

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 18, 2024

#### A WORD FROM PT

Disciples of Christ participate in the Mission of Christ. His Mission is to reclaim and redeem the world that has rebelled against God and is lost in sin. One way of summarizing His Mission is that He is making disciples of all nations (cf. Matt 28:19-20). That puts us as His disciples in the Discipleship Business.

There are a lot of clever and creative ways we might try to attract followers and to market the Kingdom. And yet, Christ our Lord has already determined the means for reaching lost sinners. This too can be summarized as "Word and Sacrament" ministry. From the aforementioned passage in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus said that we are to baptize

and catechize (teach).

The Apostle Paul writes it this way: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Rom 1:16). A little later in his letter to the Romans the Apostle says this: "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Rom 10:17). In short, it is the message that we deliver that does the work in an unbeliever's heart to bring him or her to faith.

We become most effective in this enterprise as we are sufficiently and consistently catechized in God's Word. The better we know the message the more clearly and faithfully we can share

it. The more we are formed by Scripture, the more likely our lives will become illustrations of saving faith.

There may be some room for creativity and winsomeness, but not at the expense of the dispensing with, or the distorting of, the message!

There is a sense that we can only share what we have received. We must not despise preaching, the sacraments, and learning God's Word. Instead, we must hold these things as sacred and gladly hear and learn from them. Are you gladly hearing and learning God's Word? Have you joined a Bible study? Do you trust in the transformational power of His Word?

#### SINCE YOU ASKED...

##### What is the significance of the Season of Christmas?

The season of Christmas begins on the evening of December 24, the Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord, and continues through January 5. The feast day is Decem-

ber 25. On the octave (an 8-day period beginning with the festival day) of Christmas two festivals occur: the Circumcision of Our Lord and the Name of Jesus. Depending on the day of the week on which Christmas falls, there may be two Sundays after Christmas. In

most years, however, there is only one. Because of the nature of this singular event in the history of the world and its meaning for our salvation, the festival and season of Christmas is a time of great joy. (drawn from the Altar Guild Manual, published by Concordia Publishing House)

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Thursday, 12/19**  
10am Ministerium at Olivet Lutheran
- Friday, 12/20**  
7am Men's Breakfast at McDonalds
- Sunday, 12/22** 4th Sunday in Advent  
8am Choir Practice  
9am Divine Service with Communion  
10:15am Coffee Fellowship  
10:45am Adult Bible Study
- Tuesday, 12/24** Christmas Eve  
5pm Eve Candlelight Service



**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.

Our congregation will have a representation at the **South**

**Wisconsin District (SWD) Convention** next summer in June. If any of you are interested in knowing more about the Convention, check on the web page: [swd.lcms.org/convention](http://swd.lcms.org/convention).

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**.

Discipleship involves daily mediation and hearing of God's Word!

# 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 21 ..... Drew Staff  
 Dec 31 ..... Marilyn Magnuson  
 Jan 2 ..... Elliott Cunningham  
 Jan 4 ..... Matt Repaal  
 Jan 13 ..... Carol Peterson

#### Anniversaries

### Bad Dad Jokes

What is calendar's favorite food? *Dates.*

Why was the football stadium cold? *There were too many fans.*

Why do bananas wear sunscreen? *Because they peel.*

Why do bees have sticky hair? *Because they use honey combs.*

Why did the watch go on vacation? *To unwind.*

How does a penguin build a house? *Igloos it together.*

Why do melons have weddings? *Because they cantaloupe.*

Why did the computer get glasses? *To improve its website.*

What did the banker say to the bed? *I've got you covered.*

What did the roof say to the shingle? *The first one's on the house.*

What do you call birds that stick together? *Valcrows.*

Why did the duck fall on the sidewalk? *He tripped on a quack.*

How do birds learn to fly? *They wing it.*

Did you hear about the walnut and cashew that threw a party? *It was nuts.*

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

### 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 Rislw

**Crucifer:** not needed

**Acolyte:** not needed

**Ushers:** Dan Molstad

**Counters:** not needed

**Comm Asst:** Mike Meunier

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislw

**Fellowship:** not needed

**Livestreamer:** Jeremy Schoonover

### 12/29 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 Rislw

**Fellowship:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Livestreamer:** Cole Warner

### 1/5 2nd Sunday after Christmas

**Asst Minister:** Cole Warner

**Reader:** Naomi Rislw

**Crucifer:** Regan Cunningham

**Acolyte:** Chase Repaal

**Ushers:** Mary Bartos

**Counters:** Cole W/Jackie R

**Comm Asst:** N/A

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislw

**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