



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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Open doors, open hearts, open minds.

Parish Times November 2018



The Pastor's Perspective...

Create in Me a Right Spirit of Gratitude | Pr. John Keller

A favorite prayer of mine is a simple request: *Create in me a clean heart, oh God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

Based on Psalm 51:10-12, the sentence starts a piece of the Lutheran liturgy which continues to echo in my soul. The short hymn was sung as the offering was presented.

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 and renew a right spirit within me.
 Cast me not away from your presence,
 and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
 Restore unto me the joy of your salvation
 and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

A key way for the Lord to *renew a right spirit within me* is through gratitude. I confess that I can slip into periods of fear and distrust, when I am closed to God's Spirit. The right Spirit of God is one of thanksgiving for many, many, many blessings that shower around me. A practice for me at Thanksgiving is to start a list of gratitude.

- The gift of Jesus and his eternal love and grace for me.
- The gift of life in which I live, and breathe and have my being.
- The gift of creation where beauty and wonder surrounds me each day.
- The gift of family who love, encourage and support me in my calling.
- The gift of God's fellowship of believers where we can experience God's love and joy.
- The gift of God's Word that promises vibrant life in Christ.
- The gifts of baptism and communion where God's Word penetrates and enriches our world.
- The gift of St. Luke and St. Mark where I am called to do what I love.
- The gift of service where we energetically encounter Christ in the lives of others.
- The gift of worship where I can sing God's praise and enjoy being a child of God
- The gift of friends who bike beside me in the race of life, even on the craziest of winter days.
- What would you place on your list of gratitude?
- Lord Jesus, thank you for being the Lord of our lives.



Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for November: Judy Salaba, David Tews, Kay Reich, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Linda Funkhouser, Roger Diestler.



LOAVES AND FISHES

130 very hungry men, women and children enjoyed a delicious meal at St. Matthew's Catholic church on September 24. Workers from St. Luke were Pr. John Keller, Christine Olson, Verdel Humburg, Larry Litzkow, and Roger and Dianne Diestler.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Readers:

- 4 Katy Eggert
- 11 Laurie Herrmann
- 18 Dee Plagens
- 25 Laurie Smith

Communion:

- 4 Joan Wilson
- 18 Dee Plagens



Thanksgiving Baskets

As is the St. Luke tradition, we will be collecting donations for Thanksgiving Baskets, which will be distributed to members of our community. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, November 18. If you would like to make a monetary contribution to filling these baskets, please indicate "Thanksgiving Basket" on the memo line of your check. Thank you!

ALL SAINT'S DAY

On All Saint's Day, Sunday, November 4, we will be remembering loved ones who have passed away this year. Please let secretary Jo Klein know, in written form or by email, (jojoklein@gmail.com) if you would like to remember a loved one during the All Saints service. We will ask families to bring a photo of their loved one that day, and to light a candle for them during the worship service. Let us remember with thanks those who have gone before us and rest in God's eternal love and salvation.



Mitten and Hat Tree During the upcoming Advent season there will be a Christmas tree placed by the pulpit where we will be collecting hats, mittens, and scarves. The congregation will watch the tree become colorfully decorated each Sunday as these items are placed on the tree, and we ask that members bring forth their donations to hang on the tree during the offering. Once the tree is decorated, we will then donate all the hats, mittens and scarves to Naomi Family Residence, a local homeless shelter for women and children. Thank you for participating in this worthy cause!



Dec The Halls!

All are invited on Sunday, Nov. 25 after worship to decorate our church home for the Advent and Christmas seasons. After decorating, we will all enjoy a potluck lunch together. Donations of Poinsettias to adorn our altar are greatly appreciated. Join us for this cherished, time-honored St. Luke tradition...it is sure to put you in a festive mood!

Please be sure to put this MOST important date on your calendars: on Saturday, November 3rd, 9:00-11:00 AM St. Luke and Saint Mark members will meet for a joint congregational meeting. This meeting will be moderated by Pastor Joe Lees from the Saint Paul Area Synod and will give ALL of us a chance to talk about our thoughts regarding our Shared Ministry together. PLEASE make every effort to attend this meeting.





Musings from the Music Director

Welcome to November - or as I'm calling it: Pre-Advent Advent! Now, I really love my harvesty/thankful songs so it was hard to see how the thanks comes in when so much end of time is used in the readings this month. It's pretty dark, like end of Empire Strikes Back dark, but it has a good purpose because I remembered: that's the point. We are thankful God sent his Son. We're thankful Jesus died and rose for us. We're thankful for His amazing power and that He gave us life. It also made me reflect upon a blog post I wrote for our Spotlight On Lutheran Hymnists in October about the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God." Written in a time of war and deathly sickness, this beautiful hymn of hope and thanks was written. (You can head over to the St. Luke blog to read more if you missed it last month.) On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, the bell choir will be playing that hymn, and even though the readings talk about how the end will begin, it's not the end that we should focus on but that God is so powerful that when the end comes, because of the Son's sacrifice, we get to go to heaven. Without that, we wouldn't need to get ready for Jesus' birth because where is the power and the point of it? So here it is, November and a reminder that all things end, but God and his love and grace and salvation don't. And that's something to be thankful for every day.

--Becca Ruiz



November Acolytes

- 4 Victor Landenberger
- 18 Ava Herrmann

Christmas Poinsettia/Greens Fundraiser

Orders will be available for pick-up on Dec. 2. You may bring your flowers/greens home that day, or choose to loan them to St. Luke to adorn our sanctuary for the holiday season. All proceeds will benefit St. Luke retreats at Camp Onomia. Thank you for your generosity!



A big thank you to our November Bun Run Volunteers: Julie Ellingson, Mike Hegdahl and Ken McGrew.



November Birthdays

- 1 Kou Vang
- 10 Hugo Ruiz
- 14 Joshua Vigdal
- 17 Dwight Paulson
Joan Wilson
- 18 Bruce Magnuson
- 23 Christine Salaba
- 25 Ben Vigdal
- 26 Janell Walter
- 30 Robert Herrmann



November Anniversaries

- 9 Tracy & Kevin Arndt: 1991
- 12 Larry & Junella Litzkow: 1960
- 13 Chuck & Michelle Klein: 1976
- 26 Jack & Joan Holtz: 1960



Ladies' Night Out will go on hiatus for November, December and January. We will resume Ladies Night Out again in February. Watch the January newsletter for details of where we will be dining in February.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Once again, SL/SM will be collecting shoebox presents for Operation Christmas Child. This is a time to pack a shoebox with presents for a boy or a girl somewhere around the world who normally wouldn't receive a Christmas present. It is something we ALL can do...it's a fun and feel-good way to do your part for a worthy cause. Please pack your shoebox and bring it to church on Oct. 28, Nov. 4 or Nov. 11. **On Sunday, November 11**, the boxes will be blessed by Pr. John, then delivered to the distribution center. We will have information on the bulletin table with ideas of what to pack, if you need it. If you wish to look online at information, go to www.samaritanspurse.org and click on the Shoebox link.

Now Thank We All Our God!

Join us for
Thanksgiving Day Worship,
Thursday, Nov. 22nd
9:00 a.m.
At St. Mark Church

