

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 20, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

When discussing the gift of the forgiveness of sins, I think one of the early things we need to be clear about is that this is an ongoing need throughout our lives, even as believing and confessing Christians!

When we read in 1 John 1:8, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us," this is not just referring to the time before we came to Christ. As is abundantly clear all our lives, we continue to sin, even when we have walked with the Lord for years. This does not mean that no growth takes place. Indeed it does. Or at least it better take place! But it does mean that we never quite arrive at perfec-

tion this side of the grave.

I remember early on in seminary learning about the verb tenses in the Greek language, and therefore, in the Greek New Testament. The present tense in Greek not only indicates actions taking place at the moment, but it also indicates ongoing action. There is something called the aorist tense that describes snapshot, single actions. And wouldn't you know it, the words repent and believe often appear in the present tense. So when we are invited to repent and believe, we are invited to be 'repenters' and 'believers' the rest of our lives.

Perhaps it can be said even more simply. We need to continue to repent and re-

ceive forgiveness because we continue to sin, even though we are to wage a heroic battle against sin.

Another early consideration to take to heart is that our Lord has located where we might encounter Him and His gift of forgiveness He won on the Cross. We encounter Him, His gifts, and His promises in the gathering of believers around Word and Sacrament! He entrusted the pronouncement of His forgiveness (the absolution) by appointed ambassadors speaking on His behalf, and He works through His Church to appoint such official ambassadors.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is a Paschal Candle?

The Paschal Candle is a massive candle, two or three inches in diameter and three or four feet in length, used during Easter to represent the presence of the risen Christ among his peo-

ple. It is therefore accordingly used also at baptisms and funerals as a sign of the dying and rising with Christ that we are joined to by faith. *(from "Manual on the Liturgy" companion to the LBW, from Augsburg Pub.)*

The use of candles in connection with worship goes

back at least to the lamp of the Lord kept lit in the tabernacle, and then later in the temple. This lamp is often pictured as multiple candles mounted on a candle stand.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 1/19

4:00pm No Prayer Gathering

Friday, 1/22

6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 1/24 3rd Sunday a Epiphany

9:00am Divine Service (also

livestreamed)

10:30am Annual Meeting

11:30am Worship Team Meeting

Tuesday, 1/26

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...

We have moved up our Congregation's **Annual Meeting** to Sunday, January 24, following the Divine Service at 10:30am. There will be an opportunity to participate this year online.

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

 You should have received the 2020 Report for the 2021 Annual Meeting. Printed copies are available at church.

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

 Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of January is the Onalaska/Holmen Food Bank.

 Hannah Scholze and Cheryl

Ruud are scheduled to clean the church the week of January 17. The Roll family is scheduled for the week of February 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

Jan 13 Carol Peterson
 Jan 21 Elyse Schoonover
 Jan 26 Marge Wangen
 Jan 27 Ann Fisher
 Feb 24 Jed Roll

Anniversaries

Jan 11 E & P Christensen
 May 3 J & J Schoonover
 May 6 T & L Duesenberg
 May 7 T & N Rislow

One Liners

- Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.

- Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.

- Early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

- I'm not cheap, but I am on special this week.

- I almost had a psychic girlfriend but she left me before we met.

- I intend to live forever - so far, so good.

- I love defenseless animals, especially in a good gravy.

- If you ain't making waves, you ain't kicing hard enough!

- Mental backup in progress - Do not disturb.

- Mind like a steel trap - Rusty and illegal in 37 States.

- Quantum Mechanics: The dream stuff is made of.

- Support bacteria - they're the only culture some people have.

- The only substitute for good manners is fast reflexes.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

1/24 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Asst Minister: Cole Warner

Reader: Jarrod Roll

Crucifer: not needed at this time

Acolyte: not needed at this time

Ushers: not needed at this time

Counters: Jarrod R/Connie M

Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: not needed at this time

Acolyte: not needed at this time

Ushers: not needed at this time

Counters: tba

Comm Asst: na

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: not needed at this time

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: not needed at this time

2/14 Transfiguration of Our Lord

Asst Minister: tba

Reader: tba

Crucifer: not needed at this time

Acolyte: not needed at this time

Ushers: not needed at this time

Counters: tba

Comm Asst: tba

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: not needed at this time

2/7 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Asst Minister: tba

Reader: tba

Crucifer: not needed at this time

Acolyte: not needed at this time

Ushers: not needed at this time

Counters: tba

Comm Asst: tba

1/31 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier

Reader: Hannah Scholze

Crucifer: not needed at this time

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