

The St. John Lutheran Church
Volume 69 – Number 11
November 2024 Jottings

“We lift up Jesus Christ in our lives, our church, and our community.”



Pastor Michael's Musings

November 2024

“We give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks, for your Name is near; men tell of your wonderful deeds. You say, ‘I choose the appointed time; it is I who judge uprightly. When the earth and all its people quake, it is I who hold its pillars firm.’”
--- Psalm 75: 1 – 3

November is the month in which we celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving. Our minds hover around the Thanksgiving table; we picture the hot turkey, the succulent dressing, the savory mashed potatoes and gravy, the candied yams, the pumpkin pie, the relishes and extras that make everything so festive and fun. We think in terms of earthly colors; orange, brown, yellow, and red. It is the time to celebrate the harvest and all that the Lord has done for us throughout the summer months, sending the rain and the sun and the breeze to ripen and mature the crops in the fields. The corn and beans are ripened, dried, harvested and safe inside of the silos, or bound for the markets for which they are intended. Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to celebrate the things that we are blessed with and remember the God above who makes it all possible. And this is good and right. Our Psalm above reinforces this spirit of thankfulness, but it also directs our thinking in another direction that might encourage us to have a more relational experience with God, with the Father above.

Psalm 75 assumes that there will be difficulty and challenge amidst all the celebration and thankfulness. “When the earth and all of its people quake...” reminds us that things like hurricanes, tornados, floods, and even

human wrought violence can be expected in this imperfect world that is yet to be redeemed. We might feel the earth quaking underneath our feet, the very foundation of our lives giving way, in which all that we have come to count on, is chiseled away at or comes to a crashing halt. The people in Asheville, North Carolina, I'm sure, were surprised and shocked to see the floodwaters of a *hurricane* washing away all they had ever known in their lifetimes. Those folks, and thousands of others, undoubtedly felt that the earth was figuratively quaking beneath their feet. For those of us who live in Illinois, on one of the greatest fault-lines in the world (New Madrid), we must make sure that we do not become too careless, hubris-filled, and complacent to forget that we also live in an area of potential catastrophe. Keeping a sense of community, what Thanksgiving is all about, is important for all people everywhere. We are promised that the Lord holds the earth's pillars firm in the Psalm above, and we have seen that it is the faith communities, those that work the will of God through helping others, that are able to get in quickly, in the case of Asheville and other sites of catastrophe and make a difference in the early hours of recovery.

On Thanksgiving, be thankful for all the food and other sensory blessings that will adorn your table. They are a gift from God, a gift that others this year might not be able to take part in. Be thankful for the people, the community around you, whether it is family or friends, who sit around your table in your home or at the table of Holy Communion when you gather in church. They also are a blessing.

"...it is I who hold its pillars firm," writes David, the Psalmist, about the living God who blesses, renews, and protects us day after day. This season continue to remember that Living Lord. Give thanks for all the blessings he so richly bestows.

What are you thankful for?

THANKSGIVING...the quintessential holiday devoted to food, family, football and “Black Friday” bargains. At least, that seems to be the case in many households. BUT WAIT! Is that what it’s SUPPOSED to be about? I don’t think so. The very name of the holiday suggests a more important purpose....THANKSGIVING...to GIVE THANKS! To whom? To whoever cooked that delicious dinner (well, for sure, but there’s more)....to your favorite football team (what if they lose?) To Cable TV for broadcasting more games than you can possibly watch? To Big-Box stores like Walmart for being open for your shopping convenience, thus preventing their employees from enjoying the holiday with THEIR families? Hmm...something tells me this isn’t how it’s supposed to be. I seem to recall some advice that I saw “someplace”:

- † *O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.* **1 Chronicles 16:8**
- † *O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.* **1 Chronicles 16:34**
- † *And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name.* **1 Chronicles 29:13**
- † *I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.* **Psalm 9:1**
- † *Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.* **Psalm 30:4**
- † *With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.* **Psalm 54:6**
- † *It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;* **Psalm 92:1**
- † *Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.* **Psalm 100:4**

