

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 4, 2019

#### A WORD FROM PT

In our ongoing series dealing with the celebration of Holy Communion, this week I want us to consider the role of this Sacrament in the context of the other important aspects of the Christian Faith. Just what role does the Lord's Supper play?

According to Luther's Small Catechism it is important we understand something of God's Law, and we can turn to the Ten Commandments to do so. It is also vitally important to recognize the Gospel, and the Apostles' Creed summarizes this succinctly. In learning to pray and in finding out how we are to live for our Lord, the Lord's Prayer faithfully instructs us.

Complementing everything just mentioned, we learn in the Catechism that we are brought to faith and joined to Christ in Baptism. Baptism has implications for the rest of our lives, namely that we continue to die to sin and receive forgiveness as we confess our sins and receive and believe in the promise of forgiveness with Confession and Absolution. And finally, we are nurtured, fortified, and sustained by Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.

When we gather for the Divine Service on Sunday all these elements just mentioned are in evidence. The Divine Service itself is said to be centered on Word and Sacrament. And as Lutherans we understand God's

Word to speak to us as both law and gospel, that is, as demand and promise. By God's grace when we hear the law we are brought to repentance, being convicted of our sins and our inability to free ourselves. Then, by God's grace when we hear the gospel, we grasp hold by believing, the remedy for sin made possible on the Cross and promised to us in the proclamation of the Gospel.

You will also recognize in our gathering the living out of Baptism in the Brief Order of Confession, and many other pleas for mercy. And this finally leads us the nurture and fortification at the Lord's Table, where we are fed.

#### SINCE YOU ASKED...

##### **What is the significance of the Season of Advent?**

The Church year begins with Advent, a season of preparation that looks toward both Bethlehem and Christ's return at the end of the age. Advent is its own

Season and the rich symbols and themes should be safeguarded and celebrated without being drowned out by the upcoming celebration of Christmas. The first two Sundays in Advent center on the Parousia (Christ's Second Coming). The third Sunday in Advent centers

on John the Baptist as the herald of Christ. And the fourth Sunday often centers on the Virgin Mary in her exalted role in giving birth to God's Anointed One.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

##### **Tuesday, 12/3**

1:00pm Prayer Gathering

##### **Wednesday, 12/4**

6:00pm Soup Supper  
7:00pm Lessons and Carols

##### **Friday, 12/6**

6:30am Men's Breakfast at church  
10:30am Service at Care Center

##### **Sunday, 12/8 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

8:00am Choir Practice  
9:00am Divine Service  
10:45am Caroling to Shut Ins

##### **Tuesday, 12/10**

11:00am Ladies Lunch Field Trip  
6:00pm Church Council

#### 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...

On Wednesday, December 4, we will have an **Advent Midweek Service**. To sweeten the deal, we will first gather for a soup supper at 6pm. And then at 7pm we will enjoy a special service of **Lessons and Carols**.

We have a chance to spread Christmas cheer to our Shut In members by **Singing Christmas Carols** to them. We will plan to leave the Church by 10:45am on Sunday, December 8.

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**Two Opportunities** for a little extra charity during this Season. The first is contributed \$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.

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

Army.

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

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 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

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 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**

Nov 28..... Heather Roll  
 Nov 29..... Sydney Hanson  
 Dec 1 ..... Brad Benrud  
 Dec 8 ..... Sarah Kernan  
 Dec 9 ..... Cole Warner  
 Dec 17..... Ginger Eade  
 Dec 21 ..... Drew Staff

#### **Anniversaries**

Dec 18 ..... K & V Gunderson

### **Be Fit For Life**

**Question:** What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise program?

**Answer:** Can't think of one, sorry.

**Q:** I'm getting a little soft around the middle. Will sit-ups help this?

**A:** Definitely not! Look, when you exercise a muscle,

it gets bigger, right? You should only be doing sit-ups if you want a bigger stomach.

**Q:** There's a lot of equipment available at the gym today, like a treadmill, the stair-stepper, etc. Which one do you recommend?

**A:** The strato-lounger.

**Q:** I thought it would be good for me to carry my clubs when I play golf, but last

weekend some idiot almost ran over me with their golf cart!

**A:** Uh, sorry, I was reaching into my cooler for a beer and didn't see you.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

**12/8** Second Sunday in Advent

**Asst Minister:** Karri Bjornstad

**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/Connie M

**Acolyte:** Drew Staff

**Ushers:** Wendell Halderson

**Counters:** Jane K/Nikki H

**Comm Asst:** Connie Meunier

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow

**Fellowship:** Dottie H/Heather & Stella

**12/22** Fourth Sunday in Advent

**Asst Minister:** Cole Warner

**Reader:** Karri Bjornstad

**Crucifer:** tba

**Acolyte:** tba

**Ushers:** Tom Kruse

**Counters:** Connie M/tba

**Comm Asst:** Heidi Traver

**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Fellowship:** Carol P/tba

**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:** Jeremy S

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow

**Fellowship:** tba

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church  
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 (608) 797-7837

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

**12/15** Third Sunday in Advent

**Asst Minister:** Mike Meunier

**Reader:** tba

**Crucifer:** Dawson Staff