

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

422 Valhi Boulevard
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Houma, Louisiana 70360
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Pastor - Richard D. Rudnik
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Church Secretary - Lisa Giroir
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President - Bonnie Dupre
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ECC Director - Sofie Arceneaux
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Accompanists - Mila Anikina & Mike Cape

Today

Service Elder - Joey Sother
Scripture Reader - Rich Rudnik
Offering Stewards - Bonnie Dupre
Altar Guild - Rich & Bridgette

Next Sunday

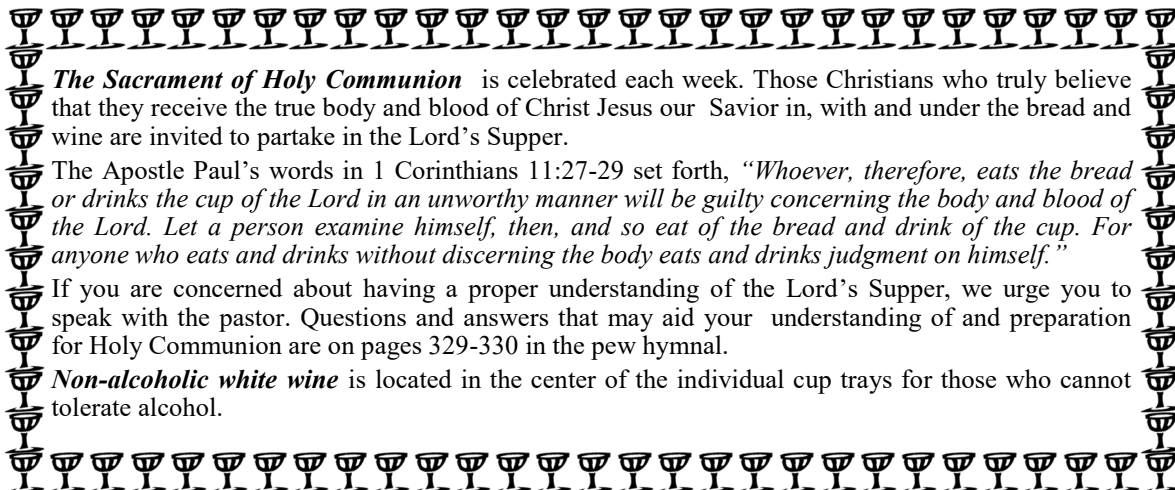
Joey Souther
Rich Rudnik
Bonnie Dupre
Rich & Bridgette

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 16, 2022

Welcome to God's house! Please allow us to keep in touch with you by signing the register in the foyer/narthex. Thank you!

Altar Flowers are placed today to the glory of God in celebration of Bailee & Karoline's baptismal anniversary.



The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each week. Those Christians who truly believe that they receive the true body and blood of Christ Jesus our Savior in, with and under the bread and wine are invited to partake in the Lord's Supper.

The Apostle Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 11:27-29 set forth, "*Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.*"

If you are concerned about having a proper understanding of the Lord's Supper, we urge you to speak with the pastor. Questions and answers that may aid your understanding of and preparation for Holy Communion are on pages 329-330 in the pew hymnal.

Non-alcoholic white wine is located in the center of the individual cup trays for those who cannot tolerate alcohol.

This Week at Grace

Today	9:00 a.m.	Worship Coffee & Youth Biscuits follow
	10:45 a.m.	Sunday School
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Confirmation
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Worship Coffee and Baked Goods follow
	10:45 a.m.	Sunday School

For the week January 16 - 22, 2022

Birthdays	Baptismal Anniversaries	Wedding Anniversaries
January 17 Pat Wegner 19 Angela Crawford Maegan Moore 22 Derek Crawford	January 23 Bailee Giroir Karoline Giroir	January 19 Richard & Jeannie Thalheim 22 Michael & Jeanette Burke

In the palm of God's Hands...

HEALTH CONCERNS: Hunter Moore, Joe Deane, Mary Deane, Mike Wallace & Tina Williams
BATTLING CANCER: Cindy Gorham, Jay Cruse, John Adams, Karen Curtis, Nan Ashley Hebert, Penny Emling & Ursula Breaux

CHRONIC CONDITIONS & ELDERLY: Brian Hoover, Camile Adams, Cindy Deane, Connie Oswalt, Edna Marie Sevin, Helen Hoover, Jackie Webb, Kim Cape, Lisa Ledet, Mary Ann Keller, Richard LaCour, Sue Ackett & Virginia Cunningham

MOURNING A LOSS: the family of Georgette Savoie, Jean Angelbeck & Joe Deane Jr..

SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES & THEIR FAMILY: Andrew Winn, Haily Crawford, Heather Darce, Jack Hansen, Kyle Turcott, Leo Lampinen, Matthew Spolarich, Natalie Turcott, Nigel Koorie, Todd Mueller, Tom Hemminger, Victoria Shroyer & Zhain Shroyer

COLLEGE STUDENTS: Adriana Vitrano, Annie Reaves, Armand Erhart, Blayne Barras, Brandon Cinnater, Brooks Thomas, Emma Thomas, Donovan Domangue, Fielden Baker, Gabbie Corbitt, Hannah Cuneo, Hannah Norman, Harleigh Dahl, Isabella Appenzeller, Karly Kyzar, Madeleine Boudreaux, Peyton Kraus, Ross Reaves, Sophia Miller & Victoria Thalheim



Sunday Morning Worship & Fellowship

Just a reminder to leave the sanctuary, narthex and temporary fellowship area tidy on Sunday mornings - or any other time you may use them. Make sure bulletins are picked up and put into the green recycle bin in the narthex, pew envelopes and pencils are in place, fellowship tables are wiped off with disinfectant spray and any food around the chairs is picked up. Thank you for your cooperation.

