

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 13, 2019

#### A WORD FROM PT

There is a third matter considered “adiaphora” in our Lutheran Tradition that I wish to touch on, and that is the Church Calendar.

As you may recall in recent weeks I have discussed the historic liturgy and the common lectionary. To review, to use Lutheran Confessional language, these are matters of “adiaphora”, that is, they are neither commanded in Scripture, nor are they forbidden. But that does not mean they are unimportant!

We are not saved by worshiping according to the Lutheran order of Service or by following the Revised Common Lectionary. But especially in the Lutheran Tradition we have noted Biblical and historical precedence for these elements.

We also have found their use to be most helpful in shaping us as disciples in the Christian Faith. We find the same with the employment of the Church Calendar.

The Church Calendar as we know it did not exactly fall down from heaven. Some of the dates that we commemorate and celebrate were chosen for other reasons than the certain knowledge of when the event occurred. We, for instance, don’t know the actual birth date of our Incarnate Lord Jesus.

So why is it so important to use something that is not commanded or given us in Scripture?

For starters, we certainly pattern our lives cyclically around a calendar. The largely secular calendar is followed by most everyone

in our modern age, and for obvious beneficial reasons. For similar reasons our spiritual lives can be patterned around such things as the major events in Christ’s life and ministry, and the different spiritual stages of our lives in Christ.

Concerning Christ, we annually mark His Incarnate birth, His baptism, His Galilean and Judean itinerant ministry, His Death and Resurrection, His Ascension, and His Coming Return as Judge and King. Concerning stages of Faith, we travel repeatedly through preparation, anticipation, epiphanies, dying and rising, celebration, growth, and maturation.

Once again the Church calendar functions as a reliable and wise guide to form us in Him.

#### SINCE YOU ASKED...

##### Why is incense used in some churches?

The use of incense is not unique to Christianity or Judaism and is used in many of the world’s religions to enhance special times and places by sight and smell. In Christian worship incense is

effectively used at the beginning of the Service of the Word and in preparing for receiving Holy Communion. The burning of incense is associated with the prayers of worship rising before God (cf. Ps. 141:2; Rev 8:4). Good worship should engage all the human sens-

es. In this connection it should be pointed out that the olfactory sense is perhaps the most sensitive of the five senses; it continues to function even during sleep. (Indebted to Aidan Kavanah in his “Elements of Rite”.)

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

##### Tuesday, 11/12

1:00pm Prayer Gathering  
6:00pm Church Council

##### Wednesday, 11/3

6:30pm Adult Ed and Confirmation

##### Friday, 11/15

6:30am Men’s Breakfast at church  
10:30am Worship at Bethany St. Jo

##### Sunday, 11/17 23<sup>rd</sup> Su a Pentecost

8:00am Choir Practice  
9:00am Divine Service  
10:45am Adult Ed  
12:00pm Worship Team

##### Monday, 11/18

5:30pm Ladies’ Night Out

##### Tuesday, 11/19

...11:15am Ladies’ Lunch Out  
4:00pm No-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](http://www.thenalc.org))

## THIS AND THAT...

The **Church Council** will meet on Tuesday, November 12, 6pm at the church.

The **Worship Team** will meet over lunch on Sunday, November 17, 12pm, at the home of Pastor Tim and Leslie Duesenberg

The **Ladies' Night Out** will be on Monday, Nov. 18, 5:30pm at Olive Garden. Please RSVP Karri Bjornstad at 4bjs@charter.net.

The **Ladies' Lunch Out** will be on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 11:15am at Features. Please RSVP Jane Kruse at jkruse@phiinspect.com.

We will have a **Thanksgiving Service** with pie on Nov. 26.

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.**

Pr. Tim and Leslie are signed up to clean the church the week of November 18, and Paul and Nikki Hanson are signed up for the week of December 16.

Use your computer and smart phones and tablets to reach out to family and friends. You might want to consider sending someone our prayer guide or newsletter; or direct someone to our website...

# 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

Nov 11..... Sam Schoonover  
 Nov 22..... Merl Wangen  
 Nov 28..... Heather Roll  
 Nov 29..... Sydney Hanson

#### Anniversaries

### Old Age

Reporters interviewing a 104 year-old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and

diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Cant' remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

### The Senility Prayer

Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones that I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

**11/17** 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Asst Minister:** Naomi Rislow

**Reader:** Brad Benrud

**Crucifer:** Drew Staff

**Acolyte:** Dawson Staff

**Ushers:** Jeremy Schoonover

**Counters:** David B/Jeremy S

**Comm Asst:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow

**Fellowship:** Dottie H/Jessica S

**Acolyte:** Sam Schoonover

**Ushers:** Jon Uy

**Counters:** Tom R/Jarrold R

**Comm Asst:** Jessica Schoonover

**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Fellowship:** Heidi T/Carol P

**12/1** First Sunday in Advent

**Asst Minister:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Reader:** Heather Roll

**Crucifer:** Asher Roll

**Acolyte:** Jed Roll

**Ushers:** Jarrod Roll

**Counters:** Cheryl R/Mary B

**Comm Asst:** Heather Roll

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow

**Fellowship:** tba

**12/8** Second Sunday in Advent

**Asst Minister:** Mike Meunier

**Reader:** Jeremy Schoonover

**Crucifer:** Kylee Kernan

**Acolyte:** Alex Uy

**Ushers:** Jeremy Schoonover

**Counters:** Naomi R/Hannah S

**Comm Asst:** Karri Bjornstad

**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Fellowship:** Leslie D/tba

**11/24** Christ the King Sunday

**Asst Minister:** Jeremy Schoonover

**Reader:** Jon Uy

**Crucifer:** Elyse Schoonover

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