

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 11, 2019

A WORD FROM PT

Continuing our discussion on Holy Communion, this week I think it will be important to carefully consider the Words of Institution, and we will do so by utilizing the translation we are accustomed to in the Lutheran Book of Worship.

So first, what are the Words of Institution? They are the words spoken by our Lord Jesus when He first established this meal which He anticipated would be shared frequently among His disciples. You should also be aware that these words are found in four places in the New Testament. They are recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke's Gospels, but not in John. The fourth place they appear is in the

Apostle's Paul's letter to the Church in Corinth.

Let us carefully consider the words. "In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: 'Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.'"

Before I go on, notice who the host is here. In order to serve the bread, after He had blessed it, He broke it then gave it to His disciples. He invites them to eat it, and says to them that this broken loaf given them to eat was His body given for them! He also indicates that the continuance of the meal would, in addition to giving

them His body, be a way of remembering Him.

Continuing with the words, "Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: 'This cup is new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.'"

There is much to notice here. But for now take note of how Jesus extends this part of the meal. He hands them His cup! He mentions drinking, but does not directly refer to the wine. He calls His cup "the new covenant in my blood."

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, 12/10
11:00am Ladies Lunch Field Trip
6:00pm Church Council

Wednesday, 12/11
6:30pm Adult Ed/Confirmation

Friday, 12/13
6:30am Men's Breakfast at church

Sunday, 12/15 3rd Sunday in Advent
8:00am Choir Practice
9:00am Divine Service
10:45am Adult Education

Tuesday, 12/17
1:00pm Prayer Gathering

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...

Our Congregation will celebrate **the Holy Nativity** with the **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** with Holy Communion at 5pm on December 24.

Just a head's up. Sunday, December 22 is the **Fourth Sunday in Advent**, and then Sunday, December 29 is the **First Sunday after Christmas**. This year we will also have a **Second Sunday after Christmas** on January 5.

Two Opportunities for a little extra charity during this Season. The first is contributing \$12 to our Poinsettia Fund, most of the proceeds of which will go to a local food pantry. The second is to box food items for the local pantry according to suggestions of the Reverse Advent Calendar.

 The chosen **Designated Benevolence** for the month of December is the Salvation

Army.

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

 Paul and Nikki Hanson are signed up to clean the church the week of December 16. We need to start a new list for January

 Direct your family, neighbors, and friends to our new website (same address). It is an important 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

Dec 8 Sarah Kernan
 Dec 9 Cole Warner
 Dec 17 Ginger Eade
 Dec 21 Drew Staff

Anniversaries

Dec 18 K & V Gunderson
 Jan 6 T & J Kruse
 Jan 11 E & P Christensen

Sailor's Humor

Don't say your weren't warned...

A **PREACHER** was asked to give a talk at a local women's health symposium. His wife asked about his topic, but he was too embarrassed to admit that he had been asked to speak about sex. Thinking quickly, he replied, "I'm talking about sailing."

"Oh, that's nice," said his

wife.

The next day, at the grocery store, a woman who had attended the lecture recognized the minister's wife.

"That was certainly an excellent talk your husband gave yesterday," she said. "He really has a unique perspective on the subject."

Somewhat chagrined, the

minister's wife replied, "Gee, funny you should think so. I mean, he's only done it twice. The first time he threw up, and the second time, his hat blew off."

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

12/15 Third Sunday in Advent

Asst Minister: Mike Meunier

Reader: Cole Warner

Crucifer: Dawson Staff

Acolyte: Drew Staff

Ushers: Mary Bartos

Counters: Jane K/Nikki H

Comm Asst: Connie Meunier

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: Dottie H/Heather & Stella

Acolyte: tba

Ushers: Tom Kruse

Counters: Connie M/tba

Comm Asst: Heidi Traver

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: Carol P/tba

12/29 First Sunday after Christmas

Asst Minister: Naomi Rislow

Reader: Jessica Schoonover

Crucifer: Sam Schoonover

Acolyte: Elyse Schoonover

Ushers: Cole Warner

Counters: Dave B/Jeremy S

Comm Asst: Not Needed

Accompanist: Tom Rislow

Fellowship: Jessica S/tba

1/5 Second Sunday after Christmas

Asst Minister: Tom Rislow

Reader: Connie Meunier

Crucifer: Jed Roll

Acolyte: Asher Roll

Ushers: Merl Wangen

Counters: Cheryl R/Mary B

Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg

Fellowship: tba

12/22 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Asst Minister: Cole Warner

Reader: Karri Bjornstad

Crucifer: tba

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