

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 9, 2019

A WORD FROM PT

An insight that Martin Luther and his fellow reformers brought forth as an aid to understanding the Bible has to do with how various passages function. Broadly speaking, he insisted that the voice of Scripture is either speaking as Law, or as Gospel. And Scripture, as the Word of God, speaks in both ways to us.

Sometimes I like to substitute the words Law and Gospel with the words Demand and Promise, for these substitutes help us to understand the distinction. When the voice of God speaks in Scripture of what He has commanded, what He expects of us, and what His will is, this is the Law.

And on the other hand,

when His voice communicates His rich promises to us, what He has done, is doing, and will do on our behalf, and when He says “I forgive you your sins,” this is the Gospel.

It is important to understand that God speaks both Law and Gospel to us. We need to hear both words. And it is crucial to recognize that the failure to hear the one will jeopardize our hearing and appreciating the other. We also need to appreciate that these two words have different functions, and these two functions are distinct from each other.

In overly simplistic terms, the Law shows us our sins; and the Gospel shows us

our salvation. Now the Law in showing us God’s will at the same time measures how far short we fall in living according to his will. And so it ends up accusing and condemning us. Ouch! That’s no fun.

And the Gospel speaks pure gift and promise as we learn how Christ’s death and resurrection atones for our sins and offers us forgiveness and the promise of life and salvation. Here’s the rub, only those who truly know themselves to be lost and condemned will cling – really cling – to the remedy! And only with the promise and our trust in it do we receive life! All our life we will need ongoing repentance and trust...

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, 10/8

1:00pm Prayer Gathering

Wednesday, 10/9

5:30pm Outreach Team

6:30pm Adult Ed and Confirmation

Friday, 10/11

6:30am Men’s Breakfast at church

Sunday, 10/13 18th Sunday a Pent

8:00am Choir Practice

9:00am Divine Service

10:45am Adult Ed

3:00pm Hymn Sing & Pie Social

Monday, 10/14

5:30pm Ladies’ Night Out

Tuesday, 10/15

11:15am Ladies’ Lunch Out

1:00pm 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 **Outreach Team** will meet Wednesday, October 9, 5:30pm, at the church.

This coming Sunday, October 13, we are hosting an **Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing & Pie Social** at 3pm. We hope to attract hymn lovers around the area to feature folks' favorite hymn requests, and then to enjoy conversation over pie and ice-cream.

The **Ladies' Night Out** for October is coming up on

Monday evening, October 14, 5:30pm at Grizzly's in La Crosse. RSVP to Mary Bartos at mbartos57@gmail.com

The **Ladies' Lunch Out** in October is coming up on Tuesday, October 15, 11:15am at Features in Holmen. RSVP to Mary Bartos (mbartos57@gmail.com)

The chosen **Designated Benevolence** for the month of October is for the La Crosse Jail Ministry.

Don't forget to bring non-perishable food items for the **Holmen/Onalaska Food Pantry**.

Karri Bjornstad & Heidi Traver are signed up to clean the church the week of October 21, and Pr. Tim and Leslie Duesenberg are signed up for the week of November 18.

Do you know your faith well enough to be able to share it with another? Learning the Small Catechism by heart will help you in this!

GIFT of GRACE

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

Oct 15 Tom Kruse
Oct 26 Naomi Rislow

Anniversaries

Oct 06 B & P Benrud
Oct 07 D & K Bjornstad

Bulletin Bloopers

1.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

2.

Please join us as we show our support for Amy and Alan who are preparing for the birth of their first child.

3.

The Lutheran Men's Group will meet at 6pm. Steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread and dessert will be served for a nominal fee.

4.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

5.

The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

6.

Don't let worry kill you, let the church help.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

10/13 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover

Reader: Sam Schoonover

Crucifer: Dawson Staff

Acolyte: Drew Staff

Ushers: Tom Kruse

Counters: ConnieM/Mary B

Comm Asst: Connie Meunier

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: Nikki H/Jessica S

Acolyte: Asher Roll

Ushers: Mary Bartos

Counters: Tom R/Hannah S

Comm Asst: Heidi Traver

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: Hannah S/Heidi T

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: Leslie D/Cheryl R

11/3 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad

Reader: Craig Bartos

Crucifer: Stella Roll

Acolyte: Benjamin Roll

Ushers: David Bjornstad

Counters: Jane K/Nikki H

Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: tba

10/20 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg

Reader: Jarrod Roll

Crucifer: Jed Roll

10/27 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier

Reader: Hannah Scholze

Crucifer: Sam Schoonover

Acolyte: Elyse Schoonover

Ushers: Cole Warner

Counters: Naomi R/Jarrod R

Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover

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