

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 25, 2019

A WORD FROM PT

I mentioned last week that it was not until late in the nineteenth century that anyone departed from the use of the Chalice as the chief means of distributing the wine in Holy Communion. And last week I promised that I would discuss how this came to be.

According to the Rev'd J. D. Krout in a 1906 article reprinted in the *United Brethren Review* from the *Lutheran Quarterly*, the use of individual cups was first suggested by Mr. A. Van Derwerken, of Brooklyn, NY, in the year 1882. In 1887 Mr. Derwerken wrote an article advocating the use of individual cups, and the article appeared a year later in the *Annals of Hygiene*, of Philadelphia. In November 1893, the Psi Upsilon fra-

ternity, of Rochester, NY, celebrated the Lord's Supper with individual cups. The practice then spread quickly.

The main concern for the substitution of individual cups taking the place of the chalice was for practical reasons, namely concern for good hygiene. It was not for theological reasons.

It is noteworthy that this new practice originated among the Reformed branches of the Christian Church in America. Unlike Lutherans, the Reformed believed that in dealing with the elements of Communion they were only dealing with earthly elements. For Reformed theology there is no giving of Christ's body and blood in the meal. Any communing with Christ is

held to be spiritual. It turns out that the Reformed followed the Methodists in also substituting grape juice for wine. Again, this transition was an easy one for the Reformed given the view that the earthly elements are symbolic only.

Of course, Lutherans and many others would also begin using individual cups in the twentieth century and up to the present. Practical issues, such as convenience, but especially over hygiene, have been the reason for the widespread practice.

In the next edition of Grace Notes we will consider whether the concerns over hygiene are overblown, even as we reflect on what is compromised when the Chalice is laid aside.

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, 12/24

5:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, 12/29 1st Sunday a Christmas
9:00am Divine Service of the Word

Sunday, 1/5 2nd Sunday a Christmas
8:00am Choir Practice
9:00am Divine Service of the Word
10:45am Adult Class
1:15pm Service at Bethan St. Jo

Tuesday, 1/7

1:00pm Prayer Gathering

Wednesday, 1/8

6:30pm Adult Ed/Confirmation

Friday, 1/10

6:30am Men's Breakfast at church

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...

Due to the **Christmas Season**, with vacations and the semester break at school, there will be no activities at the church the week of December 22 and 29. That means no **Wednesday evening programs** on December 25 and January 1. Also there will be no **Men's Breakfast** on December 27 or January 3.

Coming Up in January: Wednesday Evening Education Programs resume on January 8. The Men's Break-

fast Bible Study resumes on January 10.

On Sunday, January 12, there will be a **Planning Meeting** for our Congregation's upcoming **10th Anniversary Celebration**. The **Council** will meet on Tuesday, January 14. And the **Worship Team** will meet on Sunday, January 19.

The chosen **Designated Benevolence** for the month of December is the Salvation

Army.

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

Karri Bjornstad and Connie Meunier are signed up to clean the church the week of January 19. The Duesenbergs are listed for the week of February 16.

Direct your family, neighbors, and friends to our new website (same address). It is an important outreach tool...

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

Dec 21 Drew Staff
Jan 13 Carol Peterson
Jan 21 Elyse Schoonover
Jan 26 Marge Wangen
Jan 27 Ann Fisher

Anniversaries

Dec 18 K & V Gunderson
Jan 6 T & J Kruse
Jan 11 E & P Christensen

Great Truths Learned By Children

No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.

When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.

If your sister hits you, don't

hit her back. They always catch the second person.

Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.

You can't trust dogs to watch your food.

Reading what people write on

desks can teach you a lot.

Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

12/29 First Sunday after Christmas

Asst Minister: Naomi Rislow
Reader: Jessica Schoonover
Crucifer: Sam Schoonover
Acolyte: Elyse Schoonover
Ushers: Cole Warner
Counters: Dave B/Jeremy S
Comm Asst: Not Needed
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Jessica S/Connie M

1/5 Second Sunday after Christmas

Asst Minister: Tom Rislow
Reader: Connie Meunier
Crucifer: Jed Roll

Acolyte: Asher Roll
Ushers: Merl Wangen
Counters: Cheryl R/Mary B
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Connie M/tba

1/12 The Baptism of Our Lord

Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Cole Warner
Crucifer: Dawson Staff
Acolyte: Drew Staff
Ushers: Jeremy Schoonover
Counters: Tom Rislow/Jarrod Roll
Comm Asst: Leslie Duesenberg

Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: tba

1/19 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Heather Roll
Crucifer: Alex Uly
Acolyte: Dawson Staff
Ushers: Jon Uly
Counters: Naomi R/Hannah S
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tba

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