

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 6, 2024

#### A WORD FROM PT

When it comes to God's giving and entrusting the Ten Commandments to Moses and Israel, I am impressed that the LORD's first words are a word of grace. They begin this way in Exodus 20:2, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." In other words, God names, claims, rescues, and redeems Israel before they even hear of the Ten Commandments or have an opportunity to keep them. And I am reminded that we are named, claimed, rescued, and redeemed at Baptism, and with many of us when we were too young to remember.

It is by God's choice, by His gracious election, that we

become a part of God's people. The Commandments then follow this election. There were many commandments given to Moses on Mount Sinai, but the Ten Commandments were specifically inscribed on stone tablets. These ten make up the moral law.

Please note that God did not give to Moses the 'Ten Suggestions'! They are commandments! They reflect God's will for His creation. You might think of them as the owner's manual. Who better than the Maker would know how things are to be maintained and operated?

Of course, as fallen rebellious souls we balk at being dictated to. We do not like being told what we should or should not do. The

tempter has hoodwinked us into believing that restrictions inhibit freedom and flourishing. But consider the 206 different bones, ligaments, and cartilage that make up our skeletons. They shape and order our bodies. They restrict certain movements. Our joints move some ways, but not others. Our bones create boundaries. But how much freedom do you think our bodies would have without our skeletal structure?

Consider also how God's Commandments protect the wonderful gifts of God, including our access to Him, our physical wellbeing, marriage and family, our entrusted property, our good name, and the like. They actually allow for freedom and flourishing!

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Wednesday, 3/6** Lenten Midweek  
6:30pm Soup, Song, and Story

**Thursday, 3/7**  
9:30am Prayer Gathering

**Friday, 3/8**  
7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

**Sunday, 3/10** Fourth Sunday in Lent  
8am Choir Practice  
9am Divine Service with Communion  
10:15am Fellowship  
10:45am Education

**Tuesday, 3/12**  
9am Winkler Gathering at Prince Of Peace Lutheran

**Wednesday, 3/13** Lenten Midweek  
6:30pm Soup, Song, and Story

#### SINCE YOU ASKED...

**What is the purpose of the Psalm Reading? And why do we often sing (chant) the Psalm?**

"The appointed psalm is sung as a meditation on the First Lesson, a response to it, and a bridge to the Second Lesson. ... Hearers of the lessons need a chance to

assimilate the First Lesson before the Second Lesson begins. The required use of a psalm between the lessons provides for the restoration of psalm singing to its traditional place in the life of the church and gives the worshiper the opportunity to participate in the singing (or

reading) of a portion of Scripture..." (from "Manual on the Liturgy" companion to the LBW, from Augsburg Pub.)

Chanting can be thought of as "exalted speech". It sets the speech apart from regular speech and the slower cadence allows for reflection.



**Making  
Disciples  
for Life**

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

## THIS AND THAT...

Our **Lenten Midweek Services** are on Wednesdays, 6:30pm. We gather at 6:30pm for a soup supper, and then a half hour devotional service at 7.

The theme for our **"Soup, Song, and Story" Lenten Midweek Services** is: "The Ten Commandments Preach Repentance".

Looking ahead: **Holy Week** is the week of March 24, starting with **Palm/Passion Sunday**, then **Maundy Thursday** with our celebration of the Agape Fest on the 28th, and then our **Good**

**Friday Tenebrae** Service on the 29th.

A timely **Bible Study on 1 Corinthians** is being offered to all members on Sunday mornings at 10:45am, and to the Men over breakfast at 7am on Friday Mornings. A group study is an excellent way to learn God's Word.

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

The Rolls are signed up for the week of March 17 to clean the

church. The Molstads are signed up for the week of April 21

The March **Designated Benevolence** is for the **Voice of the Martyrs**.

The Law, SOS, Shows Our Sin, and the Gospel, SOS, Shows Our Savior. Or, put differently, the Law preaches repentance, and the Gospel preaches our forgiveness Christ accomplished for us on the Cross. And with the forgiveness of sins we also then have life and salvation. We can be thankful that the Commandments preach repentance!

## 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**

March 16..... Jackie Repaal  
March 16..... Jon Uy  
March 17..... Mike Meunier  
March 18..... Nikki Hanson  
March 26..... Asher Roll  
March 26..... Benjamin Roll

#### **Anniversaries**

### **Christian Bumper Stickers**

- Be fishers of men. You catch them, He'll clean them.

- Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

- Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

- Forbidden fruits create many jams.

- Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church.

- God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

- God grades on the Cross, not on the curve.

- God prefers "fruits of the Spirit" over "religious nuts."

- God promises a safe landing, not a clam passage.

- He who angers you controls you!

- If God is your co-pilot - switch seats!

- Don't give God instructions - just report for duty.

- The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

- Don't try changing the message. Let the message change us.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

**3/10** Fourth Sunday in Lent  
**Asst Minister:** Leslie Duesenberg  
**Reader:** Dan Molstad  
**Crucifer:** Dawson Staff  
**Acolyte:** Elliott Cunningham  
**Ushers:** Paula Betlach  
**Counters:** Jarrod R/Tom R  
**Comm Asst:** Tim Betlach  
**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow  
**Fellowship:** Paula B  
**Livestreamer:** Tim Betlach

**3/17** Fifth Sunday in Lent  
**Asst Minister:** Jeremy Schoonover  
**Reader:** Cole Warner  
**Crucifer:** Regan Cunningham

**Acolyte:** Jed Roll  
**Ushers:** Tim Betlach  
**Counters:** Cole W/Naomi R  
**Comm Asst:** Tom Rislow  
**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg  
**Fellowship:** the Warners  
**Livestreamer:** Cole Warner

**3/24** Palm/Passion Sunday  
**Asst Minister:** Karri Bjornstad  
**Reader:** Jeremy Schoonover  
**Crucifer:** Stella Roll  
**Acolyte:** Asher Roll  
**Ushers:** Jeremy Schoonover  
**Counters:** Jeremy S/Dan M  
**Comm Asst:** Mike Meunier

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow  
**Fellowship:** Cyndi Molstad  
**Livestreamer:** Jeremy Schoonover

**3/28** Maundy Thursday (Agape Feast)  
**Asst Minister:** Cole Warner  
**Reader:** Jessica Schoonover  
**Crucifer:** Asher Roll  
**Acolyte:** Benjamin Roll  
**Ushers:** Jarrod Roll  
**Counters:** not needed  
**Comm Asst:** Jeremy Schoonover  
**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg  
**Fellowship:** not needed  
**Livestreamer:** not needed

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