

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 22, 2020

A WORD FROM PT

Of all the resurrection appearances in the Gospels, I think our Lord's appearance to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24 is my favorite. This encounter was yet on the Day of Resurrection.

All we know for sure is that one of the two disciples was named Cleopas (v 18), and if this is one and the same with the mention of Clopas in John 19:25, then this is the uncle of Jesus. It would also mean that the other disciple was likely Simeon, Cleopas's son. This is the same Simeon who would go on to be the second leader of the Jerusalem Church. The point is, both would have been very familiar with Jesus.

So it is amazing that neither recognizes the risen Jesus, who suddenly comes up and walks alongside them as they journey back home after the week's celebration of the Passover in Jerusalem. And we are told by Luke "that their eyes were kept from recognizing Him" (v 16). When they finally do recognize Him much later we are told that "their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him" (v 31)! This speaks volumes as to how faith itself is a gift given us by God. Truly salvation is His work!

And how they came to recognize the risen Christ is more than worth noting! First Jesus, unbeknownst to

them, catechizes them in how all the OT pointed to the necessity of Jesus death and resurrection. But it is only later, as the two invited Jesus into their home toward evening and they sat at table. It was when Jesus took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them that their eyes were opened! They recognize Him. And then He vanishes.

They then reflected that their hearts had burned within them as Jesus taught from the Scriptures. Imagine that! Word and Meal, in that order, for encountering our Risen Lord, even after He vanishes for a time from our sight.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the purpose of the "Silence for reflection and self-examination" in the Brief Order For Confession and Forgiveness?

"The silence for self-examination and reflection should be an extended si-

lence to enable personal application of the general phrases of the prayer that follows. Silence of one or two minutes is not too long" (Manual on the Liturgy – LBW). This is a helpful time to reflect back on our lives over the past week and ask ourselves whether we

have been disobedient or unfaithful, bad-tempered or dishonest, or whether we have hurt anyone by word or deed. By allowing for this period of reflection we are able to personalize what would otherwise remain quite general.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 4/21

1:00pm Prayer Gathering

Wednesday, 4/22

6:30pm Confirmation/Adult Class

Friday, 4/24

6:30am Men's Breakfast

Sunday, 4/26 3rd Sunday of Easter

8:00am Choir Practice

9:00am Divine Service

10:45am Adult Class

Tuesday, 4/28

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...

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 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

Apr 23 Craig Bartos
Apr 23 Tim Duesenberg
Apr 23 Heidi Traver
Apr 25 David Bjornstad
Apr 29 Calvin Swaney
May 2 Vicky Gunderson
May 2 Connie Meunier

Anniversaries

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

Why We Love our Kids

My son Zachary, 4, came screaming out of the bathroom to tell me he'd dropped his toothbrush in the toilet. So I fished it out and threw it in the garbage. Zachary stood there thinking for a moment, then ran to my bathroom and came out with my toothbrush. He held it up, and said with a charming little smile, "We better throw this one

out too the, 'cause it fell in the toilet a few days ago'."

On the first day of school, a first grader handed his teacher a note from his mother. The note read, "The opinions expressed by this child are not necessarily those of his parents."

A woman was trying hard to

get ketchup out of the jar. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her 4-year-old daughter to answer the phone. "It's the minister, Mommy," the child said to her mother. Then she added, "Mommy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle."

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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 Risløw

Fellowship: tba

Acolyte: Stella Roll

Ushers: Jon Uy

Counters: Tom Risløw/Jarrod Roll

Comm Asst: Heather Roll

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: tba

Accompanist: Tom Risløw

Fellowship: tba

5/17 Third Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover

Reader: Jessica Schoonover

Crucifer: Drew Staff

Acolyte: Dawson Staff

Ushers: Merlin Wangen

Counters: David B/Jeremy S

Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: tba

5/3 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: Naomi Risløw

Reader: Hannah Scholze

Crucifer: Alex Uy

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

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