

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 22, 2025

A WORD FROM PT

A Pastor colleague of mine in the South Wisconsin District shared with me some of the things his congregation has been trying in recent years to meet folks in their surrounding community. He believed their congregation's recent numerical growth could be attributed to their success in 'Meeting and Greeting' more people. I love that expression: Meet and Greet.

If we wait for people to come to us, especially on Sunday Morning at the Divine Service, we will not likely have the opportunity to meet many folks in the surrounding community. Certainly, individually we have a chance to meet people all the time in the places we live, work, and play. And

this should count for a lot if we are learning, endeavoring, and finding the boldness to witness to Christ.

That said, there is also great value in our congregation being able to meet and greet people in the surrounding community. That is because the very vitality, adventure, sense of belonging, fun, and caring of our congregation family is an effective witness to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. Christ is seen in his full body, with all the members working and playing in harmony.

There are ways we can be very overt in our witness together, as in presenting a Christian concert, having a Bible Study, doing a presentation, or ministering in service to those with various

needs. Here the Bible is read, spoken, proclaimed, and taught. Here also helping hands minister to others in the Name of Jesus.

There are also ways we can meet and greet people less overtly, with less of an overriding agenda, and accordingly with less intimidation to those who are either unfamiliar with Christianity or who have grown cold or antagonistic to the Faith. But the point is simply to encounter people and then to meet and greet them in a low key but fun way. An ice cream social, or the showing of a family movie might be two examples. But the point is, we need to come up with plans for meeting and greeting people in our community.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What does the Pastor's Stole signify? (*the stole is the colored strip of cloth that loops around the back of the neck and hangs from both shoulders*)

The stole represents a yoke such as would be used to link and employ an ox with

a plow or cart. When a work animal is yoked to a task, that animal comes under the rule and guidance of its master. As Christians we are to be yoked to Christ (cf. Mt. 11:28-30).

We are to fear, love, serve, and obey the Lord Jesus Christ. The Pastor's stole is

therefore not only a sign of ordination in the Lutheran Church, but it visibly reminds the whole congregation of our servant hood to Christ.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, 1/23
9:30am Prayer Gathering

Friday, 1/24
7am Men's Breakfast at McDonalds

Sunday, 1/26 3rd Su after Epiphany
8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service with Communion
10:15am Annual Voters Meeting
11am Potluck Brunch



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

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

THIS AND THAT...

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.

Easter occurs late this year, on Sunday, April 20. That means that the last Sunday after the Epiphany, the Transfiguration of Our Lord is not until March 2. **Ash Wednesday** is not until March 5

The **Prayer Gathering** will meet this week on Thursday, January 23.

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**.

Jesus said that a city on a hill cannot be hidden, nor is a lamp lit and hid under a basket. This not only applies to our lives individually as Christians, but also to our lives corporately as a congregation.

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 21 Dwight Schoonover
Jan 21 Elyse Schoonover
Jan 26 Marge Wangen
Jan 27 Lily Cunningham
Jan 27 Ann Fisher

Anniversaries

Bad Dad Jokes

What do you get when you cross an elephant with a fish?
Swimming trunks.

What kind of cereal do leprechauns eat? *Lucky Charms.*

What do you call recently married spiders? *Newly-webs.*

Where do crayons go on vacation? *Color-ado.*

What do you get when you cross a Smurf and a cow? *Blue*

cheese.

What happens when ice cream gets angry? *It has a meltdown.*

What do call a locomotive carrying bubble gum? *A chew train.*

How do you get a mouse to smile? *Say "cheese".*

Why couldn't the bike stand up on its own? *It was too tired.*

What do you call a sheep that

knows karate? *A lamb chop.*

Why did the snowman buy a bag of carrots? *He wanted to pick his nose.*

What did the Dalmation say after dinner? *That hit the spot.*

How do you know when a bike is thinking? *You can see its wheels turning.*

What does a librarian use to go fishing? *A bookworm.*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

1/26 3rd 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 3rd 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

2/9 4th 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

2/16 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover

Reader: Paula Betlach

Crucifer: Elliott Cunningham

Acolyte: Regan Cunningham

Ushers: Tim Betlach

Counters: Dan M/Tim B

Comm Asst: Mike Meunier

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: Heide Fehr

Livestreamer: Tim Betlach

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