

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 27 & DECEMBER 4, 2024

A WORD FROM PT

Having just completed the Church Year last Sunday with Christ the King Sunday, this Sunday we start a new Church Year with the First Sunday in Advent. The Year begins with the anticipation and preparation for the arrival of Christ. Advent is another name for “arrival” or “coming”.

There are two advents that rate attention in the Season of Advent composed of four Sundays. They are Christ’s first arrival as the Babe of Bethlehem, and the second coming of Christ as King and Judge to close out this current age and then to restore heaven and earth. The anticipation for both involves patience for promises to be fulfilled. And the preparations for both involve re-

pentance and renewed life.

It is important to note that although we are involved in the preparation, the work is not actually ours! It is God’s work accomplished by His Word and through His Spirit. But this work is certainly done in and through us. And tragically it can be resisted and ignored.

Concerning repentance, this involves our confessing our sinful rebellion and disobedience to God, along with recognizing that we deserve punishment. It involves humility and crying out for Christ’s mercy. Our prideful tendency will be to try to work out things for ourselves, our trying to dig ourselves out of the hole we have dug. And it finally in-

volves trusting in God’s declaration and promise that for Christ’s sake our sins have been forgiven.

Much of the preparation will feel like a work that we do. But don’t be deceived. Apart from the Gospel coming to us in Word and Sacrament, we would remain dead in our trespasses and sin. God’s Word works on us as both demand and promise (law and gospel). As demand, our consciences are pricked, causing us to look for relief. As promise, the remedy is made available to grasp onto. That said, there is no room for complacency and laziness on our part. That’s simply how God works in and through us – with fear and trembling on our part.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the significance of the Season of Advent? The *Time of Christmas* begins with the season of *Advent*. Advent is from a Latin word that means “coming,” and its emphasis is on preparation for the coming of Christ. The first part of Advent focuses on

the Coming of Christ as King and Judge, while the later part looks to His coming in the incarnation. The mood of Advent, therefore, is one of hope, anticipation, and preparedness. There are four Sundays in Advent, beginning with the Sunday closest to November 30,

the Festival of St. Andrew. In the one-year lectionary, the Third Sunday in Advent is called *Gaudete*, which means “rejoice”. Its theme is the anticipation of the joy coming into the world at the Nativity. (drawn from the Altar Guild Manual, published by Concordia Publishing House)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 11/26
7pm Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, 12/1 First Sunday in Advent
8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service with Communion
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
10:45am Adult Bible Study

Friday, 12/6
7am Men’s Breakfast at McDonalds

Sunday, 12/8 2nd Sunday in Advent
8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service with Communion
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
10:45am Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, 12/10
9am Hosting Winkel



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

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

THIS AND THAT...

Be sure you fill out the **Re:Vitality** Online survey. The survey tool will be more helpful with a larger number of participants. You have until the end of November to take the survey.

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** will not meet this Friday, but we will resume on Friday, December 6

Our special **Thanksgiving Service** with Holy Communion will be on Tuesday, No-

vember 26, at 7pm. Pie and ice cream will be served after the service.

Pastor Tim will be hosting the **Winkel Pastor's Gathering** on Tuesday, December 10. He will be asking for help in providing the lunch that day.

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

The Bjornstads will clean the

church the week of December 22. We have yet to schedule into the new year.

The December **Designated Benevolence** is for the **Salvation Army**.

Repentance in the life of a believer is not a one time thing. It is not once and done. Rather, it is ongoing, for unfortunately, no matter how hard we try - and we should try hard - we continue to sin and need forgiveness and cleansing.

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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

Nov 28..... Heather Roll
 Nov 30..... Cyndi Molstad
 Dec 1 Brad Benrud
 Dec 9 Cole Warner
 Dec 21 Drew Staff
 Dec 31 Marilyn Magnuson

Anniversaries

Bad Dad Jokes

Why did the employee get fired from the keyboard factory? *He wasn't putting in enough shifts.*

Did you hear about the man who cut off his left leg? *He's all right now.*

Did you hear the one about the claustrophobic astronaut? *He just needed a little more space.*

What kind of music should you listen to while fishing? *Something catchy.*

What do you call a girl in the middle of a tennis court? *Annette*

What did the ocean say to the beach? *Nothing. It just waved.*

What did one wall say to the other? *I'll meet you at the corner.*

Why did the nose feel sad? *It*

was always getting picked on.

Did you hear about the cold dinner? *It was chili.*

Why did the deer go to the dentist? *It had buck teeth.*

A cheese factory exploded in France. *Da bie is everywhere!*

Not sure if you have noticed, but I love puns. *That's just how eye roll.*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

12/1 First Sunday in Advent

Asst Minister: Naomi Rislow
Reader: Cole Warner
Crucifer: Asher Roll
Acolyte: Dawson Staff
Ushers: Tim Betlach
Counters: Connie M/Tim B
Comm Asst: Mike Meunier
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Paula Betlach
Livestreamer: Tim Betlach

12/8 Second Sunday in Advent

Asst Minister: Tom Rislow
Reader: Jeremy Schoonover
Crucifer: Benjamin Roll

Acolyte:

 Elliott Cunningham

Ushers: David Bjornstad
Counters: Jarrod R/Naomi R
Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Cindy Schoonover
Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

12/15 Third Sunday in Advent

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Jessica Schoonover
Crucifer: Dawson Staff
Acolyte: Regan Cunningham
Ushers: Jeremy Schoonover
Counters: Cole W/Tim B
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist:

 Tom Rislow

Fellowship: the Warners
Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

12/22 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad
Reader: Nikki Hanson
Crucifer: Elliott Cunningham
Acolyte: Chase Repaal
Ushers: Jarrod Roll
Counters: Jeremy S/Jackie R
Comm Asst: Tim Betlach
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: Cole Wanner

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