Saint Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church and School – Bremen, IN

The Epistle November 2021

From Pastor Wonnacott’s keyboard:

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**Website**:

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vimeo.com/stpaulsbremen

**Church Office Hours**:

M,W,Th, F 8:30 – 11:30 am

**Sunday Schedule**:

Sunday School: 8:30 am

Worship: 9:30 am

**Pastor**:

Rev. Neil Wonnacott

Office Hours:

M, W, TH & F

8:30 – 11:30 am

574-301-9291

Thanksgiving Day traditions and blessings: in the United States we celebrate it on the fourth Thursday of November. Don’t forget, Thanksgiving Eve Service is November 24th at 7pm and our Community Thanksgiving Dinner is at noon on the 25th.

What are your Thanksgiving traditions? For me growing up it meant going to my grandparents’ house (on my mother’s side). We would greet Grandma and Grandpa and wait for the aunts, uncles, and their families to arrive. Grandma would work very hard to get everything just right. The turkey was filled with stuffing and plugged with an apple. The mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, and the extra stuffing with hamburger was laid out. All the ladies would work to help Grandma (except Aunt Maggie). The dinner was always delicious and then we enjoyed dessert, which was either chocolate cream or banana cream pie. Then the small living room of my grandparent’s house was filled with over-stuffed people watching the Detroit Lions play football.

We didn’t go to church on that holiday but most times we had a short prayer for the food. But what is Thanksgiving Day supposed to be? Food, family, football, and falling asleep - is that all there is? Do we have anything else for which to be thankful?

The Sunday School answer is Jesus, but what does this mean for us on Thanksgiving Day? Without Jesus we have nothing of lasting value; nothing to save us from sin, death, and the devil; no peace with God or our neighbor.

Thanksgiving Day for a Christian is every day that God gives us life! I will admit to you all that I am not always thankful for what I have or for the people who are in my life. Why not? Because I am a sinner who doesn’t always see what God is doing through the people and events in my life.

So for this November Epistle (and every day!) I would like to thank God for each and every member of the family of God here at St. Paul’s. I thank God in advance for the work He will have us do together to proclaim His Name and be a blessing unto others! Happy Thanksgiving! Gobble, Gobble!!!

***THE DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER EPISTLE IS NOVEMBER 2OTH!!!*** Epistle articles, comments, ideas may be deposited in the epistle box in the Narthex mail slots or e-mailed to Eric Thornton at firemanet@yahoo.com. I appreciate all of your articles, ideas and comments!

**Liturgical Corner**

**Worship Component:** Introit, Psalm, or Processional Hymn

**Scriptural Basis:** Psalm 100, 1 Cor. 15:3-4, Psalm 40:3, Psalm 150

**Meaning:** *Introit* means *to enter*. Reminding us that salvation comes to us through Christ crucified, we sing the story of God’s love by singing verses from the Bible’s hymnbook, the Psalms, or a parallel hymn sounding forth the theme of the day.

**Application for Daily Living:** Keep your eyes fixed on the cross of Christ, and you will find strength as you live through each day.

**Worship Component:** Kyrie

**Scriptural Basis:** Mark 10:47-48

**Meaning:** *Kyrie elesion* [kir-ē-ā ə-lā(ə-)sän] is a Greek phrase meaning *Lord have mercy*. We have already received the mercy of God for forgiveness in Holy Absolution. Now we ask his mercy for all other things we need for a God-pleasing spiritual life.

**Application for Daily Living:** Instead of taking the Lord’s name in vain, (for example “Oh God”), turn your times of frustration into prayer with the Kyrie.

**Worship Component:** Gloria or Hymn of Praise

**Scriptural Basis:** Luke 2:14, John 1:29 (Gloria); Rev. 5:11-14, 19:5-9 (This is the Feast)

**Meaning:** Having just petitioned the Lord for blessings beyond the forgiveness just granted in absolution, we now praise Him as the One who can deliver those blessings, because He is the all-powerful God. His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the Lamb worthy of our praise, just as the angels praised Him at His birth.

