

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 24, 2024

#### A WORD FROM PT

Dreams and visions for a hoped-for future offer a lot of excitement. When we start to try to enact the same it can be a little overwhelming. And recently there has been conversation and exploration in our congregation of being a part of a new Lutheran School start. We are also discussing whether it is time for our congregation to purchase property and situate ourselves in a better location for congregational growth.

All this is good. At the same time, we do well to realize that our dreams and aspirations, however noble, are not necessarily one and the same with how God would direct us, or what He inevitably has in mind for our congregation and its partici-

pation in His mission to rescue and redeem a lost world.

It is a good time for us to be in prayer as a congregation concerning our future. And may I suggest a few priorities for our petitions. Leading the list has to do with the mission of our congregation. The parameters of that mission have already been established by God's Word. It involves witnessing to Christ, proclaiming and teaching His Gospel, administering the sacraments, and loving and caring for people. But where we identify our placement in the mission field matters! God's mission is to the world, our participation is in a specific location. Given our gifts, what are the particular ways we can love

and care for the people in our mission field.

Next on the list would involve discernment. Does our current location serve the mission well, or does it hinder the effort.

Last on the list concerns our commitment and resolve. We need courage, dedication, stamina, generosity, and good judgment. Change brings stress! Although it is God's mission, God works in and through willing and faithful servants. The right priorities need to be in order in our lives.

Moving forward requires prayer, both corporately and individually. That comes first! Then comes the conversation and discernment of our community of faith. Please be in prayer!

#### SINCE YOU ASKED...

**Why is the Triune Name of God repeated so frequently in our worship services?**

The mystery of the Trinity is one of the most distinctive elements of our Christian Tradition. Christianity is not alone in claiming to

be monotheistic (*belief in one Supreme Being, one god*). But Christianity holds that this One, True God has revealed himself to us as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Scripture teaches that God the Father has revealed himself through God the Son

and in God the Spirit. Only the Son can be seen, and only through the Spirit are we enabled to believe in the Father and the Son. And so we often invoke the name of the Triune God in the mystery of our faith.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Wednesday, 4/24**

5:30pm Confirmation Class

**Thursday, 4/25**

9:30am Prayer Gathering

**Friday, 4/26**

7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

**Sunday, 4/28** Fifth Sunday of Easter

8am Choir Practice

9am Divine Service with Communion

10:15am Fellowship

10:45am Adult Bible Study

**Monday, 4/29 — Tuesday, 4/30**

Pastor Tim at Society of the Holy Trinity Retreat

**Wednesday, 5/1**

5:30pm Confirmation Class



**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 Betlachs will be cleaning the church the week of May 19. The Hansons are sched-

uled for the week of June 16.

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

There is a lot of growth taking place north of us, both in the Village of Holmen, and in the Town of Holland. Presently there is not a congregation where the growth is taking place. We are close! Is God calling us to purchase property in that area? We need to start with prayer and then have conversation.

# 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

Apr 23..... Craig Bartos  
Apr 23..... Tim Duesenberg  
Apr 23..... Heide Traver  
Apr 25..... David Bjornstad  
Apr 29..... Calvin Swaney  
May 2..... Connie Meunier  
May 10..... Dan Molstad

#### Anniversaries

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

### Random Humor

One Sunday morning a mother went in to wake her son and tell him it was time to get ready for church, to which he replied, "I'm not going."

"Why not?" she asked. "I'll give you two good reasons," he said, "1, they don't like me, and 2, I don't like them."

His mother replied, "I'll

give you two good reasons why you should go to church: 1, You're 59 years old, and 2, you're the pastor!"

A Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic Priest met at the town's annual 4th of July picnic. Old friends, they began their banter. "The baked ham is delicious," the priest teased the rabbi, "you really should try it, you don't

know what you're missing! Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?"

The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin. And then he said, "I will try the ham at your wedding."

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

**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:** Carol P/Karri B  
**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:** Mike Meunier  
**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow  
**Fellowship:** Connie Meunier  
**Livestreamer:** Tim Betlach

**5/12** Seventh Sunday of Easter  
**Asst Minister:** Cole Warner  
**Reader:** Dan Molstad  
**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

**5/19** Day of Pentecost  
**Asst Minister:** Naomi Rislow  
**Reader:** Paula Betlach  
**Crucifer:** Stella Roll  
**Acolyte:** Asher Roll  
**Ushers:** Paula Betlach  
**Counters:** Connie M/David B  
**Comm Asst:** Mike Meunier  
**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow  
**Fellowship:** Paula Betlach  
**Livestreamer:** Jed Roll

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