

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 14, 2025

A WORD FROM PT

This may sound strange to you, but it is worth considering. Worship is not a means to an end, but the end or goal to which the Creator intended for our lives. Now it is helpful to have a more expansive view of worship here to appreciate what has just been said. Worship certainly involves prayer, praise, and thanksgiving to God. But it is prayer, praise, and thanksgiving not only formally, as when we gather at a worship service, but it is also in how we live our lives.

Consider this urging from the Apostle Paul in Romans 12. "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,

which is your *spiritual worship*. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (12:1-2). This encouragement witnesses to the more expansive understanding of worship.

Evangelism, which is an irreducible part of the Church's DNA, is an ongoing work to draw people to saving faith in Christ. And yet, despite the attempt of many contemporaries, the Christian Worship Service is not intended primarily as a tool for evangelism! We evangelize in order that people might become worshippers, where their lives bring

glory to our Father in heaven. The worship service is first and foremost for believers. For sure, believers receiving the gifts of God and responding with thanksgiving and thereby bringing glory to God, constitute a helpful witness to the uninitiated. But an unbeliever does not want to worship.

We call it the Divine Service in the Missouri Synod. This rightly emphasizes God's initiative in serving us, especially with forgiveness through His Word. It is in so being served that we respond utilizing His Word with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. This response continues into our vocations by the way we live and give witness to Christ.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the purpose of the "Silence for reflection and self-examination" in the Brief Order For Confession and Forgiveness?

"The silence for self-examination and reflection should be an extended si-

lence to enable personal application of the general phrases of the prayer that follows. Silence of one or two minutes is not too long" (Manual on the Liturgy – LBW).

This is a helpful time to reflect back on our lives over the past week and ask

ourselves whether we have been disobedient or unfaithful, bad-tempered or dishonest, or whether we have hurt anyone by word or deed. By allowing for this period of reflection we are able to personalize what would otherwise remain quite general.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 5/13

5:30pm Ladies Night Out at Huck Finn's

Friday, 5/1

7am Men's Breakfast at McDonald's

Sunday, 5/18 5th Sunday of Easter

8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service with Communion
10:15pm Congregation Information Meeting
10:45am Coffee Fellowship

Tuesday, 5/20

6pm Elders Meeting



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

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

THIS AND THAT...

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.

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

There will be an **Informational Meeting** after the Divine Service on May 18

concerning an educational ministry called **LifeWise**.

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**.

The next **Elders Meeting** will be on Tuesday, May 20, 6pm, at the church.;

There is a reason why evangelism and outreach can seem and be used somewhat synonymously. The best evangelism is done away from the church building and church gathering. It is done as we interact and form relationships with others in the community, and when we share the faith with them there. Eventually, we hope folks might want to join our worshipping community.

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**

May 10..... Dan Molstad
May 14..... Stella Roll
June 7..... Ron Kuehn
June 7..... Jim Magnuson

Anniversaries

May 10..... D & C Molstad
May 18..... J & M Magnuson
May 23..... C & M Bartos

Children In Church

After a church service one Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up."

"That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?"

"Well," said the boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand and yell, than to sit and listen."

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" he asked.

"Why, God tells me."

"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things

out?"

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent.

"The flight to Egypt," was his reply.

Pointing at each figure, Ms. Terri said, "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who is the fourth person?"

"Oh, that's Pontius, the pilot."

The Sunday School Teacher asks, "Now, Johnny, tell me frankly do you say prayers before eating?"

"No mam," little Johnny replies, "I don't have to. My Mom is a good cook."

Pastor Dave Carlton tells us. "After a worship service at First Baptist Church in Newcastle, Kentucky, a mother with a fidgety seven-year-old boy told me how she got her son to sit still and be quiet. About halfway through the sermon, she leaned over and whispered, 'If you don't be quiet, Pastor Carlton is going to lose his place and will have to start his sermon all over again!' It worked."

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

5/18 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: Cole Warner

Reader: Jarrod Roll

Crucifer: Regan Cunningham

Acolyte: Chase Reapaal

Ushers: Jarrod Roll

Counters: Jarrod R/David B

Comm Asst: Tom Rislow

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: Paula B

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: Mike Meunier

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: Connie Meunier

Livestreamer: Cole Warner

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

6/8 The day of Pentecost

Asst Minister: Tom Rislow

Reader: Craig Bartos

Crucifer: Elliott Cunningham

Acolyte: Regan Cunningham

Ushers: Paula Betlach

Counters: Tim B/Cole W

Comm Asst: Mike Meunier

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

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