrie Cunningham
Aug 12 Dawson Staff
Aug 13 Jessica Schoonover
Aug 25 Pam Benrud
Aug 29 Jeremy Schoonover
Sept 2 Paula Betlach
Sept 2 Karri Bjornstad
Sept 6 Bev Kuehn
Sept 6 Anne Warner

Anniversaries

Aug 12 R & B Kuehn
Aug 19 M & C Meunier
Aug 28 B & A Fisher

Inquisitive Minds Want to Know...

- * What hair color do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men?
- * What was the best thing before sliced bread?
- * Why do banks charge you a "non-sufficient funds" fee on money they already know you don't have?
- * Why do they put Braille on the drive through bank machines?
- * If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
- * What happen to the first 6 "ups"?
- * What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
- * What are Preparation A through G?
- * In a country of free speech, why are there phone bills?
- * Is a metaphor like a simile?
- * Before they invented drawing boards, what did they go back to?

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

8/27 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover

Reader: Craig Bartos

Crucifer: Jed Roll

Acolyte: Stella Roll

Ushers: Paula Betlach

Counters: Jeremy S/Tim B

Comm Asst: Tom Rislow

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: Connie Meunier

Livestreamer: Cole Warner

9/3 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg

Reader: Cole Warner

Crucifer: Benjamin Roll

Acolyte: Asher Roll

Ushers: Mary Bartos

Counters: Jarrod R/Tom R

Comm Asst: Mike Meunier

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

9/10 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Tom Rislow

Reader: Dan Molstad

Crucifer: Drew Staff

Acolyte: Dawson Staff

Ushers: Tim Betlach

Counters: Mary B/Naoimi R

Comm Asst: Tim Betlach

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Time Betlach

9/17 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Naomi Rislow

Reader: Jeremy Schoonover

Crucifer: Elliot Cunningham

Acolyte: Jed Roll

Ushers: Cole Warner

Counters: Cole W/Tim B

Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

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Services held at 9am at:
642 Western Avenue
A block north and then
a block west of King Furniture