**Application for Daily Living:** Just as the angels proclaimed Christ’s birth, glorify the Lord with rejoicing as you go about your daily work.

**Worship Component:** Salutation

**Scriptural Basis:** 2 Tim. 4:22, Ruth 2:4, Judges 6:12, Luke 1:28

**Meaning:** The salutation is found all through the Scriptures. The pastor stands before the congregation as Christ’s servant. As the Lord’s servant, he speaks God’s peace to the congregation. As the congregation responds with “and also with you,” they affirm his call and vocation with respect and Christian love.

**Application for Daily Living:** This is an excellent greeting when you meet brothers and sisters in Christ at church or in the community.

**Worship Component:** Collect

**Scriptural Basis:** Jude 25

**Meaning:** The Collect is a short general prayer that makes a request of God based on the theme of the day. It is a 5-part prayer: 1) address, 2) basis for the petition, 3) the petition, 4) reason for the petition, 5) conclusion of praise to God.

**Application for Daily Living:** The five parts of the Collect are an excellent pattern for adding richness to one’s daily prayers.

**Board Briefs:**

**YOUTH BOARD NEWS and NOTES**

**Recent Events**

What a blessing for the Youth of our congregation to be able to serve in various ways during the church service on LWML Sunday (October 3rd). We pray that we continue to find opportunities for our Youth to serve in our ministry in many different ways.

On October 9th, Youth gathered at the School for our 3rd Annual Campfire Night. The Lord blessed us with beautiful weather as we gathered around the campfire to roast our hot dogs, join in various activities, take a wagon ride, and finish the evening with a devotion.

**Upcoming Events**

**November 14th:** The Youth Board is sponsoring Pizza and Movie Night for Youth in Grades 4-8. Time and location yet to be determined.

**National Youth Gathering (July 2022)**

Planning continues for 7 of our Youth committed to attending the Youth Gathering next summer. We continue to ask the congregation to keep these Youth in your prayers: Tyler Schmeltz (Senior), Ethan Tjernagel (Junior), Thomas Harrman (Sophomore), Maddy Raskow (Freshman), Noah Wildauer (Freshman), Autumn Napper (8th Grade), and Jack Wildauer (8th Grade).

The congregation also has the following opportunities to support these Youth financially through free will offerings:

* **November 6th**: “Rent a Youth” – Youth are offering their services to congregation members for all clean up, etc. Must contact Andy Wildauer in advance to confirm availability. First come, first served.
* **November 21st**: Family pictures after church in the gym. We are planning a Christmas-themed backdrop just in time for Christmas cards.
* **December (Saturday or Sunday - date to be determined)**: Youth provided babysitting to allow parents an afternoon of shopping or tending to other responsibilities.

More information will be made available soon for these last 2 activities. If there are any questions related to the Youth Group, please contact Andy Wildauer at (801) 707-3399.

**Board of Parish Fellowship**

**Euchre Parties** is on November 12th. Join us in the Bethany Room and bring a friend and a snack to share! Be prepared to have FUN!!!!

**Men’s Group** – Basketball is on November 7th and 21st from 3 to 5pm

**St. Paul’s will be collecting peanut butter** (16 to 16.3 oz jars) for the Bremen Bags ( a Project HELP program) during November. Please place your donations on the table at the back of the Narthex. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate in an envelope marked Peanut Butter.

**Our Annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner is November 25th at noon**. The Boards of Public Relations and Parish Fellowship are sponsoring this event. The following is what is needed:

1. Pumpkin Pies (15)
2. Greeters (3)
3. Servers (6)
4. Drivers to deliver meals (5)
5. Clean-up crew (5)

The Whitlock is supplying the mashed potatoes and gravy. We also have a Thrivent Action Team box with a $250.00 Debit card for the cost of the dinner. We are in need of additional funds for the meal, so if you are so moved to help, please place your donation in the offering plate marked THANKSGIVING DINNER. There will be a sign-up list on the “Check It Out” Board. Prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve the community and our own members.

