

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1, 2021

A WORD FROM PT

Last Sunday we began a New Church Year. The Advent Season, involving four Sundays, either starts in late November or early December. This is obviously out of cadence with the secular calendar. And that is because the Church Year emphasizes the sacred and transcendent. Christians recognize that the time marked by the secular calendar belongs to this age which is the result of God's creation, for that is its beginning of time.

We have had revealed to us in God's Word an age and realm that is not marked by the same time as this age. This is often called 'eternal life', and every time we here of this we tend to think of endless moments. But it

is presented in Sacred Writ as an entirely different quality and pitch of life. It involves the deepest imaginable communion with God: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Church Year begins with the Season of Advent. The word itself means "coming" or "arrival", and we remember Christ's first advent, even as we learn what it means to anticipate and wait patiently for his final advent. As John the Baptist prepared people for the first arrival with repentance, we continue in ongoing repentance to be prepared for his glorious coming as judge at the end of this age's history. Those who are watching and waiting, largely a matter of

prayer, will not be disappointed at Christ's Second Coming, for this will result in their full redemption.

Time and space will not permit here a detailed accounting for the various Seasons of the Church Year, but you will recall that the Year ends with the return of the King to judge the earth. Along the way all the important events in Jesus' life are celebrated, including his birth, the revealing his unique identity, his suffering and death, his resurrection, his ascension, and the outpouring of his Spirit.

Our congregation employs a three-year lectionary. We are currently in Year C, which will especially feature the Gospel of Luke.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What does the Advent Wreath Symbolize?

The circle of the wreath reminds us of eternity and our God and Father who has no beginning and no end. The green boughs indicate the hope of life being renewed. The candles represent Christ, the Light of God, who comes into

this dark world to bring light and life. The four colored candles lit successively over the four Sundays in Advent, represent the patience required in waiting for Christ's coming. As there were centuries of waiting between the Old Testament prophets and the birth of Christ, so we must patiently wait for Christ's

return at the end of the age. At Gift of Grace we wait until Christmas Eve to finally light the white center candle (the Christ Candle) to indicate that the fulfillment of the promise of God with the birth of the Christ Child on the first Christmas morn.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, 12/1

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

Friday, 12/3

6:30am Men's Breakfast
10:00am Service at Care Center

Sunday, 12/5 2nd Sunday in Advent

8:00am Choir Practice
9:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
10:45am Confirmation Class

Wednesday, 12/8

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

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...

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.

We are hoping to be able to go caroling on Sunday, December 12, after the Divine Service and the fellowship time. Much depends on the

nature of the pandemic and the weather if we need to do all the caroling outdoors.

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 De-

ember is the Salvation Army

The Hanson family is scheduled to clean the church the week of December 19. And then we need to schedule out for the next six months.

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 28..... Heather Roll
 Nov 29..... Sydney Hanson
 Nov 30..... Cyndi Molstad
 Dec 1 Brad Benrud
 Dec 8 Sarah Kernan
 Dec 9 Cole Warner
 Dec 21 Drew Staff

Anniversaries

You Know You're From Wisconsin If...

...you think of the major food groups as beer, more beer, fish, and venison.

...you carry jumper cables in your car and your wife or girlfriend knows how to use them.

...there are 7 empty cars running in the parking lot at

Farm & Fleet at any given time.

...you design your kid's Halloween costume to fit over a snowsuit.

...driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled with snow.

...your refer to the Packers as "we".

...you know all 4 seasons:

almost winter, winter, still winter, and road construction.

...you can identify a southern or eastern accent.

...you have no problem pronouncing Lac Du Flambeau.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

12/5 Second Sunday in Advent

Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad
Reader: Jarrod Roll
Crucifer: Roll family
Acolyte: Roll family
Ushers: David Bjornstad
Counters: Hannah S/David B
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Heather & Stella Roll
Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

12/12 Third Sunday in Advent

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Jarrod Roll
Crucifer: Roll family

Acolyte: Roll family
Ushers: Cheryl Ruud
Counters: Jarrod R/tbd
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Connie Meunier
Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

12/19 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg
Reader: Karri Bjornstad
Crucifer: tbd
Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: Dan Molstad
Counters: Cheryl R/Dan M
Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad

Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: tbd

12/26 First Sunday after Christmas

Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: tbd
Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: tbd
Counters: Connie M/tbd
Comm Asst: tbd
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: tbd

12/24 Christmas Eve
Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
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
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Services held at 9am at:
 642 Western Avenue
 A block north and then
 a block west of King Furniture