

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 17, 2024

A WORD FROM PT

I wish to continue our discussion from last week as I wrote about the neglected doctrine (teaching) of 'Original Sin'. And with help from our chief Confession (the Augsburg Confession) we were reminded that from birth we "are full of evil lust and inclination." This is true for all of us!

Nowhere do we learn from Scripture or from life's experience that we all have the exact same lusts and inclinations. And yet it is clear that we all have various desires, proclivities, and appetites that measured against the truth of God's Word are shown to be out of step with God's Will.

It may very well be that certain kinds of disordered pas-

sions are more common than others. But the fact that any one person's sinful appetites share good company with a high percentage of the population does not make it right. Conversely, a more peculiar lust not shared by the majority does not make it worse! It simply by definition is 'abnormal'.

As baptized believers we do not discern God's righteous standard by whether the range of our inclinations and activities are normal. Rather, we look to God's Law. That is, to His commandments, teaching, and guidance. Many things that seem normal to us nonetheless reflect our fallen, sinful nature.

We should not stigmatize people because they are ab-

normal. Some abnormalities have nothing to do with morality or being right or wrong. Left-handedness, for example, is not a case of being right or wrong, rather it simply means that you share a trait with about 10% of the population.

At the same time, while being sensitive to the challenges faced by those fitting outside the 'norm', we should not be surprised that an abnormal desire or activity can also, along with normal desires and actions, be at variance with God's Law. God created all things good. But with sin the hierarchy of goods became disordered including our passions. They became inordinate. And we became incompetent in deciding upon good and evil.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the significance of sharing the peace?

"The peace which enables people to live in unity and in the spirit of mutual forgiveness comes only from Christ whose word has been proclaimed. ... The peace is a sign that those who partic-

ipate in it open themselves to the healing and reconciling power of God's love and offer themselves to be agents of that love in the world. ... The personal exchange of the peace should be as unpatterned as possible, but its meaning and significance should be

kept clear. It is not the occasion merely for conviviality. The choice of gesture, whether a handshake, holding hands, or an embrace, should be left to the persons themselves." (from "Manual on the Liturgy" companion to the LBW, from Augsburg Pub.)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 7/16
5:30pm Ladies Night Out

Friday, 7/19
7am Men's Breakfast at McDonald's

Sunday, 7/21 9th Sun after Pentecost
9am Divine Service w Communion
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
10:30am High School Youth



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

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

THIS AND THAT...

The **Ladies Night Out** in July is for Tuesday, July 16, 5:30pm at Su Casa's in Holmen. Please RSVP to Mary Bartos so enough seats can be reserved (608) 385-5660.

Pastor Tim would like to meet with our **High School Youth** and their parents after the Divine Service on Sunday, July 21.

Don't forget the list in the kitchen for helping out twice

a month with the **Holmen Area Community Center's Senior Meal**.

Don't forget non-perishable **Food Donations** for the Food Pantry! All cleaning supplies are in high demand at the moment.

Heide Traver and Lee Fehr will be cleaning the church the week of July 21. At present we have no one signed up for the week of August 18.

The July **Designated Benevolence** is for **St. Clare's Health Mission** in La Crosse.

God's Word is the plumb line to measure our lives against, not the whims and fancies of the age or our own sense of right or wrong. When our lives are learning out of plumb we are called to repentance by our merciful Father who loves us, promises to forgive us, and will empower us in our struggle against sin.

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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

July 15..... Tim Betlach
 Aug 10..... Carrie Cunningham
 Aug 12..... Dawson Staff
 Aug 13..... Jessica Schoonover

Anniversaries

July 3..... M&J Repaal
 Aug 12..... R&B Kuehn

Who said Airline Ground Crews lack a sense of humor? (*the following taken from Pilot's gripe sheet and the Maintenance Engineer signing off on it*)

Pilot: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.
Maintenance Engineer: Almost replaced left inside main tire.

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.

M: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit.
M: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Dead bugs on windshield.
M: Live bugs on back-order.

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200 feet per

minute descent.

M: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.
M: Evidence removed.

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.
M: DME volume set to more believable level.

- more to come, enjoy flying...

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

7/21 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Heather Roll
Crucifer: Regan Cunningham
Acolyte: Elliott Cunningham
Ushers: Cole Warner
Counters: Jarrod R/Tom R
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Connie M/Leslie D
Livestreamer: Jed Roll

Acolyte: Chase Repaal
Ushers: Tim Betlach
Counters: Jeremy S/David B
Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Paula Betlach
Livestreamer: Tim Betlach

8/4 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Brad Benrud
Crucifer: Benjamin Roll
Acolyte: Jed Roll
Ushers: David Bjornstad
Counters: Dan M/Tim B
Comm Asst: Mike Meunier

Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: Jed Roll

8/11 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Tom Rislow
Reader: Paula Betlach
Crucifer: Elliott Cunningham
Acolyte: Regan Cunningham
Ushers: Jeremy Schoonover
Counters: Connie M/Ron K
Comm Asst: Tim Betlach
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: Tim Betlach

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