

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 29, 2025

#### A WORD FROM PT

The basics matter. But being basic, it may not always seem exciting or exceptional. And yet, exciting or not, when we become exceptional at the basics it will at some point become exciting.

Your Pastor struggled with the basics when it came to the piano lessons his mother insisted on. At first, the idea of being able to read and play music seemed exciting. The freedom to play a wide array of music, including the music that I liked listening to, was appealing. But then the lessons and practices began.

I remember having to memorize the notes on the musical staff. There were memory devices to assist in

this. If memory serves, it went something like: 'Every Good Boy Does Fly' for the treble lines, 'F A C E' for the treble spaces, 'Grizzly Bears Don't Fear Anything' for the bass clef lines, and 'All Cows Eat Grass' for the bass clef spaces.

Then there was learning the scales and where the sharps and flats might be in each. Again, if memory serves, there are Major scales and Minor scales. And it is through sheer repetition, read *practice*, of the scales and chords that muscle memory is formed and reinforced.

I will not even mention the value of each note and keeping time and rhythm. But I will say that the skills just

mentioned, and many others, only become automatic and helpful through practice, practice, and more practice. Sometimes this can be made fun and interesting, but the basics are just, well, basic. It is when you become increasingly exceptional with them that things can become exciting. But to stay accomplished, you never graduate from going back to the basics. And I was not only not exceptional in the basics of piano, but I was also lazy and I early on dropped the effort.

Christianity is not unlike learning the piano. And two of the basics are prayer and Scripture. Here we can ill afford to be lazy and to quit.

#### SINCE YOU ASKED...

**Why do we say in the Creeds that Jesus Christ "is seated at the right hand of the Father"? Does this mean that our Lord is far away from us?**

This has little to do with Christ's physical location.

Instead, it has to do with the authority he assumes. For a King to be seated on a throne is a symbolic gesture of his rule and authority. Heaven itself is a reality that transcends time and space. It is the unseen and timeless realm that underlies the visible and temporal world.

We confess Christ to be seated at the right hand of the Father because we believe him to be the rightful King of the universe. Indeed, Jesus is Lord!

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, 1/31

7am Men's Breakfast at McDonalds

Sunday, 2/2 Presentation of Our Lord

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...

The next **Ladies Night Out** will be on Tuesday, February 18, 5:30pm at Su Casa's in Holmen.

**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 next meet on Thursday, Feb-

ruary 6.

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 Betlachs will clean the church the week of February 16. And the Molstads are scheduled for the week of

March 16.

The February **Designated Benevolence** is for **Holmen's Hope**.

As breathing is necessary to sustain physical, biological life; so prayer is necessary to spiritual life. And the best Prayer Book is the Bible. Not only do Scriptures teach prayer, but being the Word of God, it is a primary way God speaks to us. Remember, prayer is a two way conversation!

# 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 26..... Marge Wangen  
Jan 27..... Lily Cunningham  
Jan 27..... Ann Fisher  
Feb 17..... Carter Repaal  
Feb 22..... Regan Cunningham

#### Anniversaries

### Bad Dad Jokes

What did one leaf say to the other? *I'm falling for you.*

Where's the one place you should never take your dog? *A flea market.*

How does Darth Vader like his bagels? *On the dark side.*

What do you call spaghetti in disguise? *An impasta.*

Why did the tailor get fired? *He wasn't a good fit.*

Where do elephants store luggage? *In a trunk.*

Why did the poodle buy a clock? *It wanted to be a watch dog.*

What do you call a fly with a sore throat? *A hoarse fly.*

Dogs can't operate MRI machines - *but cats-can.*

If you see a robbery at an Apple store, *does that make you an i Witness?*

I had a date last night. It was perfect. *Tomorrow, I'll have a grape.*

It was an emotional wedding - *even the cake was in tiers.*

I have an inferiority complex, *but it's not a very good one.*

Our vacuum cleaner is getting old? *It's just gathering dust.*

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

**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/Tim B

**Comm Asst:** Tim Betlach

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow

**Fellowship:** Connie Meunier

**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

**2/16** 5<sup>th</sup> 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

**2/23** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

**Asst Minister:** Cole Warner

**Reader:** Craig Bartos

**Crucifer:** Regan Cunningham

**Acolyte:** Chase Repaal

**Ushers:** Mary Bartos

**Counters:** Connie M/David B

**Comm Asst:** Jeremy Schoonover

**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg

**Fellowship:** Leslie D/Cyndi M

**Livestreamer:** Cole Warner

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