



Gethsemane Lutheran Church
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E-mail: Goffice@gsslutheran.org

Our Shared Mission: We are saved by grace through faith to share the good news of the Gospel with all people and live God's love by our words and actions.

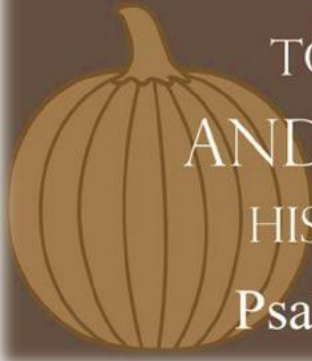


St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 435
Stephenson, MI 49887 (906) 753-4932
E-mail: Soffice@gsslutheran.org

JOINT NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2020



ENTER HIS GATES
WITH *Thanksgiving*
AND HIS COURTS
WITH PRAISE;
GIVE *Thanks*
TO HIM
AND PRAISE
HIS NAME.
Psalm 100:4



*While our buildings remain closed at this time, we continue to **BE the CHURCH.***

Worship services are uploaded to our **Facebook Pages** each weekend, and feature Scripture readings, prayers, hymns, and a sermon.

You are also invited to watch **Daily Devotions** at either of these links, too.



<http://bit.ly/GethMI>
<http://bit.ly/StephMIA>

Please reach out to Pastor Brenda if you have any connection issues or technology questions. We want to make sure everyone can remain as connected as possible, especially before Winter.

Worship: ONLINE ONLY during NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 1, 2020
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

taking+
faith
home

God promises glory and peace forevermore.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	The beatitudes
Monday	Revelation 7:9-17	God will wipe away tears
Tuesday	1 John 3:1-3	Our hope in God
Wednesday	Joshua 3:7-17	Crossing over the Jordan River
Thursday	Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37	Thanksgiving for deliverance
Friday	John 11:17-27	The resurrection and life
Saturday	Psalms 34:1-10, 22	Honor the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13	A parable of the ten bridesmaids

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"[F]or the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." **Revelation 7:17 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for joining us to the saints throughout the ages through our shepherd, Jesus Christ the Lamb of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food as we taste and see that you are good. Amen. (Psalm 34:8)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord of glory and honor and power and might bless you now and forever more. (Revelation 7:12)



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NOVEMBER 1, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Behold the Host

Arrayed in White

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WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about someone who has died and who was a loving gift to you.
- Describe or think about what being a saint means to you.
- What is your vision of heaven and how is that important to your daily life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Revelation 7:9-17.

The seer of this heavenly vision allows us to imagine the future of loved ones who have died, especially those who have shaped our own lives of faith with their living witness. Most likely they did not experience the kind of persecution envisioned in Revelation, but all lives know the pain and turmoil of daily struggles. In the end, what remains of their—and our—sufferings and disappointments are swept up in a larger reality, one that sees the Lamb at the center. This is Christ, our shepherd, who suffered and died and through whose blood our lives are purified that we all may stand before the throne of God. The truth of the reign of God through the Good Shepherd is that all our sorrows will be wiped away. We look to a future where there are no more tears, no more sadness to overcome. Yes, there is a great victory in life, it is the victory of the Lamb who was slain and now begins his reign of "[b]lessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and power and might . . . to our God forever and ever! Amen" (v. 12). How does this text give you comfort for loved ones who have died? How does it bring comfort for your own life?

Pray: Almighty and living God, we thank you for the promise of life and love and peace for all the saints—past, present, and future—through Christ our shepherd. Amen.

SERVICE

In the Bible, we learn about the disciples, the first followers of Jesus. They are set apart by God to witness to Christ and are called saints. All Christians are saints. In what ways do you witness to Christ through acts of service to others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

All Saints Day is a time to remember all the saints in our lives, both the living and the dead.

Take a white, plastic tablecloth, cover the table with it, and write on the tablecloth the names of those who have blessed your life. Place a candle in the center. Light the candle and pray:

Dear God, thank you for the witnesses who have touched my life with faith, love, and hope. I thank you for (read the names) through Christ, the Lamb of God. Amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



We trust in the comfort and hope
of the Resurrection for the
following families:

+ **Tammy Veraghen** +
Niece of Wayne & Deanna Thill

+ **Steve Bodgan** +
Husband of Gloria Bodgan

We continue to hold in prayer:

