

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 5, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

This week I wish to begin the discussion on the “how to” of evangelism, that is, sharing the Faith, or as I have said, *gospeling* others.

At the outset I wish to emphasize the avoidance of a formulaic way of going about the business. Perhaps this aversion is in part because my disdain of canned approaches. But hopefully it has more to do with the creative, individual, and natural ways being more compelling. That having been said, I have no doubt that God has worked through such things as “The Four Spiritual Laws”, “The Roman Road”, or “The Kennedy Plan”. Don’t worry if you are unfamiliar with those names, the point is

they are formulaic and memorized ways of going about the endeavor. Even so, I like the saying, “I like his way of going about evangelism poorly, better than your way of not doing it at all.”

We tend to think of conversation as being necessary in the work of evangelism. And ultimately, indeed some words are needed. But the needed words tend to be more effective if they stem from our actions, especially our acts of compassion and mercy. And yet, people don’t learn of the Gospel, namely, the love of God shown us in the death and resurrection of God’s Son for forgiveness and rescue from sin, death, and the

devil, by our actions alone. To learn of this requires words!

The easiest and most natural sharing of the faith comes when people have observed our lives and they ask us what motivates our lives, especially the hopefulness they see in us as we go about loving God and loving our neighbor. It is best when they are already inquisitive and ask such a question. But of course, that begs the question. Do they in fact see anything different in us?

This brings us back full circle to our constantly being formed in the Faith and exercising the same 24/7, and our being full of hope and deep seated joy.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the significance of sharing the peace?

“The peace which enables people to live in unity and in the spirit of mutual forgiveness comes only from Christ whose word has been proclaimed. ... The peace is a sign that those who partic-

ipate in it open themselves to the healing and reconciling power of God’s love and offer themselves to be agents of that love in the world. ... The personal exchange of the peace should be as unpatterned as possible, but its meaning and significance should be

kept clear. It is not the occasion merely for conviviality. The choice of gesture, whether a handshake, holding hands, or an embrace, should be left to the persons themselves.” (from “Manual on the Liturgy” companion to the LBW, from Augsburg Pub.)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 5/4
11:00am No Prayer Gathering

Friday, 5/7
6:30am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 5/9 6th Sunday of Sunday
9:00am Divine Service (also livestreamed)

Tuesday, 5/11
11:00am No Prayer Gathering
6:00pm Council Meeting

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...

Save the Date! We are planning to celebrate our **Ten Year plus One Anniversary** on Sunday, June 6, with Worship at 1pm that day, with an outdoor reception to follow at 2:30pm.

There is no longer any need to notify Pastor Tim if you intend to attend the Divine Services. The **expectation for wearing a mask** will need to continue for some while. And livestreaming will also be continued indefinitely.

Tune in FM 87.9 from the parking lot for the service.

The next meeting at the Church is that of **The Church Council** on Tuesday, May 11 at 6pm. We have completed **Confirmation Instruction** for this school year.

Don't forget **Food Donations** for the Onalaska Food Basket!

Our **Designated Benevo-**

lence for the upcoming month of May is an even split between the Emmanuel Orphan Home in India and New Horizons.

Heidi Traver is scheduled to clean the church the week of May 16. And we will need to have a doodle signup for the rest of the months of 2021.

Especially during this pandemic, utilize your computer to share the faith and promote our congregation's ministries.

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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

Apr 29 Calvin Swaney
 May 2 Connie Meunier
 May 7 Lisa Cash
 May 12 Karissa Bjornstad
 May 14 Stella Roll

Anniversaries

May 3 J & J Schoonover
 May 6 T & L Duesenberg
 May 7 T & N Rislow
 May 23 C & M Bartos

Report from the Pastoral Search Committee...

Unable to find a suitable candidate, we have only one promising prospect. The following is our confidential report on the present candidates.

- continued from last week...

John: Says he is a Baptist, but definitely doesn't dress like one. Ha slept in the outdoors for months on end, has weird diet, and provokes denominational

leaders.

Peter: Too blue collar. Has a bad temper - even has been known to curse. Had a big run-in with Paul in Antioch. Aggressive, but a loose cannon.

Paul: Powerful CEO type leader and fascinating preacher. However, short on tact, unforgiving with young ministers, harsh and has been known to preach all night.

Timothy: Too young.

Jesus: Has had popular times, but once when his church grew to 5,000 he managed to offend them all and his church dwindled down to 12 people. Seldom stays in once place very long. And of course he's single.

Judas: His references are solid. A steady plodder. Conservative. Good connections. Knows how to handle money. We're inviting him to preach this Sunday. Possibilities here.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined, positions filled late in the week)

5/9 Sixth Sunday of Easter
Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg
Reader: Jessica Schoonover
Crucifer: one of the Roll children
Acolyte: not needed at this time
Ushers: Hannah Scholze
Counters: Jarrod R/David B
Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: not needed at this time
Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

5/16 Seventh Sunday of Easter
Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Jarrod Boll
Crucifer: one of the Roll children

Acolyte: not needed at this time
Ushers: tbd
Counters: Jarrod R/Tom Rislow
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: not needed at this time
Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

5/23 Pentecost Sunday
Asst Minister: Cole Warner
Reader: Nikki Hanson
Crucifer: Dawson Staff
Acolyte: not needed at this time
Ushers: tbd
Counters: Connie M/Hannah S
Comm Asst: Hannah Scholze

Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: not needed at this time
Livestreamer: tbd

5/30 Holy Trinity Sunday
Asst Minister: Tom Rislow
Reader: Jessica Schoonover
Crucifer: Elyse Schoonover
Acolyte: not needed at this time
Ushers: Jeremy Schoonover
Counters: Hannah S/Cheryl R
Comm Asst: Connie Meunier
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: not needed at this time
Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

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