

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 15, 2020

A WORD FROM PT

With this week's address I sincerely hope I don't freak out anybody about receiving Holy Communion, but it is important to consider some reasons why it may not be safer to receive wine in individual cups rather than from a common cup. Let me hasten to say, even though it is arguably less safe hygienically to drink from individual cups, nonetheless, there is no public or medical indication that viral epidemics are occurring from any method used for Holy Communion.

That said, first we must understand that hands, fingers, plastic, and glass are all better hosts for germs and viruses than is sterile metal, especially if that

metal is repeatedly washed or covered with a fluid containing alcohol.

When the Altar Care person fills the cup, even with care it is next to impossible to handle and fill the individual glasses without touching the rim of the cups. Hopefully that person has appropriately washed their hands before doing so, but even then it is likely that fingers will come in contact with other objects during that process. Alternatively, it is easy to handle and fill a chalice without ever making contact with the rim of the cup.

Then there is the whole matter of taking the cup out of the tray. It is hard to do so without fingers touching the rim, and often while

touching adjoining cups as well. So even if the Pastor or Communion Assistant doesn't hand you the cup, your hands were not recently washed. Your hands have come in contact with steering wheels, door knobs, bulletins, hymnals, money, and handshakes. Fingertips are readily recognized to be dirtier than the whole hand in general. So you might be transmitting other's germs through your own touching and handling!

My whole point is not to gross you out. Rather, I want you to consider how you may be taking a greater risk with the individual cups than with the common cup.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the Significance of The Baptism of Our Lord? John the Baptist came proclaiming a *baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins*. Since Jesus was sinless he had no need to be forgiven. The human race, however, is sinful. And our need for forgiveness is great

indeed. In explaining why he should be baptized by John, Jesus said, *it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness*. In other words, Jesus came to stand with us and accomplish on our behalf all that God requires of us, including repentance and the forgiveness of sins! At

his baptism there was a revealing (an epiphany) of the Holy Trinity. And at his baptism, Jesus took our humanity which he assumed in the Incarnation and lowered it in the cleansing water of Baptism. His public ministry would commence with this public rite.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 1/14

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

Wednesday, 1/15

6:30pm Adult Ed/Confirmation

Thursday, 1/16

10:00am LCMC Ministerium

Friday, 1/17

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

Sunday, 1/19 2nd Sunday a Epiphany

8:00am Choir Practice
9:00am Divine Service of the Word
10:45am Adult Class
12:00pm Worship Team

Monday, 1/20

5:30pm Ladies' Night Out

Tuesday, 1/21

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 **Council** will meet on Tuesday, January 14, 6:00pm at the church.

Pastor Tim meets once a month with fellow **LCMC and NALC Clergy** from southwest Wisconsin and southeast Minnesota. We usually gather on the third Thursday morning at Olivet Lutheran Church.

The Worship Team will meet on Sunday, January 19, at noon over lunch at the

church.

The **Ladies' Night Out** is on Monday, January 20 at 5:30. And the **Ladies' Lunch Out** is on Tuesday, January 21 at 11:15am.

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of January will be directed to the **Didi Panzo** family, who are serving as missionaries in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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 week of Feb 16.

A direct and personal invitation remains the most effective 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

- Jan 13 Carol Peterson
- Jan 21 Elyse Schoonover
- Jan 26 Marge Wangen
- Jan 27 Ann Fisher

Anniversaries

- Jan 6 T & J Kruse
- Jan 11 E & P Christensen

Great Truths Learned By Adults

Raising teenagers is like nailing Jell-O to a tree.

Families are like fudge ... mostly sweet, with a few nuts.

Today's mighty oak is just

yesterday's nut that held its ground.

My mind not only wanders; sometimes it leaves completely.

If you can remain calm, you just don't have all the facts.

The best way to keep kids at home is to make a pleasant atmosphere and let the air out of their tires.

Laughing helps. It's like jogging on the inside.

Four Stages of Life

1. You believe in Santa Claus.
2. You don't believe in Santa.
3. You are Santa Claus
4. You look like Santa

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

1/19 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier

Reader: Heather Roll

Crucifer: Alex Uy

Acolyte: Dawson Staff

Ushers: Jon Uy

Counters: Naomi R/Hannah S

Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: Dottie H/Leslie D

Acolyte: Kylee Kernan

Ushers: David Bjornstad

Counters: Jane K/Niki H

Comm Asst: tba

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: Hannah S/tba

2/2 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Asst Minister: Cole Warner

Reader: Jarrod Roll

Crucifer: Stella Roll

Acolyte: Benjamin Roll

Ushers: Jarrod Roll

Counters: Heather R/Connie M

Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: Jessica S/tba

2/9 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg

Reader: Calvin Swaney

Crucifer: Elyse Schoonover

Acolyte: Sam Schoonover

Ushers: Wendell Halderson

Counters: David B/Jeremy S

Comm Asst: Connie Meunier

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: Potluck after Annual Meeting

1/26 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad

Reader: Hannah Scholze

Crucifer: Calvin Swaney

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