Al Macco	Audrey Anderson
Becca Merk	Brian Raether
Emily Christiansen	
Caitlin Christophersen	
Christine Havelka	Connie Kendrick
Coralee Mack	Crystal Salo
Dan Etelamaki	David Kohrt
Dean Gerue	Deloris Erickson
Denise Marineau	Don Freis
Evelyn Gewerth	Karen Raether
Keith Thoun	Kevin Havelka
Krista & Paul Hendricks	
Larry Pepin	Lee Scherer
Lewis Nicholson	Lois Azelton
Lorrie Stone	Luann Q. Kiefer
Macy Berszenyi	Michelle Bouchard
Mike Lubore	Rob Boe
Robert Berszenyi	Sheila Konkell
Shirley Wangerin	Stephanie Walren
Steve Anderson	Tammy Parrett
Tom Wenger	Tony Gill
Tracy Klatt	Wally Etelamaki
Wayne Sundstrom	

Thank you for holding
the friends and family
of our Congregants in
your daily prayers.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Please keep the office
informed as to the status of
people on this list, and
when to remove their name.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Corrections? Additions? Please contact
the Church Office. Thanks!



Jay Chapple
Trish Dams
Thomas Dutkavich
Jared Jurmu
Brent Jurmu
Julie Tanguay

Birthday Blessing

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | William Harris,
Brian Panske |
| 4 | Dorothy Baumler |
| 5 | Cheri Leiphart,
Taylor Schultz |
| 9 | Ken Chaney |
| 15 | Evan Mack, Kyle Salo |
| 18 | Diane Rivard |
| 20 | Clyde Davis |
| 24 | Sandy Beardsley,
Brock Bergquist,
Tara Klatt |
| 29 | Tanya Fletcher |
| 30 | David Kraus |

Happy Anniversary!

- | | |
|---|---|
| 7 | Jim & Tena Roubal
Bob & Diana
Jarnutowski |
|---|---|



Important Hospital Information

We have been asked by local hospitals to remind congregants to include the **name of their CONGREGATION** when being admitted to a hospital. This helps the Chaplain on-site to quickly contact Pastor Brenda or the Church Office to notify them of your hospitalization.

NOVEMBER 8, 2020
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

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faith
home

Be alert and be glad for the Lord is coming.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13	A parable of the ten bridesmaids
Monday	Amos 5:1-8-24	What the Lord requires
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	The coming of the Lord
Wednesday	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	The tribes renew the covenant
Thursday	Psalms 78:1-7	Tell the children God's word
Friday	Luke 21:29-37	Be always on the watch
Saturday	Psalms 70	God is wonderful
Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" Psalm 70:4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Righteous God, help us to be ready for the time Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead and to anticipate the end of the age with joy. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, help us to receive this food with thanksgiving and to serve those less fortunate with acts of love and service. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who promises you the great banquet feast bless you with peace and joy now and always.



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NOVEMBER 8, 2020
HYMN OF THE WEEK
*God of Grace and
God of Glory*

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WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about something that you do with focused attention.
- How does paying attention help you do your best?
- Jesus wants his followers to stay alert and be ready for his coming. How is this important to you and to others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 25:1-13.

This parable seems harsh. We might think we are to have mercy on the foolish and not lock them out. A more merciful approach is evident in the next chapter when Jesus' leadership team of disciples falls asleep while Jesus prays in the garden (26:36-46). Jesus chastises them without a sense of rejection. In this parable the church is reminded to live with the final victory of God in Christ in view. It is to impact our daily lives as we wait for Christ's second coming. However, unless there is a particular experience of suffering, we tend to live without paying much attention to Christ's coming again. Jesus is alerting his followers to the importance of watchfulness of the times and readiness to act faithfully at any given moment. That is when the church blesses, serves with justice, and offers salvation in Jesus' name. How might a conscious awareness of Christ's victory and return to "judge the living and the dead" (Apostles' Creed), impact your daily conduct?

Pray: Come Lord Jesus, strengthen our lives of faith that we may anticipate your coming again with joy and serve our neighbor in love. Amen.

SERVICE

According to Amos, worship without acts of justice for the needy is meaningless to God. During and after a worship service, take time to think about how God's acts of love and mercy for you and all humanity lead you to do acts of kindness and love for others.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The foolish bridesmaids in the parable did not have additional oil for their lamps. The light in their lamps could not shine. They were not ready. It is important to be ready and let the light of Jesus' love shine. We can do this by being ready to do God's work everyday. One way to be ready is to pray for others, read scripture, and bless others. Use this blessing daily during this week: *May the light of Christ shining through you show your readiness to do God's work.*



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE & NEWS FROM FORTUNE LAKE

During this unique time of worship, we will depend even more on the generosity of this community.

