

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 7, 2025

A WORD FROM PT

Some Sundays I am especially torn between two lectionary readings as to which one I will preach on. Last Sunday was a case in point. I chose to preach on the first reading which was the narrative of Saul's Conversion. But I was also drawn to the Gospel reading and the account of seven disciples who chose to go fishing after two consecutive Sundays of the Risen Christ appearing to them. This Grace Note address gives me the opportunity to comment on that reading.

I often quip with the reading from John 21 that when you don't know what to do the decision to go fishing sounds like a good idea to me. That is what Peter, and

six other disciples decided to do a couple of weeks after Christ's resurrection. But I must set the record straight. Despite my attempt at humor, fishing for them was not recreational. Instead, it was a job and means of making a living.

As you might imagine the disciples were in a state of uncertainty. For three years they had been led around by their master. Jesus called all the shots. Now what are they supposed to do? Sure, there were the occasional brief appearances of the Risen Christ. For this they had great joy. But during those brief encounters the Lord was seemingly taking His sweet time in laying down definitive directions.

Doesn't this always seem to be the case! His timing is not ours. Someone should mention 'patience' as an attribute required and honed for the life of a disciple!

One thing made clear by the end of 40 days of appearances by the Risen Lord was that His followers are not to go back to their former way of life. In their case, they are to continue being fishers of men, and not any longer of fish. In our case we may not need to leave our occupations, but we do need to leave our self-centered, self-directed, sinful past behind. We are to live for Christ in resurrected newness of life.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What do Lutherans believe is given in Holy Communion?

"We believe, teach, and confess that in the Holy Supper the body and blood of Christ are truly and essentially present and are truly distributed and received with the bread and wine. We believe, teach,

and confess that the words of the testament of Christ are to be understood in no other way than in their literal sense, and not as though the bread symbolized the absent body and the wine the absent blood of Christ, but that because of the sacramental union they are truly the body and blood of Christ" (*Formula of Concord, Epitome,*

Art. VII.)

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 10 that the bread is "a participation in the Lord's body." If the Lord's body were not truly present, the bread would perhaps be a participation in his spirit. But Paul says it is a participation in his body!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, 5/8
6pm Church Council

Friday, 5/9
7am Men's Breakfast at McDonald's
10am Worship at Onalaska Care Center

Sunday, 5/11 4th Sunday of Easter
8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service with Communion
10:15pm Coffee Fellowship
10:45am Adult Education

Tuesday, 5/13
5:30pm Ladies Night Out at Huck Finn's



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

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

THIS AND THAT...

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

Pastor Tim will be attending a **SWD Spring Theological Conference** right here in La Crosse May 12-14

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 Benevolence** is for **Lutheran**

Military Veterans.

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

God's grace is such that He first regards us as righteousness on account of Christ's righteousness, then He goes about making us holy, and then finally in the twinkling of an eye His work will be perfected in us when He returns.

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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**

May 2 Connie Meunier
May 10 Dan Molstad
May 14 Stella Roll

Anniversaries

May 3 J & J Schoonover
May 6 T & L Duesenberg
May 7 T & N Rislow
May 10 D & C Molstad
May 18 J & M Magnuson
May 23 C & M Bartos

The Water Closet

A little old English lady was looking for a room in Switzerland. She asked the local village schoolmaster to help her. A place that suited her was finally found, and the woman returned to London for her luggage. Then she remembered that she had not noticed a bathroom, or as she called it, a water closet. So she wrote to the schoolmaster. He was puzzled by the initials "W.C.," never dreaming that she was inquiring about a bathroom. He finally asked the parish priest, who decided that W.C. stood for Wesleyan Church. The schoolmaster then replied:

Dear Madam,

The W.C. is situated nine miles from the house in the center of a beautiful grove of trees. It is capable of holding three hundred fifty people at a time and is open each Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. A large number of folks attend during the summer, so it is suggested you go early, although there is plenty of standing room. Some people like to take their lunches and make a day of it, especially on Thursday, when there is organ accompaniment. The acoustics are very good and everyone can hear the slightest sound.

You may be interested to know that my daughter met her husband and was married in our W.C.

We hope you will be here in time for our upcoming bazaar. The proceeds will go toward the purchase of plush seats, which the folks agree are a long-felt need, as the present seats all have holes in them.

My wife is rather delicate, therefore she cannot attend regularly. It has been six months since the last time she went. Naturally, it pains her very much not to be able to go more often.

I shall close now with the desire to accommodate you in every way possible. I will be happy to save you a seat down front or near the door, whichever you prefer.

- Schoolmaster

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

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 D/Jessica S

Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

5/18 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: Cole Warner

Reader: Jeremy Schoonover

Crucifer: Regan Cunningham

Acolyte: Chase Reapaal

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

6/1 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: Naomi Rislow

Reader: Jessica Schoonover

Crucifer: Benjamin Roll

Acolyte: Dawson Staff

Ushers: Mary Bartos

Counters: Naomi R/Dan M

Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

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