Yes, that’s where I saw it...in the Bible. If at ALL possible, I urge you to try to celebrate the holiday (a word derived from HOLY day) by giving THANKS to the Lord from whom all blessings flow. If possible, consider attending the community Thanksgiving Eve service (watch for details on where that will be this year), and otherwise, at least perhaps spend a moment in silent (or spoken prayer) before chowing down on that delicious repast that someone lovingly prepared. Recent events in my life have made me acutely aware of how blessed I am to be alive and able to enjoy a loving family and church friends. Look around, you too have much for which to give thanks!

Who is a saint?

The first Sunday of November is “All Saint’s Sunday”. In the early church, saints were “special”, requiring a specific set of qualifications to be deemed “A Saint”. You may have heard that so-and-so is the “patron saint of xxxx”. Martin Luther rejected that concept. We do not pray to “saints”, we do not venerate them because we are ALL Saints. Luther said *“Just as we should not deny that we are baptized and Christians, so we should not deny or doubt that we are holy We are all saints, and cursed is he who does not want to call himself a saint. To be intent on separating the saints from us...is to dishonor God’s grace.”*

So, if are not to think of certain “saints” as “more holy” than we are, what do we do. Luther says *“Next to Holy Scripture there certainly is no more useful book for Christendom than that of the lives of the saints.”* Why? Because by looking at what other saints have done (and are doing), we can be inspired to acknowledge OUR saintliness and remember we are called to be servants (saints) to others.

We light candles on All Saint’s Sunday to honor the memory of the saints who have touched our lives with their devotion to God. Let that remind us that WE TOO are saints...let’s live and serve accordingly.

Looking ahead...

† November 3rd:

All Saint’s Sunday. We light candles to honor those who have gone before us. Also—Daylight Saving Time ENDS....turn your clocks BACK 1 hour or you’ll be an hour EARLY for church!

† Wednesday November 27th:

Community Thanksgiving Eve Service...watch next month for details

† December 1st: ADVENT starts!

† December 24th: Christmas Eve—services at 4 pm and 6:30 pm.

Until Next Month...

Speaking of Saints, notice that the VERY LAST verse in the VERY LAST book of the Bible says this:

“20 The one who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

Revelation 22:20-21 (NRSV)

Soli Deo Gloria (To God alone be the Glory)

Donald L. Bauer Director of Music

Look what is happening in Sunday School.

3 years old-K
1st-3rd grade
4th grade
Middle School

Kathy Ellis/Becca Smith
Becky & Shannon Sanders
Patti Riley
Fred Rosenbohm

Starting Sunday, September 15th and throughout the fall months, our lessons will follow the Year B Lectionary to connect with Pastor's sermons.

November 3rd
November 10th
November 17th
November 24th

A Message from God
The Widow's Offering
Be Ready
Christ the King

As always, all Sunday School age children are welcome. If interested, please contact me to register your child.

John Wetterauer
christian.reichert@att.net
691-0434-home
678-1736-cell

Homebound List (as of June 20, 2024)

Jim & Nadine Bartell	2705 S. Hilton Ln. Bartonville, Il. 61607	Pat Janssen	12615 Lancaster Rd. Hanna City, Il. 61536
Jay Baumgardner	Swan Special Care Center 109 Kenwood Champaign, Il. 61824	Joyce Jones	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 24 Peoria, Il. 61607
Art Campen % Carrie Campen	4169 King St. Denver, Co. 80211	Debra Look	Timber Ridge 2125 Veterans Rd. Morton, Il. 61550
Jeffrey Campen	Lennox Guest Home 2875 W. 33 rd Ave. Denver, Co. 80211	Jane Look	Heartis Village Peoria 8201 N. Il. Route 91 Peoria, Il. 61615
Millie Carlson	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 48 Peoria, Il. 61607	Don Norvill	Independence Village 1201 N. Northmoor Rd. Rm. 222 Peoria, Il. 61614
Sally Catterall	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 28 Peoria, Il. 61607	Jerry Pitzer	Independence Village 1201 N. Northmoor Rd. Rm. 242 Peoria, Il. 61614
Evelyn Cool	Lutheran Hillside Village 6901 N. Galena Rd. Acorn Way Apt. A1 Peoria, Il. 61614	Sharon Resler	The Loft 1500 W. Northmoor Room 415 Peoria, Il. 61614
Barb Dickerson	2422 S. Daycor Divide Bartonville, Il. 61607		

