

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 9, 2025

#### A WORD FROM PT

Continuing last week's discussion of the Lutheran Reformers' retention of the Mass and the important furnishings in liturgical worship, this week we will focus on the Baptismal Font. Last week I wrote of the connection the font, pulpit, and altar had with the Word of God. So, this week we will contemplate the correlation with the font.

Perhaps the clearest connection is the passage from Ephesians 5:26 where the Apostle Paul writes "[Christ sanctified the church], having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word." Paul is describing how Christ, the bridegroom, is able to present the church, His bride, to Himself "in splendor, with-

out spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish."

When the Apostle Peter writes that baptism saves us (1 Peter 3:21) he understands the rite of baptism to be instrumental in delivering the gift of salvation Christ won for us in His death on the cross. Baptism is one of the ways chosen by Christ to deliver His gift to us. The other ways include the preaching of the Gospel, the absolution pronounced in confession, and Holy Communion. All these ways of bringing His gift to us are vitally connected with and are expressions of God's Word!

Jesus submitted to the rite of baptism, in His words,

"to fulfill all righteousness."

He was obedient in everything required of us by God. When He spoke to the Pharisee, Nicodemus, He spoke of the necessity of being born of water and the Spirit in order to enter the kingdom of God (John 3:5). And during His resurrection appearance over the course of 40 days, Jesus commanded the Apostles to make disciples by baptizing and catechizing (Matthew 28:19-20). He also promised "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved (Mark 16:16).

Baptism is the beginning of a way of life involving daily repentance. By faith we clutch the promise given us in baptism. How fitting that liturgical worship starts at the font!

#### SINCE YOU ASKED...

##### What are we observing on "The Sunday of the Passion"?

To many this day is known simply as Palm Sunday. And indeed, the prelude to Jesus' final week begins with his triumphal entry into Jerusalem which involved a procession of Palms and shouts of joy. And yet, Jesus knows full

well what lies ahead. He will be wounded and killed. He knows that blood will be spilled and flow from His head, hands, feet, and side. He knows his death on the cross will bring about a great victory over sin, death, and the devil. The horror of being severely wounded lies ahead, and yet he will not be deterred. It is for this purpose

that He has come into this world.

In remembering his joyful and triumphant entry, we realize the irony of crowds that one week hail Him as King, and the next week cry "Crucify Him!" Palm Sunday is the prelude to the Cross in which all the events of the rest of the week participate.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 4/8**  
9am Winkel at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Warrens
- Wednesday, 4/9**  
6pm Midweek Soup then Service
- Thursday, 4/10**  
6pm Church Council
- Friday, 4/11**  
7am Men's Breakfast at McDonalds
- Sunday, 4/13** Sunday of the Passion  
8am Choir Practice  
9am Divine Service with Communion  
10:15am Coffee Fellowship  
10:45am Adult Bible Study
- Thursday, 4/17** Maundy Thursday  
7pm Holy (Maundy) Thursday Service
- Friday, 4/18** Good Friday  
7pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service



**Making Disciples for Life**

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

## PERSONAL STORIES ON STEWARDSHIP

### Where's Our Treasure?

Someone said if we showed others our checkbook register, they would know what our treasure is; they would know what we value; they would know what we deem as important. I grew up on a small dairy farm. We never went 'wanting' but we didn't have a lot. My mom worked as a school teacher in one of Minnesota's poorest school districts. My dad was a farmer. We had a few cows, a few pigs, and a few chickens. We had a huge garden. When our jeans would get a hole, mom would sew a patch on them. When the patch wore through, she would sew another patch on that patch. We never owned new vehicles. We went to church every Sunday, and mom and dad were both active members. One day at home, (and this was probably around the late 1970's), when I was in the house, I saw dad's checkbook laying there and I picked it up in my

hand. I was curious. What did they give to church? What I saw shocked me. It was \$80. It wasn't \$80 per month, but \$80 every Sunday. Now I don't know what mom and dad's meager combined income was in those days, but it was obvious to me in that moment where their treasure was. And when there was building campaigns over the years, they gave generously to those things as well. (scripture that was helpful included Haggai 1:4...Matthew 6:21)

- Anonymous

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*This is the fifth of five contributions received. They are from our congregation, and we would welcome any of your personal story contributions.*

*Email your contributions to Pastor Tim at stmaximos@aol.com. It is your choice whether you wish to remain anonymous, or have your identity revealed.*

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### Bible Verses

**Haggai 1:3-6** Then the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.

**Matthew 6:19-21** "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES...

This Wednesday will be the last of our Lenten Midweek Services. It is not too late, even if joining for the first time, to gather at 6pm on April 9 for a **Soup Supper**.

