



The Monthly Herald

November 2023



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15, NIV)

I love the month of November for many reasons. It begins each year with All Saints Day, when we commemorate those who have passed on to glory in the last twelve months. We begin pondering, reflecting, and rejoicing in the reality that there is a perfect place of joy and peace where the souls of the faithful departed go at the end of their earthly pilgrimage.

Of course, November also includes the wonderful celebration of Thanksgiving. I love the gathering with family. I love the feast of many different foods. This year I will be blessed to be with two of my sisters in Colorado to share the wonderful day of celebration. Of course, Thanksgiving shouldn't be reserved for just a day. I love the teaching of simply being a thankful kind of person. Thankfulness is a wonderful spiritual discipline and blessing. This is why I chose the above verse to start this article. Isn't that last three-word sentence wonderful: ***“And be thankful.”*** So short! So sweet! So spiritually sound!



Thankfulness should abound in our hearts every day. Every day God provides us with food, clothing, and shelter. Every day God blesses us with special people in our lives: husbands and wives, children and grandchildren, friends and work associates, and most especially our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We live in a free nation . . . a nation with many problems, but still the blessings abound in abundance!

If all of that weren't enough, God our Father has given us the gift of His Son, Jesus, and the gift of faith and trust in Him! Jesus' love never fails us. Jesus' abiding presence never leaves us. Jesus' grace never fails to cover over all our wretched sinfulness. Jesus, God's Son, our Savior . . . He is the best reason to be thankful. So, even on the bad days, even when things aren't going the way you want . . . remember Jesus! ***“And be thankful!”***

Thankful for Christ's Love,

Pastor Bender





Thanksgiving Worship

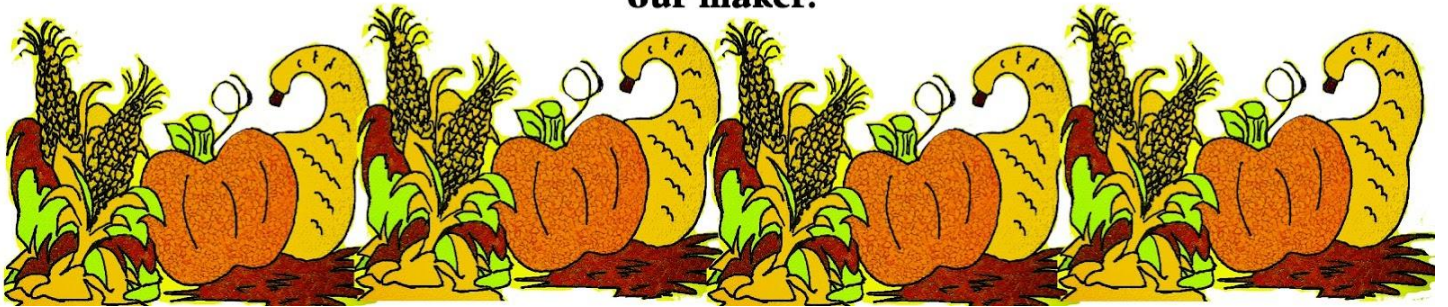
Wednesday November 22 at 6:00pm
Thursday November 23 at 9:00am

Psalms 95:1,2,6

O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.



Emergency Pastoral Care: 217-779-7985 or 608-290-9837

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLTK_vX6NR9S0VJuxmk0PpA?view_as=subscriber

Subscribe to our channel! Watch our worship services and devotions! We will have worship services on-line for about 6 months and special services (Christmas, Easter etc) for 1 year.



<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulwa/> Access Facebook for church and school updates, video announcements, school chapels, and devotions!



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

Visit our Website! www.splcwa.org Support our ministry through online giving! Stay up-to-date on our activities!

Our weekend worship services are broadcast on TWO radio stations each Sunday at 8:00am. "JOY" 1340 AM and 98.7 FM

Bible Studies

Thursday Morning Bible Class

During the month of November, we will delve into one of the most important prophets in the “Book of the Twelve,” the prophet Zechariah. There are several important prophecies of the coming Messiah, and important truths to learn from regarding the worship of our Lord. Every Thursday morning we take prayer requests, lift up our concerns to the throne of our Lord, and then we get into the Word! The class runs from 10:00-11:30am each Thursday in the Fellowship Hall and we always enjoy new folks joining the class! You are welcome to join up at any time!