In the Month of October We Are Celebrating Pastor Appreciation!

Thank you Pastor Michael, for your faithful service to our St. John Lutheran Congregation and the wider community. Through the sharing of your musical gifts, with your singing and playing the guitar you are praising God and you are also providing a blessing to your church family.

Pastor Michael, your support and instilling faith, your teachings of the Word of God and preaching the Gospels in a relatable way is truly appreciated. Thank you for being our shepherd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Annual Meeting Support: Volunteers are needed to help to set up in the dining area for this year's Annual Meeting. The Meeting will be on November 10th but we will be setting up the day before, Saturday November 9th at 10:00am. Also, cleanup will occur immediately following the meeting. All those who can help are much appreciated.

Annual Meeting Notice: The 2024 Annual Meeting of St. John Lutheran Church is scheduled for Sunday, November 10, 2024, in the church basement. There will be lunch at noon with the meeting immediately following at 1:00 p.m. Please bring desserts to eat following the dinner and during the meeting. This is a meeting of the church to elect church council members, adopt the yearly budget and other business as necessary. Please plan to attend.

Annual Nominating Committee: With the upcoming Annual Meeting on November 10, the Nominating Committee is seeking nominees for the open council and committee positions. PLEASE prayerfully consider running for any of these position.

Elders (2) - 2 year term

Trustees (2) - 3 year term

Deacons (2) - 2 year term

Nominating Committee (2) - 3 year term

Child Care (2) - 3 year term

Evangelism (2) - 3 year term

Synod (3) - 1 year term

Synod Alternate (1) -

Thank you, Jane Rosenbohm and Deb Sammis

Soup Supper & Bazaar: St. Peter Lutheran Church in Glasford is having a Fall Soup Supper & Bazaar on Saturday, November 2 from 4-7pm. They will be serving soup, hot dogs, bbq and desserts. They will be excepting donations to help with Community Mission Work.

Adult Bible Study: As a group, the Wednesday night Bible study has decided to study the Book of Mark. The November gathering will be on the 6th and the 20th. Each meeting will depend on how far we got the last time. It's still held on every other Wednesday from 6-7pm in the conference room. Please feel free to call or text me. (309) 645-9009

Jane Rosenbohm

Sign-Up Sheet: There is now a Greeter sign-up sheet located at the back of the church. Please consider signing up to be a greeter at a service.

Help Needed: The Jottings ladies are in need of some help. They meet one morning a month, in the conference room, to fold the Jottings (Newsletter) to get it ready to be mailed out. It is usually the last Wednesday of the month around 8:30am. If you have any questions, please contact Joyce Grafelman (309) 370-6561 or you can call the office (309) 697-1440.

Help: Sewing ladies need help. Can you tie a knot, iron, and any other help you can give us, like putting squares together for a top. We meet about 8:30am on Thursday mornings. We would enjoy your company.

Church Altar Flowers: Altar Guild flowers are \$36. & make checks payable to Becks Florist & give to Jo Ann Brooks or the Altar Guild mailbox which is located in the Reception Room by the elevator. Sign up calendar for the flowers on the bulletin board in the West Entrance.

