

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 31, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

Has the past year with the pandemic and all the hardships made us more urgent about the Christian Faith? I ask you the question. I am not overwhelmed with indications in the culture that it has...

When I say urgent, I don't necessarily mean panicked. But I am implying a resolute sense of devotion, an indication of the right priorities, and signs of renewed dedication. When it has been understandably difficult, and arguably dangerous, to gather, a sense of urgency might be indicated by expressions of hunger and longing for being able to gather and commune with brothers and sisters in Christ in partaking of His

body and blood given with bread and wine.

In a year that we have oft heard the distinguishing between essential and non-essential workers and activities, church activities if mentioned at all, are seldom mentioned in the essential category. When one of the greatest mantras has been we need to "trust" or "follow" the science, the spiritually tuned ear finds it deafeningly silent any mention of the transcendent to see us through. Science, by the way, is certainly a valuable tool and we would be remiss without it. But is it a worthy guide above all else?

Unquestionably, a healthy amount of fear lends support to caution and the ex-

ercise of prudence. But unlike loftier rhetoric of the past, when have we been warned today that the greatest thing to fear is fear itself? Where has the realization that a meaningful life is one of taking risks, especially for the sake of the Gospel and out of love for our neighbor? Where has the demonstration been that this world is not our home, and that death in this age is complete with every generation?

In my plug for the upcoming Easter Celebration, I remind you of the Apostle Paul's take: If Christ has not been raised from the dead; we are of all people the most to be pitied. But if He has...

SINCE YOU ASKED...

How are we to understand the Easter Feast?

"Easter is to be understood as the crown of the whole year, the queen of feasts, and as such it lasts not for a day, not for a week, but for a week of

weeks — a week not made up of seven days but of seven weeks. So the Sundays of this season are called the Sundays of Easter. It is one extended feast. ... The Gospels for the Sundays of Easter present the themes of resur-

rection, ascension, and the sending of the Holy Spirit as aspects or stages of the Easter Mystery..." (from the *Manual on the Liturgy a companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*, publ. by Augsburg)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 3/30**
11:00am Prayer Gathering
- Thursday, 4/1** Maundy Thursday
7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship
- Friday, 4/2** Good Friday
7:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service
- Sunday, 4/4** Easter Sunday
9:00am Divine Service (also livestreamed)
- Tuesday, 4/6**
11:00am Prayer Gathering
- Friday, 4/9**
6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

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 happens this week! **Holy Week** that is. 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.

There is no longer any need to notify Pastor Tim if you

intent to attend the Divine Services. The **expectation for wearing a mask** will need to continue for some while. And livestreaming will also be continued indefinitely.

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

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the upcoming month of April is Youth Camperships.

The Hanson family is scheduled to clean the church the week of April 18. And Heidi Traver is scheduled for the week of May 16.

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.

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

Mar 26..... Asher Roll
Mar 26..... Benjamin Roll
Mar 29..... Phyllis Christensen
Apr 1..... Jarrod Roll
Apr 9..... Leslie Duesenberg

Anniversaries

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

Ole and Lena

With brand new cell phones Ole was excited to call on his way home from work. And so from the freeway he called and said, "Lena put supper on, I'm on my way home." And Lena says, "Be careful because I hear some nut is driving the wrong way on the freeway." "It's worse than that Lena!" Came Ole's reply.

"Where I'm at there are a hundred cars going the wrong way!"

At the fair Ole asked the pilot of an airplane how much a ride would cost. "\$10.00 for 3 minutes," said the pilot. But not wanting to pay that much, Ole asked, "Would you be willing to entertain a deal?" The pilot thought for a mi-

nute, and then conceded. "Here's the deal. If you and your wife can ride for 3 minutes without making a sound, the ride will be free." So they agreed and they went for a wild ride. Upon landing, the pilot congratulated Ole for not making a sound. "You are a brave man." "Maybe so," said Ole, "but I gotta tell ya, I almost screamed when my wife fell out."

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

4/1 Maundy Thursday

Asst Minister: Naomi Rislow
Reader: Karri Bjornstad
Crucifer: *not needed at this time*
Acolyte: *not needed at this time*
Ushers: *not needed at this time*
Counters: *not needed at this time*
Comm Asst: Connie Meunier
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: *not needed at this time*

Acolyte: *not needed at this time*
Ushers: *not needed at this time*
Counters: Hannah S/Cheryl R
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: *not needed at this time*

Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: *not needed at this time*

4/4 Resurrection of Our Lord

Asst Minister: Cole Warner
Reader: Nikki Hanson
Crucifer: *not needed at this time*

4/11 Second Sunday of Easter
Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad
Reader: Dan Molstad
Crucifer: *not needed at this time*
Acolyte: *not needed at this time*
Ushers: *not needed at this time*
Counters: David B/Jarrold Roll
Comm Asst: Jessica Schoonover

4/18 Third Sunday of Easter

Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Jessica Schoonover
Crucifer: *not needed at this time*
Acolyte: *not needed at this time*
Ushers: *not needed at this time*
Counters: David B/Tom R
Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad
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