

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 22, 2023

#### A WORD FROM PT

This week I would like to explore how the 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Creed can help us to articulate Christ our Lord to others. We are, after all, called to be His witnesses!

So, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Article begins, “I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.” And Luther’s explanation in the Small Catechism reads, “I believe that Jesus Christ – true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary – is my Lord.”

When we are telling someone about Jesus the sensible thing is to begin with basic information of who he is. You might be sharing this

information with someone who has no clue. You can begin by saying that Jesus is a historical figure that was born in Bethlehem of Israel about 2,000 years ago. His parents’ names were Joseph and Mary. You might add that ‘Jesus’ is his personal name. ‘Christ’ is a title, not a last name.

Almost immediately we are going to want to share that Jesus was like every human being while at the same time uniquely different. Unlike any other human birth in history, we believe the testimony that He alone was conceived in the womb of His mother without a contribution by a human father – that Mary was a virgin and that the concep-

tion in her womb was enabled miraculously by the Holy Spirit.

The importance of all this is that we believe Jesus to be fully human and fully God at the same time, in one person. Two natures, one person. Prior to the two natures coming together in one person, the divine nature has always existed. Scripture teaches that at the birth of Jesus, the eternally begotten Son of the Father became flesh. It is by way of Mary that the Son of God assumes our humanity. This mystery is called ‘the Incarnation’ (literally, ‘to take on flesh’). This will be important in understanding how Jesus can save us.

#### SINCE YOU ASKED...

##### **What is the purpose and meaning of our Votive Prayer Candles?**

To “light a candle for someone” means that you will say a prayer for them. The candle symbolizes your prayers. When we light a candle it is a sign of attentiveness

and that we are being purposeful in offering intercessory prayer. It is an important act in which we are involved! To be in prayer is to be spiritually awake and vigilant. And as the candle continues to burn it symbolizes our ongoing prayers. It is a sign to others that pray-

ers are being offered. In such an atmosphere, indeed the darkness gives way to light.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Wednesday, 2/22** Ash Wednesday  
7pm Ash Wednesday Service

**Thursday, 2/23**  
9:30am Prayer Gathering

**Friday, 2/24**  
7am Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

**Sunday, 2/26** First Sunday in Lent  
8am Choir Practice  
9am Divine Service with Communion  
10:15am Fellowship with Treats  
10:45am Adult Study on 1 Thess

**Wednesday, 3/1** Lenten Midweek  
7pm Prayer Around the Cross



##### **Making Disciples for Life**

**LCMS** (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod) (LCMS.org)

*- we are in the process of becoming an official member congregation of the LCMS pending adoption of a new and approved Constitution.*

## THIS AND THAT...

**Lent** is just around the corner and is starting up with **Ash Wednesday** on February 22. Our Ash Wednesday Service will be at 7pm and will include an extended confession of sins, the imposition of ashes, and Holy Communion.

The **Lenten Midweek Services** will begin on Wednesday, March 1, with **Prayer Around the Cross**

The Theme for the rest of the

**Midweek Services** will be reflections on the 2nd Article of the Creed, starting with a soup supper on March 8 at 6:30 pm.

The **Adult Ed Class** meets on Sunday Mornings at 10:45am. We are studying the Book of 1 Thessalonians.

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!

The Duesenbergs are scheduled to clean the week of February 19. And the Warners are scheduled for the week of March 19..

The February **Designated Benevolence** is for the Onalaska/Holmen Food Pantry.

# 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

Feb 24..... Jed Roll  
Mar 16 ..... Jon Uy  
Mar 17 ..... Mike Meunier  
Mar 18 ..... Nikki Hanson

#### Anniversaries

Apr 27..... T & P Betlach  
Mary 3 ..... J & J Schoonover

- Ten Best Things to Say** if you get caught asleep at your desk
10. They told me at the blood bank this might happen.
  9. This is just a 15 minute power-nap like they raved about in that time management course you sent me to.
  8. Whew! Guess I left the top off the whiteout. You probably got here just in time.
  7. I wasn't sleeping! I was

- mediating on the mission statement and envisioning a new paradigm.
6. I was testing my keyboard for drool resistance.
5. I was doing a highly specific Yoga exercise to relieve work related stress. Are you discriminatory toward people who practice Yoga?
4. Darn! Why did you interrupt me? I had almost figured

- out a solution to our biggest problem.
  3. The coffee machine is broken.
  2. Someone must have put decaf in the wrong pot.
- And number 1...
1. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**2/22** Ash Wednesday  
**Asst Minister:** Naomi Rislow  
**Reader:** Paula Betlach  
**Crucifer:** Dawson Staff  
**Acolyte:** Elyse Schoonover  
**Ushers:** Tim Betlach  
**Counters:** *not needed*  
**Comm Asst:** Tom Rislow  
**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg  
**Fellowship:** tbd  
**Livestreamer:** Jeremy Schoonover

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church  
Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg, sts  
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(608) 668-1587

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

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

**2/26** First Sunday in Lent  
**Asst Minister:** Leslie Duesenberg  
**Reader:** Brad Benrud  
**Crucifer:** Benjamin Roll  
**Acolyte:** Asher Roll  
**Ushers:** Tim Betlach  
**Counters:** Jeremy S/Paula B  
**Comm Asst:** Tim Betlach  
**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow  
**Fellowship:** Paula B/Heidi T  
**Livestreamer:** Jarrod Roll

**3/5** Second Sunday in Lent  
**Asst Minister:** Naomi Rislow  
**Reader:** Paula Betlach  
**Crucifer:** Dawson Staff

**Acolyte:** Drew Staff  
**Ushers:** tbd  
**Counters:** Tim B/Dan M  
**Comm Asst:** Tom Rislow  
**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg  
**Fellowship:** Naomi R/Cydi M  
**Livestreamer:** Cole Warner

**3/12** Third Sunday in Lent  
**Asst Minister:** Mike Meunier  
**Reader:** Heather Roll  
**Crucifer:** Elyse Schoonover  
**Acolyte:** Jed Roll  
**Ushers:** Dave Bjornstad  
**Counters:** Jarrod R/Dave B  
**Comm Asst:** Jeremy Schoonover

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow  
**Fellowship:** tbd  
**Livestreamer:** Jeremy Schoonover

**3/19** Fourth Sunday in Lent  
**Asst Minister:** Tom Rislow  
**Reader:** Dan Molstad  
**Crucifer:** Stella Roll  
**Acolyte:** Asher Roll  
**Ushers:** Jarrod Roll  
**Counters:** Tom R/Dan M  
**Comm Asst:** Mike Meunier  
**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg  
**Fellowship:** Jessica S/tbd  
**Livestreamer:** Jarrod Roll