

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 25, 2023

A WORD FROM PT

One of the temptations in sharing the good news of the Christian Faith with another is the attempt to try to sell it for the comfort and good that brings. And I do mean 'sell it'. This is a temptation and a mistake. It risks getting off to a bad start. It subtly puts the burden on our persuasion and can take some of the spotlight off the authentic message itself.

May I hasten to say, Christianity is of the greatest imaginable benefit and comfort to us. But here's the rub, its comfort is not always of the sort that we think we need. We often cannot imagine any comfort better than being well liked, living painlessly, having an abun-

dance of material blessings, and having endless pleasure.

The temptation for us will be to water down our presentation and to peddle temporal benefits that just aren't true.

It is far more important that we share the Christian Faith because we believe it to be true. To admit, as Scripture so amply teaches, its truth is sometimes like a bitter medicine that we need to take and of which we must patiently trust in its unseen benefits. And there is no escaping the fact that the Gospel-Light we bear witness to and reflect is not always welcomed. The light exposes. And there is much we wish to have remained hidden.

A demonstration of genuine love and caring is the most compelling aspect of reaching out to others. And then the concentration must be on the faithful transmission of what God has revealed in His Word. The Word itself is the power of God onto salvation (Ro 1:16). Saving is what the Savior does, not us. And the faithful message boldly convicts and condemns before it offers pardon and consolation. Moreover, the consolation is most fully realized at the resurrection on the last day, and upon our inheritance of the kingdom. This is our citizenship in the new heavens and earth.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

Why is the Triune Name of God repeated so frequently in our worship services?

The mystery of the Trinity is one of the most distinctive elements of our Christian Tradition. Christianity is not alone in claiming to

be monotheistic (*belief in one Supreme Being, one god*). But Christianity holds that this One, True God has revealed himself to us as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Scripture teaches that God the Father has revealed himself through God the Son

and in God the Spirit. Only the Son can be seen, and only through the Spirit are we enabled to believe in the Father and the Son. And so we often invoke the name of the Triune God in the mystery of our faith.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, 1/26

9:30am Prayer Gathering
6:30pm Confirmation Class

Friday, 1/27

7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 1/29 4th Sun after Epiphany

8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service with Communion
10:15am Fellowship
10:45am Adult Class



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, 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.

The **Ladies Night** Out is planned for Monday, January 30, 6pm, at the Pizza Corral in Holmen. The theme will

be God Our Hope! Please RSVP to Mary Bartos at mbartos57@gmail.com or by texting her at 608/385-5660.

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 sched-

uled to clean the church the week of February 19. And the Warners are scheduled for the week of March 19..

The January **Designated Benevolence** is for Didi and Serafina Panzo, missionaries in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Jesus said that the Truth will set us free (Jn 8:32). Of course Jesus Himself is the Truth, but we need to use the true words of Scripture to accurately portray Him.

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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 21 Elyse Schoonover
Jan 26 Marge Wagen
Jan 27 Ann Fisher

Anniversaries

Bulletin Announcements

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I Will Not Pass this Way Again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you that have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be

tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.

The Rector will preach his farewell message after which

the choir will sing: "Break Forth Into Joy."

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

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: Cyndi Molstad

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: Heidi T/Bev K

Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

2/12 6th Sunday after the Epiphany

Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover

Reader: Craig Bartos

Crucifer: Dawson Staff

Acolyte: Elyse Schoonover

Ushers: Jeremy Schoonover

Counters: Connie M/Naomi R

Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: the Rolls

Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

2/19 The Transfiguration

Asst Minister: Cole Warner

Reader: Jarrod Roll

Crucifer: Stella Schoonover

Acolyte: Jed Roll

Ushers: Paula Betlach

Counters: Cheryl R/Cole W

Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: tbd

Livestreamer: Cole Warner

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