

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 11, 2023

A WORD FROM PT

Concerning our vocation as evangelists, we gain momentum by doing the little things that we have some confidence in doing. Lots of little things add up. Getting on with the task at hand builds confidence.

Through the years I have often encouraged you to share things with other contacts you have on the various electronic social platforms that you spend time on. It might be a devotion that particularly strikes you, or that made you think of someone. How hard is it to forward such a devotional reflection with the lead line "I thought of you as I read this devotion"?

It doesn't just have to be something from our church,

though that doesn't hurt, but anything pertaining to the Christian Faith is something you might pass along via the internet. When you do this on occasion your friends will note your desire to share matters of the faith. In God's timing you never know when someone on your contact list is ready and wanting to explore the faith, and they will know that you are someone they might talk to!

I've emphasized this before, but it is not cheating to primarily reach out to those you know well and they know you. If we pay close attention, that is precisely how the first disciples reached out. Consider Andrew in the first chapter of

John's Gospel. In his excitement in discovering the joy in following Jesus, he first reaches out to his brother, Simon Peter. He invites him to come and see!

There are those in our congregation who are quick to send out a thoughtful card expressing gratitude, sympathy, or encouragement. In this electronic, digital age, that is old fashion. However, the extra effort is usually regarded as more personal and special. Simple? Yes. But it is those little things that begin to add up!

Do you live in a neighborhood with kids? I would bet you could come up with all kinds of ways to reach out to them...

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 1/10

9am Winkel Gathering at Shepherd of the Hills in Onalaska

Thursday, 1/12

9:30am Prayer Gathering
6pm Church Council

Friday, 1/13

7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Saturday, 1/14

6pm PT to Preside at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Rochester

Sunday, 1/15 2nd Sun after Epiphany

8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service of the Word
10:15am Fellowship
10:45am Adult Class
12pm Confirmation

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the Significance of The Baptism of Our Lord? John the Baptist came proclaiming a *baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins*. Since Jesus was sinless he had no need to be forgiven. The human race, however, is sinful. And our need for forgiveness is great

indeed. In explaining why he should be baptized by John, Jesus said, *it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness*. In other words, Jesus came to stand with us and accomplish on our behalf all that God requires of us, including repentance and the forgiveness of sins! At

his baptism there was a revealing (an epiphany) of the Holy Trinity. And at his baptism, Jesus took our humanity which he assumed in the Incarnation and lowered it in the cleansing water of Baptism. His public ministry would commence with this public rite.



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...

This week there is the **Prayer Gathering** on Thursday at 9:30am, the **Church Council** on Thursday at 6pm, and the **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** on Friday at 7am.

The **Adult Ed Class** meets on Sunday Mornings at 10:45am. We are finishing up a study on the Lutheran Liturgy.

Give consideration to joining a District workshop entitled

"Final Victory" to be held Saturday, January 21 from 9am till noon at Faith Lutheran Church in La Crosse. Learn of the witness we can make to our loved ones by how we plan for our funeral.

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 Bjornstads are scheduled to clean the church the week of January 15. And the Duesenbergs are scheduled for the week of February 19..

The January **Designated Benevolence** is will be decided at the January 12 Council Meeting.

Use electronic media to share worthwhile things pertaining to our Christian Faith...

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 13 Carol Peterson
Jan 21 Elyse Schoonover
Jan 26 Marge Wagen
Jan 27 Ann Fisher

Anniversaries

Church Humor

A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He answered, "Call for backup."

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they

told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week, his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, "Johnny, what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side; I think I'm going to have a wife."

Two boys were walking home from Sunday School after

hearing a strong sermon on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?"

The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just you dad."

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

1/15 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg

Reader: Karri Bjornstad

Crucifer: Drew Staff

Acolyte: Dawson Staff

Ushers: Mary Bartos

Counters: Jeremy S/Tim B

Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: Paula B/Heidi T

Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

1/22 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Asst Minister: Tom Rislow

Reader: Naomi Rislow

Crucifer: Elyse Schoonover

Acolyte: Jed Roll

Ushers: Paula Betlach

Counters: Paula B/Mary B

Comm Asst: Tim Betlach

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: Jessica S/Leslie D

Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

1/29 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier

Reader: Connie Meunier

Crucifer: Stella Roll

Acolyte: Asher Roll

Ushers: Paula Betlach

Counters: Jarrod R/David B

Comm Asst: Mike Meunier

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Cole Warner

2/5 5th Sunday After the Epiphany

Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad

Reader: Mike Meunier

Crucifer: Benjamin Roll

Acolyte: Drew Staff

Ushers: David Bjornstad

Counters: Tom R/Mary B

Comm Asst: Tom Rislow

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

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