

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 24, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

I mentioned last week two deceptions of the age we live in that may not be on our radar scope. The first is the excessive individualism of our culture, to the detriment of seeing ourselves in community, most especially as active and functioning members in the Body of Christ. And I only hinted at the second one when I wrote of the attention we give to matters of comfort, convenience, and ease. I called that a spiritually lethal mix.

Obviously, our relative affluence along with the marvels of technology and medicine allow for more relaxation, luxury, safety, pleasure, and alleviation from suffering than most people in previous ages

could have ever imagined. This is not all bad. But neither is it unmitigated good. How easily we can forget that our life in this age is finite, and filled with suffering, pain, difficulties, pitfalls, and disasters. When we encounter these inevitable realities, we often sense that we have been victimized and denied what we deserve or are entitled to. And how easy it is to forget what our purpose is in life.

Now it would be unnatural to want everything to be difficult and painful. We don't need to go out of our way to encounter hardships. On the other hand, not only will we be unsuccessful in trying to escape unpleasant-ries, but much that is valuable in life comes because of

struggling, striving, and suffering. This is especially true spiritually.

Our Lord Jesus pulled no punches when he describes the nature of discipleship. "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). Plenty of Scriptures make it clear that the path of Christian discipleship is a difficult one. (cf. Mt 7:24; Ac 14:12; 2 Ti 3:12; Ja 1:12; 1Pe 1:6)

Friends, when we look to the faith primarily for comfort and ease, imagine what happens when we encounter hardship and discomfort. If we are not careful, we will avoid, evade, and abandon the faith.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 11/23

7:00pm Thanksgiving Divine Service

Sunday, 11/28 First Sunday in Advent

8:00am Choir Practice

9:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion

10:15am Coffee Fellowship

10:45am Confirmation Class

Wednesday, 12/1

6:30pm Showing of The Chosen at Holmen Area Community Center

KEY ATTRIBUTES OF LCMC & NALC

- *Christ-Centered*
- *Mission-Driven*
- *Traditionally-Grounded*
- *Congregationally-Focused*

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.

LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ)

NALC (North American Lutheran Church) (www.thenalc.org)

THIS AND THAT...

We are hosting a public showing of **The Chosen** Season One on Wednesdays at the Holmen Area Community Center. There are eight episodes that will be shown on consecutive Wednesdays with the exception of November 24, the week of Thanksgiving. The viewing and discussion will start at 6:30pm and end no later than 8:30.

Early this week we gather for a worship celebration of Thanksgiving. The special Divine Service of Thanksgiving will be on Tuesday, November 23, at 7pm.

The continued **livestreaming** is for those who cannot otherwise attend in person! It is a good outreach tool and a way for shut-ins to connect.

Don't forget **Food Donations** for the Onalaska Food Basket!

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of November is to Didi and Serafina Panzo, the missionaries we

sponsor through the World Mission Prayer League.

Heidi Traver is scheduled to clean the church the week of November 21. And the Hanson family has volunteered to clean the church on the week of December 19.

The showing of **The Chosen** affords you an excellent opportunity to witness to your neighbor. Ask if they would be interested to watch the series, and invite them to attend with you!

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 22..... Merl Wangen
Nov 28..... Heather Roll
Nov 29..... Sydney Hanson
Nov 30..... Cyndi Molstad
Dec 1 Brad Benrud
Dec 8 Sarah Kernan
Dec 9 Cole Warner

Anniversaries

You Know You're From Wisconsin If...

...your idea of a traffic jam is ten cars waiting to pass a tractor on County Road B.

... 'vacation' means going up north past Highway 8 for the weekend.

...you know several people who have hit deer more than once.

...you measure distance in hours.

...you often switch from 'heat' to 'A/C' and then back again in the same day.

...your whole family wears Packer Green to church on Sunday.

...you can drive 65 mph through 2 feet of snow during a raging blizzard, without

flinching.

...you see people wearing camouflage at social events (including weddings and funerals).

...you install security lights on your house and garage and leave both unlocked.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

11/28 First Sunday in Advent
Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Naomi Rislow
Crucifer: Roll family
Acolyte: Roll family
Ushers: Jarrod Roll
Counters: Connie M/Jarrod R
Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Heidi Traver
Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

12/5 Second Sunday in Advent
Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: tbd

Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: tbd
Counters: tbd
Comm Asst: tbd
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: tbd

12/12 Third Sunday in Advent
Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: tbd
Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: tbd
Counters: tbd
Comm Asst: tbd

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: tbd

12/19 Fourth Sunday in Advent
Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: tbd
Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: tbd
Counters: tbd
Comm Asst: tbd
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: tbd

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