

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 11, 2024

A WORD FROM PT

Sixty-one percent of you completed the online survey for the RE:VITALITY program sponsored by our Synod, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. I would have liked to have seen a hundred percent of you participate (quite unrealistic), but we have been assured by the Synod that we have a large enough sampling for a fair and balanced assessment from which we can be assisted with guidance and resources in our faithfulness to Christ's mission in our community.

Thanks for taking the time and effort to take and submit the survey. You only had a window of three weeks to do so at a busy time of the year. Your com-

mitment, openness to learning, and giving things the good old *college try* is one of our congregation's greatest resources. I believe there is broad hunger among you for impacting our surrounding community with the hope of the gospel. What a joy to be a coworker with you in our Lord's mission.

There are a couple of dates that are important for you to try to save and participate in the events. The first date is the third Saturday in January, the 18th. Our District (South Wisconsin District of the LCMS) Mission Executive, the Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador, plans to spend time with us from 10am to 2pm. He wants to interview us and have con-

versations with as many of our members as possible. Like the aforementioned survey tool, this would be for the purpose of a trained outsider being able to evaluate and then mirror back to us our strengths and our challenges to our sharing in the mission of Christ.

This assessment is for the purpose of strengthening us in our ministry. It will also help to determine the best way for our District and Synod to walk alongside us and assist us with guidance and resources, even financially if need be.

The second important date is the Annual Voters Meeting after the Divine Service on Sunday, January 26.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 12/10
9am Hosting Winkel

Thursday, 12/12
6pm Church Council

Friday, 12/13
7am Men's Breakfast at McDonalds
10am Service at the Care Center

Saturday, 12/14
9am Elders Meeting

Sunday, 12/15 3rd Sunday in Advent
8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service with Communion
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
10:45am Adult Bible Study

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the significance of the Advent Wreath? The Advent Wreath was first used in the home to count the weeks of Advent, but it soon also became used in the church. The Advent Wreath typically is a circle of evergreen branches with four candles (one candle is lighted for the first week, two for the second week, and so on). In a hori-

zontal position it may be mounted on a stand or hung from the ceiling. Three of the candles match the color of the parments, which in our case is blue. The Third Sunday in Advent is typically known as *Gaudete*, which means "rejoice". This word comes from one of the lessons that Sunday if you are using the one-year lectionary

(we keep the tradition even though we use a three-year lectionary). A rose or pink color candle is lit on this day. It is advised not to use the Christ Candle for a center piece, and the wreath should be removed on the Festival of our Savior's birth. (drawn from the Altar Guild Manual, published by Concordia Publishing House)



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

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

THIS AND THAT...

The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** with Holy Communion will be at 5pm on Tuesday, December 24. Expect most of your favorite Christmas hymns.

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** continues to meet during the Fridays of December at the McDonald's Restaurant off of County OT, at 6am.

At the **Church Council** meeting, December 12 at

6pm, we will be looking at the results of the CADDs Re: Vitality survey that we took during November. Thanks for helping with this survey.

Please save the dates. First, Saturday, January 18, from 10am - to 2pm for a **Workshop** we want everyone to attend. And then Sunday, January 26 for our **Annual Voters Meeting**.

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**.

The mission is Christ's. He employs His disciples in His mission to make new disciples.

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

Dec 9 Cole Warner
Dec 21 Drew Staff
Dec 31 Marilyn Magnuson

Anniversaries

Bad Dad Jokes

Why did the banana go to the doctor? *Because it wasn't peeling well.*

Where do sheep go to get a haircut? *The baa baa shop.*

What did the mama cow say to the baby cow? *It's pasture bed time.*

Why should you never use a dull pencil? *Because it's pointless.*

Where did the cat go after losing its tail? *The retail store.*

Why don't eggs tell jokes? *They'd crack each other up.*

What kind of sandals do frogs wear? *Open-toad.*

What do you call a herd of sheep falling down a hill? *A lambslide.*

How do you plan a space party? *You planet.*

How many tickles does it take

to make an octopus laugh? *Ten tickles.*

What do you call a potato wearing glasses? *A spec-tater*

What do you call a moose with no name? *Anonymoose.*

Why did the ram fun over the cliff? *He didn't see the ewe turn.*

Why did the picture go to jail? *He was framed.*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

12/15 Third Sunday in Advent

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Jarrod Roll
Crucifer: Dawson Staff
Acolyte: Regan Cunningham
Ushers: Jarrod Roll
Counters: Dan M/Tim B
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Connie Meunier
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: the Warners
Livestreamer: Cole Wanner

12/24 Christmas Eve Service

Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Naomi Rislow
Crucifer: not needed
Acolyte: not needed
Ushers: Dan Molstad
Counters: not needed
Comm Asst: Mike Meunier

Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: not needed
Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

12/8 First Sunday after Christmas

Asst Minister: Cole Warner
Reader: Karri Bjornstad
Crucifer: Regan Cunningham
Acolyte: Stella Roll
Ushers: Mary Bartos
Counters: Dan M/David B
Comm Asst: tbd
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Leslie Duesenberg
Livestreamer: Cole Warner

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