

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

A WORD FROM PT

When it comes to evangelistic outreach, Luther's explanation to the Third Article of the Creed is important for us. The first part of it is: "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith."

Note the agent in bringing someone to saving faith. It is God the Holy Spirit. And pay close attention to the chief means for the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the preaching and teaching of the Gospel. And implied in the 'enlightened' and 'sanctified' are the Sacra-

ments of Baptism and Holy Communion.

The work is not primarily ours! That does not mean we do not play a role. But it is a supportive one. The Gospel is preached and taught, and the sacraments are administered through human agency. Here faithfulness matters. We are messengers and agents, not marketers, advertisers, technicians, and innovators.

We call ill afford to trade faithfulness for success, truth for relevancy, learning for feelings, and transformation for affirmation. The problem with success as a measure is that there are plenty of ways to increase numbers without real conversion and discipleship. As

one Pastor put it, it is not enough to merely "count nickels and noses". The problem with making too much of emotions is that our feelings are fickle, while God's promises are rock solid. The problem with affirmation, "come as you are", is that we must come as sinners in need of the redemptive and transformative power of the Gospel.

None of what I have said discounts the Biblical injunction to show hospitality, compassion, and conviction. We are to meet people where they are, both literally and figuratively, as good listeners. But beware of uncritically altering or tampering with God's means for evangelizing.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the purpose and meaning of our Votive Prayer Candles?

To "light a candle for someone" means that you will say a prayer for them. The candle symbolizes your prayers. When we light a candle it is a sign of attentiveness

and that we are being purposeful in offering intercessory prayer. It is an important act in which we are involved! To be in prayer is to be spiritually awake and vigilant.

And as the candle continues to burn it symbolizes our

ongoing prayers. It is a sign to others that prayers are being offered. In such an atmosphere, indeed the darkness gives way to light.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 2/11**
9am Winkel at Shepherd of the Hills
- Thursday, 2/13**
6pm Council Meeting
- Friday, 2/14**
7am Men's Breakfast at McDonalds
- Sunday, 2/16** 6th Sunday after Epiphany
8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service with Communion
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
10:45am Adult Bible Study
- Tuesday, 2/18**
5:30pm Ladies Night Out at Su Casa in Holmen



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

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

THIS AND THAT...

The **Church Council** meets this Thursday, 6pm, at the church.

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, February 20.

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**.

Our concentration is to be faithful to the One who called us out of darkness and into the Light. We are faithful when we tell others of how God calls us to Himself, that is sharing the Gospel.

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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**Valentine's Humor**

(contributed by Susan Wilhelm)

Did Adam and Eve have a date? *No, they had an apple.*

What's Cupid's favorite candy? *Hershey's hugs and kisses.*

What did the elephant say to his girl friend? *I love you a ton.*

Do you have a date for Valentine's Day? *Yes, February 14.*

Who always has a date on Valentine's Day? *A calendar.*

What did the car say to the tire? *Wheel you be my Valentine?*

What Valentine message can you find in a honeycomb? *Bee mine.*

When do bed bugs fall in love? *In the spring.*

Do skunks celebrate Valentine's day? *Sure, they're scent-i-mental.*

What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day? *I'm stuck on you.*

What's the best Valentine's Day dinner. *A hearty one.*

What do you call two birds in love? *Tweet hearts.*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

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

3/5 Ash Wednesday

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier

Reader: Craig Bartos

Crucifer: Dawson Staff

Acolyte: Elliott Cunningham

Ushers: Mary Bartos

Counters: not needed

Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: not needed

Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

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