

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 24, 2024

#### A WORD FROM PT

This week I will continue in the same vein as recent weeks which has been the neglected topic of ‘Original Sin’. When we pay attention to this doctrine and are informed by it, we will better understand some of our practices.

For starters we will have a better sense for why some Christian Communion, including the Lutheran Church, practice Infant Baptism. It is not because we think a one-month-old has willfully defied God’s commandments and sinned. Although it is highly likely an infant has not volitionally committed a sin, it is only a question of time before he will do so.

We need to ask ourselves,

are we sinners because we have sinned? Or do we sin because we are from birth sinners? It is because we believe that we were “brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did [our] mother conceive [us]” (Ps 51:5), that we understand ourselves as sinners from our conception, even before we sin in thought, word, or deed. The whole human race needs to be covered by the blood of Jesus in order to be cleansed from the disease and stain of sin.

Paying attention to the doctrine of ‘Original Sin’ will also help us to appreciate why each week in the Divine Service we begin with the Order of Confession and Absolution. We are to

understand that in this life we will always be battling temptation. And we repeatedly fall short of loving God with our whole being and loving our neighbor as ourselves. As we are taught in 1 John 1:8 “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

With this doctrine we will appreciate why mention of God’s *mercy* is so frequent in Scripture along with the supplicant pleading for God’s mercy. We will learn why our salvation depends on grace, and why even the faith to receive God’s grace is itself a gift! If salvation depended on us, we would be sunk.

#### SINCE YOU ASKED...

##### **What is an Alb? And why does our Pastor wear one?**

Alb (from the Latin “white”): a white ankle-length vestment with sleeves, often gathered at the waist with a cinch, worn by all ranks of minis-

ters, ordained and unordained. The classical tunic became a specific church vestment about the fifth century. One of the functions of an ordained minister in our tradition is for that person to represent Christ to the people. Christ is pictured in the Book of

Revelation with a white robe. The white robe is also a symbol of his righteousness. For this reason, the alb is a proper covering for the presiding minister with the function of representing Christ to the people. *(from “Manual on the Liturgy” companion to the LBW, from Augsburg Pub.)*

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Thursday, 7/25**  
9:30am Prayer Gathering

**Friday, 7/26**  
7am Men’s Breakfast at McDonald’s

**Saturday, 7/27**  
9:00am Elders’ Meeting

**Sunday, 7/28 10<sup>th</sup> Sun after Pentecost**  
9am Divine Service w Communion  
10:15am Coffee Fellowship



**Making  
Disciples  
for Life**

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

## THIS AND THAT...

Part of the problem with listening to God's voice is that we are too busy and focused on listening to other voices. It takes time and effort to hear His voice. And hopefully we know that Scripture is a key way in which God speaks.

The church needs cleaners for the week of September 22, and December 22. Please look at the **Church Cleaning Schedule** in the kitchen and sign up to cover one of those dates. Thanks!

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.

Jackie Repaal is signed up to clean the church the week of August 18. Presently, no one

is signed up for the week of September 22.

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

A good time for us to daily confess our sins to God is at the end of the day before we sleep. Hopefully we start each to day committing our way and service to the Lord. And at day's end we can take inventory and ask His forgiveness in falling short.

# 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

Aug 10..... Carrie Cunningham  
 Aug 12..... Dawson Staff  
 Aug 13..... Jessica Schoonover

#### Anniversaries

Aug 12..... R&B Kuehn

**Airplane Maintenance Humor?** (the following taken from Pilot's gripe sheet and the Maintenance Engineer signing off on it) - continued from last week...

**Pilot:** Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.  
**Maintenance Engineer:** That's what they're for.

**P:** IFF inoperable.  
**M:** IFF always inoperable in OFF mode.

**P:** Suspected crack in windshield.  
**M:** Suspect you're right.

**P:** Number 3 engine missing.  
**M:** Engine found on right wing after brief search.

**P:** Aircraft handles funny.  
**M:** Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.

**P:** Targe radar hums.

**M:** Reprogrammed target radar with lyrics.

**P:** Mouse in cockpit.  
**M:** Cat installed.

**P:** Noise coming from under instrument panel. Sounds like a midget pounding on something with a hammer.  
**M:** Took hammer away from midget.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

**7/28** 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Asst Minister:** Karri Bjornstad

**Reader:** Mike Meunier

**Crucifer:** Dawson Staff

**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** 11<sup>th</sup> 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:** Bev Kuehn

**Livestreamer:** Jed Roll

**8/11** 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Asst Minister:** Tom Rislow

**Reader:** Jarrod Roll

**Crucifer:** Elliott Cunningham

**Acolyte:** Regan Cunningham

**Ushers:** Jeremy Schoonover

**Counters:** Connie M/Ron K

**Comm Asst:** Jarrod Roll

**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Fellowship:** tbd

**Livestreamer:** Jarrod Roll

**8/18** 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Asst Minister:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Reader:** Craig Bartos

**Crucifer:** Stella Roll

**Acolyte:** Asher Roll

**Ushers:** Mary Bartos

**Counters:** Jarrod R/Naomi R

**Comm Asst:** Jarrod Roll

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow

**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