

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

A WORD FROM PT

This week I would like to share a few musings on fighting against becoming spiritually discouraged. I especially have in mind the tough sledding we face as a mission congregation in the Holmen area.

It can help to realize why these are tough times for church growth. The reasons include a drop in the birth rate, a drop even outside the church in people belonging to clubs and organizations, a culture that has grown more hostile to traditional Christian teachings and values, and too many controversies raging in church bodies. There are many other reasons. Some of these factors are outside our control.

It can also help to realize

the Church has faced many similar challenges in the past. In fact, when it first started out the Church faced even greater challenges than we face now. If you know a little history you will know that official Judaism of the first century, and then the Roman Empire, was adverse to the Christian movement.

It can help to know that Christ cares desperately for the lost. Too often our despair comes from the feeling that we are a failure, or that we are not a part of something that is perceived by others to be successful. Christ actually cares for lost and condemned sinners, ourselves included.

It can help to remember that we are most infectious

with the love of God when we ourselves are richly infected with the love and knowledge of our Savior, and when we find joy in His promises and in His community.

It can help to have confidence in the Holy Spirit's work in Word and Sacrament. We can wear ourselves out with gimmicks. But His Word can conceive and give birth to saving faith. We need to trust that we are spreading potent seeds!

And finally, it can help to joyfully celebrate our life in Christ even in hard times, nay, especially in hard times. The celebration itself has drawing power.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the significance of sharing the peace?

"The peace which enables people to live in unity and in the spirit of mutual forgiveness comes only from Christ whose word has been proclaimed. ... The peace is a sign that those who partic-

ipate in it open themselves to the healing and reconciling power of God's love and offer themselves to be agents of that love in the world. ... The personal exchange of the peace should be as unpatterned as possible, but its meaning and significance should be

kept clear. It is not the occasion merely for conviviality. The choice of gesture, whether a handshake, holding hands, or an embrace, should be left to the persons themselves." (from "Manual on the Liturgy" companion to the LBW, from Augsburg Pub.)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 2/11

1:00pm Prayer Gathering
6:00pm Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, 2/12

6:30pm Adult Ed/Confirmation

Friday, 2/14

6:30am Men's Breakfast at church

Saturday, 2/15

10:00am Mission District Council

Sunday, 2/16 6th Sunday a Epiphany

8:00am Choir Practice
9:00am Divine Service

Monday, 2/17

5:30pm Ladies' Night Out

Tuesday, 2/18

11:15am Ladies' Lunch Out

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...

The **Church Council** will meet on Tuesday the 11th at 6:00pm.

Upcoming Events in February include the **Mission District Council Meeting** on Saturday the 15th; and the **Ash Wednesday Service** on the 26th.

The **Ladies' Night Out** in February will be on Monday, February 17, 5:30pm at the Perkins near the mall. RSVP to Mary Bartos at

cbartos@earthlink.net.

The **Ladies' Lunch Out** in February will be on Tuesday, February 18, 11:30am at Features in Holmen. RSVP to Mary Bartos at cbartos@earthlink.net.

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of February will be directed to the **North American Lutheran Church (NALC)**.

Don't forget to bring non-

perishable food items for the **Holmen/Onalaska Food Pantry**.

The Duesenbergs are signed up to clean the church the week of February 16. Cheryl Ruud and Hannah Scholze are listed for week of March 15.

Nothing beats a personal invitation. But sometimes we need a little boldness to take a chance. Do you know someone you could invite to attend a Divine Service with you, or a study time, or a Ladies' Night or Lunch Out?

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 2 Kermit Gunderson
Feb 24 Jed Roll

Anniversaries

Eternal Truths

- Once over the hill, you pick up speed.

- I love cooking with wine. Sometimes I even put it in the food.

- If it weren't for STRESS I'd have no energy at all.

- Whatever hits the fan will not be evenly distributed.

- Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film.

- Dogs have owners. Cats have staff.

- We cannot change the direction of the wind, but we

can adjust our sails.

- Some days are a total waste of makeup.

- Do you believe in love at first sight ... or should I walk by you again?

- It the shoe fits ... buy it in every color.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

2/16 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Asst Minister: Tom Rislow

Reader: Craig Bartos

Crucifer: Drew Staff

Acolyte: Dawson Staff

Ushers: Mary Bartos

Counters: Cheryl Ruud/Mary Bartos

Comm Asst: Heidi Traver

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: Mary B/tba

Acolyte: Alex Uy

Ushers: Tom Kruse

Counters: Tom R/Hannah S

Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: Dottie H/tba

3/1 First Sunday in Lent

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier

Reader: Naomi Rislow

Crucifer: Asher Roll

Acolyte: Jed Roll

Ushers: Cole Warner

Counters: Naomi R/Jane K

Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: tba

3/8 Second Sunday in Lent

Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad

Reader: Jon Uy

Crucifer: Kylee Kernan

Acolyte: Calvin Swaney

Ushers: Jeremy Schoonover

Counters: Jarrod R/Nikki H

Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: tba

2/23 Transfiguration of Our Lord

Asst Minister: Naomi Rislow

Reader: Brad Benrud

Crucifer: Calvin Swaney

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