Men’s Bible Breakfast

It was the worst of times in Bethlehem, but God was still at work to bring His people deliverance and salvation. The Book of Ruth tells the wonderful story of God raising up a Kinsman-Redeemer to restore the line of a man named Elimelech and bring joy into the life of one of God’s people named Naomi. It all involved a Moabite woman named Ruth, the Levitical laws, and a faithful man named Boaz. About 12-16 guys meet around 7am in the Fellowship Hall. We eat a wonderful breakfast cooked by one of the guys. We pray, and then study God’s Word. We end about 8:15-8:30am. All men are welcome and we love to see new faces join us!

Multi Generational Bible Study

& Sunday School

In between the Sunday services at 8:00 and 10:30 we are having Sunday school- however this year we are mixing things up. After the 8:00 service we will meet as families in the gymnasium for an introduction to the lesson of the day, as well as sing some songs. Then we will split up into our age groups as we go through the Bible lesson of the day as well as other fun activities before meeting back in the gym for a recap. We are following the Faithweavers curriculum from Group publishing and will be going through the book of Genesis this Fall. We hope that you and your family will be able to join us as we dive into God’s word together! Contact Pastor Josh for further information!



Celebration of New and Old 2023



*On Saturday
November 4
turn your clocks
BACK 1 hour before
going to bed.*

Getting to be that time of year again. Time to order Poinsettias. They will cost \$13.00 for each plant. The order is due no later than Monday 11/27. Envelopes can be found at the Welcome Center and in the elevator room.

Any questions? Contact Janine at 414-322-9148



Ladies Groups

Widows Lunch

All widows in the congregation are invited to lunch at Brass Key (4952 W. Forest Home Ave.) on Wednesday November 8th at 11:00am.



Quilter's Patch



Hope you all had a chance to see the church with the 51 quilts laid out. The quilts were delivered to the Orphan Grain Train (OGT) collection church in Waupun. From there, they will go to one of the OGT distribution centers. Eventually they will be sent out to anyplace there is a need both nationally and internationally.

Thank you to the quilters; Dory Yale, Ruth Miller, Nancy Hoelke, Lynn Kozlowski, Deanna Stockinger, Marilyn Sorcic and Janet Johnson for the many hours put into creating the quilts. Thank you to the members and friends for the donations of sheets, fabric and supplies used in creating the quilts. I feel extremely

blessed to be working with a wonderful group of ladies and having such a supportive church family.

Our group meets on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00am until 11:30am. Below are the dates during November we will meet. You are invited to come join us....No sewing experience necessary.

November 6th and 20th

We will be off in December for the holidays and will start meeting again in January.

If you have any questions regarding the quilting group, please contact Dawn Ziolecki at 414-841-6097 or via email at dzwolf2012@gmail.com



Ladies Guild

I want to give a huge **THANK YOU** to Ruth Miller, Cheryl Seifert and Janet Johnson for their service to the Ladies Guild. Cheryl served as the treasurer for **25 years**.... What an awesome commitment. Jo Bender has been voted in as treasurer with Cristel Moecker as her backup. We are on the lookout for a secretary. Cold weather is coming so look for the basket in the narthex to collect new and gently used hats, scarves, mittens and gloves for Hope Lutheran Church. The basket will be out during November, December and January. Every item gives a little warmth to the recipient. Keep on the lookout for news about Advent by Candlelight, hosted by Ladies Guild. Jo Bender and Cheryl Seifert are doing all the planning with guidance from Judy Conrad. I think it is going to be a wonderful event.

The next two business meetings will be: November 27th, 2023 and January 22nd, 2024
For additional information you can contact Dawn Ziolecki at cell, text, 414-841-6097 or dzwolf2012@gmail.com OR Toni Dunn at cell, text, 414-335-3553 or tdunnusa@outlook.com



All Saints Weekend

During the worship services the weekend of November 4 & 5, we will be remembering our members and friends who have passed on to glory in the past year.

