

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 23, 2025

A WORD FROM PT

In recent weeks we have discussed the Font and the Pulpit. This week I wish to address the Altar. But before I do, please consider the movement that takes place in our liturgical worship in the Divine Service.

With our placement of the Font in the Narthex, at the entry of the worship area, we enter this space for the worshipping community reminded of our initiation and incorporation into the Body of Christ by way of Baptism. It is usually near the Font that we choose to make use of Confession and Absolution. Then the procession begins.

After the procession has moved before the altar, a reminder of the heavenly

altar and the New Jerusalem, and when everyone is situated we continue with the Service of the Word. The focus here is on the Pulpit from which our ears are filled with God's Word in the reading of Scripture and the preaching of the Gospel.

The next transition is toward the Altar with the Service of the Sacrament. As the altar reminds us of the once for all sacrifice that atones for our sin, we are gifted with the chance to participate in the benefits of that sacrifice. Christ was bodily hung and tortured on the wood of the cross. He shed His blood, spending His life, to wash away our sins. And the benefits of

that single sacrifice come to us in the meal our Lord instituted.

Of the consecrated bread Jesus says, "Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you." And of the consecrated cup Jesus says, "Drink of it all of you, this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." So nourished and fortified we are able to proclaim His life-giving death until He comes again.

The final movement in our worship is departing with our worship (service) out the door and into the community (world) as Christ's witnesses in our vocations...

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 4/22
6pm Elders Meeting

Friday, 4/25
7am Men's Breakfast at McDonald's

Sunday, 4/27 2nd Sunday of Easter
8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service of the Word
10:15pm Coffee Fellowship

Monday, 4/28
6:30pm Garden Design Workshop at
Coulee Life Church

Friday, 5/2
7am Men's Breakfast at McDonald's
10am Worship at Onalaska Care
Center

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!



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

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

THIS AND THAT...

If the Season for **Fasting** seemed long, the 40 days of Lent are less than the **Season of Easter**. Easter involves 50 days of **Feasting**. And so it goes with the rhythm of faith in this life, fasting and feasting.

Marilyn Magnuson is holding a **Garden Design Workshop** on Monday, April 28, 6:30pm at Coulee Life Church on Sand Lake Road. Email Marilyn at gift-

ofgracelc@gmail.com to register for the workshop.

The **Elders Meeting** for the month of April will be on Tuesday evening, 6pm, April 22.

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

The Fehrs will clean the church the week of May 18. The Magnusons are signed up

for the week of June 15.

The April **Designated Benevolence** is for **Camperships** for any of our youth attending a Bible Camp or Conference.

It should not surprise us that the Incarnate Son of God should continue to come to us in tangible ways - through voice, water, bread, wine, touch, and the presence of others. The promise comes to us in ways we can grab hold of...

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 23..... Craig Bartos
April 23..... Pr Tim
April 23..... Heide Fehr
April 25..... David Bjornstad
May 2 Connie Meunier
May 10..... Dan Molstad

Anniversaries

April 27..... T & P Betlach
May 3 J & J Schoonover
May 6 T & L Duesenberg
May 7 T & N Rislow
May 10..... D & C Molstad

Bulletin Announcements

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an

evening of fine dining, super entertainment, and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm. Prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

4/27 Second Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad
Reader: Connie Meunier
Crucifer: Ben Roll
Acolyte: Stella Roll
Ushers: Dan Molstad
Counters: Connie M/Tim B
Comm Asst: not needed
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Cyndi Molstad
Livestreamer: Tim Betlach

5/4 Third Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad
Reader: Nikki Hanson
Crucifer: Regan Cunningham

Acolyte: Chase Repaal
Ushers: David Bjornstad
Counters: Naomi R/Dan M
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: Cole Warner

5/11 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: Tom Rislow
Reader: Cole Warner
Crucifer: Dawson Staff
Acolyte: Elliott Cunningham
Ushers: Jeremy Schoonover
Counters: Jeremy S/Jackie R
Comm Asst: Mike Meunier

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Leslie Duesenberg
Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

5/18 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: Cole Warner
Reader: Jeremy Schoonover
Crucifer: Regan Cunningham
Acolyte: Chase Repaal
Ushers: Jarrod Roll
Counters: Jarrod R/David B
Comm Asst: Tom Rislow
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
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