

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 5, 2025

A WORD FROM PT

A highlight of the congregation workshop many of you attended on January 18 was to hear the stories of a special memory that stood out in each person's journey at Gift of Grace. They were stories of welcoming, affirmation, encouragement, and belonging. They extolled the caring, the standing firm on God's Word, the singing, the substantial historical and Biblical patterns of worship, and the broad participation.

We were sharing these things at the behest of an outsider, the Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador. And yet, this afforded an opportunity to hear from each other. A good part of the rationale for the workshop is that in

learning who we are, which includes our history together, we might better know the uniqueness of what we have to give to others as we do outreach.

We had a good turnout for four hours on a Saturday! Six of you were able to participate virtually by Google Meetings. Thanks, Carrie Cunningham, for helping to make this possible. The input was robust and enthusiastic. It was unfortunate that the workshop was allowed to linger an additional hour. Although most everyone remained, it was taxing and a bit much.

Where we go from here is a legitimate question. I am new to this along with you. Dr. Meador will be return-

ing to meet with our leaders and with anyone else who wishes to be involved on Sunday, March 2. He will meet with us around 10:45am (the usual time for Adult Education). It is hoped that we will be able to refine a statement that succinctly describes why we believe that God has placed Gift of Grace in Holmen, and what impact we hope to have on the community.

Again, being new to this, I think we know Biblically the answer here. Every congregation is to witness to the Gospel of Christ and make disciples of Christ. But it may be helpful to refine and recognize our more unique role in this. Stay tuned as this effort continues. Thanks.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

Why is incense used in some churches?

The use of incense is not unique to Christianity or Judaism and is used in many of the world's religions to enhance special times and places by sight and smell. In Christian worship incense is

effectively used at the beginning of the Service of the Word and in preparing for receiving Holy Communion. The burning of incense is associated with the prayers of worship rising before God (cf. Psa 141:2; Rev 8:4). Good worship should engage all the human sens-

es. In this connection it should be pointed out that the olfactory sense is perhaps the most sensitive of the five senses; it continues to function even during sleep. (Indebted to Aidan Kavanah in his "Elements of Rite".)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday - Tuesday, 2/3-4

PT to STS Retreat in DePere, WI

Thursday, 2/6

9:30am Prayer Gathering

Friday, 2/7

7am Men's Breakfast at McDonalds
10am Worship at Onalaska Care Center

Sunday, 2/9 5th Sunday 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...

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**.

Talking about your church family is not a bad way to risk a faith conversation. It might start with "I am so thankful for my church family, they were there for me when I needed it most..." All indications are that many feel lonely and isolated in our culture. Part of our witness is the splendor of Christ's Body...

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
Feb 24..... Jed Roll
Feb 28..... Cindy Schoonover

Anniversaries

Bad Dad Jokes

Why did the thief take a shower before robbing the bank? *He wanted to make a clean getaway.*

What do lawyers wear to work? *Law suits.*

Why do hamburgers go south for the winter? *So they don't freeze their buns.*

Why didn't the sun go to college? *It already had a million*

degrees.

What do you call someone who can't stick to a diet? *A deserter.*

Why did the little strawberry cry? *His mom was in a jam.*

Why couldn't the toilet paper cross the road? *It got stuck in a crack.*

What do you get from a pampered cow? *Spoiled milk.*

Why did the whale blush? *It*

saw the ocean's bottom.

Getting paid to sleep *would be my dream job.*

I used to be a banker, *but I lost interest.*

Why can't you trust an atom? *Because they make up everything.*

I went to buy a pair of camouflage pants, *but I couldn't find any.*

Why did the tomato blush? *It saw the salad dressing.*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

2/9 5th 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 6th 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 7th 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

3/2 Transfiguration Sunday

Asst Minister: Leslie Duesenberg

Reader: Dan Molstad

Crucifer: Chase Repaal

Acolyte: Stella Roll

Ushers: Dan Molstad

Counters: Jarrod R/Dan M

Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: Connie Meunier

Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

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