**You are invited to our Annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner on November 25th at noon**. The Boards of Public Relations and Parish Fellowship are sponsoring this event. If you and your family or someone you know will be alone on Thanksgiving Day please come to the Fellowship Hall at noon for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Also, we can deliver for those who are homebound. Please sign up on the “Check It Out” Board or call the church office at 574-546-2332. The deadline to sign up is November 16th. We will need to know your name; if you are dining in or need delivery; number of people; and your phone number. May we give thanks unto the Lord!

**Board of Public Relations**

Greeters are needed! There is a sign-up list on the check-it-out board. We ask the greeters to meet the people outside at the overhang, weather permitting.

**Clothing Drive for Hope Ministries** will take place during the month of November. Please bring gently used clothing, shoes and boots to church and place them on the tables in the narthex.

You can help those in need with your donations and your prayers!



**Fall Work Day** – The Board of Church Properties is having a fall work day on November 13th from 9:00 – when the work is done.  Bring yard tools.  Everyone is encouraged to come and lend a helping hand.

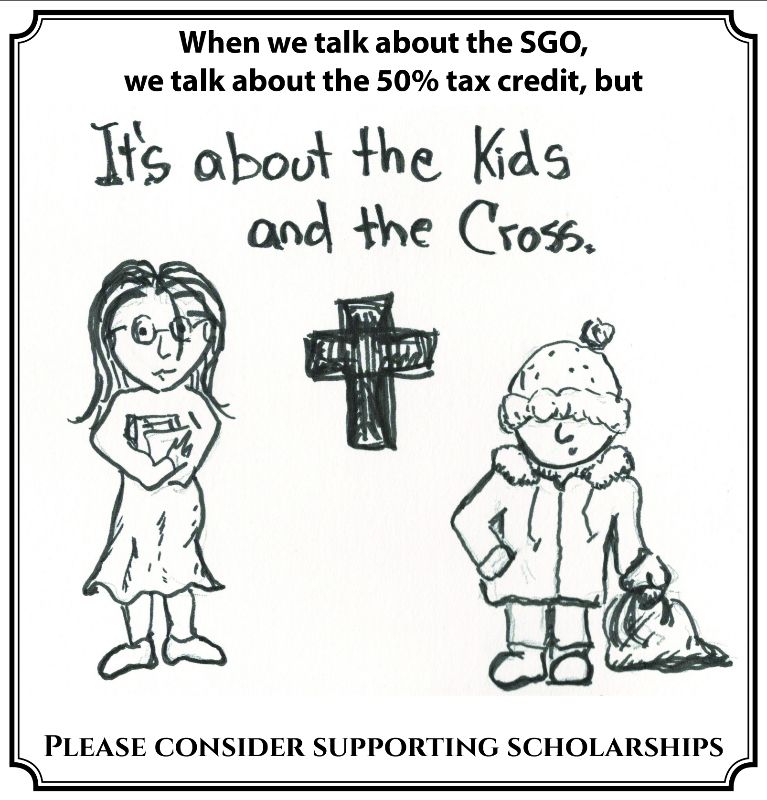
**SGO Funds Needed!**

Our school year is off to a good start and eight families have received a SGO scholarship to assist with tuition costs. Another three families are anticipated to participate. That means that we are in need of donations in our SGO fund!

Donating to the SGO does not just benefit our school families! It benefits you, the donor! You may claim a 50% tax credit for your donation, and your donation is also tax-deductible, as the Lutheran SGO is a 501C- 3 charity. Our school account in the Lutheran SGO depends entirely on donations; it is not government subsidized.

Additional information can be found at LutheranSGO.org and from the school office.

Thank you for your donation!



**Postings from Preschool**

Preschool now has 19 students and we are excited to share the love of Jesus with them and their families. Last month we took chapel to the residents of the Whitlock and witnessed to them with our songs. This month we plan to learn about vegetables and other food we eat to prepare to make Stone Soup! God's blessings to your families this Thanksgiving and always!

