

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 29, 2020

A WORD FROM PT

This week I am switching gears and moving away from the discussion we have been having on Holy Communion. At present I don't have a series in mind, but I would like this week to say something about the name we early on chose for our congregation.

Not all of you were on hand in the late spring and early summer of 2010. You may recall we had our first worship service on Sunday, June 6, 2010. That is why current plans are under way to have a Ten Year Anniversary Celebration for Sunday, June 7. This much we know so far. We will gather for the Divine Service at 1pm that day, and then host an open house from 2:30-

4pm.

But to return to our name, in the late spring and early summer of 2010 we had people contribute suggestions for a name. It is not often folks get to be in on the ground level in a startup congregation and have a say in the name. A number of suggestions were given, and after prayer and deliberation, for at least a week if I recall, we voted and chose "Gift of Grace Lutheran Church."

What I especially remember is the sentiment that caught hold and prevailed that we wanted to have a positive name pointing forward, and not necessarily looking behind. For instance, one suggestion was Solid Rock Lu-

theran Church. That choice had to do with how we wanted to distinguish ourselves from others whom we felt were not standing on the solid rock of God's Word. Instead, as I have stated we chose something fresh and not fixated on a past dispute.

What is interesting about "Gift of Grace" is the New Testament Greek words for both: *charisma* and *charis* (they are related). That is to say, the gifts we have been freely given are quite undeserved! They have freely been given, unearned and undeserved. What a gracious reminder in a name. And we wish to share this with others.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the Christian's Hope?

In a word, it is the resurrection of the body to life everlasting in the world to come. This is more accurate and complete than just saying "life after death." It is also more helpful than say-

ing "going to heaven." When Jesus returns at the end of the age to judge the living and the dead, baptized believers will be raised bodily! They will share in a resurrection similar to Jesus' resurrection. And being in his presence on that day and for all eternity is not

just a matter of escaping to heaven, but living in his presence in the new heaven and earth. The Lord intends to renew and restore his creation. So our central hope is the resurrection of the dead, with believers inheriting the Kingdom.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 1/28

1:00pm Prayer Gathering

Wednesday, 1/29

6:30pm Adult Ed/Confirmation

Friday, 1/31

6:30am Men's Breakfast at church

Sunday, 2/2 4th Sunday a Epiphany

8:00am Choir Practice

9:00am Divine Service of the Word

10:45am Adult Class

1:15pm Worship at Bethany St. Jo

Tuesday, 2/4

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...

As spelled out in our Constitution, the preferred date for the **Annual Meeting** is the second Sunday in February. In keeping with this, our Annual Meeting will fall on the heels of the Divine Service on Sunday, February 9. Business includes elections and the adoption of a Mission Spending Plan, otherwise known as a Budget.

The **Annual Report** will be made available on Sunday, February 2.

Upcoming Events in February include the **Church Council** on Tuesday the 11th; the **Mission District Council Meeting** on Saturday the 15th; and **Ash Wednesday** on the 26th.

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.

 Attractive bookmarks are being designed and printed as an outreach tool for our congregation.! Also, direct people to our web site...

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 21 Elyse Schoonover
 Jan 26 Marge Wangen
 Jan 27 Ann Fisher
 Feb 2 Kermit Gunderson
 Feb 24 Jed Roll

Anniversaries

Top 10 Conversations between Golfer and Caddy

10 Golfer: "Think I'm going to drown myself in the lake."

Caddy: "Think you can keep your head down that long?"

#9 G: "I'd move heaven and earth to break 100 on this

course."

C: "Try heaven, you've already moved most of the earth."

#8 G: "Do you think my game is improving?"

C: "Yes sir, you miss the ball much closer now."

#7 G: "Do you think I can get there with a 5 iron?"

C: "Eventually."

#6 G: "You've got to be the worst caddy in the world."

C: "I don't think so sir. That would be too much of a coincidence."

- next week the final 5...

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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

Acolyte: Sam Schoonover

Ushers: Wendell Halderson

Counters: David B/Jeremy S

Comm Asst: Connie Meunier

Accompanist: Tom Rislw

Fellowship: *Potluck after Annual Meeting*

2/16 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Asst Minister: Tom Rislw

Reader: Craig Bartos

Crucifer: Drew Staff

Acolyte: Dawson Staff

Ushers: Mary Bartos

Counters: Cheryl Ruud/Mary Bartos

Comm Asst: Heidi Traver

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: Mary B/tba

2/23 Transfiguration of Our Lord

Asst Minister: Naomi Rislw

Reader: Brad Benrud

Crucifer: Calvin Swaney

Acolyte: Alex Uy

Ushers: Tom Kruse

Counters: Tom R/Hannah S

Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover

Accompanist: Tom Rislw

Fellowship: tba

2/9 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg

Reader: Calvin Swaney

Crucifer: Elyse Schoonover

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