

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

August 2026

A Word from PT

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.” – Ps 136:1

The Psalm Reading for the 1st Sunday in August, the 10th Sunday after Pentecost, is Psalm 136:1-9. In this Reading the Psalmist reminds us to be thankful. He reminds us who to be thankful to. And he reminds us what to be thankful for.

Our thanksgivings are to be directed to God. This is well indicated by James 1:17: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

And we are to be thankful for all He has provided. The list is endless. The appointed Psalm Reading stops at verse 9, but the rest of the verses continues the list. And that hardly

exhausts the list of things for which we can be thankful.

Although the list is endless, none of it would have been provided to us without the love of God that was shown on the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. For His sacrificial death makes it possible that unworthy sinners like us receive anything at all. For we deserve nothing but death, both temporal and eternal. But in offering us forgiveness we are able to receive blessings in both this age and in the age to come.

Friends, it is especially during trials, tribulations, disappointments, and frustrations that we are to remember to give thanksgiving and to count our blessings. We haven’t deserved them. But thankfully, the Lord is good and His steadfast love endures forever!

We are permitted to offer a lament, but not a complaint. The two are

different! With a lament we cry out to God and plead with Him that we are encountering difficulties that seem more than we can handle. We aren’t blaming Him. But we are praying for help. And we can do so with thanksgiving. Indeed, we have been taught to do so!

We are so taught in Philippians 4:6-7: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

That’s a promise dear brothers and sisters in Christ. Plead with God but do so with thanksgiving. We are always receiving good things more than we deserve.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, 8/2 10th Sunday after Pentecost
8:30am Divine Service
9:45am Coffee Fellowship

Tuesday, 8/4
5-8pm National Night Out in Holmen at Halfway Creek Park

Thursday, 8/6
9am – 2pm Pastor Tim at Faith Lutheran

Friday, 8/7
7am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

10:30am Ron Kuehn Visitation at SOTH
11:30am Ron Kuehn Funeral at SOTH

Sunday, 8/9 11th Sunday after Pentecost
8:30am Divine Service
9:45am Coffee Fellowship

Tuesday 8/11
6pm Elder Meeting

Thursday, 8/13
9am – 2pm Pastor Tim at Faith Lutheran
6pm Council Meeting

Friday, 8/14
7am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study
10am Service at the Onalaska Care Center

Sunday, 8/16 12th Sunday after Pentecost
8:30am Divine Service
9:45am Coffee Fellowship

Tuesday, 8/18
10:30am Ladies Lunch out at Su Casa

Thursday, 8/20
9am – 2pm Pastor Tim at Faith Lutheran

Friday, 8/21

7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 8/23 13th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am Divine Service

9:45am Coffee Fellowship

Tuesday, 8/25

3pm Winkel Gathering at Warren, WI

Thursday, 8/27

9am – 2pm Pastor Tim at Faith Lutheran

Friday, 8/28

7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 8/30 14th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am Divine Service

9:45am Coffee Fellowship

Announcements

The National Night Out in Holmen is Tuesday, August 4 at Halfway Creek Park from 5pm-8pm. Although our congregation did not act in time to set up a booth, Pastor Tim plans to be at the event and visit all the sponsors and walk around with his Gift of Grace sport shirt. If any of you would like to do the same, please join PT that evening.

Thanks for the Extra Effort in coming to the Divine Service a little earlier at 8:30am. This is giving the Pastor just enough time to get in place for the Divine Service at Faith Lutheran at 10:30am.

Pastor Tim is still available to our congregation on Thursdays while he keeps office hours at Faith Lutheran Church in La Crosse in his capacity as the Vacancy Pastor there. You may still phone or text his cell phone or email him. He will have the laptop with him. You can also stop by Faith Lutheran if you need to see him.

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** at the McDonald's Restaurant off of County OT on Friday mornings at 7am continues through the summer months. In the summer we usually take a look at one of the upcoming Texts of Scripture for the coming Sunday Divine Service

The **Ladies' Night Out** is shifting to a **Ladies' Lunch Out** on Tuesday, August 18, 10:30am at Su Casa Restaurant in Holmen.

The **Designated Benevolence** for the month of August is the **Faith Lutheran Campus Ministry**.

The Molstads will be cleaning the church the week of August 16. And currently we have no one signed up for the week of September 20. Please take a look at the signup sheet in the kitchen and lend a hand for one of our months' cleanings. Thanks.