**Amazon Smile Reminder**

**Attention Amazon shoppers:**  Choose Amazon Smile and designate St. Paul's as the charitable recipient on your account.  Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchases to our church and school.  With Christmas shopping on the horizon, now is a good time to set this up if you haven't already.  Please note this doesn't cost you anything, but is a charitable donation made by Amazon. Thanks for supporting St. Paul's through this program.

**Mission of the Month**

In 2021 our Sunday school continues to send $75.00 each month to a mission.

From our October Mission of the Month, LAMB (Lutheran Agency for Missions to Burmese)

“Thank you, Sunday School! We appreciate you and that you included LAMB in your mission giving!”

**November Mission of the Month: Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT)**

Millions of people don’t have the Bible in a language they understand.

PUT GOD’S WORD IN THEIR HANDS

Lutheran Bible Translators makes God’s Word accessible to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts.

To learn more, visit lbt.org.



**OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US**

One of the changes brought about due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak was using an "offering box" in the narthex of the church in front of the water fountains instead of passing an offering plate during the worship service. Please remember to give back to the Lord from the many blessings He gives us by placing your offering in the offering box or "e-tithing" by having a weekly deposit to St Paul's from your bank account. If you have questions on e-tithing, please contact the Church Office.



**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

**LCMS Stewardship Ministry**

**Newsletter article – November 2021**

Sometimes people don’t like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or wherever than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like and how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don’t like it certainly means we ought to face it. So, here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. That means that we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and then give that first. We write the check to the Lord’s work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else. We don’t pay for all the stuff we need – and stuff we think we need – and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of “sacrificial.”

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe – 10%? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so that they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: “Make disciples of *all nations*” (Matt. 28:19). And we are still to have a full-time ministry: “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel” (1 Cor 9:14). So if 10% is what it took in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord’s work to be done on less than a tithe?

By first-fruits, sacrificial, and generous giving – that’s how. We shouldn’t fool ourselves into thinking that we’ve out given God’s goodness or that we’ve given plenty. We might be tempted to think that way, but consider that no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

St. Paul brought the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord’s work in the Church when he wrote: “I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It’s Law, and the Law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance. The Law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the Law. So if first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that’s the point.

In Mark’s account of the feeding of the 4,000, Jesus took the disciples’ seven loaves and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing. Mark doesn’t say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible that some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn’t stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing. He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn’t need their bread.

But they need to give it. And what they give – however little it might be and however grudgingly they do so – He blesses. He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them – the givers. He blesses the givers not just in that they wind up with a basketful for each loaf, but they are blessed by learning to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly, or He asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord. He does all things well, and He works all things together for good. The disciples don’t give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, because they love Him, and because they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.

**November’s Devotion – “Jesus Conquers”**

*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:6-7*

The woman was washing dishes. Suddenly, with a coffee cup in her hand, she stopped.  
  
She asked herself, "How many times have I washed this cup?" Knowing that cup had been used daily for years, she gave up trying to calculate. Instead, she asked, "Is this all there is to life?" The lady set down the cup, went to her bedroom, packed a small suitcase and quietly walked out the front door.  
  
Compelled by worry and fear, she left her husband and children and drove off into the night.  
  
That evening, from an undisclosed location, she called her husband and told him she was physically all right, but she just couldn't face her life and she wasn't coming home. In that, and all subsequent calls, her husband assured her that he loved her and wanted her back home.  
  
She declined. Worry and fear had a stranglehold on her.  
  
Eventually, the husband hired a private investigator to locate his wife. It was easy enough for him to find her. She was in a budget motel in a city, about 200 miles away. The husband went for a drive. He knocked on the door of his wife's room. The lock turned and the door slowly opened.  
  
His wife looked at him in silence and fell, sobbing, into his embrace.  
  
