

The Epistle

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

November 2024



November

Gathered to Go . . . to study God's Word, Worship together; and to walk with Christ by loving, serving and nurturing all God's people where ever they are and whatever their circumstances.

From Pastor Lori

Dear Friends in Christ,

November is a month for people to acknowledge the people and things they're most thankful for. It's good to be thankful! The Bible even tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, *"give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

Did you notice what this verse says? *"Give thanks in all circumstances"*. Does that mean that I have to give thanks when life isn't going the way I planned? What about if my candidate of choice doesn't win the presidential election? Or when something bad happens to me or someone I love? I hate to be the bearer of bad news but, yes. That's exactly what it means.

We all know that bad things are going to happen. People get sick. Feelings get hurt. Relationships go through tough times that may even lead to a breakup. It may be hard to see these types of situations as times to give thanks...but they are.

And here's why. Notice the word before the bold, italicized and underlined word, **all**. It's the word, in. We are to give thanks ***in*** all circumstances, not for the circumstances. That's because no matter what we are facing in life, God is still in control and God's presence is still with us. This means that God's love, God's mercy, God's compassion and all of the wonderful things God is and does are still with us. They're with us because we are God's beloved children. And to prove that, God sent Jesus so that everyone who believes in him can have eternal life.

So, in this month of reflecting on what we are most thankful for, the thing I'm most thankful for is this...the gift of life that Jesus provides through his death and resurrection. For it's through this that we are claimed as one of God's dear children. I'm thankful that God continues to go with us wherever we go. And it's my constant prayer that no matter what we experience in our personal lives or the life of our congregation, that you remember that God is with you and that you can lean on Him all the time.

Have a blessed and thankful Thanksgiving!

Pastor Lori

Thank You!!

“And when they heard this, they lifted up their voices to God with one accord and said, “O Lord, it is You who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them...” Acts 4:24

I'd like to thank everyone who gives their time, talent and resources to the ministries of St. Paul's. Your dedication, support, hard work and faith is appreciated! We wouldn't be the same without you!

Should we then bite and scratch each other like dogs and cats? No, but we should heartily forgive and ask, “[Why] should I accuse my brother? If God is merciful unto me and for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ forgives me so great a debt, why should I make so much ado about a penny or two? I will call it square, forgive and forget, and thank God that He has forgiven me and made me a partaker of His grace.”



Martin Luther

House Postil, Trinity 22

Faith Formation

During Advent, we will be looking at four words that are often associated with the season of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. We'll discover what they mean from a Biblical perspective as well as the role they play in our life of Discipleship. Classes meet on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am and Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am...you choose the time that works best for you! Contact Pastor Lori if you would like to participate or if you have any questions about Faith Formation.



Social Ministry

Hunger Offering for November

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me in.
Matthew 25:35

Each month we collect an offering to help feed hungry people and help hurting communities in our county and around the world. Sixty percent of the offering is used to combat world hunger. Forty percent is given to local organizations to help them “feed” people either physically, emotionally or spiritually. This month, the local part of our hunger offering will be given to **The Yates County Christmas Program.**



Your offering can be placed in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary or mailed directly to church. Remember to designate the amount you want to give on the hunger line of your envelope or write “Hunger Offering” on the memo line of your check.

Thank you for helping to care for our neighbors near and far!

Grab and Go Lunches



November 8 and **November 22** are the next Grab and Go lunch dates for us. On **November 8** we will be serving **macaroni and cheese** and on **November 22** we will be serving **sloppy joes**. We will need 4 crockpots of macaroni and cheese, 5 dozen individually wrapped cookies and 5 dozen apples for November 8. November 22 we will need 4 crockpots of sloppy joes, 5 dozen individually wrapped hamburger rolls, 5 dozen individually wrapped cookies and 5 dozen apples. The signup sheet will be on the bulletin board across from the office. You may call [REDACTED] if you have questions. Thank you for any help you may provide.

ELCA World Hunger

This year ELCA will be celebrating 50 years of the World Hunger Program. On November 17th Social Ministry will be hosting a coffee hour to share information about the 50 years of Hunger Projects. We will share which ones we have been involved with over the last few years. There will be a donation jar at this coffee hour for continued support of the Hunger Projects.



