

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 17, 2024

A WORD FROM PT

What is the mission of the Church? The Church, which is the Body of Christ, is involved in the mission of Christ the Head. Christ's mission is to save and redeem a lost world.

Matthew 28:19 is commonly cited as a summary verse for the Church's mission, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." At the same time there are many passages of Scripture that state the mission in different words. I will share with you two. The first is Luke 24:47, "that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations." And the second is Acts 1:8, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be

my witnesses ... to the end of the earth."

Compiling and condensing the full counsel of Scripture in regard to this mission, we might say that the Church is to proclaim and teach the Gospel, care for and nurture believers, and demonstrate the love of God in acts of charity and mercy to our neighbors.

The Church at large is to go to all the world. The Church's individual congregations are planted to serve in a particular geographic location. Accordingly, much of the service is parochial and it is why we speak of a congregation's parish.

Each congregation shares in the overall mission of Christ. It preaches and

teaches and administers the Sacraments in similar fashion. What is unique to each congregation is the community they are called to serve, and the way the community's physical needs are addressed. The particular character of the congregation also matters. That character involves the gifts, talents, resources, and commitment of the members.

I would like to ask you to make the mission of our congregation a matter of intentional prayer on your part. Pray that we come to terms with and are committed to the mission of Christ He calls us to take part in. And pray that we be given resolve to use what we have been given for this mission. Thank you!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, 4/17
5:30pm Confirmation Class

Thursday, 4/18
10am LCMC Ministerium at Olivet Lutheran

Friday, 4/19
7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 4/21 Fourth Sunday of Easter
8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service with Communion
10:15am Fellowship
10:45am Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, 4/24
5:30pm Confirmation Class

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What good purpose is there in signing oneself (making the sign of the cross with the hand over one's head and breast)?

This gesture's main purpose is to remind us of our baptism where the sign of the

cross was first made on our foreheads. The cross is a powerful symbol which reminds us of the depths of God's love for us – He loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for us. In Holy Baptism we have been joined to Christ. Every time we sign ourselves we

declare that we belong to Christ and that we desire to live for Him. We give visible expression that we serve the One, True God who has revealed Himself to us in three persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Making Disciples for Life

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

THIS AND THAT...

The next phase in the exploration and attempt to start a new **Lutheran elementary School** involves the selection of a name for the hoped-for school. We will soon be calling for a **Voter's Assembly** one of the Sundays in May so our congregation can vote on one of five nominees for the name.

Pastor Tim will be involved in a couple of Continuing Education and Pastoral Support opportunities in April. On April 15-17 he will attend the

South Wisconsin District's **Pastors Theological Conference**. And then on April 29-30 he will be attending a **Society of the Holy Trinity** retreat.

Don't forget non-perishable **Food Donations** for the Food Pantry! Peanut Butter and canned beans are especially requested.

The Molstads will be cleaning the church the week of April 21. The Betlachs are sched-

uled for the week of May 19.

The April **Designated Benevolence** is for the **Youth Camperships**.

Our commitment to the mission of the Church is linked to our understanding of our vocations as baptized believers. In other words, it is understanding what we are here for. Our true home is in heaven. There we will have endless rest and bliss. Presently, it is labor with occasional needed rest allowed.

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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

Apr 23..... Craig Bartos
Apr 23..... Tim Duesenberger
Apr 23..... Heide Traver
Apr 25..... David Bjornstad
Apr 29..... Calvin Swaney
May 2..... Connie Meunier

Anniversaries

Apr 27..... T&P Betlach
May 3..... J&J Schoonover
May 6..... T&L Duesenberg
May 7..... T&N Rislow

Random Humor

After explaining the commandment, "Honor thy father and thy mother," the Sunday School teacher asked the six-year-olds, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

Swept up by the account of how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs, little Johnny was terrified a few days later when he had a pain in his side. When his mother asked why he was lying down as though he were ill, he responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

home from Sunday School after hearing a strong sermon on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think of all this Satan stuff?" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad."

Two boys were walking

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

4/21 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad

Reader: Mike Meunier

Crucifer: Chase Repaal

Acolyte: Carter Repaal

Ushers: David Bjornstad

Counters: Jarrod R/David B

Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: Cole and Anne Warner

Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

4/28 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover

Reader: Jarrod Roll

Crucifer: Benjamin Roll

Acolyte: Dawson Staff

Ushers: Jarrod Roll

Counters: Connie M/David B

Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

5/5 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg

Reader: Brad Benrud

Crucifer: Elliott Cunningham

Acolyte: Regan Cunningham

Ushers: Dan Molstad

Counters: Dan M/Naomi R

Comm Asst: Tim Betlach

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Tim Betlach

5/12 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: Cole Warner

Reader: Paula Betlach

Crucifer: Chase Repaal

Acolyte: Carter Repaal

Ushers: Cole Warner

Counters: Jeremy S/Ron K

Comm Asst: Tom Rislow

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Cole Warner

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