Thank You, Altar Guild

Readers:

Nov. 3 Sue Rosenack
Nov. 10 LaVonne Sammis
Nov. 17 John Wetterauer
Nov. 24 Teri Sammis

Ushers:

Nov. 3 8:00 Roger Shafer
10:30 John Rosenbohm
Nov. 10 8:00 Tim Sammis
10:30 Shirley Schmitt
Nov. 17 8:00 Dan & Deb
Sammis
10:30 Bill & Jodi
Miller
Nov. 24 8:00 Joe Baumgardner
10:30 Eric Jones

Greeters:

Nov. 3 8:00 Elaine Shafer
10:30 Jane & Jessica Rosenbohm
Nov. 10 8:00 LaVonne Sammis
10:30 Open
Nov. 17 8:00 Open
10:30 Levi Miller
Nov. 24 8:00 Janice Baumgardner
10:30 Sue Jones

Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria Present:

Name that Tune—Taste that Wine!
Wine Tasting and Musical FUN—For LSSI!

Enjoy a **Wine tasting** for adults (21 and above) at **Mackinaw Valley Winery, Sunday November 10th, 2024, 2 pm.** You'll taste several **Award-Winning Mackinaw Valley Vineyard** wines, and play some musical games like "name that tune" and maybe even try to "stump the piano player" with some **NEW** tune ideas.

Door Prizes, fun and fellowship and a light supper follow (Grilled by the Mackinaw Lions Club), and a Silent Auction and Raffle of donated items. Relax with live piano music by Don Bauer.

Enjoy the picturesque scenery and explore the winery and vineyards. Additional Wines, Hand-Made Chocolates, Ropp Cheeses and Donnie B's Gourmet Popcorn will be available for purchase.

Tickets are \$30 per person

(write your checks payable to ***Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria***)

Proceeds will go to the LSSI ***Children's Community Services*** program.

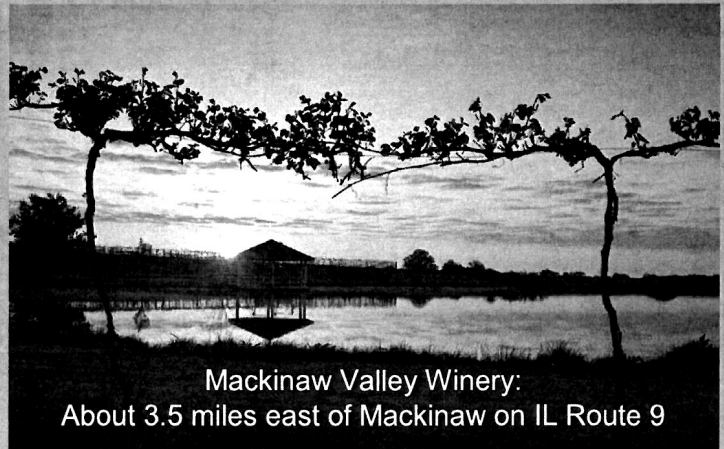
ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED!

To get yours, mail a check and your Email address to:

Pepper Bauer, 5220 S. Cameron Lane, Mapleton IL 61547

We will send you an Email receipt and hold tickets for you at the door.

Questions? Call Pepper at (309) 697-5762 or Email: pepperbauer@att.net



Mackinaw Valley Winery:

About 3.5 miles east of Mackinaw on IL Route 9

St. John Lutheran Church
6614 W. Smithville Rd.
Bartonville, IL 61607-9436
(309) 697-1440



Current Resident or:

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Year Round Worship Schedule :

8:00 a.m. Worship With Holy Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

UPCOMING EVENTS THIS MONTH

Leisure Group will be Wednesday, November 13th at 12:00 noon.

Sewing Group meets on Thursday morning at 8:30am. Come and sew or cut patterns with them.

Choir Rehearsal is on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. Bring your voices!

Confirmation this month is Sunday November 3rd and Sunday November 17th from 6-8pm.