The Sharing Shed

The Sharing Shed continues to serve those in our neighborhood and our community. Thank you all for your donations of items, money, and time to The Sharing Shed. As the weather begins to get cooler we would like to add kid friendly soup to our shelves as well as canned pasta; Granola bars; individual packages of chips, pretzels, cookies; and Pop Tarts. There is always a need for household items such as Kleenex, toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning and laundry supplies. Personal care items such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, and shaving items are also needed. Thank you again for your support and remember the words found in **Matthew 25:40**: "The King will reply: 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Worship

November News from the Pews

As we approach November and the end of the calendar year, we journey toward the end of the church year as well. The Season of Advent begins December 1. November begins with two festivals: **All Saints Sunday** where we remember those dear to us who have passed into Eternal Life and we conclude the month with **Christ the King Sunday**. The festival color is white and the other two Sundays remain green.

Sunday November 1, 2024

Psalm 24

Revelation 21:1-6a

All Saints Sunday

John 11:32-44

Hymn of the Day: *Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table* ACS 977

We remember our loved ones by reading their names during the prayers and sharing their pictures at the front of the sanctuary.

Sunday November 10, 2024

Psalm 146

Hebrews 9:24-28

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 12:38-44

Hymn of the Day: Lord of Glory, You Have Brought Us ELW 707

Sunday November 17, 2024

Psalm 16

Hebrews 10:11-14; 19-25

26th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 13:1-8

Hymn of the Day: You Are the Way ELW 758

Sunday November 24, 2024

Christ The King Sunday

This service will take us on a journey from Advent through the Season of Pentecost. We will hear scripture which reflects each season of the church year: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and the Season after Pentecost. After each reading, we will sing a familiar hymn which reflects the season.

The Worship and Music Team meets once a month to plan Sunday morning worship services. For each service we plan around a central theme which is carried out in Pastor's sermon; the readings; the hymns; the prayers; the Prelude and the Offering pieces. It is our prayer that one or more of the pieces of each service touches your heart and you are able to carry the message with you throughout your week.

Thank you to Peter and all who were able to stay on October 20th to hear and go over four new Advent hymns. We hope that hearing them now will help us to sing them during worship when Advent arrives.

“We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.” ACS 905

Those Who Serve

	11/3	11/10	11/17	11/24
Assisting Ministers				
Ushers (2)				
Greeters				
Readers				
Altar Guild				
Sound Board				
Computer				
Counters				

Congregational Care

Friendsgiving Potluck

The Parish Life Committee is hosting a “Friendsgiving” Potluck Meal. This meal is a way to celebrate our friendships at St. Paul’s. While enjoying wonderful food, you can catch up with old friends or you might create new or deeper friendship with someone you see on Sunday mornings.

When: Saturday, November 9, 2024 at 4:30 PM

Where: St. Paul’s Fellowship Hall

A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board across from the church office. Please sign up to bring a food item. If you are not able to provide food, we still want you to join us. There is always plenty to go around!

If you don’t like to drive in the dark, please let a committee member know, and we will arrange a ride for you. Committee members are Wanda, Sheila, Marsha, Barb, Sallie, Todd, Pam and Arlene.



Church Directory

An updated **church directory** will be available in January. This is a wonderful tool for contacting your fellow members at St. Paul's. Please take a moment to check your information and let Jennifer know by the end of December if there are any changes/additions to your address, phone number or email.

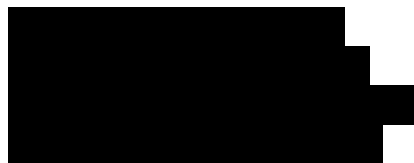
Open House Invitation!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays



Anniversaries



“Shower” Each Other with Messages of Love

Each month, we will “shower” someone from St. Paul’s with messages of love. Please take a moment to send the person/s listed below a note of encouragement. May God use our communications to remind the recipient of God’s faithful presence and love.



Reminders

Prayer Requests in Public Places

Prayer is an important part of our faith. It is one of the ways we support each other during times of illness, crisis and grief. This is a faithful and powerful practice. Our intentions are often in the best place. However, some people prefer to keep their situation private. If you would like to include someone on the prayer list in the bulletin, during worship or through an email, please ask for their permission to make it public. Thank you.

Office Hours for the Month of November

Please check the weekly announcements for the office hours!

Community Events

**Penn Yan Area Council of Churches
Ecumenical Prayer Service
*For Thanksgiving***

**Tuesday
November 5, 2024
12:15pm**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
135 Hamilton Street
Penn Yan**

*All services are posted on the Penn Yan Area Council of
Churches YouTube page*



Thank You Notes

Thank you for helping us
collect shoes for our shoe
drive! With your help,
the fundraiser was a huge success.

-Keweenaw Comfort + Care Home

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF



NEWS FOR THE DECEMBER 2024 EPISTLE IS DUE NOVEMBER 22ND