

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 17, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

One of the difficulties in taking advantage of “Individual Confession and Absolution” is the whole matter of self-disclosure. The guilt and shame associated with a sin is hard enough to deal with alone. But it is a whole new level to stand naked and exposed before others. We say to ourselves, “What will they think when they find out what I am really like?” And this holds no less true when it comes to the Pastor. “What will he think of me now?”

There are several responses to this obstacle. The first is that it is not necessary to go to your own Pastor to make Private Confession. There is a reasonable expectation

that any Pastor in the LCMC or NALC would be willing to hear your confession. And a part of our vows as Lutheran Pastors is the pledge of confidentiality in Private Confession.

A second response has to do with understanding what is necessary to say in confession. The purpose of making a confession is to identify and freely confess specific sins, but not necessarily a lot of details. It is enough to confess out loud sins like disobedience, unfaithfulness, being bad-tempered, dishonest, or injury to anyone by word or deed. A confession of infidelity, for instance, probably does not require names, circumstances, or details.

Third, we may fail to recognize that the most serious sins are the ones for which we often feel the least guilt. False belief and despair are the most serious. They are related to having other gods and the failure to hear and believe God’s promises, especially as relates to the forgiveness of sin.

Finally, any Confessor (a Pastor who hears confessions) worth a grain of salt recognizes his own most grievous sins, and with any experience has heard many sins confessed. There are ten upon which to especially focus. And in one degree or another we all fall short of each one of the ten. We all alike are sinners.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the meaning of “Lent”?

The English word “Lent” means “springtime”. Lent is the six-week period of spiritual discipline before Easter (40 days not counting Sundays). At an early period in the Church’s history baptisms might only be celebrated once a year at the Easter Vigil Service. Accordingly there was a period prior to this of introduc-

ing and training candidates for baptism. In time the training for baptismal candidates grew to a six week period, and this training involved fasting. The 40 days was, no doubt, modeled on the 40 days of our Lord Jesus’ fasting in the wilderness before his temptations by the devil. As the years passed the Lenten fast began to be applied, not only to the baptismal candidates, but to

the church as a whole. Church members were encouraged to approach Easter in the same manner in which they had solemnly prepared for their baptisms. That is why the Season of Lent has finally developed as a time for fasting, study, prayer, acts of love, and humility. (with help from *The Westminster Dictionary of Worship*, edited by J.G. Davies, *The Westminster Press*.)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 2/16**
1:00pm Prayer Gathering
- Wednesday, 2/17**
7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service
- Friday, 2/19**
6:30am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study
- Sunday, 2/21** First Sunday in Lent
9:00am Divine Service (also livestreamed)
- Tuesday, 2/23**
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...

Our **Ash Wednesday Service**, February 17, 7pm will involve an extended penitential rite along with the Imposition of Ashes. This Divine Service will also include Holy Communion.

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

Look for some **special devotional material** in lieu of Lenten Midweek Services this year. You will be kept posted.

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

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of February is the NALC, the North American Lutheran Church.

Cole and Anne Warner are scheduled to clean the church the week of February 21. The Roll family is scheduled for the week of March 21

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

Feb 24 Jed Roll

Anniversaries

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

One Liners

- Be ye fishers of men. You catch 'em - He'll clean 'em.

- Stop, Drop, and Roll won't work in Hell.

- Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

- Don't put a question mark where God puts a period.

- Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.

- Forbidden fruits create many jams.

- God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

- God grades on the cross, not the curve.

- God loves everyone, but probably prefers "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts!"

- God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

- He who angers you, controls you.

- If God is your Co-pilot, swap seats.

- We don't change the message, the message changes us.

- Mathematical Equation: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

2/17 Ash Wednesday

Asst Minister: Naomi Rislow

Reader: Mike Meunier

Crucifer: not needed at this time

Acolyte: not needed at this time

Ushers: not needed at this time

Counters: not needed at this time

Comm Asst: Connie Meunier

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: not needed at this time

Acolyte: not needed at this time

Ushers: not needed at this time

Counters: Jeremy S/Cheryl R

Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: not needed at this time

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: not needed at this time

3/7 3rd Sunday in Lent

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: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: not needed at this time

2/21 1st Sunday In Lent

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier

Reader: Ruth Scholze

Crucifer: not needed at this time

2/28 2nd Sunday in Lent

Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad

Reader: Hannah Scholze

Crucifer: not needed at this time

Acolyte: not needed at this time

Ushers: not needed at this time

Counters: David B/Tom R

Comm Asst: tbd

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