

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

A WORD FROM PT

With this week's offering I will close my series addressing the Woke, Progressive ideology dominating our culture. And perhaps a good way to close is with a Scriptural truth that is falling off the radar. Importantly, we will turn to a Biblical informed worldview.

As Lutherans we know the teaching as the Doctrine of Original Sin. This is the truth that is largely ignored, certainly among Progressivists and sadly it does not always inform a good number of churchgoers. Simply stated, Original Sin has to do with our inclination to sin from the day of our birth. The Psalmist laments during his confession in Psalm 51 "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

and in sin did my mother conceive me." And accordingly, he intones in Psalm 14:3 "They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one."

The Second Article of the Augsburg Confession further teaches that all who have been born after the fall of Adam have inherited his fallen nature. This, among other things, means that we do not possess in our fallen nature true fear, love, and trust of God. Without proper faith, we distrust God's goodness – his commands and promises. We prefer to do what makes sense in our own eyes. Because of this sinful nature we cannot, without the help

of God, avoid sinning.

I've heard it expressed this way. We do not have a sinful nature because we sin. Rather, we sin because we have a sinful nature.

At least a couple of serious errors accompany progressive thought. The first is that we are making progress morally. We confuse a certain progress scientifically and technologically with the idea we must be making progress in all things. And the second error is believing we can fix the problems and injustices in the world, when we ourselves, every one of us, needs fixing. There is one Savior of the world. And the complete fixup does not happen in this age...

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 9/19

5:30pm Ladies Night Out at Swing Bridge Pub in La Crescent

Friday, 9/22

7am Men's Breakfast at Church

Sunday, 9/24 17th Su after Pentecost

8am Choir Practice

9am Divine Service with Comm

10:15am Fellowship

10:45am Education Hour Youth/Adult

2pm Opening Rally for 40 Days for Life at Black River Beach Neighborhood Center

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.



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

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

THIS AND THAT...

The **Opening Rally** for the **40 Days For Life** campaign will be Sunday, September 24, 2pm at the Black River Beach Community Center. Matt Sande will be the key-note speaker.

Both the Friday Morning **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** and the Sunday Morning **Adult Class** are studying 2 Thessalonians.

Marilyn Magnuson is leading a timely Bible Study for our

Middle School and High School Youth on Sunday mornings after the Divine Service.

We are in need of a chair (coordinator) for our **Out-reach Team**.

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**.

We can't fix the world, or even ourselves. But we can act as the agents and ambassadors of the one who can save the world. We can make a positive difference, however modest, as disciples of Christ and in His service. Paradise awaits the consummation of the kingdom at Christ's return.

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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**

Sept 15 Butch Fisher
Oct 1 Wendell Halderson

Anniversaries

Sept 18 J & H Roll
Sept 21 Debera Uy
Oct 6 B & P Benrud
Oct 7 D & K Bjornstad

Committee Poem

Oh, have some pity, I'm on a committee
Which means that from morning till night,
We attend and amend and contend and defend
Without a conclusion in sight.

We confer and concur, we defer and demur
And re-iterate all our thoughts,
We revise the agenda with

frequent addenda,
And consider a load of reports.

We compose and propose, we suppose and oppose,
And the points of procedure are fun,
But though various notions are brought up as motions,
There's terribly little gets done.

We resolve and absolve, but we never dissolve,

Since it's out of the question for us.

What a shattering pity to end our committee
Where else could we make such a fuss!

- I wonder if calling it a 'Team' improves the situation?

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

9/24 17th 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: Heidi Traver/Warners

Livestreamer: Jed Roll

10/1 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Naomi Rislow

Reader: Nikki Hanson

Crucifer: Jed Roll

Acolyte: Regan Cunningham

Ushers: Jeremy Schoonover

Counters: Jeremy S/Tom R

Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: Connie Meunier

Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

10/8 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Tom Rislow

Reader: Naomi Rislow

Crucifer: Stella Roll

Acolyte: Asher Roll

Ushers: Jarrod Roll

Counters: Jarrod R/Ron K

Comm Asst: Tom Rislow

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Jed Roll

10/15 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier

Reader: Craig Bartos

Crucifer: Drew Staff

Acolyte: Dawson Staff

Ushers: Mary Bartos

Counters: Connie M/David B

Comm Asst: Tim Betlach

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Jarrod 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