

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 12, 2022

A WORD FROM PT

We sometimes falsely assume that there is a Season of Epiphany. I have made that mistake. There is the Day of Epiphany, and then the first part of the general season of the church year that follows thereafter. The four Seasons of the Church Year marked by colored paraments are in order: Advent (blue), Christmas (white), Lent (purple), and Easter (gold or white).

You may say, 'Well, what about Epiphany and Pentecost?' But those two feast days with white and then red paraments respectively, are just that, days. The long general time, often called 'General Church Time' with green indicating growth, are divided in two – with a certain length of

time after the Epiphany, and the greater bulk of the time after Pentecost.

Having said all that, there are several Sundays following the Epiphany that keep up the themes of *light* or illumination and *manifestation* belonging to the Epiphany. The Epiphany, at least in the Western Church, centers around the guiding light of the star that brought the Magi to the Christ Child, the newborn King. By their worship and gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh a disclosure of a special birth is made.

The First Sunday after the Epiphany we commemorate our Lord Jesus' baptism at the hands of John in the Jordan river. This is what the Eastern Church

(Orthodox Church) centers on for Epiphany. And this event indeed is an epiphany, and of the highest order. For when Jesus came up out of the water the Triune nature of God is manifested, with the voice of the Father identifying Jesus as his beloved Son, and with the descent of the Holy Spirit.

The last Sunday after the Epiphany is the Feast of The Transfiguration of our Lord. Again, an illumination is involved of the Trinity and a spotlight is focused on future glorification. There are many epiphanies throughout the church year, and they all have to do with God's special revelation providing illumination for our faith and participation in the Divine life.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the significance of sharing the peace?

"The peace which enables people to live in unity and in the spirit of mutual forgiveness comes only from Christ whose word has been proclaimed. ... The peace is a sign that those who partic-

ipate in it open themselves to the healing and reconciling power of God's love and offer themselves to be agents of that love in the world. ... The personal exchange of the peace should be as unpatterned as possible, but its meaning and significance should be

kept clear. It is not the occasion merely for conviviality. The choice of gesture, whether a handshake, holding hands, or an embrace, should be left to the persons themselves." (from "Manual on the Liturgy" companion to the LBW, from Augsburg Pub.)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 1/11
9:00am Clergy Gathering in Tomah
6:00pm Church Council at Church

Friday, 1/14
6:30am Men's Breakfast

Sunday, 1/16 2nd Sunday a Epiphany
8:00am Choir Practice
9:00am Divine Service of the Word
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
10:45am Confirmation Class

Tuesday, 1/18
11:00am Prayer Gathering

Wednesday, 1/23
6:30pm Adult Education

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 **Church Council** is next scheduled to meet on Tuesday, January 11, 6pm at the church.

We are passing around at church a six month **Cleaning Schedule**. Please be generous and take a turn and a share in cleaning the church. It gets cleaned on the third week of each month. Thanks.

Confirmation Class for the New Year will start up on Sunday, January 16, at 10:45. We will be examining the Sacraments of Baptism and

Holy Communion, along with Confession and Absolution.

Save the date. Our congregation's **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for February 6 immediately on the heels of the Divine Service.

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 non-perishable

Food Donations for the Food Basket!

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of January is for Tornado Relief in the Midwest.

Starting **Wednesday, January 19**, we will be offering a weekly Adult Study opportunity. This will be at 6:30pm on Wednesdays, for one hour. We will start out asking basic questions about the nature of Scripture, and how to read Holy Writ.

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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

Puns for Educated Minds

- Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
- Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
- I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

- A sign at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
- The midget fortune teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
- The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
- A backward poet writes inverse.
- In a democracy it's your

- vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
- When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
- If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

1/16 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad
Reader: Mike Meunier
Crucifer: Roll Family
Acolyte: Roll Family
Ushers: David Bjornstad
Counters: Connie M/David B
Comm Asst: Roll Family
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Cynid M/Karri B
Livestreamer: Roll Family

1/23 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Asst Minister: Tom Rislow
Reader: Ruth Scholze
Crucifer: tbd

Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: Dan Molstad
Counters: Dan M/tbd
Comm Asst: tbd
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Lisa Cash
Livestreamer: tbd

1/30 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg
Reader: Naomi Rislow
Crucifer: tbd
Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: tbd
Counters: tbd
Comm Asst: tbd

Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Connie Meunier
Livestreamer: tbd

2/6 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Asst Minister: tbd
Reader: tbd
Crucifer: tbd
Acolyte: tbd
Ushers: tbd
Counters: tbd
Comm Asst: tbd
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Potluck Brunch
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