

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 7, 2020

A WORD FROM PT

I write this week on what I consider an often misunderstood topic. I am speaking of two hot button issues, that of religion and politics. Because both subjects can generate strong emotions, some folks consider them off limits for safe conversation. And more to the point, I want to discuss the mixing of the two topics. Talk about living dangerously!

People may mean well when they say that religion has no place in politics. They will sometimes cite what they think is written in the Constitution mandating a "separation of church and state." But there is no such mandate or wording to that effect. The actual words

found in the First Amendment to the Constitution are, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

What this means, for example, is that the United States Congress is forbidden to make the North American Lutheran Church the official religion of our country, and then levy taxes so that this church alone flourishes. Importantly, it also means, that Congress shall make no law restricting the exercise of religion. And faith is exercised in our daily lives, in our communities, and for our neighbor.

Instead of saying "Separation of church and state," we

should say "Non establishment by the state, but the free exercise in the state."

Now it's a different matter for the Church to ask herself whether she ought to get involved in politics. And here we must be careful. It may be a frittering away of the unique authority of the Church in matters eternal to wed with political agendas, but this is not the same as saying the Church must be silent in the polis (society or community). Not only would this be the lack of exercising our faith, but it is to say moral and ethical truths on the basis of God's Word have no place at the table. Just so, we therefore cannot forfeit love of God, and love of our neighbor!

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What do Lutherans believe is given in Holy Communion? "We believe, teach, and confess that in the Holy Supper the body and blood of Christ are truly and essentially present and are truly distributed and received with the bread and wine. We believe, teach, and confess

that the words of the testament of Christ are to be understood in no other way than in their literal sense, and not as though the bread symbolized the absent body and the wine the absent blood of Christ, but that because of the sacramental union they are truly the body and blood of

Christ" (*Formula of Concord, Epitome, Art. VII.*)

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 10 that the bread is "a participation in the Lord's body." If the Lord's body were not truly present, the bread would perhaps be a participation in his spirit. But Paul says it is a participation in his body!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 10/6
1:00pm Prayer Gathering

Friday, 10/9
6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 10/11 19th Su a Pentecost
9:00am Divine Service
10:30am Confirmation Class

Tuesday, 10/13
1:00pm No Prayer Gathering
6:00pm Council Meeting

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...

This coming Sunday on October 11, we will celebrate a **Divine Service with Holy Communion at 9am.**

Please register with Pastor Tim by email no later than 4pm the Friday before as we are limited in the number to safely gather.

In addition to those who can gather for the Divine Service, others can participate to the **Livestreaming of the Service.** You can catch the livestream on our Face Book Page.

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** is meeting regularly at 6:30am on Fridays. Coffee and OJ served with egg bake and sausage is on the menu, along with God's Word.

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of October will be directed to the World Mission Prayer League sponsoring Didi and Serafina Panzo.

Remember to be generous

with your non perishable **food donations** as the Onalaska/Holmen Food Pantry is seeing an increase on the demand.

Karri Bjornstad and Connie Meunier are signed up to clean the week of October 18. Heidi Traver and Lisa Cash have the week of November 15.

Use your Face Book Accounts, emails, and other electronics to share the faith with others. Or even better send a card or letter...

GIFT of GRACE

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

Sept 30..... Cheryl Ruud
Oct 1..... Wendell Halderson
Oct 15..... Tom Kruse
Oct 26..... Naomi Rislow

Anniversaries

Oct 6..... B & P Benrud
Oct 7..... D & K Bjornstad

Actual Bulletin Announcements

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment, and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00pm, prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will

be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10am. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

10/11 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: tbd

Reader: xxxx

Crucifer: not needed at this time

Acolyte: not needed at this time

Ushers: not needed at this time

Counters: Hannah S/Cheryl R

Comm Asst: xxxx

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: not needed at this time

Acolyte: not needed at this time

Ushers: not needed at this time

Counters: xxxx

Comm Asst: xxxx

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: not needed at this time

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Fellowship: not needed at this time

11/1 All Saints' Sunday

Asst Minister: xxxx

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: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: not needed at this time

10/18 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: xxxx

Reader: xxxx

Crucifer: not needed at this time

10/25 Reformation Sunday

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

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