Days later he asked, "I am glad you're home. I wouldn't change anything. But, I've wondered, when I called you, I invited you back. I told you I loved you, but you wouldn't come back. What changed?"  
  
The wife had known the question would eventually come, and she had her reply at the ready. She said, "When you called, I heard words. When you showed up, I knew how much you loved me. You had sought me out; you had come for me."  
  
There is a similarity between that story and the work of our Savior.  
  
You see, Jesus became one of us, so we might be forgiven, so we might be saved. He showed His compassion and concern for us in the life He led, in the death He died, and in the resurrection, which offers eternal life and everlasting peace to all who -- with repentant hearts -- are turned to Him as their Redeemer, their Substitute, their Savior, and Friend.  
  
That is what I want you -- wherever you are, whatever you are doing -- to know.  
Jesus offers His assistance in life's frustrations and fears, pains and problems, difficulties, distresses and discouragements.  
  
Put all your trust in the Savior whose love is shown in words and actions.  
  
**THE PRAYER:** Dear Lord, I know I have many shortcomings. Accept the praises of a forgiven sinner who recognizes Your grace as shown in Your Words and Jesus' life. In His Name I pray. Amen.

Taken from Lutheran Hour Ministries - this Daily Devotion was written by Pastor Ken Klaus

**1846-2021** *175th Anniversary Committee News: the Committee has disbanded.*

We are asking for a volunteer to compile a 175th Commemorative Booklet.

A file containing minutes, services, programs, memorabilia has been saved,

so you will not be starting from “scratch.”

If interested, please contact Pastor Wonnacott. *Thank you.*

**Please save the following dates for PTL fundraisers.**

November 9, 2021 all day at Hacienda Mexican Restaurant at 4650 Miami St. South Bend. You must have one of the attached coupons for the school to get credit. You may make copies of the coupons to hand out if you’d like. However we cannot hand them out in front of the restaurant that day. We earn 20% of the sales from the coupons used.

Hacienda also offers gift cards to be purchased during this time and we earn the 20% as well. However you cannot use the gift card on this day to purchase your food. There are a few ways to get the gift cards. The students will have the forms or you can call or text Eric Thornton at (574) 248-5007 and I will put you down. You can also go online to [www.haciendafiesta.com](http://www.haciendafiesta.com) and mention the Hacienda location along with the name of the school in the message box. The gift cards should be paid for when you order them.

December 9, 2021 all day at La Parilla Caliente Mexican Restaurant at 119 W. Plymouth St. Bremen will be donating 30% of sales to the school.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

