

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 18, 2019

A WORD FROM PT

Last week as we were considering the Words of Institution for Holy Communion I stressed the fact that Jesus extended His cup to His disciples. Jesus said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood." It is the cup that is the counterpart to the bread.

The cup, not the wine, per se, is emblematic of the New Testament of Jesus' blood. And in addition to being a symbol, in the extending of the cup for all to drink, Jesus says this is His shed blood for the forgiveness of sins.

So why is the cup the counterpart to the bread? You might think the wine might be. Certainly, and without doubt, the cup was filled

with wine. But my best guess as to why it is the cup, and not the wine, that is accentuated has to do with containment. Whereas a loaf of bread is self-contained and can represent one body, a liquid is not self-contained. Wine is diffusive and without containment it does not represent the blood of one body. The cup, on the other hand, can represent one body or vessel.

A loaf of bread can represent one body. And in order to eat the bread it necessarily must be broken into pieces so many people can eat of the one bread. A cup can represent one body, but in order to drink from it each one must drink from the

cup.

A problem with prefilled, individual cups is that they do not symbolize oneness. Instead, they represent multiple containments. Perhaps we drink the same beverage, but we have not visualized how that same wine came from one container. The wine bottle itself is not as elegant as a valued chalice (type of cup), nor does the gathered congregation see the bottle containing wine.

Historically, it was not until the late nineteenth century when some churches departed from drinking from the Common Chalice during Communion. Next week I will discuss why this began to take place.

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, 12/17**
1:00pm Prayer Gathering
- Wednesday, 12/18**
6:30pm Adult Ed/Confirmation
- Thursday, 12/19**
10:00am LCMC Ministerium
- Friday, 12/20**
6:30am Men's Breakfast at church
10:30am Service at Bethany St. Jo
- Sunday, 12/22 4th Sunday in Advent**
8:00am Choir Practice
9:00am Divine Service
10:45am Adult Education
- Tuesday, 12/24**
5:00pm Christmas Eve Service

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...

Our Congregation will celebrate **the Holy Nativity** with the **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** with Holy Communion at 5pm on December 24.

Just a head's up. Sunday, December 22 is the **Fourth Sunday in Advent**, and then Sunday, December 29 is the **First Sunday after Christmas**. This year we will also have a **Second Sunday after Christmas** on January 5.

Two Opportunities for a little extra charity during this Season. The first is contributing \$12 to our Poinsettia Fund, most of the proceeds of which will go to a local food pantry. The second is to box food items for the local pantry according to suggestions of the Reverse Advent Calendar.

 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**.

 Paul and Nikki Hanson are signed up to clean the church the week of December 16. We need to start a new list for January

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

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

Dec 17..... Ginger Eade
 Dec 21..... Drew Staff
 Jan 13..... Carol Peterson
 Jan 21..... Elyse Schoonover

Anniversaries

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

Having Children

Advice for the day: If you have a lot of tension and you get a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle: "Take two aspirin" and "Keep away from children."

 Grandchildren are God's reward for not killing your own children.

 Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing is like clearing the driveway before it has stopped snowing.

 I asked Mom if I was a gifted child ... she said they certainly wouldn't have paid for me.

 We child proofed our home 3 years ago and they're still getting in!

 Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.

 Be nice to your kids. They'll choose your nursing home.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

12/22 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Asst Minister: Cole Warner
Reader: Karri Bjornstad
Crucifer: tba
Acolyte: tba
Ushers: Tom Kruse
Counters: Connie M/David Bjornstad
Comm Asst: Heidi Traver
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Carol P/Karri B

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

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Connie M/tba

12/29 First Sunday after Christmas

Asst Minister: Naomi Rislow
Reader: Jessica Schoonover
Crucifer: Sam Schoonover

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

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

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church
 Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg, sts
 642 Western Avenue
 Holmen, WI 54636
 www.giftofgracelc.org
 giftofgracelc@gmail.com
 (608) 797-7837

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