Grace's Mission

*Building one body in Christ through Worship, Witness,
Stewardship, Service, Love, Teaching, and Fellowship*

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter article – January 2022

'Tis More Blessed to Give Than to Receive

“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts 20:35)

And indeed, it is. Does this not strike a chord that resonates in us all? Which of us can't recall the look of surprise and thanks for the Christmas gifts that we labored to give to those whom we love? And the joy written on their face when that gift is received with thanksgiving means more than all the gifts we have received. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our Lord knew this because He practiced it. He gave of Himself – sparing not even His life in death – in order to give us back to our Father in heaven. He knew that in giving you get more because joy is multiplied in giving. The one who receives and the one who gives both rejoice in what is given and received. And, what is more, the one who receives only wants to give back to the one who gave so generously in thanksgiving.

So it is with our tithes and offerings in church. We want to give because we have received from God all that we are and all that we have. Our giving does not originate in what we must do to earn God's favor. We have God's favor because of His gift of His Son, given through Word and Sacrament. Thus, we are made free from the compulsion of giving so that our tithes and offering are freely given in thanksgiving for what God has so generously given to us.

Why then does the church struggle to make budgets? Why does the church always seem stretched so thin when it is the place where God continually gives us His forgiveness of sins? Why does the church struggle when God, out of love for us, generously pours out His grace and mercy?

It is because we are sinners. Our fallen nature makes us selfish and miserly. It leads us to believe that we can have our cake and eat it, too. Because of sin, we want God's grace and mercy; we want His blessings of body and soul. But we don't want to share it with those around us. We want to remain comfortable in our own self-contained, neat, and tidy lives – without the headaches of loving those around us by helping them in their time of need.

“Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Remember that God has placed you in a church, not only to receive His grace and mercy, but to press His eternal and temporal blessings into service to your neighbor.

Your tithes and offerings ensure that those around you have a pastor to preach the life-saving and life-giving Word of God. They ensure that the lights, heat, and air-conditioning are working. They ensure there is water for Holy Baptism as well as bread and wine for Holy Communion. They even ensure that your pastor has food and clothing and presents for his own family. The gifts of God are immeasurable. They multiply and redound to everyone's good as the fish and loaves in the feeding of the five thousand.

So, remember the words of the Lord Jesus: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” And remember the joy that attended the gifts you gave at Christmas. This same joy attends your gifts to the church.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

† PREPARATION †

HYMN “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” LSB #395

Stand

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 1:5–7*

Pastor: God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

People: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Pastor: Let us therefore confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Merciful God, we confess that we live surrounded by the darkness of sin. Our lives are spent in the darkness of the fallen world by our own sin in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done as well as the good we have failed to do. Deliver us from this darkness and grant us Your forgiveness by the light of Your Son's saving death on the cross and the power of His resurrection. Amen.

Pastor: Jesus Christ, the light of the world, opens heaven before us and brings us life again. By the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

† WORD †

INTROIT *Psalms 36:5–9; antiphon: Song of Solomon 2:4*

Pastor: [The Lord] brought me to the banqueting house,

People: and his banner over me was love.

Pastor: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,

People: your faithfulness to the clouds.

Pastor: Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;

People: your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD.

Pastor: How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

People: The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

Pastor: They feast on the abundance of your house,

People: and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

Pastor: For with you is the fountain of life;

People: in your light do we see light.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

People: and to the Holy Spirit;

Pastor: as it was in the beginning,

People: is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: [The Lord] brought me to the banqueting house,
People: and his banner over me was love.

KYRIE (p. 186 in hymnal)

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

HYMN OF PRAISE “I Love You Lord” (with guitar) Laurie Klein

I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice
To worship You, oh my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, my King, in what You hear,
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.

Repeat again to finish

CCLI# 844980 / 1978, 1980 House of Mercy Music

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 62:1–5*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 12:1–11*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Chorus – Congregation sings in parenthesis

I am free to run (**I am free to run**)
I am free to dance (**I am free to dance**)
I am free to live for You (**I am free to live for You**)
I am free (**I am free**)
Yes, I am free (**I am free**)

All – YES, I AM FREE

2004 Vertical Worship Songs
CCLI 4220974

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” LSB #394

Stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (p. 199 in hymnal)

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: **Amen.**

HYMN “May God Bestow on Us His Grace” LSB #824

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2021 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

AGNUS DEI (p. 198 in hymnal)

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A-men.**

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace” LSB #693

“I Am Free” (with guitar) Jon Egan

**Through You, the blind will see
Through You, the mute will sing
Through You, the dead will rise
Through You, all hearts will praise**

**Through You, the darkness flees
Through You, my heart screams
I am free
Yes, I am free**

Chorus – Congregation sings in parenthesis

**I am free to run (I am free to run)
I am free to dance (I am free to dance)
I am free to live for You (I am free to live for You)
I am free (I am free)
Yes, I am free (I am free)**

**Through You, the Kingdom comes
Through You, the battle's won
Through You, I'm not afraid
Through You, the price is paid**

**Through You, there's victory
Because of You, my heart sings
I am free
Yes, I am free**

Chorus

**Bridge
Who the Son sets free, is free indeed
Who the Son sets free, is free indeed
Who the Son sets free, is free indeed
Who the Son sets free, is free indeed**

VERSE John 2:11

Pastor: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. This, the first of His signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee,
People: and manifested His glory. And His disciples believed in Him. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL John 2:1–11

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the second chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED Nicene Creed

People: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY "The Only Son from Heaven" LSB #402

SERMON

MEDITATION

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & ELDERS

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(After each petition...)

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

† SACRAMENT †

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and arch-angels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *(p. 195 in hymnal)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**