

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 17, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

I am impressed this week to talk with you about the culture war being waged against confessional Christianity and the truths of God's Word. This is nothing new, but we are certainly currently in a bad cycle. The push back against Christian teachings and morality has become more blatant and aggressive in recent years.

If, by chance, you don't agree with this, my purpose here is not to convince you otherwise. Instead, my concern here is for how ill equipped we are to fight back. But let me hasten to describe what I mean by fighting back. I mean with the weapons of the Spirit. Such armaments always

involve speaking the truth in love, refusing to lend credence to falsehoods, standing our ground, by proclaiming and teaching the Gospel of Jesus, and by serving our neighbor.

In general, we are not well catechized as Christians in our culture. That means, we are not well-formed in the Faith. This is for a host of reasons. But oddly, I do not believe they are primarily because of external reasons. Instead, they have to do with the pampering of the flesh and enticements by the devil along with the world. They have to do with sloth and misplaced priorities. And they have to do with thinking of discipleship primarily as an appeal to our affections, rather

than responding to God's grace with the whole of our being, especially at the core, with lifelong catechesis (read *apprenticeship*). Jesus said discipleship is a matter of being baptized and catechized in all that He taught (cf. Mt 28:19-20).

Lacking such formation we are not able to identify the falsehoods of our age. We latch on to every whim and fancy of the culture (cf. Ja 1:6). We care more how "we feel" about something, rather than holding up all matters to the light, truth, and scrutiny of God's Word. We care more about the approval of man than of God! And we live as if this temporal age was our true home.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the purpose and meaning of our **Votive Prayer Candles**?

To "light a candle for someone" means that you will say a prayer for them. The candle symbolizes your prayers. When we light a candle it is a sign of attentiveness

and that we are being purposeful in offering intercessory prayer. It is an important act in which we are involved! To be in prayer is to be spiritually awake and vigilant. And as the candle continues to burn it symbolizes our ongoing prayers. It is a sign to others that pray-

ers are being offered. In such an atmosphere, indeed the darkness gives way to light.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 3/16**
11:00am Prayer Gathering
- Thursday, 3/18**
10:00am Clergy Gathering at Olivet
- Friday, 3/19**
6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study
- Sunday, 3/21** Fifth Sunday in Lent
9:00am Divine Service (also livestreamed)
10:30am Confirmation Class
- Tuesday, 3/23**
11:00am 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...

It's coming up soon! **Holy Week** that is. It starts with the Divine Service on **Palm/Passion Sunday**, March 28. It continues with the **Maundy Thursday Service** at 7pm on April 1. And then there is the **Good Friday Tenebrae Service** at 7pm on April 2. And it culminates with the Divine Service on **Easter Sunday**, April 4.

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

Don't forget **Food Donations** for the Onalaska Food Basket!

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of March is the NALS, the North American Lutheran Seminary.

The Roll family is scheduled

to clean the church the week of March 21. The Hanson family is scheduled for the week of April 18

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.

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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

Mar 16..... Jon Uy
Mar 17..... Linda Anderson
Mar 17..... Mike Meunier
Mar 18..... Nikki Hanson
Mar 26..... Asher Roll
Mar 26..... Benjamin Roll
Mar 29..... Phyllis Christensen

Anniversaries

May 3..... J & J Schoonover
May 6..... T & L Duesenberg
May 7..... T & N Rislow

Ole and Lena

One night, Ole and Lena were fast asleep when all of a sudden the phone rings. Ole wakens and goes to answer it, "How the heck should I know, that's a thousand miles away!!" he barks into the phone and then slams down the receiver. "Who was that?" asks Lena. "I have no idea, Lena," answers Ole.

"Somebody wanted to know if the coast is clear."

Ole walks into work, and both of his ears are all bandaged up. The boss says, "What happened to your ears?" Ole says, "Yesterday I was ironing a shirt when the phone rang and (hold iron to ear) shhh! I accidentally answered the iron." The boss

says, "Well, that explains one ear, but what happened to your other ear?" Ole says, "Well, jeez, I had to call the doctor!"

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

3/21 5th Sunday In Lent

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Jarrod Roll
Crucifer: *not needed at this time*
Acolyte: *not needed at this time*
Ushers: *not needed at this time*
Counters: David B/Jarrold R
Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: *not needed at this time*

Acolyte: *not needed at this time*
Ushers: *not needed at this time*
Counters: Cheryl R/tbd
Comm Asst: Connie Meunier
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: *not needed at this time*

Accompanist: tbd
Fellowship: *not needed at this time*

3/28 Palm/Passion Sunday

Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg
Reader: Mike Meunier
Crucifer: *not needed at this time*

4/1 Maundy Thursday

Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: *not needed at this time*
Acolyte: *not needed at this time*
Ushers: *not needed at this time*
Counters: tbd
Comm Asst: tbd

4/4 Resurrection of Our Lord

Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: *not needed at this time*
Acolyte: *not needed at this time*
Ushers: *not needed at this time*
Counters: tbd
Comm Asst: tbd
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: *not needed at this time*

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