PLEASE continue to give of your ***hearts*** so that each congregation will find themselves in a healthy space, post-pandemic, to continue the ministries of ***Christ***.



FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP
A place of grace...
fortunelake.org

The totals are in, and we're proud to say that ***YOU*** raised over **\$18,000** through Fortune Lake's Fall Fest Virtual Auction!

We are so grateful to our donors, our bidders, our draffle ticket purchasers, our volunteers, and all who participated in any way. The funds will be used in support of the ministry of Fortune Lake. We thank God for you!



We are so honored to welcome our new Camp Intern, Mikhael, who will begin October 26 and be with our year-round staff through Summer 2021.

"Hi Everyone! My name is Mikhael and I will be the new Camp Intern! I have been coming to camp since I was quite young. When I was done being a camper, I started working here. I've worked at Fortune Lake the past three summers and have loved every second of it. For

me it's always been the best place to go when you want or need clarity. Fortune Lake has helped me so much over the years in my faith and I can't wait to be a part of its mission. This camp has always had love of others and the grace of God in it. I am beyond excited to be starting as Camp Intern and hope everyone who reads this is in good health! God Bless!!!"

NOVEMBER 15, 2020

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

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faith
home

The importance of encouraging one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents
Monday	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	Judgment of Judah
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Encourage one another
Wednesday	Judges 4:1-7	Deborah and Barak
Thursday	Psalms 123	A prayer for mercy
Friday	Philemon 1:4-7	Philemon's love and faith
Saturday	Psalms 90:1-12	God is eternal
Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and the goats

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. **1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, we thank you for the body of Christ that helps us when life is difficult and our faith is weak. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, you who make the earth fruitful, we thank you for this meal that strengthens our bodies and encourages our souls. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Almighty God strengthen your soul through brothers and sisters in Christ.
(1 Thessalonians 5:11)



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NOVEMBER 15, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Will You Let Me Be
Your Servant*

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WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How do you support someone when they are discouraged or are feeling down?
- How has someone supported you when you were in need of encouragement?
- Why do you think Christians need support and encouragement from one another?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

Good times and hard times can happen—and change—rather quickly (v. 3). Daily life is fragile. Life experiences can change dramatically with a phone call. What is constant is the need to care for one another and build up the body of Christ. There are important connections between this text and the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. God has gifted us to use our vocation, our calling in life as a child of God, to do God's work in the world. If we do not do this, if we ignore or hide our calling, the ministry of the church suffers. Instead, we are to trust in a God who acts; we are not to fall prey to complacency and speak and live as though God is not present and active in our lives and history (Zephaniah 1:12). Paul reminds the people that they—and we—are to reach out to others—especially our brothers and sisters in the faith. We are to do so with encouragement to live each day in faith, love, and hope because of the God who acts and has given us "salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:9). How are you encouraged by others to live your faith? How do you encourage others?

Pray: **God of grace, we thank you for the cloud of witnesses that walk alongside us to strengthen us in faith, love, and hope through Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus' parable of the talents makes a strong case for every Christian to have a calling, to use one's gifts and passions to serve the church and the world. Make a list of how to use your gifts and talents to serve the church and world around you.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

A talent in Jesus' day was money. Jesus tells a story about three servants. One hid his money and never used it. In our day, we think of a talent as a natural ability to be good at something. If we are good at something, we should not hide our talent but use it to the best of our ability. Drawing, singing, and dancing are a few talents. Think of what talent(s) you have and in what ways you can tell others about Jesus by using that talent. Each day this week choose one talent to use and say this prayer: **Dear God, help me to use my talents, whether big or small, so that others know you. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



UPDATE FROM BISHOP FINEGAN



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

October 5, 2020

Grace and peace to you in these glorious Autumn days!

Last week, Governor Whitmer announced that because of rising COVID-19 cases, the Upper Peninsula was being returned to Phase 4. Hardly moments later, the Supreme Court of Michigan declared that the Governor's ongoing emergency orders were unconstitutional. Together, as the church, we ask the good Lutheran question, "What does this mean?"

Both our Northern Wisconsin and our Upper Peninsula congregations now find themselves in the same confusing space where the Governor has issued orders without the legal capacity to enforce them. In our Lutheran polity, the enforcement of any behaviors rests with each congregation's council. It is the work of each congregation's leadership together to discern and decide what their guidelines will be for when in person worship will happen and how it will happen given the realities of an ongoing pandemic. Resources for all that needs to be considered are on our Synod Website.

