

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 24, 2024

A WORD FROM PT

Why is the Gospel Message so important? You might think of it this way, it connects the saving work Christ accomplished on the Cross to the potential individual believer. Consider it the delivery system. It delivers the benefits and gifts of what our Lord accomplished for us. Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world, for all people. And yet we must receive by faith the gift of salvation He accomplished in dying for our sins. We can't go back in time and come to the cross, but the benefits come to us in the preaching of the Gospel.

Interestingly, the Greek word *euangelion* (pronounced 'yoo-ang-ghel'-ee-on') is usually translated

into the English as "gospel". It means "good news" or "good tidings". You will recognize that the word "evangelism" is developed from this Greek word. To evangelize someone is *to* *gospel* them. That is, it is to share the good news of what Christ's death and resurrection accomplished for us. And it is this message itself that becomes the means of our salvation.

The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

Another way to speak about evangelism is to call attention to the teaching that all

believers are called to be Christ's witnesses. We are to witness to and of Him. We point to Him! Our actions can help do this, but words eventually are needed. In fact, without loving and merciful actions any words we use will be undercut. And not everyone may be gifted and comfortable verbalizing the gospel, but we can invite people to where the message is being proclaimed.

Saint Frances reportedly once said, "Go and share the Gospel, and if necessary, use words." Well, words are necessary. Actions may speak louder than words. But words will be necessary for others to know about Jesus and what He accomplished for our salvation.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the purpose of the "Silence for reflection and self-examination" in the Brief Order For Confession and Forgiveness?

"The silence for self-examination and reflection should be an extended si-

lence to enable personal application of the general phrases of the prayer that follows. Silence of one or two minutes is not too long" (Manual on the Liturgy – LBW). This is a helpful time to reflect back on our lives over the past week and ask ourselves whether we

have been disobedient or unfaithful, bad-tempered or dishonest, or whether we have hurt anyone by word or deed. By allowing for this period of reflection we are able to personalize what would otherwise remain quite general.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, 1/24
5:30pm Confirmation Class

Thursday, 1/25
9:30am Prayer Gathering

Friday, 1/26
7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Sunday, 1/28 4th Su after Epiphany
8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service with Communion
10:15am Annual Meeting
10:45am Potluck Brunch

Wednesday, 1/31
5:30pm Confirmation Class



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

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

THIS AND THAT...

We may be calling it a **'Voters Meeting'** but you can certainly call it our Congregation's **Annual Meeting**. It is slated for Sunday, January 28 shortly after the Divine Service that day. Elections and approval of the annual budget lead the agenda.

A **Congregation Potluck Brunch** will follow the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28. Look for the sign-up sheet in the kitchen for helping to determine what you might contribute for the

meal.

Printed copies of the **2024 Voters Assembly Meeting Packet** are available on the usher's table at church.

Don't forget non-perishable **Food Donations** for the Food Pantry!

Jacki Repaal is signed up for the week of January 21 to clean the church. The Duesenbergs are signed up for the week of February 18

The January **Designated Benevolence** is for the Didi Panzo family in their missionary work in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Christ's first disciples did not have all the answers. Many of them were common and ordinary people. What they could do is point to Jesus and invite people to hear what Jesus said and had done. Christ has the answers. We will want invite others to "come and see" what Christ and His community of faith are all about.

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 21 Elyse Schoonover
Jan 26 Marge Wangen
Jan 27 Lily Cunningham
Jan 27 Ann Fisher

Anniversaries**I Have Questions**

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, then doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

If FedEx and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed Up?

What hair color do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men?

Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we

supposed to do, write to them? Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the mailmen can look for them while they are delivering the mail?

Whatever happened to Preparations A through G?

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

1/28 4th Sunday after Epiphany
Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Connie Meunier
Crucifer: Elliott Cunningham
Acolyte: Regan Cunningham
Ushers: Tim Betlach
Counters: Jeremy S/Tim B
Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Potluck Meal
Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

2/4 5th Sunday after Epiphany
Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg
Reader: Mike Meunier
Crucifer: Jed Roll

Acolyte: Stella Roll
Ushers: Paula Betlach
Counters: Connie M/David B
Comm Asst: Tim Betlach
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Leslie Duesenberg
Livestreamer: Tim Betlach

2/11 Transfiguration of Our Lord
Asst Minister: Cole Warner
Reader: Heather Roll
Crucifer: Asher Roll
Acolyte: Benjamin Roll
Ushers: David Bjornstad
Counters: Jarrod R/Bev Kuehn
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Paula B/Jessica S
Livestreamer: Jed Roll

2/14 Ash Wednesday
Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Jarrod Roll
Crucifer: Dawson Staff
Acolyte: Elliott Cunningham
Ushers: Jeremy Schoonover
Counters: N/A
Comm Asst: Mike Meunier
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: N/A
Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg, sts
642 Western Avenue
Holmen, WI 54636
www.giftofgracelc.org
giftofgracelc@gmail.com
(608) 668-1587

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