Worship Assistants**August 2 10th Sunday after Pentecost****Assisting Minister:** Jeremy Schoonover**Reader:** Naomi Rislow**Crucifer:****Acolyte:****Usher:** Mary Bartos**Counters:** Connie M/Naomi R**Comm Asst:** Mike Meunier**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow**Live streamer:** Dan Molstad**August 9 11th Sunday after Pentecost****Assisting Minister:** Tom Rislow**Reader:** Connie Meunier**Crucifer:****Acolyte:****Usher:** Jeremy Schoonover**Counters:** Dan M/Tom R**Comm Asst:** Tom Rislow**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg**Live streamer:** Jeremy Schoonover**August 16 12th Sunday after Pentecost****Assisting Minister:** Leslie Duesenberg**Reader:** Craig Bartos**Crucifer:****Acolyte:****Usher:** Dan Molstad**Counters:** Jeremy S/Tom R**Comm Asst:** Jeremy Schoonover**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow**Live streamer:** Dan Molstad**August 23 13th Sunday after Pentecost****Assisting Minister:** Mike Meunier**Reader:** Dan Molstad**Crucifer:****Acolyte:****Usher:** David Bjornstad**Counters:** Connie M/David B**Comm Asst:** Tom Rislow**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg**Live streamer:** Jeremy Schoonover**August 30 14th Sunday after Pentecost****Assisting Minister:** Karri Bjornstad**Reader:** Mike Meunier**Crucifer:****Acolyte:****Usher:** Jeremy Schoonover**Counters:** Dan M/Naomi R**Comm Asst:** Mike Meunier**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow**Live streamer:** Dan Molstad

By Way of Humor

Questions to Consider

- If people from Poland are called Poles, than what are people from Holand called?
- If a pig loses his voice, is it disgruntled?
- If a piano player is a pianist, what is a race care driver called?
- If it is true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?
- If lawyers are defrocked and clergymen are defrocked, then can electricians be delighted? Musicians be denoted? Cowboys be deranged? Models be deposed? Tree surgeons be debarked? And dry cleaners be depressed?
- Do Lipton Tea employees take coffee breaks?
- When they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office are we expected to write to them?
- Whatever happened to Preparations A through G?
- If a cow laughed, would milk come out of her nose?

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

August 10: Carrie Cunningham (Birthday)

August 12: Dawson Staff (Birthday)

August 13: Jessica Schoonover (Birthday)

August 17: Lee and Heide Fehr (Anniversary)

August 19: Mike and Connie Meunier (Anniversary)

August 24: Dwight and Cindy Schoonover (Anniversary)

August 25: Pam Benrud (Birthday)

August 28: Butch and Anne Fisher (Anniversary)

August 29: Jeremy Schoonover (Birthday)

Becoming More Familiar

Concerning starting the Service with the Confession of sin near the baptismal Font? Starting the service with the Confession of sins near the baptismal font powerfully connects the act of repentance to the promise of baptism, where believers first received cleansing, forgiveness, and new life in Christ. Just as baptism marks the formal entry into the body of Christ, so confessing sin at the font is an appropriate way to approach our holy God in corporate worship.

Concerning Lutherans keeping the Historic Liturgy? Lutherans kept the historic liturgy – historically called

the Mass or the Divine Service – because Martin Luther sought to reform rather than destroy the church's worship, maintaining continuity with ancient Christian tradition while rejecting unbiblical teachings. Early documents like the Augsburg Confession explicitly state that the church did not abolish the Mass, but rather cleaned it up by removing prayers and additions that contradicted the Gospel. Lutherans have an appreciation for how the Holy Spirit has guided the Church from the beginning and how many of its traditions have only served to embellish the Gospel preached and the Sacraments administered.

Concerning the use of Appointed Lectionary Readings? Lutherans use lectionary readings to cover a wide breadth of scripture, curb personal preaching biases, and connect with other Christian Communion that observe the Church Year. Our congregation uses the 'Revised Common Lectionary' which is a three-year cycle of readings. Year A especially features the Gospel of Matthew, Year B Mark, and Year C Luke. John's Gospel gets interspersed in all three years. Each Sunday we typically have a lesson from the Old and New Testaments, along with a Gospel Reading. We also employ a selected Psalm Reading.

Stewardship

Define Your Life by How You Give

Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for

Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For, giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living have on us. When we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others?” to asking the question,

“What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, nor do we become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the Divine Nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

- from LCMS Stewardship Ministry Website (published in August 2023)



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