

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 28, 2024

A WORD FROM PT

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa 55:8-9).

I can not emphasize enough that God’s Word is counter-intuitive! It cuts against the grain. It is contrary to the wisdom of the world. It does not concur with fallen man’s understanding and sense of things.

In order to trust God’s Word, we need Divine help. This starts with God’s grace which comes to us in His Word. Christ purchased our redemption through His sacrificial death on the Cross. This gift of salvation

involving the forgiveness of sin is benefited by repentant sinners who look to Jesus. That is to say, by all who place their trust in Him. And the faith to receive God’s grace is also a gift enabled by the Holy Spirit conferred upon us in our baptism.

Apart from God’s grace, our lives are shaped and formed by the world. Worldly thinking is the default setting for us, and little wonder with the incessant voices and influences of the world bombarding us day and night.

This is why the Apostle Paul writes *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind” (Rom 12:2)*... Conformity comes natural. Transformation takes realignment and effort. In fact,

such renewal is largely predicated on being shaped by Holy Scripture. I speak of its teachings, commandments, and promises. Not only is familiarity with the Bible necessary, but also meditation and the application of its doctrines is involved. This is how we began to be shaped in God’s ways.

When we begin to understand the need for (trans) formation, we will be a lot more picky about what best lends itself to such formation. Good liturgy, good hymnody, good company, Bible study, daily devotion, good reading, fortification from the sacraments, the list goes on. But remember, God’s thoughts and ways are counterintuitive.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the purpose of the “Silence for reflection and self-examination” in the Brief Order For Confession and Forgiveness?

“The silence for self-examination and reflection should be an extended si-

lence to enable personal application of the general phrases of the prayer that follows. Silence of one or two minutes is not too long” (Manual on the Liturgy – LBW). This is a helpful time to reflect back on our lives over the past week and ask ourselves whether we

have been disobedient or unfaithful, bad-tempered or dishonest, or whether we have hurt anyone by word or deed. By allowing for this period of reflection we are able to personalize what would otherwise remain quite general.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Friday, 8/30**
7am Men’s Breakfast at McDonald’s
- Sunday, 9/1** 15th Sun after Pentecost
9am Divine Service w Communion
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
- Friday, 9/6**
7am Men’s Breakfast at McDonald’s
- Sunday, 9/8** 16th Sun after Pentecost
9am Divine Service of the Word
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
- Tuesday, 9/10**
9am Winkel at Immanuel in Warrens



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

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

THIS AND THAT...

Looking ahead, the next **Ladies Night Out** is Tuesday 5:30pm, September 17 at the home of Marilyn Magnuson.

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** will continue to meet on Fridays at 7am at the McDonald's restaurant off of County OT through the rest of September.

Don't forget the list in the kitchen for helping out twice a month with the **Holmen Area Community Cen-**

ter's Senior Meal.

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

Jim and Marilyn Magnuson are signed up to clean the church the week of September 22. Cole and Anne Warner are signed up for the week of October 20.

The September Designated

Benevolence is for New Horizons in La Crosse.

There are many ways to get into Scripture and start to allow God's Word to shape you, but when it comes to meditating on Holy Writ don't assume this is only a silent endeavor. It helps to share what you are learning with someone else, and to allow their learning to inform you. That is why being a part of a Bible Study is so helpful. Turn to your pastor to help guide you here!

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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

Aug 25..... Pam Benrud
 Aug 29..... Jeremy Schoonover
 Sept 2..... Paula Betlach
 Sept 2..... Karri Bjornstad
 Sept 6..... Bev Kuehn
 Sept 6..... Anne Warner
 Sept 9..... Lee Fehr

Anniversaries

Aug 24..... D&C Schoonover
 Aug 28..... B&A Fisher
 Sept 8..... J&D Uly

Christian One Liners

Peace starts with a smile.

I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?

Be ye fishers of men. You catch'em - He'll clean'em.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than to live one.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain

anonymous.

Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

Forbidden fruit creates many jams.

God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called.

God grades on the cross, not on the curve.

God loves everyone, but probably prefers "fruits of the Spirit" over "religious nuts!"

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

He who angers you, controls you!

If God is your Co-pilot, swap seats!

Don't give God instructions, just report for duty.

The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

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: Jackie Repaal
Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

9/8 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Jeremy Schoonover
Crucifer: Elliott Cunningham

Acolyte:

Regan Cunningham
Ushers: Cole Warner
Counters: Jeremy S/Ron K
Comm Asst: not needed
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Jessica Schoonover
Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

9/15 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Jessica Schoonover
Crucifer: Dawson Staff
Acolyte: Chase Repaal
Ushers: Jeremy Schoonover
Counters: Dan M/Dave B
Comm Asst: Mike Meunier

Accompanist:

Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Leslie Duesenberg
Livestreamer: Cole Warner

9/22 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad
Reader: Nikki Hanson
Crucifer: Stella Roll
Acolyte: Jed Roll
Ushers: David Bjornstad
Counters: Connie M/Tom R
Comm Asst: Tom Rislow
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: Jed Roll

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