

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 24, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

The consideration of the practice of Individual Confession continues this week. Lately I have been discussing potential obstacles that make it difficult to take advantage of the opportunity. So far we have touched on unfamiliarity and the fear of being exposed. This week I want to touch on another difficulty, and that is the matter of privacy.

I have previously mentioned the confidentiality of the confessional. That is, the Confessor is duty bound to respect the “seal of confession”. This means that the Pastor cannot share or disclose what has been confessed, even if demanded to do so by civil law. I myself view this as a part of my

ordination vows.

Not only is the confession kept confidential, but the fact that a confession was heard is a private matter. So when a penitent comes to a Pastor to make confession, care is taken to keep the nature of the business private, along with what is confessed. This requires being able to be in area affording privacy, especially that voices are not overheard.

But discretion is also needed. Not just any private place will work. And especially with the opposite sex, there needs to be enough privacy so voices are not overheard, but not so hidden and out of view as to lack prudence and invite

misunderstanding. One can quickly see the beneficial nature of the confessional booth with two separate compartments and yet located in a public area.

I like to hear confessions before the altar in the worship area. People walking by outside, or happening to enter, can see two people talking before the altar. If and when someone walks in, the confession may need to be paused momentarily. Because of the limited traffic around our present location, this has not been a big hindrance. If the penitent wishes to be accompanied and have someone nearby, but out of voice range, this is another way for the necessary privacy, and yet protection for all involved.

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 2/23
1:00pm Prayer Gathering

Friday, 2/26
6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 2/28 Second Sunday in Lent
9:00am Divine Service (also livestreamed)

Tuesday, 3/2
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...

In lieu of gathering for **Len-ten Midweek Services**, Pastor Tim will email a devotional based on one of the daily lectionary readings for each Wednesday. It is hoped that this can be used along with the Congregation at Prayer Guide.

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 **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

Ole and Lena

Lena called the airlines information desk and inquired, "How long does it take to fly from Minneapolis to Fargo?" "Just a minute," said the busy clerk. "Vell," said Lena, "If it has to go dat fast, I tink I'll just take da bus."

The judge had just awarded a

divorce to Lena, who had charged non-support. He said to Ole, "I have decided to give your wife \$400 a month for support." "Vell, dat's fine, Judge," said Ole. "And vunce in a while I'll try to chip in a few bucks myself."

Ole's neighbor Sven had a boy, Sven Junior, who came home one day and asked,

"Papa, I have da biggest feet in da third grade. Is dat becoss I'm Norvegian?" "No," said Sven, "It's because you're NINETEEN."

Lars asked Ole, "Do ya know da difference between a Norwegian and a canoe?" "No, I don't," said Ole. "A canoe will sometimes tip," explained Lars.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

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: Connie Meunier
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: 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

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

3/14 4th 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

3/21 5th 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

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