

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 30, 2023

#### A WORD FROM PT

Words aren't the only thing being hijacked by the woke ideology that is currently dominating our culture.

What passes for justice, virtue, and morality have all also been commandeered and drastically redefined. Justice is defined as equal outcomes. Virtue is defined as being able to successfully point out the sources of evil in others and assigning blame. And morality is pretty much decided by individual conscience so long as consent is involved. None of this a Christian understanding.

I think it is helpful to understand the woke, progressive ideology as a kind of religion, an object of worship. Worship is the act of ascribing worth. It seems that all people have a need to ad-

mire and adore something. That something helps give meaning and purpose to our lives.

Christians recognize that the Creator alone deserves our adoration. Accordingly, lesser things that receive equal or greater admiration than our Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, necessarily become our idols or false gods.

In very limited space, I would describe woke progressivism as idolizing enlightened man's effort to affect a utopia on earth where neatly and efficiently managed, everything is assured to have equal outcomes. Blame for the lack of this justice is assigned to the unenlightened who refuse to get with the program. Rightly pointing out

who those people are constitutes virtue. Any sense of guilt is conferred upon unenlightened enemies (scapegoating). In short order, those who get in the way of progress need to be canceled. Perfectibility (final progress) is dependent on the enlightened elite and their expertise in knowing what is best.

If we look at the woke ideology and recognize its religious dimensions, in comparison to Christianity we will know what a dead-end street it is. Lacking in its system is genuine love, humility, actual forgiveness, a true hope, a recognition of one's gravely sinful condition (original sin), and the ascribing of worth to the Incarnate God and Savior who, as an innocent scapegoat, bears our sins away.

#### SINCE YOU ASKED...

##### Why is incense used in some churches?

The use of incense is not unique to Christianity or Judaism and is used in many of the world's religions to enhance special times and places by sight and smell. In Christian worship incense is

effectively used at the beginning of the Service of the Word and in preparing for receiving Holy Communion. The burning of incense is associated with the prayers of worship rising before God (cf. Ps. 141:2; Rev. 8:4). Good worship should engage all the human senses.

In this connection it should be pointed out that the olfactory sense is perhaps the most sensitive of the five senses; it continues to function even during sleep. (Indebted to Aidan Kavanah in his "Elements of Rite".)

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

##### Friday 9/1

7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study  
10am Worship at Onalaska Care Center

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

##### Thursday, 9/7

9:30am Prayer Gathering

##### Friday, 9/8

7am Men's Breakfast at Church

**Sunday, 9/10** 15<sup>th</sup> Su after Pentecost  
9am Divine Service with Comm  
10:15am Fellowship  
10:45am Education Hour



**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** will gather one more time at the McDonalds Restaurant on County OT, then we will be back at the church for the breakfast.

Don't forget non-perishable

**Food Donations** for the Food Pantry!

The Betlachs are scheduled to clean the week of September 17. And the Warners are scheduled for the week of October 15.

The September **Designated Benevolence** is for **Safe Families for Children**.

Christianity has the real solution to sin, guilt, and injustice. It alone has true hope!

## 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 25 ..... Pam Benrud  
Aug 29 ..... Jeremy Schoonover  
Sept 2 ..... Paula Betlach  
Sept 2 ..... Karri Bjornstad  
Sept 6 ..... Bev Kuehn  
Sept 6 ..... Anne Warner  
Sept 9 ..... Lee Fehr  
Sept 12 ..... Aliah Kuehn

#### **Anniversaries**

Aug 28 ..... B & A Fisher  
Sept 8 ..... J & D Uy

### **Inquisitive Minds Want to Know...**

- \* How do I set my laser printer on stun?
- \* How is it possible to have a civil war?
- \* If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?
- \* If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?
- \* If the #2 pencil is so popular, why is it still #2?
- \* If I melt dry ice, can I take a bath without getting wet?
- \* Could crop circles be the work of a cereal killer?
- \* Crime doesn't pay ... does that mean that my job is a crime?
- \* Did Noah keep his bees in archives?
- \* How can there be self-help "groups"?
- \* How do they get the deer to cross at that yellow road sign?
- \* How do you throw away a garbage can?

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

**9/3** 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Asst Minister:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Reader:** Cole Warner

**Crucifer:** Benjamin Roll

**Acolyte:** Asher Roll

**Ushers:** Mary Bartos

**Counters:** Connie M/Tom R

**Comm Asst:** Mike Meunier

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow

**Fellowship:** Bev K/Leslie D

**Livestreamer:** Jarrod Roll

**9/10** 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Asst Minister:** Tom Rislow

**Reader:** Dan Molstad

**Crucifer:** Drew Staff

**Acolyte:** Dawson Staff

**Ushers:** Tim Betlach

**Counters:** Mary B/Naomi R

**Comm Asst:** Tim Betlach

**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Fellowship:** tbd

**Livestreamer:** Time Betlach

**9/17** 16<sup>th</sup> 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:** Paula B/Jessica S

**Livestreamer:** Jeremy Schoonover

**9/24** 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Asst Minister:** Cole Warner

**Reader:** Jessica Schoonover

**Crucifer:** Asher Roll

**Acolyte:** Benjamin Roll

**Ushers:** Dan Molstad

**Counters:** Jarrod R/Dan M

**Comm Asst:** Jarrod Roll

**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Fellowship:** tbd

**Livestreamer:** Jed Roll

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