

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 7, 2024

A WORD FROM PT

Two Sundays ago, I asked the gathered congregation three rhetorical questions before the start of the Divine Service. I asked that the questions be carefully listened to and pondered. I will repeat them in this column also, and I ask that you contemplate them.

The first question was this: Do you believe that the Bible is the Word of God, that it is God's voice speaking to us? Most of us will quickly answer this in the affirmative. After all, we belong to a communion and confession of faith that believes this to be true. But do we really sense the gravity in this belief?

The second question was: Believing that Scripture is

the Word of God, His voice speaking to us, do we recognize that this voice amidst the cacophony of the myriads of voices clamoring for our attention is more important than all the rest?

And the third and final question I posed was: Are you listening and meditating on this voice each and every day, and throughout the day?

Baptized believers are people of the Word! Did you know there is regrettably such a thing as 'baptized unbelievers'? Baptized believers learn to delight in God's Word, and in the words of the Psalmist "on His law [they] meditate day and night" (Ps 1:2). They in the words of Joshua 1:8:

"meditate on it day and night, so that [they] may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

In New Testament terms we are to "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Co 3:16).

The voice we give priority to will eventually form us. It will fill our hearts and overflow from our lips. An effective witness will be dependent on our being held captive to the Word of God.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

Why do we celebrate Holy Communion nearly every Sunday?

The celebration of the meal we call Holy Communion has consistently been the chief act of Christian worship since the age of the Apostles. The Lutheran

Reformation did not break with this tradition of 1,500 years. In fact the Augsburg Confession (our principal statement of faith) declares Holy Communion to be the chief act of worship for Lutherans on Sundays and festivals (Art. 26). *(from "Manual on the Liturgy" companion to the LBW,*

from Augsburg Pub.)

You might think of Holy Communion as spiritual bread and drink for our journey (pilgrimage), for our Lord's Body and Blood is true nutrition indeed!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, 8/8

10am Kitchen help at HACC
11am Driver help at HACC
6pm Church Council Meeting

Friday, 8/9

7am Men's Breakfast at McDonald's

Saturday, 8/10

4pm PT at Emmanuel Lutheran

Sunday, 8/11 12th 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...

The Church Council next meets Thursday, August 8 at 6pm.

The congregation is invited to the **Wedding Service for Heide Traver and Lee Fehr**, Saturday, August 17 at 11am. The following day there will be a cake reception following the Divine Service.

The church needs cleaners for the week of December 22. Please look at the **Church Cleaning Schedule** in the

kitchen and sign up to cover that date. 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. The Magnusons are signed up for the week of September 22.

The August **Designated Benevolence** is for **Faith Lutheran's Campus Ministry** in La Crosse.

The more at home we are in God's Word the more knowledgeable and comfortable we will be in sharing the Gospel with others. God's Word has the power to transform our lives.

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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

Aug 10..... Carrie Cunningham
Aug 12..... Dawson Staff
Aug 13..... Jessica Schoonover
Aug 25..... Pam Benrud
Aug 29..... Jeremy Schoonover

Anniversaries

Aug 12..... R&B Kuehn
Aug 19..... M&C Meunier
Aug 28..... B&A Fisher

First Funeral

The young Vicar was given an opportunity to preside at his first funeral service. The service was a graveside service held at a cemetery way out in the country, and the deceased was the first to be laid to rest there.

Being unfamiliar with the backwoods area the Vicar became lost. Refusing to stop and ask for directions, he kept driving around hoping to bump into the new cemetery. Finally, at noon and an hour late the

Vicar saw the backhoe and the crew who were eating lunch. The hearse was nowhere in sight.

Apologizing for his tardiness the Vicar stepped to the side of the open grave, where he saw the vault lid already in place. He assured the workers that he would not hold them long, but saying a few words was the proper thing to do. The workers gathered around, still eating their lunch. The Vicar poured out his heart and soul.

As the young aspiring Pastor

preached the workers began to say "Amen," "Praise the Lord," and "Glory!" The Vicar preached and preached, from Genesis all the way to Revelation.

The Vicar finally closed the lengthy service with a prayer and walked to his car.

As he opened the door he overheard one of the workers saying to another, "I ain't never seen anything like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

8/11 12th 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: Cindy Molstad

Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

8/18 13th 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

8/25 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Cole Warner

Reader: Cole Warner

Crucifer: Dawson Staff

Acolyte: Chase Repaal

Ushers: Mary Bartos

Counters: Cole W/Tom R

Comm Asst: Tom Rislow

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Cole Warner

9/1 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Naomi Rislow

Reader: Dan Molstad

Crucifer: Benjamin Roll

Acolyte: Asher Roll

Ushers: Dan Molstad

Counters: Jarrod R/Naomi R

Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Jarrod 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