

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

A WORD FROM PT

For those of us who have been involved in the study of 1 Corinthians we have learned that excessive pride is a leading problem in the Corinthian congregation. This congregation in one of the larger cities in the Roman Empire was a gifted congregation. They were said to be “enriched in all speech all knowledge”, but they were failing to recognize the danger that knowledge often “puffs up”, as opposed to love which “builds up”.

That a number of people were “puffed up” or overinflated (what a wonderful description of arrogance) resulted in lots of unhealthy comparisons, in divisiveness, in various factions and cliques forming, and in be-

ing dismissive of others deemed less gifted and knowledgeable.

I like three rhetorical questions the Apostle Paul asks in 1 Corinthians 4:7 when he writes, “For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” They are worth our consideration.

First, Paul asks, “Who sees anything differing in you?” What an indictment if others don’t see any difference in baptized believers who have been given a new birth, bequeathed the Holy Spirit, given “the mind of Christ” (1Co 2:16), and are led by God’s Word. Certainly, our thinking and

actions should not be governed by the ways of the world!

Second, the Apostle asks, “What do you have that you did not receive?” In confessing God as the Maker of heaven and earth, we can’t possibly believe that we have given ourselves our body and soul, eyes, ears, all our members, our reason, and all our senses! If we know we have not, then why do we act like we have?

And third, Paul asks, “If you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” Good question. Prayer, praise, and thanksgiving would seem to be a better responses than boasting! Humility is good for the Body of Christ...

SINCE YOU ASKED...

Do Lutherans Promote Private Confession?

“Confession has not been abolished by the preachers on our side. ... The people are carefully instructed concerning the consolation of the Word of absolution (forgiveness) so that they

may esteem it as a great and precious thing. It is not the voice of the man who speaks it, but it is the Word of God, who forgives sin, for it is spoken in God’s stead and by God’s command. ...it is necessary for terrified consciences” (*Augsburg Confession, XXV*).

Private confession has two parts: First that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the Pastor as from God himself.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, 2/7

5:30pm Confirmation Class

Thursday, 2/8

9:30am Prayer Gathering

Friday, 2/9

7am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

Saturday, 2/10

4pm Service at Emmanuel Lutheran

Sunday, 2/11 Transfiguration of Jesus

8am Choir Practice

9am Divine Service with Communion

10:15am Fellowship

10:45am Education

Tuesday, 2/13

6:pm Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, 2/14 Ash Wednesday

7pm Ash Wednesday Service



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

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

THIS AND THAT...

Ash Wednesday and the Season of **Lent** come early this year. Indeed Ash Wednesday falls on February 14, which is also Valentine's Day. What a juxtaposition! Cupid, red hearts, and the ashes of penitence. Our **Ash Wednesday Service** with the imposition of Ashes will be on Wednesday, February 14 at 7pm.

Our **Lenten Midweek Services** will begin on Wednesday, February 21, 7pm, with a special **Prayer Around the Cross** service. The following Wednesday we will gather at 6:30pm

for a soup dinner, and then a half hour devotional service at 7.

The newly elected **Church Council** will meet on Thursday, February 8, 6pm, at the church.

Heide Traver and Leslie Duesenberg **invite the ladies** to learn how to make a **Ukrainian Easter Egg**. We'll meet at the church on Saturday, March 16, from 10-1. Please sign up with them by March 1 so adequate supplies are on hand.

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

Pantry!

The Duesenbergs are signed up for the week of February 18 to clean the church. The Rolls are signed up for the week of March 17

The February **Designated Benevolence** is for the **Holmen's Hope** charity.

Arrogance is quite inappropriate for a Christian. It is like an over-inflated balloon. Unless some air is let out it will pop. But true humility is not low self esteem. Instead it is being grateful to God who blesses all of us.

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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

Feb 17..... Carter Repaal
Feb 22..... Regan Cunningham
Feb 24..... Jed Roll

Anniversaries

Children Write to God

Dear God, Please send me a pony. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up. - Ryan

Dear God, If we come back as something, please don't let me be Jennifer Horton, because I hate her. - John

Dear God, I want to be just like

my daddy when I get big, but not with so much hair all over. - Sam

Dear God, My brothers told me about being born, but it doesn't sound right. They are just kidding, aren't they? - Christopher

Dear God, If you watch me in church Sunday, I'll show you my new shoes. - Cathy

Dear God, I do not think anybody could be a better God. Well, I just want you to know that I am not just saying this because you are God already. - Charles

Dear God, We read Thomas Edison made light. But we learned at church that you did it. So I bet he stole your idea. - Courtney

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

2/11 Transfiguration of Our Lord

Asst Minister: Cole Warner
Reader: Heather Roll
Crucifer: Asher Roll
Acolyte: Benjamin Roll
Ushers: David Bjornstad
Counters: Jarrod R/ Bev Kuehn
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Paula B/Jessica S
Livestreamer: Jed Roll

2/14 Ash Wednesday

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Jarrod Roll
Crucifer: Dawson Staff

Acolyte:

Elliott Cunningham
Ushers: Jeremy Schoonover
Counters: N/A
Comm Asst: Mike Meunier
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: N/A
Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

2/18 First Sunday in Lent

Asst Minister: Tom Rislow
Reader: Brad Benrud
Crucifer: Regan Cunningham
Acolyte: Jed Roll
Ushers: Jarrod Roll
Counters: Cole W/Ron K
Comm Asst: Tom Rislow

Accompanist:

Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: Cole Warner

2/25 Second Sunday in Lent

Asst Minister: Naomi Rislow
Reader: Paula Betlach
Crucifer: Jed Roll
Acolyte: Stella Roll
Ushers: Dan Molstad
Counters: Jeremy S/Naomi R
Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg, STS
642 Western Avenue
Holmen, WI 54636
www.giftofgracelc.org
giftofgracelc@gmail.com
(608) 668-1587

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