

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 15, 2020

#### A WORD FROM PT

A natural question that comes up at times like these is: Why is this evil happening? Is this God's judgment? And if so, for what particular sin is the judgment being visited upon us? The question is also asked, what good is God trying to bring about through the pandemic? Pastors get asked this often.

In all humility, I do not have a complete or satisfactory answer. But this does not mean that I have nothing to say about the matter. My study of God's Word with its attendant wisdom provides me with some helpful things to share. It certainly provides us with hope.

It seems to me that there are two pitfalls to be avoid-

ed. The first is the temptation, not only to assign the current assault of disease to God, but also to be confident as to knowing exactly why He sent it. The second temptation is to confidently state that God had nothing to do with it, nor does the threat have anything to do with sin.

There are a couple of calamities brought to Jesus' attention in Luke's Gospel the 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter, the one having to do with Galileans who had been slaughtered by Pilate, and the other having to do with a tower at Siloam toppling and killing eighteen. Jesus asked his disciples, do you think these unfortunates were any worse sinners than anyone

else? He assured them that they were not. But then He added, "But unless you repent, you will likewise perish."

A healthy attitude to take toward disasters that come our way is that the Sovereign Lord allows such things to happen in our sin-diseased world. For sure they should remind us what we justly deserve, all of us, for our sinfulness. But importantly, they also remind us of God's grace and mercy offered to spare us the ultimate devastation on the Last Day. They can help us number our days and gain a heart of wisdom (cf. Ps 90:12), and to call on Him in our need (cf. Ps 86:7).

#### 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

**Tuesday, 4/14**

4:00pm Prayer Gathering

**Wednesday, 4/15**

6:30pm Confirmation/Adult Class

**Friday, 4/17**

6:30am Men's Breakfast

**Sunday, 4/19 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

8:00am Choir Practice

9:00am Divine Service

10:45am Adult Class

**Tuesday, 4/21**

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](http://www.thenalc.org))

## THIS AND THAT...

Thank you for your continued financial generosity during these difficult times! If you have yet to mail in a contribution, remember to **mail it to: Gift of Grace Lutheran Church, PO Box 422, Onalaska, WI 54650.**

Please communicate with Pastor Tim any special needs you are facing during this pandemic. He will be glad to post any **prayer requests** to the rest of the congregation, and to coordinate helping with any special physical **or material needs** you might

be facing.

-----  
In keeping with the concern over the **COVID-19** virus, and in compliance with the Governor's orders, we are only allowing small groups (maximum of six) to come in for Holy Communion. Call Pastor Tim to make arrangements. He is once again scheduling these appointments, as his seasonal allergies have been held in check.

-----  
Our **Designated Benevo-**

**lence** for the month of April will be directed to Camperships.

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

-----  
Heidi Traver is signed up to clean the church the week of April 19. Tom and Jane Kruse are listed for week of May 17.

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

# 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

Apr 7..... William Lu  
Apr 7..... Janie Uly  
Apr 9..... Leslie Duesenberg  
Apr 23..... Craig Bartos  
Apr 23..... Tim Duesenberg  
Apr 23..... Heidi Traver  
Apr 25..... David Bjornstad  
Apr 29..... Calvin Swaney

#### Anniversaries

May 3..... J & J Schoonover  
May 6..... T & L Duesenberg  
May 7..... T & N Rislow

### Good Deal

Last year I replace all the windows in my house with those expensive double-pain energy efficient kind.

But this week I got a call from the contractor complaining that his work had been completed a whole year ago and I had yet to pay for them.

Boy, oh boy, did we go around! Just because I'm \_\_\_\_\_

doesn't mean that I am automatically that stupid.

So, I proceeded to tell him just what his fast talking sales guy had told me last year ... that in one year the windows would pay for themselves.

There was silence on the other end of the line so I hung up and I haven't heard back. Guess I won that stupid argument.

### Why We Love our Kids

I was driving with my three young children one warm summer evening when a woman in the convertible ahead of us stood up and waved. She was stark naked! As I was reeling from the shock, I heard my 5-yr-old shout from the back seat, "Mom! That Lady isn't wearing a seat belt!"

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### 4/19 Second Sunday of Easter

**Asst Minister:** Tom Rislow  
**Reader:** Jarrod Roll  
**Crucifer:** Dawson Staff  
**Acolyte:** Drew Staff  
**Ushers:** Wendell Halderson  
**Counters:** Heather R/Connie M  
**Comm Asst:** Jarrod Roll  
**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg  
**Fellowship:** tba

### 4/26 Third Sunday of Easter

**Asst Minister:** Mike Meunier  
**Reader:** Connie Meunier  
**Crucifer:** Jed Roll

**Acolyte:** Asher Roll  
**Ushers:** Tom Kruse  
**Counters:** Jane K/Nikki H  
**Comm Asst:** Leslie Duesenberg  
**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow  
**Fellowship:** tba

### 5/3 Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Asst Minister:** Naomi Rislow  
**Reader:** Hannah Scholze  
**Crucifer:** Alex Uly  
**Acolyte:** Stella Roll  
**Ushers:** Jon Uly  
**Counters:** Tom Rislow/Jarrod Roll  
**Comm Asst:** Heather Roll

**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg  
**Fellowship:** tba

### 5/10 Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Asst Minister:** Leslie Duesenberg  
**Reader:** Cole Warner  
**Crucifer:** Kylee Kernan  
**Acolyte:** Calvin Swaney  
**Ushers:** Jeremy Schoonover  
**Counters:** Cheryl R/Mary B  
**Comm Asst:** Jessica Schoonover  
**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow  
**Fellowship:** tba

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church  
Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg, stps  
642 Western Avenue  
Holmen, WI 54636  
www.giftofgracelc.org  
giftofgracelc@gmail.com  
(608) 797-7837

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