

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 27, 2020

A WORD FROM PT

The Scriptures clearly teach what we confess nearly every Sunday in the Creed, "He will come again to judge the living and the dead." I speak of the return of Christ, or what has been referred to as "The Second Coming of Christ."

To use an apt illustration by our beloved Dr. Martin Luther, we must try not to be like the drunk who in trying to mount a horse, first fell off one side, and then on the next attempt fell off the other side. "How does this relate to the Second Coming of Christ?" you might ask. Well, it is in how we respond to this doctrine in the Bible. On the one hand, we can become fixated on this teach-

ing to the exclusion of just about anything else. We can get all caught up in speculations as to when, how, and the circumstances of His coming. This is to fall off the horse on one side.

Equally dangerous is when we tire of the doctrine of the Parousia (that is the fancy term for this Coming) and avoid it altogether. We might even reason that the early church believed Jesus was returning soon and that we should live like it and be ready, but they were wrong so we should not put much stock in the belief. Such avoidance and reasoning is to fall off the opposite side of the horse. The point is to find a balance and avoid the opposite pitfalls.

It is clearly taught by our Lord Jesus that He is coming again, to close the present temporal age, to call forth the dead from their graves, to pronounce judgment, to grant the inheritance to the redeemed, and to usher in the consummation of the Kingdom with the renewed heaven and earth. This is our great hope, and we should be waiting for it eagerly.

It is this hope that can sustain us through thick and thin, even during calamities like the COVID-19 pandemic.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the significance of the Day of Pentecost?

A principal Festival, The Day of Pentecost (Jewish harvest festival) was the occasion when the promised gift of the Holy Spirit was sent and poured out on the expectant church. It accord-

ingly marks the culmination of the Easter Season. It occurs 50 days after Easter Sunday. Jesus had promised his followers that when he departed from them (the ascension, not the crucifixion) that he would not leave them as orphans. In fact, until his return at the end of

the age, it would be to their advantage that he was departing, for then he would send the Holy Spirit as one called alongside them to comfort them, teach them, guide them, and empower them, even as the Holy Spirit continued to sanctify them (to make holy).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 5/26

4:00pm Prayer Gathering
6:00pm Council Meeting

Friday, 5/29

6:30am Men's Breakfast

Saturday, 5/30

6:00pm Service at Emmanuel Luth

Sunday, 5/31 The Day of Pentecost

9:00am Divine Service

Tuesday, 6/2

4:00pm Prayer Gathering

KEY ATTRIBUTES OF LCMC & NALC

- *Christ-Centered*
- *Mission-Driven*
- *Traditionally-Grounded*
- *Congregationally-Focused*

LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ)

NALC (North American Lutheran Church) (www.thenalc.org)

THIS AND THAT...

Thank you for your continued financial generosity during these difficult times! You can continue to mail in your contributions to: **Gift of Grace Lutheran Church, PO Box 422, Onalaska, WI 54650.**

The Council will be meeting on Tuesday, May 26, to discuss the gradual and incremental resumption of our congregational life in the weeks ahead. Expect to hear from us soon concerning some partial resumption of activities at church.

 Aside from whatever decisions are made at the May 26 Council Meeting, Pastor Tim is still willing to meet with groups of 10 or less at the Church to administer the **Sacrament of Holy Communion**. Some limitation in the size of our gatherings is likely to be in effect for the foreseeable future. Phone or email Pastor for setting up at time to Commune.

 Our **Designated Benevo-**

lence for the month of May will be directed to The Hunger Task Force

 Don't forget to bring non-perishable food items for the **Holmen Food Pantry**.

 Tom and Jane Kruse are listed to clean the church for the week of May 17. The Roll family is signed up for the week of June 21.

 Having compassion and showing mercy to our neighbors is always the finest witness that we can do.

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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 23..... Cole Bjornstad
 June 3..... Vincent Lu
 June 13 Paul Hanson
 June 14 Jane Kruse
 June 15 Sam Stutzman
 June 25 Mary Bartos
 June 26 Tom Rislow

Anniversaries

May 23..... C & M Bartos
 June 13 M & M Wangen
 June 22 P & N Hanson

Norwegian Ten Commandments

1. Der's only one God, ya know.
2. Don't make that fish on the mantle an idol.
3. Cussing ain't Minnesota nice.
4. Go to church even when you're up nort.
5. Honor your folks.
6. Don't kill. Catch and release.
7. There is only one Lena for every Ole. No cheatin'.
8. If it ain't your lutefisk, don't take it.

9. Don't be braggin' about how much snow ya shoveled.
10. Keep your mind off your neighbor's hotdish.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

5/24 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad
Reader: Jarrod Roll
Crucifer: Asher Roll
Acolyte: Jed Roll
Ushers: David Bjornstad
Counters: Naomi R/Hannah S
Comm Asst: Connie Meunier
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: tba

Acolyte: Stella Roll
Ushers: Jarrod Roll
Counters: Jane Kruse/Nikki Hanson
Comm Asst: Heidi Traver
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tba

Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: tba

5/31 The Day of Pentecost

Asst Minister: Tom Rislow
Reader: Craig Bartos
Crucifer: Benjamin Roll

6/7 The Holy Trinity Sunday

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Naomi Rislow
Crucifer: Elyse Schoonover
Acolyte: Sam Schoonover
Ushers: Mary Bartos
Counters: Heather R/Connie M
Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover

6/14 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Cole Waner
Reader: Brad Benrud
Crucifer: Calvin Swaney
Acolyte: Kylee Kernan
Ushers: Wendell Halderson
Counters: Chery Ruud/Mary Bartos
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tba

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