

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

A WORD FROM PT

Last week I shared with you the idea that the Bible is a collection of 66 books, divided into two major divisions, known as the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament is the larger of the two, containing 39 books. The New Testament is comprised of 27 books.

Something today labeled “old” often carries a negative association. So if it helps, think of the division as that between the First and Second Testaments? “First” has a winsome connotation! What we as Christians call the Old Testament is actually known in Judaism as the Hebrew Scriptures. Jesus referred to the Hebrew Scriptures as “the law and the prophets.” And this was the Bible that the first

generation of Christians knew.

An important key for reading the Bible is exemplified each Sunday in the Divine Service. As you know, there are three readings selected for each Divine Service. We listen to God speak to us in all three lessons. And there is an intentional ascending order in the selections.

First, God speaks to us through the prophetic voice of the Old Testament. Second, He speaks to us through the apostolic voice of the New Testament. And last, we hear the actual words of the Incarnate Lord Himself recorded in the Gospel Accounts.

Beautifully, all year long the selected readings make sure there is a tie between the

first reading and the Gospel lesson. The tie helps us to see the fulfillment to which the prophetic voice points. In the Seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter the second lesson is reflective of the theme shared between the first lesson and the Gospel. The rest of the year it is successive readings through the New Testament.

Concerning the Old Testament, the writings of Moses are foundational. Being the first 5 books they are called the Pentateuch (Gk for “five”). In Hebrew they are called the Torah, which translated means “law” or “instruction”. The rest of the Old Testament chronicles Israel’s response to the covenant laid out in the Torah.

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, 9/2
4:00pm Prayer Gathering

Friday, 9/4
6:30am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 9/6 14th Sunday a Pentecost
9:00am Divine Service

Tuesday, 9/8
4:00pm 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...

We are offering two ways to participate in **the Divine Service at 9am on Sundays**. First, for those who are venturing out, we have "space-limited" seating. Face coverings are required for this service. Please email PT by 4pm on Fridays if you plan to attend this service. Otherwise, you can participate in the **livestream** made available on our Face Book Page.

Although **the livestream of the 9am Divine Service** remains as a recorded video that can be accessed later, we

highly recommend, whenever possible, to participate in it as a livestream at 9am. It is a good habit, and gratifying that we are participating at the same time.

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** meets 6:30am on Fridays. You are expected to wear a mask to and from this gathering and whenever we are not eating. We are serving coffee, donuts, orange juice, and breakfast biscuits.

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of September will be directed to the Rainbow Network.

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

The Harwoods are signed up to clean the week of September 20. Karri Bjornstad and Connie Meunier have the week of October 18.

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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

Aug 29..... Jeremy Schoonover
 Sept 2 Karri Bjornstad
 Sept 3 Tom Stelpflug
 Sept 6 Anne Warner
 Sept 10..... Carol Halderson
 Sept 10..... Hannah Scholze
 Sept 15..... Butch Fisher

Anniversaries

Aug 28 B & A Fisher
 Sept 8 J & D Uy

Paraprosdokian

(figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence is unexpected)

- Ever stop to think and forget to start again?
- Women spend more time wondering what men are thinking than men spend thinking.
- He who laughs last thinks slowest.
- Is it wrong that only one

company makes the game Monopoly?

- Women sometimes make fools of men, but most guys are the do-it-yourself type.
- I was going to give him a nasty look, but he already had one.
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
- I was going to wear my camouflage shirt today, but I

couldn't find it.

- If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
- Sometimes I wake up grumpy; other times I let her sleep.
- If tomatoes are technically a fruit, is ketchup a smoothie?
- Money is the root of all wealth.
- No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationary.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

9/6 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Mike Meunier
Crucifer: tbd
Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: tbd
Counters: Daivd B/Jeremy S
Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tbd

Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: tbd
Counters: tbd
Comm Asst: tbd
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tbd

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Fellowship: tbd

9/13 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: tbd

9/20 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: tbd
Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: tbd
Counters: tbd
Comm Asst: tbd

9/27 15th 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
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Services held at 9am at:
 642 Western Avenue
 A block north and then
 a block west of King Furniture