Durning the meal Jeremy Schoonover will continue teaching on the Divine Service.

Then at 7pm, Pastor Tim will lead the congregation in a brief service involving a teaching and prayer.

The teaching for Wednesday is entitled "Called to Faith and Sanctified". It is a teaching on the 3rd Article of the Creed.

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Then starting with the **Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday** on April 13, Holy Week commences. The Divine Service will include a special rite of Procession with Palm Branches to the Hymn "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" and then the rest of the liturgy will focus on Jesus' Passion and Death.

For Holy (Maundy) Thursday we will gather at 7pm on April 17. The intentional austere and simplified service will begin immediately with the Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution. This is followed by the Service of the Word, then the Service of the Sacrament, and then fin-

ishes with the Stripping of the Altar as Psalm 22 is chanted. Worshipers then depart in silence.

The Good Friday Tenebrae likewise involves a simplified liturgy, and no Communion. We will gather at 7pm. Isaiah 53 is read at the beginning, and then the sermon which is followed with a meditation of the Seven Last Words from the Cross. This service has a dramatic end in darkness and with departing in silence.

The alleluias return for Divine Service on Easter Sunday, April 20, 9am, as we celebrate the Feast Day of the Resurrection of Our Lord.

## THIS AND THAT...

The last **Lenten Midweek Services** is this Wednesday, beginning with a Soup Supper at 6pm, and then followed with a 20-30 minute Worship Service at 7pm.

The Theme for our Midweek Services is **'Gifts of God: Creation, Redemption, and Sanctification'**: reflections on the Apostles' Creed

Next Sunday is the start of **Holy Week** with the **Sunday of the Passion** includ-

ing the traditional Procession with Palm Branches.

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

Mary Bartos and Jackie Repaal will clean the church the week of April 13. The Fehrs are signed up for the week of May 18.

The April **Designated Benevolence** is for **Camperships** for any of our youth

attending a Bible Camp or Conference.

We locate our baptismal font in the narthex. Okay, pretend we have a narthex... It is appropriate to be near the entrance of the nave and before the chancel. As you arrive for the Divine Service it is acceptable and salutary to dip your fingers into the water and then trace the sign of the cross on your forehead. By this gesture you are reminded of your baptism - your entry into the Body of Christ.

# 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

April 1 ..... Jarrod Roll  
 April 9 ..... Leslie Duesenberg  
 April 23 ..... Craig Bartos  
 April 23 ..... Pr Tim  
 April 23 ..... Heide Fehr  
 April 25 ..... David Bjornstad

#### Anniversaries

April 27 .... T & P Betlach  
 May 3 ..... J & J Schoonover  
 May 6 ..... T & L Duesenberg  
 May 7 ..... T & N Rislow

### Bulletin Announcements

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

The Sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks On Water." The Sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday. Come watch us kill Christ the

King.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of the worthless stuff around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

The Peacemaking Meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "Hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off, let the Church help.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

**4/13** Sunday of the Passion  
**Asst Minister:** Mike Meunier  
**Reader:** Mike Meunier  
**Crucifer:** Stella Roll  
**Acolyte:** Asher Roll  
**Ushers:** Mary Bartos  
**Counters:** Connie M/Dan M  
**Comm Asst:** Mike Meunier  
**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg  
**Fellowship:** Paula Betlach  
**Livestreamer:** Jeremy Schoonover

**4/17** Maundy Thursday  
**Asst Minister:** Cole Warner  
**Reader:** Heather Roll  
**Crucifer:** Benjamin Roll

**Acolyte:** Dawson Staff  
**Ushers:** Cole Warner  
**Counters:** not needed  
**Comm Asst:** Jarrod Roll  
**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow  
**Fellowship:** not needed  
**Livestreamer:** Jarrod Roll

**4/18** Good Friday  
**Asst Minister:** Jeremy Schoonover  
**Reader:** Jarrod Roll  
**Crucifer:** not needed  
**Acolyte:** not needed  
**Ushers:** Dan Molstad  
**Counters:** not needed  
**Comm Asst:** not needed

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow  
**Fellowship:** not needed  
**Livestreamer:** Jeremy Schoonover

**4/20** Easter Sunday  
**Asst Minister:** Naomi Rislow  
**Reader:** Cole Warner  
**Crucifer:** Elliott Cunningham  
**Acolyte:** Regan Cunningham  
**Ushers:** Jarrod Roll  
**Counters:** Jarrod R/Tom R  
**Comm Asst:** Jeremy Schoonover  
**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg  
**Fellowship:** not needed  
**Livestreamer:** Jeremy Schoonover

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