

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER JANUARY 8, 2020

A WORD FROM PT

As I stated in the last edition of Grace Notes, hygiene is probably the most cited reason for the rather late development of serving Communion Wine in individual glasses instead of from a common cup, or chalice.

It would appear that this concern over public health and the matter of germs and viruses is more an imagined concern, than one born out about actual data and observed experience.

It may surprise you to know there have been a number of studies examining participation in Holy Communion and the spread of viruses and infections. A number of these studies are cited in an appendix in the Altar Guild Manual published by Concordia Publishing House

which has been authorized by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Commission on Worship. This appendix directly examines the use of the common cup.

Mention of some of these studies include one conducted on the use of the common cup by professors Burroughs and Hemmers in 1965 and reported in the Journal of Infectious Diseases. In 1985 a study was done by Dr. David Ho in the New England Journal of Medicine (Dec. 1985) over concerns about the spread of the AIDS virus in saliva through common eating and drinking utensils. The subject was presented at the 97th General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in May of 1997. And the Center for Disease

Control and Prevention in 1998 published an official position about the risk of infectious disease transmission from a common communion cup.

To summarize the consistent findings: although not being able to absolutely rule out the danger of transmission, the danger seems to be slight to none. There has been no indication that those who receive communion have more illnesses or are at a higher risk than the public at large, and there has not been a case of a community outbreak of infectious disease related to its spread via Communion.

Next time we will examine why alternatives to the common cup are likely less hygienic.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

What is the significance of the Epiphany and the Season that follows?

The word *Epiphany* means "manifestation" or "a revealing". Since light helps to reveal and make manifest, on January 6 we recall the Magi led by the light of the star to the manger to wor-

ship Jesus, "the Light of the World" given birth by Mary. We will go on in the Season that follows to commemorate the manifestation of the Trinity at Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan River, where the voice of the Father spoke, and the Holy Spirit descended and alight-

ed on Jesus as he came forth from the river. The voice identifies Jesus as God's Son in whom the Father is well pleased. The Season after the Epiphany closes with the Transfiguration whereby a future glimpse of the Resurrected glory of Christ was revealed.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, 1/7**
1:00pm Prayer Gathering
- Wednesday, 1/8**
6:30pm Adult Ed/Confirmation
- Friday, 1/10**
6:30am Men's Breakfast at church
- Sunday, 1/12** The Baptism of Our Lord
8:00am Choir Practice
9:00am Divine Service of the Word
10:45am 10th Anniversary Planning
- Tuesday, 1/14**
1:00pm Prayer Gathering
6:00pm Church Council

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)

THIS AND THAT...

The Wednesday Evening **Adult Class** along with the **Confirmation Class** resumes this Wednesday, January 8 at 6:30pm.

The **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** resumes this Friday, January 10 at 6:30am. We will continue our consideration of the eighth chapter of Romans.

On Sunday, January 12, at 10:45am, there will be a **Planning Meeting** for our

Congregation's upcoming **10th Anniversary Celebration** in June. The Worship and Outreach Teams welcome all who would like to assist in the planning.

The **Council** will meet on Tuesday, January 14. And the **Worship Team** will meet on Sunday, January 19.

Our **Designated Benevolence** for the month of January will be directed to the **Didi Panzo** family, who are

serving as missionaries in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Don't forget to bring non-perishable food items for the **Holmen/Onalaska Food Pantry**.

Karri Bjornstad and Connie Meunier are signed up to clean the church the week of January 19. The Duesenbergs are listed for week of Feb 16.

A direct and personal invitation remains the most effective outreach tool!

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 13..... Carol Peterson
Jan 21..... Elyse Schoonover
Jan 26..... Marge Wangen
Jan 27..... Ann Fisher

Anniversaries

Jan 6..... T & J Kruse
Jan 11..... E & P Christensen

Great Truths Learned By Children

Puppies still have bad breath, even after eating a tic-tac.

Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.

School lunches stick to the wall.

You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.

Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.

The best place to be when you're sad is Grandpa's lap.

Two Major Food Groups

1. Anything you can put cheese on.
2. Everything else you can put chocolate on.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

1/12 The Baptism of Our Lord
Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Cole Warner
Crucifer: Dawson Staff
Acolyte: Drew Staff
Ushers: Jeremy Schoonover
Counters: Tom Rislow/Jarrold Roll
Comm Asst: Leslie Duesenberg
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Nikki H/Leslie D

1/19 Second Sunday after Epiphany
Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Heather Roll
Crucifer: Alex Uy

Acolyte: Dawson Staff
Ushers: Jon Uy
Counters: Naomi R/Hannah S
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tba

1/26 Third Sunday after Epiphany
Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad
Reader: Hannah Scholze
Crucifer: Calvin Swaney
Acolyte: Kylee Kernan
Ushers: David Bjornstad
Counters: Jane K/Niki H
Comm Asst: tba

Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Hannah S/tba

2/5 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Asst Minister: Cole Warner
Reader: Jarrod Roll
Crucifer: Stella Roll
Acolyte: Benjamin Roll
Ushers: Jarrod Roll
Counters: Heather R/Connie M
Comm Asst: Karri Bjornstad
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tba

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