

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 23, 2019

A WORD FROM PT

Last week I mentioned three items that are considered “adiaphora”, that is, matters that are neither commanded nor forbidden. I mentioned the liturgy, the use of a lectionary (schedule for Scripture readings), and the observance of the Church Year.

You may recall my mentioning that the term “adiaphora” as used in the Lutheran Confessions does not mean the matter is unimportant. There are practices that enjoy Biblical precedence, have the endorsement of the Christian Tradition, contain a great deal of wisdom, and are wonderful tools for Christian formation.

In our own Lutheran tradition we have gladly followed and joined other Christian traditions in utilizing the historic liturgy, the

use of a lectionary, and following a Church Calendar.

In avoiding a legalistic conformity to a fixed form of worship, Lutherans have nonetheless adopted the form and order of what is often called the Western Liturgical Rite (in distinction to the Eastern, or Orthodox tradition). And whereas Lutherans have not insisted in precise uniformity among themselves, and with other church traditions, there has been a recognizable shape and many common elements.

A common shape could be outlined simply by this order of four basic elements: Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending. Common elements include Confession and Absolution, the Kyrie, the Gloria in Excelsis Deo, the reading of portions of Scripture, the sermon, the

Confession of Faith, Intercessory Prayers, the Sanctus, Eucharistic Prayers, Words of Institution, Holy Communion, the Agnus Dei, and the Nunc Dimittis.

What especially interests me about the historic liturgy is how the language is almost entirely from the Bible. Hence you end up with Trinitarian language and reverent ways of addressing the Deity. You also end up singing with angelic creatures (the Sanctus and the Gloria in Excelsis Deo) with elements of worship described in the Book of Revelation.

So, whereas Scripture does not command us to employ the historic liturgy, it seems foolish on that basis to jettison its use and isolate ourselves from “the communion of saints.”

fore not only a sign of ordination in the Lutheran Church, but it visibly reminds the whole congregation of our servant hood to Christ.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What does the Pastor's Stole signify?

(the stole is the colored strip of cloth that loops around the back of the neck and hangs from both shoulders) The stole represents a yoke such as would be used to link and employ an ox with a plow

or cart. When a work animal is yoked to a task, that animal comes under the rule and guidance of its master. As Christians we are to be yoked to Christ (cf. Mt. 11:28-30). We are to fear, love, serve, and obey the Lord Jesus Christ. The Pastor's stole is there-

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 10/22
1:00pm Prayer Gathering

Wednesday, 10/23
6:30pm Adult Ed and Confirmation

Friday, 10/25
6:30am Men's Breakfast at church
10:30am Service at Bethany St. Jo

Saturday, 10/26
11:00am Mission District Convocation

Sunday, 10/27 Reformation Sunday
(Rite of Confirmation)
8:00am Choir Practice
9:00am Divine Service
10:45am Adult Ed

Tuesday, 10/29
1:00pm 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...

The **Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Mission District Convocation** will be on Saturday, October 26, in Wausau from 11am to 4pm. Both Naomi Rislow and Pastor Tim are serving as delegates, and Leslie Duesenberg will be attending as a visitor. The time together will include an address from the newly elected Bishop of the NALC, Bishop Dan Selbo.

This Sunday! We will celebrate **Reformation Sunday** on October 27. This will also

be the occasion for the **Rite of Confirmation**. Elyse Schoonover will be making Affirmation of her Baptism that morning at the Divine Service.

Upcoming in November - Church Council on Nov. 12; Ladies' Night Out on Nov. 18; Ladies' Lunch Out on Nov. 19; and Thanksgiving Service with pie on Nov. 26.

The chosen **Designated Benevolence** for the month

of October is for the La Crosse Jail Ministry.

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

Karri Bjornstad & Heidi Traver are signed up to clean the church the week of October 21, and Pr. Tim and Leslie Duesenberg are signed up for the week of November 18.

Find ways to introduce elements of the faith in your day to day conversations...

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

Oct 15 Tom Kruse
Oct 26 Naomi Rislow

Anniversaries

Out of the mouth of babes!

Dear God:
Please send me a pony. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up. - Ryan

Dear God:
If we come back as something, please don't let me be Jennifer Horton, because I hate her. - John

Dear God:
I want to be just like my daddy when I get big, but not with so much hair all over. - Sam

Dear God:
I think about you sometimes, even when I'm not praying. - Elliott

Dear God:
I bet it is very hard for you to love all the people in the

world. There are only four people in our family and I can never do it. - Katy

Dear God:
Of all the people who worked for you, I like Noah and David the best. - Michael

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

10/27 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier

Reader: Elyse Schoonover

Crucifer: Sam Schoonover

Acolyte: Elyse Schoonover

Ushers: Cole Warner

Counters: Naomi R/Jarrold R

Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: Leslie D/Cheryl R

Acolyte: Benjamin Roll

Ushers: David Bjornstad

Counters: Jane K/Nikki H

Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: Connie M/Carol P

11/10 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Cole Warner

Reader: Naomi Rislow

Crucifer: Kylee Kernan

Acolyte: Alex Uy

Ushers: Merlin Wangen

Counters: Heather R/Connie M

Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: Mary B/tba

11/17 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Naomi Rislow

Reader: Brad Benrud

Crucifer: Drew Staff

Acolyte: Dawson Staff

Ushers: Jeremy Schoonover

Counters: David B/Jeremy S

Comm Asst: Leslie Duesenberg

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: Dottie H/tba

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg, sts
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Services held at 9am at:
642 Western Avenue
A block north and then
a block west of King Furniture

11/3 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad

Reader: Craig Bartos

Crucifer: Stella Roll