

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 17, 2020

A WORD FROM PT

We are going through a period right now that is divisive and heated. The obvious flashpoints have been the pandemic and protests against racial injustice that unfortunately gave way to rioting, burning, looting, and violence. These are the flashpoints. But the undercurrents of the discord have been fermenting for quite some time.

When we reflect Biblically (theologically) we realize that sin is the cause of all division, animosity, and alienation. We see this chronicled in the narrative of our first parents in Genesis chapter three.

Adam and Eve failed to heed the one command given them. They were forbidden to eat of the fruit of

the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. And they were warned that disobedience in this matter would result in death.

Giving in to temptation and failing to trust in God's goodness and the reliability of His Word, Adam and Eve took the fatal bite.

Surprisingly, they did not drop dead immediately on the spot! But that did not mean they did not die. Theologically death is understood as a series of separations, until finally humans would return to the dust. First and foremost, humans became separated from God, the author and source of life. Then they experienced shame, a kind of separation happening against the wholeness within. Then

in laying blame on each other, they experienced separation from each other. And finally they experienced a rupture in their fruitful relationship with the rest of creation.

The remedy and overcoming of these fatal divisions and separations could not be overcome by human attempts. It is our attempts apart from trust in God's love and His Wisdom revealed in His Word that caused the divisions in the first place. No, only God Himself could overcome the divide with His Son's death which atones for sin and makes possible forgiveness and the removal of sin. We read in Ephesians chapter two of how Christ alone can break down the dividing walls of hostility.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What good purpose is there in signing oneself (making the sign of the cross with the hand over one's head and breast)?

This gesture's main purpose is to remind us of our baptism where the sign of the

cross was first made on our foreheads. The cross is a powerful symbol which reminds us of the depths of God's love for us – He loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for us. In Holy Baptism we have been joined to Christ. Every time we sign ourselves we

declare that we belong to Christ and that we desire to live for Him. We give visible expression that we serve the One, True God who has revealed Himself to us in three persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 6/16
4:00pm Prayer Gathering

Wednesday 6/17
6:00pm Council Meeting

Friday, 6/19
6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 6/21 3rd Sunday a Pentecost
9:00am Divine Service

Tuesday, 6/23
4:00pm 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...

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** will begin meeting again at the church at 6:30am on Friday morning. Expect coffee and donuts.

We are asking that you email your **intention to attend** an upcoming service by Friday, 4pm, two days before the service. To begin with, we will limit the number that can attend. If you miss out one Sunday, you will be given priority for the next time you wish to attend.

Not all will be able or desiring to attend yet. We understand. That's why **we will live-stream the services**. Pastor Tim is also willing to meet with small groups during the week for a brief service of Word and Sacrament. Contact him if you are interested in this.

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of June will be directed to The Food Basket serving Holmen and Onalaska.

Don't forget to bring non-perishable food items for **The Food Basket** serving Holmen and Onalaska.

The Roll family is signed up for cleaning the church the week of June 21. Beginning in July we need a new signup list.

Having compassion and showing mercy to our neighbors is always the finest witness that we can do.

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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

- June 13 Paul Hanson
- June 14 Jane Kruse
- June 15 Sam Stutzman
- June 25 Mary Bartos
- June 26 Tom Rislow
- July 9..... Alex Uly

Anniversaries

- June 13 M & M Wangen
- June 22 P & N Hanson
- July 4..... E & G Eade
- July 9..... B & C Peterson

Sunday School Kids

A teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible; Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the passage.

Little Bobby was excited about the task. But, he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice,

he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Bobby was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my shepherd and that's all I need to know!"

Father's Day Quotes

"By the time a man realizes his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he's wrong."

"The older I get, the smarter my father seems to get."

"A father's words are like a thermostat that sets the temperature in the house."

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined) a little before service

6/21 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

- Asst Minister:** tbd
- Reader:** tbd
- Crucifer:** tbd
- Acolyte:** tbd
- Ushers:** tbd
- Counters:** tbd
- Comm Asst:** tbd
- Accompanist:** tbd
- Fellowship:** tbd

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- Accompanist:** tbd
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6/28 4th Sunday after Pentecost

- Asst Minister:** tbd
- Reader:** tbd
- Crucifer:** tbd

- 7/5** 5th Sunday after Pentecost
- Asst Minister:** tbd
- Reader:** tbd
- Crucifer:** tbd
- Acolyte:** tbd
- Ushers:** tbd
- Counters:** tbd
- Comm Asst:** tbd

7/12 6th Sunday after Pentecost

- Asst Minister:** tbd
- Reader:** tbd
- Crucifer:** tbd
- Acolyte:** tbd
- Ushers:** tbd
- Counters:** tbd
- Comm Asst:** tbd
- Accompanist:** tbd
- Fellowship:** tbd

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg, STS
642 Western Avenue
Holmen, WI 54636
www.giftofgracelc.org
giftofgracelc@gmail.com
(608) 797-7837

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