

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

A WORD FROM PT

I often consider Luther's Small Catechism as one of the finest of the treasures in our tradition. The format of Luther's catechism was not new, but the concise wording was a great gift. That it lends itself to memorization is what is so remarkable. It helps us to hide both Scripture and Biblical truths in our hearts. Hidden there we can meditate on them and then actually pray the Scriptures.

There are six principal parts to the Small Catechism. They are: 1) The Ten Commandments; 2) The Apostles' Creed; 3) The Lord's Prayer; 4) The Sacrament of Holy Baptism; 5) Confession and Absolution; and 6) The Sacrament of Holy

Communion. In that order the Small Catechism teaches: 1) What God expects of us; 2) What in His grace God has done and is doing for us; 3) What we should be asking of God so that we can live for Him; 4) How God gives us spiritual birth; 5) How we live out our baptisms; and 6) How God nourishes and sustains us with forgiveness and His life.

The beauty of this teaching tool is that it is comprehensive. It provides the framework for understanding the most important teachings of the Bible. That framework can be filled in, and indeed learning is for a lifetime in which we only scratch the surface. If you know the

catechism you know what you need to repent of. If you know the catechism you know what Jesus accomplished on the cross and how to share the gospel with someone else. If you know the catechism you know how to live as we are meant to live in gratitude for God's amazing grace. If you know the catechism you know where and how to receive nurture, fortification, and reassurance.

Each week a portion of the Small Catechism is shared in our "Congregation at Prayer" publication. Read that portion out loud each day. Commit it to memory. Let it prompt your prayers of confession, gratitude, and for direction.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the meaning of "Lent"? The English word "Lent" means "springtime". Lent is the six-week period of spiritual discipline before Easter (40 days not counting Sundays). At an early period in the Church's history baptisms might only be celebrated once a year at the Easter Vigil Service. Accordingly there was a period prior to this of introducing and training

candidates for baptism. In time the training for baptismal candidates grew to a six week period, and this training involved fasting. The 40 days was, no doubt, modeled on the 40 days of our Lord Jesus' fasting in the wilderness before his temptations by the devil. As the years passed the Lenten fast began to be applied, not only to the baptismal candi-

dates, but to the church as a whole. Church members were encouraged to approach Easter in the same manner in which they had solemnly prepared for their baptisms. That is why the Season of Lent has finally developed as a time for fasting, study, prayer, acts of love, and humility. *(with help from The Westminster Dictionary of Worship, edited by J.G. Davies, The Westminster Press.)*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 2/13**
6:pm Church Council Meeting
- Wednesday, 2/14** Ash Wednesday
7pm Ash Wednesday Service
- Thursday, 2/15**
10am Ministerium at Olivet Lutheran
- Friday, 2/16**
7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study
- Saturday, 2/17**
9am Elder Meeting
- Sunday, 2/18** First Sunday in Lent
8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service with Communion
10:15am Fellowship
10:45am Education
- Wednesday, 2/21** Lenten Midweek
7pm Prayer Around the Cross



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

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

THIS AND THAT...

Our **Ash Wednesday Service** with the imposition of Ashes and the celebration of Holy Communion 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 Wednesdays we will gather at 6:30pm for a soup dinner, and then a half hour devotional service at 7.

A summary of Phase 1 of the **Genesis Project** (feasibility of starting a new Lutheran elemen-

tary school) is being sent along with this issue of Grace Notes

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.

Ongoing learning is an important part of Christian discipleship! And a catechism helps in that process. Learning is not how we earn approval with God. That is by faith, and faith alone. But learning is how we mature in the faith and more fully serve out of gratitude for God's grace and to be effective in our vocations.

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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

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

Anniversaries

Ten Best Things to Say If You Get Caught Sleeping at Your Desk

10. "They told me at the blood bank this might happen."
9. "This is just a 15 minute power-nap like they raved about in that time management course you sent me to."
8. "Whew! Guess I left the top off the Whiteout. You probably got here just in time."

7. "I wasn't sleeping! I was meditating on the mission statement and envisioning a new paradigm."
6. "I was testing the keyboard for drool resistance."
5. "I was doing a highly specific Yoga exercise to relieve work related stress. Are you discriminatory toward people who practice Yoga?"
4. "Darn! Why did you interrupt me? I had almost

figured out a solution to our biggest problem."

3. "The coffee machine is broken."

2. "Someone must've put dcaaf in the wrong pot."

And the number 1 best thing to say if you get caught sleeping at your desk...

1. "...In Jesus' name. Amen.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

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: Paula Betlach
Crucifer: Regan Cunningham

Acolyte: Jed Roll
Ushers: Jarrod Roll
Counters: Tom R/Ron K
Comm Asst: Tom Rislow
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Cyndi M/Karri B
Livestreamer: Jed Roll

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: Connie M
Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

3/3 Third Sunday in Lent
Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Craig Bartos
Crucifer: Asher Roll
Acolyte: Benjamin Roll
Ushers: Mary Bartos
Counters: Connie M/Tim B
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
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