

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 30, 2025

A WORD FROM PT

Some Church bodies emphasize baptism as being more central than do others. Confessional Lutherans clearly fit in the camp that makes a big deal over baptism.

Those who differ with this emphasis often do so with several objections. They worry about putting too much attention on an outward act. They charge that baptism has become a substitute for faith. And they argue that it is Christ's death on the Cross, and not baptism, that saves us.

These objections can be answered quickly. First, Christ's death on the Cross is an outward act, external to us. We certainly are not saved by any inward act we

do! Second, it is with faith that we beneficially receive the gift of salvation. Baptism is simply a God chosen way of delivering the gift to us. And third, baptism, just as with the preaching of the Gospel, saves not as a substitute for Christ's death, but as an instrument of delivering the benefits of the Cross to us.

It is worthwhile to consider the Apostle Paul's words in Romans 6 as to the importance of baptism. The Apostle writes, "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death

like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Rom 6:4-5).

Jesus' parting farewell to the disciples in Matthew's Gospel include these words, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (28:19).

As Lutherans we need to be aware of the difference of saying "I was baptized", with "I am baptized"! To say the latter indicates ongoing repentant faith and walking in newness of life. God initiates the work of our salvation. He also enables our response with repentant faith.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is meant by the term "liturgy"? (from the Greek, "work of the people" or "public service"): more than a set form of service or one particular service, the liturgy is the whole body of texts and music used for the worship of God. The Lutheran Service Book is the

liturgy of LCMS, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and we call the Liturgical Service "The Divine Service" for the Lord serves us with forgiveness, in Word and Sacraments, in the liturgy.

Our Lutheran liturgy involves the participation of all who are gathered: clergy,

worship assistants, and laity. Worship is not a spectator sport. We have been gathered by God to receive from Him. And so, in reverence, we give thanks by offering praise and thanksgiving to our Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Liturgical worship helps us all

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Thursday, 5/1
7:30am Mayoral Prayer Breakfast

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

Sunday, 5/4 3rd Sunday of Easter
8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service with Communion
10:15pm Coffee Fellowship
10:45am Worship Team Meeting

Thursday, 5/8
6pm Church Council



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

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

THIS AND THAT...

The **Worship Team** will meet after the Divine Service and Coffee Fellowship, this Sunday, May 4, around 10:45am.

The **Church Council** meets next on Thursday, May 8, 6pm at Church. The Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador will be meeting with us that evening.

The next **Ladies Night Out** is on Tuesday, May 13,

5:30pm at Huck Finn's. Please RSVP to Paula Betlach at 608.769.3381 or thebetlachs@live.com.

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 May **Designated Be-**

nevolence is for **Lutheran Military Veterans**.

There will be an **Informational Meeting** after the Divine Service on May 18 concerning an educational ministry called **Lifewise**.

I heard it called *Walking Wet*, when by faith we live out the implications of our baptisms. Walking wet is ongoing repentance and living in newness of life as Christ's disciples, and as witnesses of God's love in Christ.

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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**

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

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10am. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the church would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self-Esteem Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

The 8th graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the basement

Friday, at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Pastor unveiled the church's new tithing campaign last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge, Up Yours."

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

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: Tom Rislow
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Karri Bjornstad
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

5/25 Sixth Sunday of Easter
Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Dan Molstad
Crucifer: Stella Roll
Acolyte: Asher Roll
Ushers: Dan Molstad
Counters: Cole W/Tom R
Comm Asst: Tim Betlach
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: Tim Betlach

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