

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 6, 2020

#### A WORD FROM PT

Our Lord shepherds his people as He guides and looks after his flock.

When it comes to physical fitness, a number of people like to pay for the services of a personal trainer. Others like to join a class or group fitness activity. Both options will help you become fit. But only the latter provides an illustration for how our Lord Jesus guides and looks after his followers as we learn to exercise the faith given us in our baptism as a gift.

King David could boast on the care the Lord gave him. He recognizes the Lord as his Shepherd. He realizes that his Shepherd guides him to verdant pastures and safe watering spots. He fur-

ther extols the benefits he has received from the Lord his Shepherd in Psalm 23. But the King, having been a shepherd of sheep himself, surely knew that Shepherds are not employed for a single sheep! Rather, they lead and watch over the flock.

For whatever reason, Christians today seem less mindful than ever on the importance of the Church. This is what we confess to be “the holy catholic church, the communion of the saints.” The New Testament identifies it as a “fellowship”, or an “assembly” (gathering, congregation), and as a spiritual temple of which each believer is a stone incorporated into the structure.

The Apostle Paul also speaks of the Church as the Body of Christ, with each believer as various members of the body.

Any way you look at it, the personal attention we are given is in the context of our being part of the Body. And the Lord attends each one in and through the various members exercising their gifts.

I can think of one exception when the Lord as the Shepherd deals with us individually, apart from the flock. And that is when we wander and stray from the flock and end up lost. Then He comes to carry us! And He carries us where? Back to the flock!

#### SINCE YOU ASKED...

##### **Do Lutherans Promote Private Confession?**

“Confession has not been abolished by the preachers on our side. ... The people are carefully instructed concerning the consolation of the Word of absolution (forgiveness) so that they

may esteem it as a great and precious thing. It is not the voice of the man who speaks it, but it is the Word of God, who forgives sin, for it is spoken in God’s stead and by God’s command. ...it is necessary for terrified consciences” (*Augsburg Confession, XXV*).

Private confession has two parts: First that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the Pastor as from God himself.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 5/5**  
4:00pm Prayer Gathering
- Wednesday, 5/6**  
6:30pm Confirmation/Adult Class
- Friday, 5/8**  
6:30am Men’s Breakfast
- Sunday, 5/10 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
8:00am Choir Practice  
9:00am Divine Service  
10:45am Adult Class
- Tuesday, 5/12**  
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. Also, if you would like to be a part of those who gather on Saturday to record the service, please call.

Our **Designated Benevo-**

**lence** for the month of May will be directed to Camper-

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.

# 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 29 ..... Calvin Swaney  
 May 2 ..... Vicky Gunderson  
 May 2 ..... Connie Meunier  
 May 7 ..... Lisa Cash  
 May 12 ..... Karissa Bjornstad  
 May 14 ..... Stella Roll  
 May 23 ..... Cole Bjornstad

#### Anniversaries

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

### Why We Love our Kids

While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my four-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. The various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers, and wheelchairs, unfailingly intrigued her. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she mere-

ly turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!"

While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his five-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting,

then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased.

The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: "Glory be unto the Faaaather, and unto the Sonn, and into the hole he goooooes."

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

**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

**5/17** Sixth 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

**5/24** Seventh Sunday of Easter  
**Asst Minister:** Karri Bjornstad  
**Reader:** Jarrod Roll  
**Crucifer:** Asher Roll  
**Acolyte:** Jed Roll  
**Ushers:** David Bjornstad  
**Counters:** Naomi R./Hannah S  
**Comm Asst:** Connie Meunier

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow  
**Fellowship:** tba

**5/31** The Day of Pentecost  
**Asst Minister:** Tom Rislow  
**Reader:** Craig Bartos  
**Crucifer:** Benjamin Roll  
**Acolyte:** Stella Roll  
**Ushers:** Jarrod Roll  
**Counters:** Jane Kruse/Nikki Hanson  
**Comm Asst:** Heidi Traver  
**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg  
**Fellowship:** tba

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