November 2021

ANNIVERSARIES

4 Mike & Cathy Dietl 17 Steve & Joanna Fox

Dan & Julie Fox 19 Dennis & Kelly Sienicki

9 Steve & Laura Wirgau 20 Mark & Lisa Matejka

10 Chad & Katie Goze 25 Mike & Barbara Stillson

BIRTHDAYS

1 Helen Bellman 23 Ashley Sahlhoff

2 Lois Nielsen 25 Molly Lynch

Doug Owens

4 Linda Moser 27 Tim Harman

6 Debra Schmidt 28 Steve Pittman

7 Chad Schmeltz 29 Joyce Evans

Rachel Rogers

9 Casey Dietl

Matthew VanSoest 30 Lillian Salyer

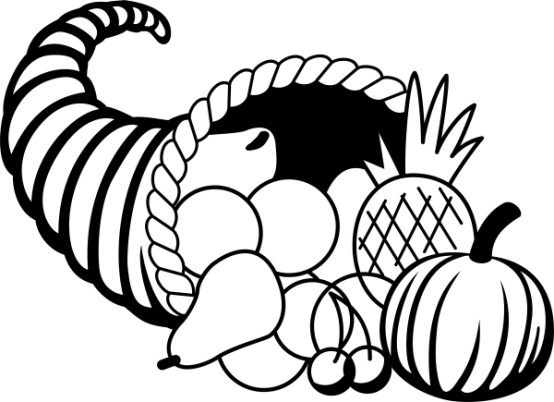
Pati Youngman

10 Ellen Augustine

Hayden Dobbins

Kevin Lee

12 Tonya Hundt



14 Larry Evans

15 Michael Venable

17 Kylie Perkins

19 Michael Dietl

Leo Sahlhoff

Cheyenne Ernsperger

20 Ada Sahlhoff

Justin Schmitt

Alex Trigg

Ashley Trigg

Robert Yoder

Michael Dietl

22 Wendy Coxey

Hunter Miller

Autumn Napper

***Pilgrim’s Progress***

Our journey with Christian has taught us valuable lessons. There have been challenges along the way with the biggest challenges yet to come. When he was given advice by Worldly Wiseman to see Legality to have his burden of sin removed, he learned the hard way that keeping the Ten Commandments and being good would not remove his burden but it only became heavier. He was reminded by Evangelist the words from the book(Bible) that he must stay on the narrow road to the gate to have life (Matthew 7:14-15) and assured Christian that his sin was forgiven. After coming to the Wicket Gate, he was directed by Goodwill to go the Interpreter’s house. He was shown lessons by Interpreter(Holy Spirit) in seven rooms which would warn him of dangers and show important things that would help him on his journey. When Christian came to the Cross at the Place of Deliverance, his burden fell from his back and rolled into a grave where it disappeared forever! At House Beautiful (the church) he was encouraged and strengthened for the difficulties which lay ahead and he was armed with protective equipment the Lord provided(Ephesians 6:10-18). As Christians we are strengthened and encouraged by our fellow believers and His Word as part of the body of Christ at church.

During the month of October, Christian’s journey continues as he must face Apollyon(Satan) in the Valley of Humiliation and continue on the path through the Valley of the Shadow of Death. Faithful joins him and they are instructed by Evangelist about the danger that lies ahead on the path they must follow into Vanity Fair which is a place of worldly pleasures, where Satan tempts and persecutes God’s people. Faithful is martyred and then Christian is joined by Hopeful. They unwisely left the rough path and headed down a smoother path which led to Doubting Castle.

We realize the adult class has a lot of material to cover. An important goal of keeping on schedule is so children through adults can discuss what they covered in class and by sharing what they have read in the book. Theologian, Charles Spurgeon, was quoted saying, “Next to the Bible, the book I value most is John Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress. I believe I have read it through at least a hundred times. It is a volume of which I never seem to tire; and the secret of its freshness is that it is so largely compiled from the Scriptures.” Even though there isn’t time to cover everything in the book and study guide, you can learn a lot outside of class through personal study.

St.Paul'sLutheran Women's Missionary League

*As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions,*

*and equip women to honor God by serving others.* Adopted 2021

!!! ***ON THE CALENDER*** !!!

NOVEMBER 1 – THANKSGIVING

INGATHERING FOR FT. WAYNE SEMINARY FOOD BANK

A box will be located in the entryway.

DECEMBER1**: short informational meeting before Advent service: 6:20-6:40 p.m.**

DECEMBER 12: CONGREGATIONAL CAROLING

We will prepare “Cheer Tins” for our home-bound members.

Watch for number needed & when to bring individually-wrapped goodies to the kitchen!

FEBRUARY 7, 2022 MONDAY 7:00 P.M.

**Program: Bible Study** - “When I am Weak, He is Strong”

Hostesses: Shirley Lakins, Elaine Young

Eyeglass Ministry - MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term).

Adult & Children's Glasses; Non-prescription Sunglasses; Reading Glasses; Bifocals

(ANY STYLE FRAME, BUT IN GOOD CONDITION).

Wherever MOST teams distribute used eyeglasses, the Gospel is also shared.

The collection box – *for glasses you no longer need* – is located beneath the 'Bulletin Table.'

