

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

A WORD FROM PT

On a good day I realize and will admit that I am getting older. Sometimes my body helps me to be reminded. And I am realizing that there are benefits to growing older. The inevitability of going *the way of all the earth* sets in. Oddly, that can make the present moment more precious. Likewise, it can help set the mind and heart on the things that really matter.

The Psalmist intones, “So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom” (Ps 90:12). Against any notion of eternity, our lives, even if they are 90, 100, or more, are a drop in the bucket. Our lives in this age pass so quickly, as many of us dis-

cover as we grow older.

If we don’t realize that our lives in this age are transitory, we will not fare well spiritually. We will fail to understand what we should be about in this age. We will live like there is no tomorrow, and that this world’s entertainments and treasures are all there is. “Reach for all the gusto, for you only go around once in life...”

If, on the other hand, we understand our lives in this age as preparatory and meant for service, the way we go about things will be markedly different. Couple that with an understanding that we belong to our Creator, and that along with the dignity of being fashioned in

His image, we have been entrusted with the management of His creation. We are to represent Him to others, and we are to tend and care for His world.

And when we understand our complicity in the corruption and decay of the world He created good, we will have a greater appreciation for His redemptive work, and His joy and willingness to employ forgiven sinners in this rescue and restoration project. In fact, nothing will be more important! And nothing more rewarding. For, among other things, it will transcend this age.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

Do Lutherans Promote Private Confession?

“Confession has not been abolished by the preachers on our side. ... The people are carefully instructed concerning the consolation of the Word of absolution (forgiveness) so that they

may esteem it as a great and precious thing. It is not the voice of the man who speaks it, but it is the Word of God, who forgives sin, for it is spoken in God’s stead and by God’s command. ...it is necessary for terrified consciences” (*Augsburg Confession, XXV*).

Private confession has two parts: First that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the Pastor as from God himself.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 9/17

5:30pm Ladies’ Night Out at Magnusons

Wednesday, 9/18

6:30pm Mass Choir Rehearsal at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Ch

Thursday, 9/19

9am Prayer Gathering

Friday, 9/20

7am Men’s Breakfast at McDonald’s

Sunday, 9/22 18th Su after Pentecost

8am Choir Practice

9am Divine Service with Communion

10:15am Coffee Fellowship/Youth

10:45am Adult Education

Wednesday, 9/25

6:30pm Every One His Witness Study



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

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

THIS AND THAT...

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

There will be a **Mass Choir Rehearsal** Wednesday, 6:30pm, at Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church in preparation for the November 3 All Saints' Choir Festival.

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.

Jeremy Schoonover we lead a six session class utilizing LCMS material entitled: **Every One His Witness**. The sessions will be at 6:30pm on Wednesdays and will get started on September 25.

Don't forget non-perishable **Food Donations** for the Food Pantry!

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.

Is it morose to say "Live each day as if it were the last?" At least make each day count. Or, recognize each day as an undeserved gift from God. Live accordingly. Rejoice and be glad in it.

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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

Sept 6 Bev Kuehn
 Sept 6 Anne Warner
 Sept 9 Lee Fehr
 Sept 15..... Butch Fischer
 Oct 1..... Wendell Halderson

Anniversaries

Sept 8 J&D Uy
 Sept 18..... J&H Roll
 Oct 6..... B&P Benrud
 Oct 7..... D&K Bjornstad

A Paraprosdokian

(figure of speech in which the latter part of the sentence is unexpected)

Women spend more time wondering what men are thinking than men spend thinking.

He who laughs last thinks slowest.

Is it wrong that only one company makes the game Monopoly?

Women sometimes make

fools of men, but most guys are the do-it-yourself type.

I was going to give him a nasty look, but he already had one.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

I was going to wear my camouflage shirt today, but I couldn't find it.

If at first you do not succeed, skydiving is not for you.

Sometimes I wake up grumpy; other times I let her sleep.

If tomatoes are technically a fruit, is ketchup a smoothie?

Money is the root of all wealth.

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

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: Cyndi M/Karri B

Livestreamer: Jed Roll

9/29 St. Michael and All Angels

Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover

Reader: Karri Bjornstad

Crucifer: Elliott Cunningham

Acolyte: Regan Cunningham

Ushers: Dan Molstad

Counters: Jarrod R/Naomi R

Comm Asst: Tim Betlach

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: Connie M/Anne W

Livestreamer: Tim Betlach

10/6 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Cole Warner

Reader: Naomi Rislow

Crucifer: Stella Roll

Acolyte: Benjamin Roll

Ushers: Mary Bartos

Counters: Cole W/Tim B

Comm Asst: Tom Rislow

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: the Magnusons

Livestreamer: Cole Warner

10/13 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg

Reader: Connie Meunier

Crucifer: Asher Roll

Acolyte: Dawson Staff

Ushers: Paula Betlach

Counters: Jeremy S/Jackie R

Comm Asst: Mike Meunier

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: the Betlachs

Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church
 Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg, STS
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 (608) 668-1587

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

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ADDRESS FROM CONGREGATION PRESIDENT...

UPDATE from the church COUNCIL

It has been a couple of months since we made the decision not to pursue purchasing property at this time, and we wanted you to know what has been happening since then.

We reached out to the 'large church' LCMS for guidance. As a result we have decided to go through a process called the Congregational Compass.

This will include 3 parts:

1st: the collecting of demographics regarding 'our neighbors' – the people living between here and Trempealeau and here and Galesville. (update... We

already have this data thanks to the work of the school committee, and are beginning to review it.)

2nd: an internal assessment – an on-line survey- consisting of 95 questions designed to objectively answer the question "where are we... really?". All members and anyone else involved with our church will be asked to complete this. We have decided to do this in November, and more will be shared about this as the date gets nearer.

3rd: The WHY Discovery process – where a facilitator will come to our church on a Saturday morning to meet with all of us together – not just the council – for a 4-hour session to share stories and discuss

why we exist as Gift of Grace church, and what the church has meant to us personally, and how Gift of Grace has impacted our separate walks with the Lord. **We have scheduled this to take place on Saturday morning, January 18, 2025. Please put this date on your calendar for January of 2025.

Please pray that this process proves to be helpful and encouraging toward Gift of Grace's future planning as we support one another in our collective witness for the Lord.

Sincerely,

Tom Rislow, interim council President

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