Steven Bruce Nier

Mary Ella DeBona

Richard Lee Wendt

Elaine Jean Lemke

Gloria Kay Gammon

Kathleen Camille Librizzi

LaVerne Audrey Carrol Grawert

Gordon Dean Mueller

Janet Louise Lunog

John Albert Janezic

Thomas Michael Hudy

Michael Ray Wheeler

Gerald Joseph Daniel

Richard Ervin Lohman

Nancy Jean Claire Cesar

Gerald Thomas Spitzer

Caitlin Nicole Key

Mary C. Hunt

Rev. Thomas Peter Hinz

Carol Ruth Petsch

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

"Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

Revelation 14:13



St. Paul's Ladies Guild is hosting an Advent By Candlelight Program on Sunday, December 3 at 3:00pm. (Doors will open at 2:15 – the only 2 entrances will be the 79th St door and the Lincoln Ave. door) All ladies of confirmand age and above are cordially invited to attend, as we reflect on the Advent season while enjoying festive music and decadent desserts. Invite a friend! Tickets will be available after all weekend services on Nov 18/19 and Nov 25/26 in the Fellowship Hall.

Music News

Welcome Deaconess Carole King Director of Parish Music

Deaconess Carole's father was a retired Lutheran principal, but her love of music comes from her mother who was a music teacher and organist. This led Deaconess Carole to enroll in the Bachelor of Music Education program at Concordia College, River Forest. She soon switched to the Deaconess program with a major in theology, a minor in church music, and a concentration in Greek, graduating in 1986.

Her deaconess internship was at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Esko, MN. Later, serving with Lutheran Bible Translators, she studied French in Brussels, Belgium and Neuchâtel, Switzerland and worked in francophone Cameroon, Africa, among the Gbaya-Mbodomo people.

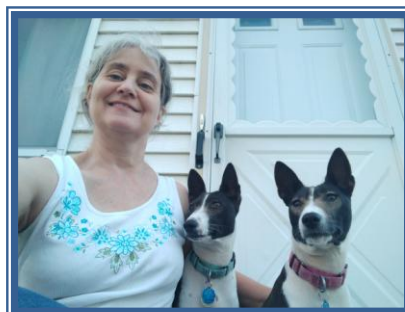
Upon her return to the States in 1995, she taught in a small Christian school in Valparaiso, IN, before becoming an instructor and curriculum designer at a correspondence high school.

From 2017 to 2020, Deaconess Carole served in the Chaplaincy Department of Concordia Lutheran Ministries in greater Pittsburgh where she visited with residents and led Bible studies and hymn sings at many of Concordia's senior facilities.

Deaconess Carole was installed at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Clinton Township, MI on March 8, 2020. There she served as deaconess and music director. As music director, she planned music for worship including hymns, and choral and bell pieces. She played the organ and directed the choir and handbells.

Deaconess Carole taught confirmation and Sunday school, did shut-in visits, and was a member of St. Luke's Life Team. She also started a GriefShare group and a Trauma Reboot Recovery class.

A lover of the outdoors, Deaconess Carole has worked at four national parks and at a Lutheran camp. She also has adopted and fostered several basenji dogs.



Board of Missional Community

The Board of Missional Community, in partnership with Capuchins Community Services, will be providing Thanksgiving meals for those in need. Our goal is to fill 100 boxes this year!

Beginning November 4, 2023, we will have Thanksgiving boxes in the Narthex.

Just grab a box or 2 and start collecting the items listed on the box.

This can be an individual project or gather your friends, family or other group and begin collecting and stuffing the box.

Please bring all full boxes to the Fellowship Hall no later than November 12, 2023. (Please note this is a change from last year's drop off).



The boxes will be picked up and delivered to those in need in the community.

Please contact Crystal Barry 414-416-3989 with any questions.

Groundwork Guatemala

On the weekend of November 18 & 19 we will be taking a door offering to benefit the Guatemala Students we are supporting.

