

# GIFT of GRACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2, 2020

#### A WORD FROM PT

Last week we spoke of the four evangelistic tracts known as the Four Gospels. This week we will consider an additional Book to include in the section that is historical, and that is the Book of Acts.

The Book of Acts is authored by one of the Four Evangelists that wrote a Gospel Account. I am referring to Luke. And of the four Gospels, Luke takes greater pains to stick to the kind of details to which we are accustomed in modern histories and biographies.

Consider the introduction to Luke's Gospel Account. "Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished

among us, just as those who were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught" (1:1-4).

Now consider his introduction to the Book of Acts. "In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen" (1:1-3). Then Luke proceeds to

give us the only account in Scripture, save allusions in the letters, of the early spread of Christianity and the founding of churches.

We know from Acts that Christianity spread in many directions, notably to Africa, to Syria, eastward towards Persia, and indeed throughout the whole of the Roman Empire. But Luke, who was a missionary traveling companion with the Apostle Paul, especially chronicles the activity of the Apostles Peter and Paul, with Peter early on, and with Paul for the bulk of the rest of his second Book. I like to think of "Acts" as the continued *actions* of Christ via the Holy Spirit through his Apostles.

#### SINCE YOU ASKED...

##### What does the Advent Wreath Symbolize?

The circle of the wreath reminds us of eternity and our God and Father who has no beginning and no end. The green boughs indicate the hope of life being renewed. The candles represent Christ, the Light of God, who comes into this

dark world to bring light and life. The four colored candles lit successively over the four Sundays in Advent, represent the patience required in waiting for Christ's coming. As there were centuries of waiting between the Old Testament prophets and the birth of Christ, so we must patiently

wait for Christ's return at the end of the age. At Gift of Grace we wait until Christmas Eve to finally light the white center candle (the Christ Candle) to indicate that the fulfillment of the promise of God with the birth of the Christ Child on the first Christmas morn.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Tuesday, 12/1**  
1:00pm Prayer Gathering

**Friday, 12/4**  
6:30am Men's Breakfast Bible Study

**Sunday, 12/6** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent  
9:00am Divine Service (also livestreamed)  
10:30am Confirmation Class  
11:30am Worship Team Meeting

**Tuesday, 12/8**  
1:00pm Prayer Gathering  
6:00pm Council Meeting

#### KEY ATTRIBUTES OF LCMC & NALC

- *Christ-Centered*
- *Mission-Driven*
- *Traditionally-Grounded*
- *Congregationally-Focused*

**LCMC** (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ)

**NALC** (North American Lutheran Church) ([www.thenalc.org](http://www.thenalc.org))

## THIS AND THAT...

As repentance is a leading theme for the Season of Lent, so it also looms large in the **Season of Advent**. We will especially experience this with the introduction of John the Baptism on the upcoming **Second Sunday In Advent**.

For those able to worship in person, there remains the need to **notify Pastor Tim by email** no later than 4pm on Friday

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** is once again gathering after taking the Friday after Thanksgiving off. Breakfast is served at 6:30, and the study wraps up at 7:30am.

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of December is the Salvation Army.

Remember to be generous with your non perishable **food donations** as the Onalaska/Holmen Food Pantry is seeing an increase on the demand.

Cole and Anne Warner are signed up to clean the week of December 20. We will need to start a new list for January 2021.

Don't forget to utilize and take advantage of the Congregation at Prayer each week! Use it and consider sending the attachment to family, neighbors, and friends.

# 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

Nov 28..... Heather Roll  
 Nov 29..... Sydney Hanson  
 Dec 1 ..... Brad Benrud  
 Dec 8 ..... Sarah Kernan  
 Dec 9 ..... Cole Warner  
 Dec 21..... Drew Staff

#### Anniversaries

Dec 18..... K & V Gunderson

### Southern Medical Dictionary

**Medical Staff**.....A Doctor's cane

**Morbid**.....A higher offer

**Nitrates**.....Cheaper than day rates

**Node**.....I knew it

**Out Patient**.....A person who has fainted

**Pelvis**.....Second cousin to Elvis

**Post Operative**.....A letter carrier

**Recovery Room**.....Place to do upholstery

**Rectum**.....\*\*\*\*\* near killed him

**Secretion**.....Hiding something

**Seizure**.....Roman emperor

**Tablet**.....A small table

**Terminal Illness**.....Getting sick at the airport

**Tumor**.....One plus one more

**Urine**.....Opposite of you're out

*- that's all folks, I am in enough trouble with my wife for publishing these pejorative stereotypes...*

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined, positions filled late in the week)

### 12/6 Second Sunday in Advent

**Asst Minister:** Karri Bjornstad  
**Reader:** Mike Meunier  
**Crucifer:** *not needed at this time*  
**Acolyte:** *not needed at this time*  
**Ushers:** *not needed at this time*  
**Counters:** Hannah S/David B  
**Comm Asst:** Connie Meunier  
**Accompanist:** Leslie Duesenberg  
**Fellowship:** *not needed at this time*

**Acolyte:** *not needed at this time*

**Ushers:** *not needed at this time*

**Counters:** Connie M/tba

**Comm Asst:** Karri Bjornstad

**Accompanist:** Tom Rislow

**Fellowship:** *not needed at this time*

**Accompanist:** tba

**Fellowship:** *not needed at this time*

### 12/13 Third Sunday in Advent

**Asst Minister:** Leslie Duesenberg  
**Reader:** tba  
**Crucifer:** *not needed at this time*

### 12/20 Fourth Sunday in Advent

**Asst Minister:** Mike Meunier  
**Reader:** Karri Bjornstad  
**Crucifer:** *not needed at this time*  
**Acolyte:** *not needed at this time*  
**Ushers:** *not needed at this time*  
**Counters:** David B/tba  
**Comm Asst:** tba

### 12/24 Christmas Eve

**Asst Minister:** tba  
**Reader:** tba  
**Crucifer:** *not needed at this time*  
**Acolyte:** *not needed at this time*  
**Ushers:** *not needed at this time*  
**Counters:** tba  
**Comm Asst:** tba  
**Accompanist:** tba  
**Fellowship:** *not needed at this time*

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