

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 22, 2025

A WORD FROM PT

I consider good community worship to be participatory. And historic liturgies help to ensure this. The etymology of the word 'liturgy' tips the hat in this direction. It derives from the Greek word *leitourgia* which in turn is a compound word formed from *laous* (people) and *ergon* (work). So, we are talking about a public work or service. That indicates community involvement.

Consider the many ways for everyone to be involved in the Divine Service that we utilize from the Lutheran Service Book. Let me list a few. We do a corporate rite of confessing our sins and then hearing the word of forgiveness (absolution). We do a lot of singing to-

gether. The choir anthem is the one exception where all are not invited to sing. We sing the Kyrie (prayers with "Lord have mercy" as a response). We sing a number of Biblical Canticles such as the Gloria in Excelsis, the Sanctus, the Agnus Dei, and the Nunc Dimittis. We chant a Psalm responsively. We sing great hymns. We take turns reading Lessons and being the Assisting Minister. We stand, sit, and kneel. We come forward to the altar to receive the Communion Elements. And we exchange the Peace.

You might say our Sunday worship is a full contact sport. We intend to interact with each other and have wide participation. Of course, none of this is

forced on anyone. A person can sit and simply observe. But we invite and hope for active participation.

I've been to a number of worship services where participation is minimal. It is more like a spectator sport. A small group of people, sometimes called worship leaders, do most of the activity. There is usually singing, but much of the singing is done by a song leader or worship group that are miked and amplified. There might be standing and sitting, but not moving to and from the altar (if there is one). And responsive readings and prayers are not utilized.

I believe good worship to be participatory.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, 10/22

6:30pm Christian Teaching Study

Friday, 10/24

7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 10/26 Reformation Sunday.

8am Choir Practice

9am Divine Service with Communion

10:15am Coffee Fellowship

10:45am Bible Study

Tuesday, 10/28

6pm Elders Meeting

Wednesday, 10/29

6:30pm Christian Teaching Study

Friday, 10/31

7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

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...

The next **Elders Meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, October 28, 6pm at the church.

A **Choral Celebration of All Saints' Day** with a mass choir will take place at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Onalaska, Sunday, November 2 at 3pm. Our choir will be participating. Casual fellowship to follow.

We will continue our tradition of holding a **Thanksgiving Service** the Tuesday

before Thanksgiving, 7pm, on November 25. Pie to be served afterwards.

The Friday Morning **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** is meeting at the McDonald's Restaurant off of County OT at 7am.

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

The Rolls will clean the church the week of October

19. We currently do not have anyone signed up for the week of November 16 or December 21.

The October **Designated Benevolence** is for the **LCMS Disaster Relief**.

The imitative in Christian Worship is with God. He comes to us first in Word and Sacrament. And then we respond to His initiative with confession, prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. That's our participation.

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**

Oct 26 Naomi Risløw
Nov 5 Chase Repaal

Anniversaries

Oct 12 C & A Warner

Play On Words

Police were called to a day care center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.

Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

The last thing I want to do to you is to hurt you. But it is still on the list.

If I agreed with you we would both be wrong.

We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

10/26 Reformation Sunday

Asst Minister: Tom Risløw

Reader: Dan Molstad

Crucifer: Dawson Staff

Acolyte: Chase Repaal

Ushers: Jeremy Schoonover

Counters: Jeremy S/Naomi \$

Comm Asst: Tom Risløw

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: Bev Kuehn

Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

11/2 All Saints' Sunday

Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg

Reader: Cole Warner

Crucifer: Asher Roll

Acolyte: Benjamin Roll

Ushers: Dan Molstad

Counters: Dan M/Jackie R

Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist: Tom Risløw

Fellowship: Cyndi Molstad

Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

11/9 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Naomi Risløw

Reader: Craig Bartos

Crucifer: Dawson Staff

Acolyte: Chase Repaal

Ushers: Mary Bartos

Counters: Connie M/Tom R

Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover

Accompanist: Tom Risløw

Fellowship: Heide Fehr

Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

11/16 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier

Reader: Jarrod Roll

Crucifer: Jed Roll

Acolyte: Elliott Cunningham

Ushers: Jarrod Roll

Counters: Jarrod R/Naomi R

Comm Asst: Tom Risløw

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: Leslie Duesenberg

Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

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