- Idania Sarahi Sanchez: 3rd grade.
- Jorge Elias Gomez Garcia- 2nd grade.
- Cristino Ezequiel Zapeta Benito- 11th grade.
- Nashly Yulisa Melany Gomez Perez- 4th grade.
- Sergio Fernando Much Morales- 7th grade.
- Adrian Alexander Yac Batz- 7th grade.
- Yovany Alexander Dieguez Diaz- 11th grade.



To those
who have served,
thank you.

#VeteransDay

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November 11

Sharing God's Bounty

Part of God's Plan

"In those days . . ." So begins a well-known passage of Scripture. Do you know what comes next? *"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree . . ."* (Luke 2:1). Some of us can quote the whole story by heart. Even though we've heard it year after year, some of us for many years, the story is still precious to hear, still warms our souls, still excites our minds, still calms our fears.

Two seemingly inconsequential people of little means obeyed that decree and traveled to the town of Bethlehem to register for the census. The woman, Mary, was about to have a child. She knew that her child was the Son of God, a child to be named Jesus. Joseph, her husband, knew he was not the father of the child, although that was how the world saw him. These were two of God's faithful. They knew the prophecies regarding the Messiah. They had been visited by the angel and learned that they were to be part of the fulfillment of those prophecies. They didn't know how things would turn out. They didn't know all that God had in store for them. They just *"obey[ed their] rulers and submitted to their authority"* (Hebrews 13:17) as they trusted God to guide and protect them and his Son each step they took on his path.

Of course, God did just that. God provided a place for the Child to be born (Luke 2:7). God sent angels to announce the birth of the King and moved the shepherds to respond to the joyful news and go to worship the new Baby (Luke 2:8-20). He sent *"Magi from the East"* who brought *"gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh"* and then believed the warning God gave them in a dream and avoided the evil King Herod on their return trip (Matthew 2:1-12).

How many of these people involved in this most wondrous story realized the important and memorable parts they played? We cannot say for sure but surmise none could really comprehend the eternal significance of the events as they unfolded.

We, too, are involved in God's plans. Certainly none can equal in importance the birth of Christ, but nothing God does is without purpose. Are we listening for the voice of the Spirit as God speaks to us through God's Word? Are we, as we go about our daily routines, obeying our rulers, cognizant of being God's feet and hands and voice to carry out his plan? Do we bring our gifts, aware that God may use them according to a purpose we can't even imagine? How exciting it is to think and know that we are God's instruments! What a loss of blessing to us if we refuse to let God use us and another gets the opportunity instead (Esther 4:14)!

As we live out our daily lives as stewards, *"let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith . . . so that we will not grow weary and lose heart"* (Hebrews 12:2-3), but instead look forward with eagerness and anticipation toward the unfolding of God's plan in our lives.



The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the plans of His heart to all generations.
Psalm 33:11



November 11- Service project event! All 6th-12th grade youth are welcome to help us as we rake leaves for those in need. We will meet in the fellowship hall at 10:30, and then divvy up to the homes that have requested help with their leaves. We are looking for parents who would be willing to help drive, and tarps would be helpful as well. We also request that kids bring their own rakes! If you know of anyone who could use help raking their yard contact Pastor Josh so he can get them signed up. The afternoon of November 12th is our back up in case of bad weather.



November 19- Friendsgiving! All high school youth are welcome to come to Pastor Josh's house for a friendsgiving event! There will be food, games and maybe even a movie! He will have his doors open at 2:00 pm and the event will last throughout the evening. This will be a potluck event so have your youth bring a dish to share. (Also dress warmly, he may be asking your youth to help decorate in preparation of living in Candy Cane Lane). Contact Pastor Josh for further information!

SWD Teacher of the Year Award

Each year, the South Wisconsin District selects an outstanding educator for the Teacher of the Year award in the following categories:

- early childhood teacher (infant - 3 yr olds)
- early childhood teacher (4K-3rd Grade)
- elementary teacher (4th-8th Grade)
- high school teacher
- early childhood director
- principal



To nominate an educator who has at least two years of teaching experience and is currently teaching full-time in one of our LCMS schools in the SWD, go to swd.lcms.org/TOTY or scan the QR code. Nominations are open through November 15.

Thank you.
Serving Him together,

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