That being said, those in Michigan have only to look at their Wisconsin neighbors to see what happened when the orders of the Governor were ignored. Wisconsin hospitals are filling up, case numbers are rising exponentially, and many congregations have wisely pulled back from, or refrained from engaging in, in-person inside worship.

I write to encourage you to raise the bar from what is legal to what is advisable. Do not plan on in-person, inside worship unless the numbers in your county are flat or decreasing. If worship is held in person, please continue to require masks, especially in indoor spaces, and practice physical distancing from each other, which is only possible if numbers are limited in your indoor spaces. The guidelines that have been put forth by the Wisconsin Council of Churches still hold true regardless of any executive order or constitutional challenges.

And these best practices also continue to be advisable for your movement in and through your community. Masks and physical distancing, while not fool proof, are the best weapons we currently have to slow the spread of the virus.

I know that our situation feels like it's getting worse. We are weary and feeling the strain. But there is good news! Those who study the emotional impact of disasters have noticed patterns in how populations respond during times of trial. At about six months into a disaster, there is a period called the "Disillusionment Phase." I believe this is where many people are currently. But that's not the good news. The good news is this phase has an end point. A day will come when we will move from the Disillusionment Phase, marked by weariness and anxiety, to the Reconstruction Phase, which is marked by new creativity, energy, and a coming to terms with the changes that we have witnessed. (Check out <http://bit.ly/6monthsIN> for more.)

So, please be encouraged. Even as we are in the thick of it, know that this too shall pass. As we are all feeling stretched thin, please be gentle with each other. Be even more patient, even when you don't feel like it. And let your pastoral leader and your councils know that their efforts to lead and decide and consider so many things are deeply appreciated. They are doing the best they can to keep you safe and still embrace you with the presence of Christ through the community of faith. If you feel yourself being pushy, relax. If you are tempted to cast judgement, reconsider. A day is coming soon when we will feel creative and energized, ready to begin again as we move into a new future of being church together.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

NOVEMBER 22, 2020
CHRIST THE KING
SUNDAY



God's justice cares for the weak and lost.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and goats
Monday	Ezekiel 34:11-24	God, the true shepherd
Tuesday	Ephesians 1:15-23	Paul's prayer
Wednesday	Psalms 100	All lands called to praise God
Thursday	Isaiah 1:16-20	Justice is needed
Friday	Amos 5:10-15	Choose good, not evil
Saturday	Psalms 95:1-7a	Worship and obey the Lord
Sunday	Mark 13:24-37	When the Son of Man appears

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. **Ezekiel 34:16 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of glory and might, we give thanks that you are our God and that we are the sheep in your hand through Christ our Lord. (Psalm 95:7a)

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, to you we make a joyful noise for all that you do, including your gift of this food for us today. Amen. (Psalm 95:1)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of power and might bless you with joy and peace.



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NOVEMBER 22, 2020
HYMN OF THE WEEK
When the Poor Ones



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- If you had all the power you could want, what would you want to do?
- What is wrong with the religious leaders in the Bible using their power for themselves?
- Why is it good news to know that God cares for the poor, the sick, and the hungry?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 25:31-46.

The God of the Bible is the God of justice but not just any kind of justice. God's justice recognizes the unfairness of power that abuses the weak. In Ezekiel 34 God has had enough of Judah's unjust shepherds, specifically, the kings who have not taken care of God's sheep. Therefore, God declares the sheep that are lost, strayed, injured, and weak will be cared for by God's power and the fat and the strong sheep—supposedly those well off at the expense of the weak—will be destroyed (v. 16). That is the divine judgment Jesus presents in the parable of the sheep and the goats. God's will—Jesus' will, as seen in the Son of Man in the parable—is to provide for the needs of the hungry, thirsty, lonely, naked, or sick. The message is so strong that when anyone has cared for these, they have cared for the Son of Man. The Gospel of Matthew does not shy away from judgment that distinguishes the authentic from the inauthentic life of those who follow Jesus. Matthew speaks against those who abuse their powers, whether religious, social, political, or economic. This final Sunday in the church year recognizes that all evil abuses will end one day and only God's compassion will survive through Christ, the true ruler of all things. How do you live as though Jesus, the Son of Man is with you as you show care and help others in need?

Pray: Almighty God, help us to see you in our neighbors, especially those in need of care through Jesus Christ, the one who is above all rule and authority. Amen.

