

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 10, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

This week it is my intention to complete the series on Confession and Absolution. We have specifically focused on the practice of Private Confession. As of late we have been discussing the obstacles that deter folks from taking advantage of this wonderful gift. I want to end in a strange and perhaps unexpected place.

Although I have attempted to alleviate some of the fears associated with trusting a Confessor to hear your confession, there is no way around it; our sinful nature will resist it. And the trust level and sense of vulnerability remain significant. But oddly enough, that actually works to our advantage! What do I mean?

There is an old adage: nothing worthwhile ever comes easy. So often we appreciate the value of something for which we had to work hard. In the instance of confessing our sins, it is not so much the hard work as it is the difficulty of humbling ourselves, admitting our inability to work ourselves out of the predicaments we get ourselves into, and to freely admit our need for help. One can mutter under their breath in a general way that these things are true. But you need to be intentional, and risk embarrassment, to allow your confession of sins to God to be overheard. Private Confession becomes a true act of humility and indicates great urgency. And this is good.

We are so used to God being unseen that we can adopt an “out of sight, out of mind” attitude. It should bother us more that God sees all and knows all, but frankly we are often more worried by other humans seeing and knowing what we have done. Again, this is all the more reason why an ambassador of the unseen God can bring the practice of confessing sins into vivid focus. It is also why the spoken words of “Your sins are forgiven you,” can bring home the gift in a more tangible and comforting way.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

Why is incense used in some churches?

The use of incense is not unique to Christianity or Judaism and is used in many of the world’s religions to enhance special times and places by sight and smell. In Christian worship incense is

effectively used at the beginning of the Service of the Word and in preparing for receiving Holy Communion. The burning of incense is associated with the prayers of worship rising before God (cf. Psa 141:2; Rev 8:4). Good worship should engage all the human sens-

es. In this connection it should be pointed out that the olfactory sense is perhaps the most sensitive of the five senses; it continues to function even during sleep. (Indebted to Aidan Kavanah in his “Elements of Rite”.)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 3/9**
11:00am Prayer Gathering
6:00pm Council Meeting
- Friday, 3/12**
6:30am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study
- Sunday, 3/14** Fourth Sunday in Lent
9:00am Divine Service (also livestreamed)
10:30am Confirmation Class
- Tuesday, 3/16**
11:00am 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...

Look for your **Lenten Mid-week Devotion** to be sent to you by email at least a day ahead of Wednesday.

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

For those able to worship in person, there remains the need to **notify Pastor Tim by email** no later than 4pm on Friday

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

Basket!

The **Church Council** will meet on Tuesday, March 9, at 6pm

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** meets every Friday, at 6:30am

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of March is the NALS, the North American Lutheran Seminary.

The Roll family is scheduled

to clean the church the week of March 21. The Hanson family is scheduled for the week of April 18

If you would like to commune but are not ready to do so in person at the Divine Service, contact Pastor Tim to discuss ways in which **the meal consecrated at Altar** can be extended to you.

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

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

Mar 16..... Jon Uy
 Mar 17..... Linda Anderson
 Mar 17..... Mike Meunier
 Mar 18..... Nikki Hanson

Anniversaries

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

Ole and Lena

Ole and Sven grabbed their poles and headed out to do some ice fishing. As they were augering a hole in the ice they heard a loud voice from above say, "There are no fish under the ice." Ole and Sven moved 25 feet over and started to make another hole. The voice said a little stronger, "There are no fish under

the ice." They both looked around and then looked up. Ole said in a humble voice, "Are you God?" The voice spoke back, "No ya idiots! I'm the ice rink attendant."

One fine day, Ole decided to take Lena for a drive in his new car. As they were driving through a town, a policeman pulled them over and told

Ole that he was doing 50 miles an hour in a 30 zone. "Oh, no" Ole protested, "I was only doing thirty, Officer." "No, you were doing 50," replied the cop. "I clocked you doing 50!" "No, I was only going 30," said Ole. This went back and forth until Lena spoke up, "Officer ... you really shouldn't argue vit Ole ven he's been drinking."

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

3/14 4th Sunday in Lent
Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Jessica Schoonover
Crucifer: *not needed at this time*
Acolyte: *not needed at this time*
Ushers: *not needed at this time*
Counters: Cheryl R/Jarrold R
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: *not needed at this time*

Acolyte: *not needed at this time*
Ushers: *not needed at this time*
Counters: David B/Jarrold R
Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: *not needed at this time*

Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: *not needed at this time*

3/21 5th Sunday In Lent
Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Jarrod Roll
Crucifer: *not needed at this time*

3/28 Palm/Passion Sunday
Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg
Reader: Mike Meunier
Crucifer: *not needed at this time*
Acolyte: *not needed at this time*
Ushers: *not needed at this time*
Counters: Cheryl R/tbd
Comm Asst: Connie Meunier

4/1 Maundy Thursday
Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: *not needed at this time*
Acolyte: *not needed at this time*
Ushers: *not needed at this time*
Counters: tbd
Comm Asst: tbd
Accompanist: tbd
Fellowship: *not needed at this time*

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