

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 15, 2025

#### A WORD FROM PT

*“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” – 1 Corinthians 15:58*

The above verse is the culmination of chapter 15 in the Apostle Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth. The chapter has been all about the resurrection of Christ our Lord. Paul speaks about Jesus’ death according to the Scriptures, His burial, and Christ’s resurrection on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. By His death and resurrection, a great victory has been won. This is the victory over sin, death, and the tyranny of the devil. And this is a victory our Lord won for us,

as He Himself was not in bondage to these enemies.

It is in light of this great victory that the Apostle encourages baptized believers. We are to be **steadfast**. This implies consistent practicing of the faith that does not rely on feelings and emotions. For example, we pray daily and consistently whether we feel like it or not. We certainly welcome moments of exhilaration and the sensing of God’s closeness, but we don’t rely on the same to keep us going. Instead, we rely on His promise to be with us always to the end of the age.

We are to be **immovable**. Sometimes flexibility, spontaneity, and novelty are

good things. But not when it comes to the truth of God’s Word, the commission our Lord has entrusted to us, and our duty to love God and our neighbor. What we believe, teach, and confess is to be as solid as a rock.

Finally, we are **always [to be] abounding in the work of the Lord**. No other labor or enterprise is as fruitful and rewarding! Do we believe this? Nothing short of the eternal kingdom is at stake!

Assuredly, this urging is not accomplished on our own steam. God works in and through us by His Holy Spirit. Alive in Christ, we simply need to desist from resisting it.

#### SINCE YOU ASKED...

**What is the Significance of The Baptism of Our Lord?** John the Baptist came proclaiming a *baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins*. Since Jesus was sinless he had no need to be forgiven. The human race, however, is sinful. And our need for forgiveness is great

indeed. In explaining why he should be baptized by John, Jesus said, *it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness*. In other words, Jesus came to stand with us and accomplish on our behalf all that God requires of us, including repentance and the forgiveness of sins! At

his baptism there was a revealing (an epiphany) of the Holy Trinity. And at his baptism, Jesus took our humanity which he assumed in the Incarnation and lowered it in the cleansing water of Baptism. His public ministry would commence with this public rite.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 1/14**  
9am Winkel at Faith Lutheran  
5:30pm Ladies Night Out at Su Casa in Holmen
- Thursday, 1/16**  
10am Pastor Gathering at Olivet Lutheran Church
- Friday, 1/17**  
7am Men’s Breakfast at McDonalds  
10am Worship at Onalaska Care Center
- Saturday, 1/18**  
10am Congregation Workshop at Church with Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador
- Sunday, 1/19 2<sup>nd</sup> Su after Epiphany**  
8am Choir Practice  
9am Divine Service with Communion  
10:15am Coffee Fellowship  
10:45am Adult Bible Study



**Making Disciples for Life**

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

## THIS AND THAT...

Please make every effort to attend a **Congregation Workshop** this Saturday, January 18 from 10am to 2pm. We will be guided by the Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador in assessing and planning for more effective mission in our area.

The **Worship Team** will meet after the Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, January 19.

Sunday, January 26, following the Divine Service we will

have our **Annual Voters Meeting**. The meeting will be followed by a Congregation Potluck Brunch. A sign-up sheet is in the kitchen.

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

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**.

Disciples of Christ daily... meditate on God's Word, pray, and practice conforming to Christ's example by loving God and loving and serving our neighbor.

# 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 13..... Carol Peterson  
 Jan 21..... Dwight Schoonover  
 Jan 21..... Elyse Schoonover  
 Jan 26..... Marge Wangen  
 Jan 27..... Lily Cunningham  
 Jan 27..... Ann Fisher

#### Anniversaries

### Bad Dad Jokes

Where do you learn to make ice cream? *Sundae school.*

What's a scarecrow's favorite fruit? *Straw-berries.*

Where do burgers go dancing? *At the meatball.*

What time do ducks wake up? *At the quack of dawn.*

Why was the broom late? *It over-swept.*

What kind of tree fits in your hand? *A palm tree.*

Where do books hide when they're afraid? *Under their covers.*

How do trees get on the internet? *They log in.*

What does a painter do when he gets cold? *Puts on another coat.*

What did the calculator say to the pencil? *You can count on*

*me.*

What has four wheels and flies? *A garbage truck.*

What do you call a two ducks and a cow? *Quackers and milk.*

What do cows like to read? *Cattle-logs.*

How did the farmer fix his torn coveralls? *With a cabbage patch.*

How much money does a skunk have? *Just one scent.*

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

**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:** Potluck Brunch

**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:** Heide Lee

**Livestreamer:** Tim Betlach

**2/9** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

**Asst Minister:** Karri Bjornstad

**Reader:** Jessica Schoonover

**Crucifer:** Dawson Staff

**Acolyte:** Elliott Cunningham

**Ushers:** Jeremy Schoonover

**Counters:** Jeremy S/Jackie R

**Comm Asst:** Tom Rislow

**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Fellowship:** Jessica Schoonover

**Livestreamer:** Jeremy Schoonover

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