*Psalm 100:2a* “Serve the Lord with Gladness” *LWML* *motto*

**St. Paul's 175th LITURGICAL YEAR** ✝ **November** **1, 2021 – November 31, 2021**

*Worship Opportunities To Bless Our Lives*  **9:30 a.m.** - \*Communion

**November 7** 24th Sunday after Pentecost

**November 14\*** 25th Sunday after Pentecost

**November 21** 26st Sunday after Pentecost

**November 28\*** 1st Sunday of Advent St. Paul's 176th Liturgical Year Begins

*November Minor Festivals*:**1** All Saints Day ● **30** St. Andrew, Apostle & Martyr ● *Commemorations*: **8** Johannes Von Staupitz ● **9** Martin Chemnitz (birth), Pastor & Confessor ● **11** Martin Of Tours ● **14** Emperor Justinian, Christian Ruler & Confessor Of Christ ●

**19** Elizabeth Of Hungary ● **23** Clement Of Rome, Pastor **29** Noah ●

The start of the Church’s Calendar (Liturgical) Year is determined by the Sunday on, or nearest to, St. Andrew’s Day**,** November 30. The first service is called: The First Sunday of Advent, *in the* Season of Advent, *in* The Time of Christmas. The term Advent comes from *adventus* - Latin meaning *coming*. ● Originally celebrated at the end of the year, the focus was on Christ’s Second Coming. It was moved to the beginning when celebrations of The Nativity grew in importance, to combat the heresy that Jesus was not fully human (True Man). ● The color of Adventide is *violet*, signifying royalty (Jesus our King), sorrow over sin, and repentance. Advent is a time for the Church (individually and corporately) to *repent* and *spiritually prepare* for the joyous celebration of Jesus' Birth, and with anticipation, The Second Coming. ● The banner, Come, O Come, Emmanuel, is from Isaiah 7:14: *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”* *Immanuel* means “*God with us*.” A ‘flame’ is added each Sunday to mark the weeks until we observe Christ’s birth. ● The Advent Wreath: has three purple (because the altar cloth is *violet*)and one rose candle, which marks the 3rd week of Advent, *Gaudete* – meaning *rejoice*. Each Sunday in Advent, as we anticipate the Nativity celebration, a candle is lighted. They symbolize the time before the coming of Messiah, when prophecies of Him became “brighter and brighter” until He Himself appeared and declared, “*I am the light of the world.*” John 8:12 ● The season makes use of a Chrismon Tree and greenery (evergreen) points to His eternal, unchanging nature. A Chrismon is: gold and white Christ monograms, used to convey the majesty and glory of Christ; pointing to His titles and attributes -- King, Shepherd, Son of God, Savior. ● Following are descriptions of Chrismons that will appear on the tree: **AGNUS** **DEI** Lamb of God, standing, with banner of victory. Signifies victorious sacrifice. *“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward Him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'”* John 1:29 *"And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: 'Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!' Then the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever."* Revelation 5:13-14 **CHI** **RHO** / **ALPHA** / **OMEGA** w/ **XP** First two letters of Christ in Greek, combined with the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, AW or , show He is eternal, true God. *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, says the Lord, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”* Revelation 1:8 **CIRCLE** / **MONOGRAMS** Circle represents eternity. Center symbol is a Greek cross. The X is the first letter of Christ in Greek. The butterfly is a symbol of the resurrection. **CORNERSTONE** / **MONOGRAMS** Christ, our cornerstone (foundation of faith, One on whom our salvation rests). *"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord."* Ephesians 2:19-21 **CROSS** **IN** **ETERNITY** Latin cross set inside a circle, the symbol for eternity. **CROSS** **TRIUMPHANT** Triumph of the Gospel of Christ (cross) over the world (ball). *“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved...’”* Mark 16:15,16a **CROWN** Christ, our King. *“And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and of the Lamb, saying: ‘Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!’”* Revelation 15:3 **DOVE** Biblical symbol of the Holy Spirit. *“And John bore witness, saying, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.’”*  John 1:32

“But when the fulness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman,

born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law,

that we might receive the adoption as sons.“

For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Galatians 4:4,5; Luke 2:11