

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 8, 2025

#### A WORD FROM PT

We often think in January in terms of turning the page on the previous year and getting a fresh start in the New Year with stated resolutions. You can expect a big surge at Y in January. And the resolution to take care of the body with exercise is usually matched with a surge in dieting. Oh, all the holiday indulgences...

It never hurts to think in terms of missional resolutions. By the end of the month, we will hold our Annual Voters Meeting. Not only will there be reports reviewing our ministry in 2024, but forward looking we will vote on a Projected Ministry Spending Plan for 2025 and talk about going forward with

renewed energy in the great Mission of our Lord Jesus.

In general, we know what this mission is. It is sharing the good news of God's love in His sending His Son to die for our sins. It is about inviting people to the faith, while with commensurate compassion showing mercy and love to the lonely, the hurting, and those lacking hope. It is about growing ourselves in our following and being students of Christ.

This is all in general. Specifically, we will need to find ways to greet and meet people where they live, work, and play, and not simply wait for them to show up where we gather as a church. Specifically, we will

need to continue our outreach by serving out in the community, and to do so being able to clearly represent Christ as the reason for our service. Specifically, we will need to make sure we understand our baptismal vocation implies that wherever we go we are Christ's ambassador, whether in our neighborhoods, in the workplace, where we recreate, along with where we worship.

Perhaps the New Year's Resolution is that we make sure the ideals of our being His disciples are being grounded in steady practices such as prayer, Bible reading, service, and setting the right priorities.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Thursday, 1/9**

9am Prayer Gathering  
6pm Church Council

**Friday, 1/10**

7am Men's Breakfast at McDonalds

**Sunday, 1/12** Baptism of Our Lord

8am Choir Practice  
9am Divine Service with Communion  
10:15am Coffee Fellowship  
10:45am Adult Bible Study

**Tuesday, 1/14**

9am Winkel at Faith Lutheran  
5:30pm Ladies Night Out at Su Casa in Holmen

#### SINCE YOU ASKED...

**What is the significance of the Epiphany and the Season that follows?** The word *Epiphany* means "manifestation" or "a revealing". Since light helps to reveal and make manifest, on January 6 we recall the Magi led by the light of the star to the manger to wor-

ship Jesus, "the Light of the World" given birth by Mary. We will go on in the Season that follows to commemorate the manifestation of the Trinity at Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan River, where the voice of the Father spoke, and the Holy Spirit descended and alight-

ed on Jesus as he came forth from the river. The voice identifies Jesus as God's Son in whom the Father is well pleased. The Season after the Epiphany closes with the Transfiguration whereby a future glimpse of the Resurrected glory of Christ was revealed.



**Making Disciples for Life**

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

## THIS AND THAT...

The **Church Council** meets Thursday, January 9 at 6pm.

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** meets on Friday mornings, 7am, at the McDonald's Restaurant off of County OT.

The next **Ladies Night Out** is Tuesday, January 14, 5:30pm, at Su Casa Restaurant in Holmen.

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 Warners will clean the church the week of January 19. And the Betlachs are scheduled for the week of February 16.

The January **Designated Benevolence** is for **Did Panzo**.

We make resolutions to become regular in bodily exercise and in adopting healthier eating habits. The Apostle Paul says bodily exercise is of some value. But spiritual exercise is even more valuable. It certainly will make us stronger in participating in our Lord's mission to a lost and hurting world.

# 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 31 ..... Marilyn Magnuson  
Jan 2 ..... Elliott Cunningham  
Jan 4 ..... Matt Repaal  
Jan 13 ..... Carol Peterson  
Jan 21 ..... Dwight Schoonover  
Jan 21 ..... Elyse Schoonover

#### Anniversaries

### Bad Dad Jokes

Why do dragons sleep during the day? *Because they like to fight knights.*

Why did the scarecrow win an award? *It was outstanding in the field.*

Did you hear about the 12-inch dog? *It was a foot long.*

Why did the baseball player get arrested? *Because he stole third base.*

What did one piece of tape say to the other? *Let's stick together.*

What's brown and sticky? *A stick.*

How does the rancher keep track of his cattle? *With a cow-culator.*

What do you call a shoe made out of a banana? *A slipper.*

How do you fix a broken pumpkin? *With a pumpkin*

*patch.*

Where do boats go when they get sick? *To the dock.*

Can February March? *No, but April May.*

What do you call a fibbing cat? *A lion.*

Did you hear the rumor about butter? *Well, I'm not going to go spreading it.*

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

**1/12** Baptism of Our Lord

**Asst Minister:** Naomi Rislow

**Reader:** Connie Meunier

**Crucifer:** Chase Repaal

**Acolyte:** Stella Roll

**Ushers:** Mary Bartos

**Counters:** Dan M/Jackie R

**Comm Asst:** Tom Rislow

**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Fellowship:** tbd

**Livestreamer:** Jarrod Roll

**1/19** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

**Asst Minister:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Reader:** Mike Meunier

**Crucifer:** Stella Roll

**Acolyte:** Asher Roll

**Ushers:** Tim Betlach

**Counters:** Jeremy S/David B

**Comm Asst:** Jeremy Schoonover

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow

**Fellowship:** Paula Betlach

**Livestreamer:** Jeremy Schoonover

**1/26** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

**Asst Minister:** Tom Rislow

**Reader:** Heather Roll

**Crucifer:** Asher Roll

**Acolyte:** Benjamin Roll

**Ushers:** David Bjornstad

**Counters:** Jarrod R/Tom R

**Comm Asst:** Jarrod Roll

**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Fellowship:** tbd

**Livestreamer:** Jarrod Roll

**2/2** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

**Asst Minister:** Mike Meunier

**Reader:** Jarrod Roll

**Crucifer:** Benjamin Roll

**Acolyte:** Dawson Staff

**Ushers:** Jarrod Roll

**Counters:** Cole W/Naomi R

**Comm Asst:** Tim Betlach

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow

**Fellowship:** tbd

**Livestreamer:** Tim Betlach

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