

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 5, 2020

A WORD FROM PT

Continuing the discussion from last week of the interplay between the Scriptures speaking to us, either as “law”, or as “gospel”, I wish to describe to you how these two ways of addressing us work together.

By way of quick review, when we are speaking of law we are speaking of God’s will and of His demands upon us. Certainly this is clearly reflected in the Ten Commandments. But there are plenty of other places throughout the Bible where we can hear God stating His demands for us and how His creation is set up to operate. And when we are speaking strictly of God’s gospel, or promise, we see this also

unfold throughout the whole of Holy Writ whenever there is an indication of what God is doing on our behalf, especially out of mercy, and when He gifts us with His favor and blessings. The ultimate in the promise is what Jesus’ death and resurrection accomplished in forgiving our sins, and holding forth the promise of being liberated from sin, death, and the evil one.

I mentioned last week, that “law (demand) and gospel (promise)” needs to be distinguished from each other, but not separated. They work in tandem. For example, you do not confuse your foot for your hand. And yet they often work together, as when your feet

take you to your workbench and provide a steady platform as your hands accomplish some task.

There are three things the law does. It curbs evil. It mirrors (reflects) our flaws (sins). And it guides our actions. A curb, a mirror, and a guide! But the second task, as a mirror, is the most important for our salvation, for it **SOS**, shows our sin. Now the gospel especially **SOS**, shows our Savior! And we will not see the need for, or cling to, a savior unless we have an acute sense of our need for a rescue! Hence the work in tandem.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

Does the receiving of money offerings play a significant role in the worship service?

Yes, more than you might think! Cash is one of the strongest symbols in modern culture. When we offer our money on the altar it should represent our time

and effort – our very selves. In early Christian worship gifts-in-kind were handled during the weekly assemblage. In our post-industrial societies, we now exchange in paper or metal symbols. The offering of our selves upon the altar is in response to God’s love proclaimed in

the Good News and in anticipation of how God offers back that which is entrusted to him. During the moment of offering we also offer bread and wine upon the altar, and in return these gifts are offered back to us as the very body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 8/4
4:00pm Prayer Gathering

Friday, 8/7
6:30am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 8/9 10th Sunday a Pentecost
8:00am Mask Required Shortened
Divine Service
9:00am Divine Service

Tuesday, 8/11
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...

We will be offering two services on Sundays. **First**, at 8am we will offer an **abbreviated Divine Liturgy** without any singing. Masks will be required for this service. And **second**, at 9am there will be a **full Divine Liturgy**. Masks are **now mandated** for this service as well. Please email PT by 4pm on Fridays if you plan to attend one of these two services.

 We will continue to **live-stream** the 9am Divine Liturgy and make it available on

our Face Book Page.

 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 August will be directed to Mercy House Global.

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

 The Duesenbergs are signed up to clean the week of August 16. The Harwoods have the week of September 20.

 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

- Aug 12..... Dawson Staff
- Aug 13..... Jessica Schoonover
- Aug 20..... Eric Eade
- Aug 24..... Mary Devine
- Aug 25..... Pam Benrud
- Aug 29..... Jeremy Schoonover

Anniversaries

- Aug 17..... W & C Halderson
- Aug 19..... M & C Meunier
- Aug 28..... B & A Fisher

Kids and Church

A mother with a fidgety seven-year old boy told me how she finally got her son to sit still and be quiet.

About halfway through the sermon, she leaned over and whispered, "If you don't sit still and be quiet, Pastor Tim is going to lose his place and will have to start his sermon

all over again!"

It worked.

 When asked by his cousin, "How many women can a man marry?" The little boy attending his first wedding, answered, "Sixteen."

Amazed that he answered so quickly, the cousin asked, "How do you know that?"

"Easy," came the reply. "Just add it up. Like the Pastor said, "4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

 The little girl got restless as the sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she whispered to her mommy, "If we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined) a little before service

8/9 10th Sunday after Pentecost

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

- Acolyte:** tbd
- Ushers:** tbd
- Counters:** tbd
- Comm Asst:** tbd
- Accompanist:** tbd
- Fellowship:** tbd

- Accompanist:** tbd
- Fellowship:** tbd

8/16 11th Sunday after Pentecost

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

8/23 12th Sunday after Pentecost

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

8/30 13th 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