SERVICE

Whether you live in an urban or rural setting, there are many in need. Donations of time and money are appreciated by those in need and the organizations that help them. Think about how you can help support these individuals or organizations.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Read Psalm 95:1-7a and circle or say the action words like "sing," "make a joyful noise," "bow down," and "kneel." Reread the psalm out loud and act out the parts you highlighted. Afterward, close with this blessing: **May the Lord God rejoice at the sound of your joyful noise and songs of praise.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

✚ BLESSING OF THE HUNTERS + PASTORAL THOUGHTS

The Blessing of the Hunters

(a Blessing to be read before heading out on the hunt)

Lord God, You have made man in your own image and have given him dominion over all the earth. Likewise, in your goodness you have given all earth's creatures for his benefit.

We turn to you then, most merciful Father, as we begin this hunt. We implore you, grant that we may always be honorable in our pursuit, respectful of your creation, and grateful for your blessings.

By your good providence, may this hunt be safe and successful. And through the intercession of St. Hubert, patron saint of hunters, may Almighty God bless, guide, and protect you, the Father +, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.



Dear Church,

Where are you going?

This has got to be the most commonly asked question when any one of us head out on this thing called VACATION.

Where are you going, our friends ask. Well, in 2020? We could easily answer that: NOWHERE! Or, perhaps we might say we're going to the FRIDGE. Or we're going to the LIVING room or the COMPUTER room. But GOING, going? Not happening these days.



Instead of focusing on where we CANNOT go these days, might I challenge us to reframe our thinking about where we CAN head? I'm guessing we could all use some positive thinking these days:

We're **GOING** to take in each day as it comes. Why? *"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day."* (2 Corinthians 4:16) We can choose to view each day as a new gift to be unwrapped

We're **GOING** to remember that even Mary and Joseph didn't get to celebrate Christmas where they wanted to, either. Mary gave birth in a STABLE! *"She brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."* (Luke 2:7) I know we all want to be shoulder to shoulder with friends and family, raising those candles high on Christmas Eve. While that cannot safely happen this year, we're going to remember that even a Christmas Eve spent in a stable or apart from one another STILL sees the birth of our Savior.

And finally, we're **GOING** to rest in the assurance that *"the LORD will keep you from all harm - he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."* (Psalm 121:7-8)

Resting in that assurance with you, dear Church,
Pastor Brenda

NOVEMBER 26, 2020
THANKSGIVING DAY



God loves a cheerful giver.

THANKSGIVING DAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Thanksgiving Day celebrations.

Thursday	Deuteronomy 8:7-18	The Lord takes care of you
	Psalms 65	Thanksgiving for creation
	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Generous giving
	Luke 17:11-19	The ten lepers

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Thanksgiving Day:

Gracious God, we thank you for your love and bringing us healing, hope, and joy through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you that you water the earth, provide grain for food, and place before us the fruit of the earth for this meal today. Amen. (Psalm 65:9)

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a generous and thankful heart now and always.



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NOVEMBER 26, 2020

HYMN FOR THANKSGIVING DAY



Oh, Sing to God Above

THANKSGIVING DAY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Name or think about something for which you are thankful. Explain.
- Give an example or think about when you have been a cheerful giver.
- How does practicing generosity impact your life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 17:11-19.

There is a difference between what one wants to do and what one needs to do. Jesus tells the healed lepers that they need to go to the priests to confirm their healing, and they do.

However, only one leper is compelled by an inner desire to return to Jesus and offer thanks. Although all ten are healed, Jesus says to the Samaritan, the outsider who desires to give thanks, "Your faith has made you well" (v. 19). These are the same words used by Jesus in other stories in Luke, including the woman at his anointing (7:50), the hemorrhaging woman (8:48), and the blind beggar (18:42). In Luke 7:50 the phrase is translated, "Your faith has saved you." The same Greek words can be translated as "saved you" or "made you well." Health and salvation belong together. A thankful heart belongs to both health and salvation. How is your health strengthened by a thankful heart? How is your faith strengthened by thanksgiving? By cheerfulness?

Pray: God of glory, we thank you for your generosity that blesses us with health and salvation, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

Giving with a thankful heart blesses both the giver and the receiver of one's generosity. Practice generosity this week and think or talk about how it blesses you as well as those who are the recipients of your care.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The first Thanksgiving was held in the early 1600's by Puritans and Pilgrims immigrating from England to America. President George Washington proclaimed the first nationwide celebration in November of 1789 "as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God." Invite each person at your table to name something they are thankful for and then after each person has shared, conclude with: **Thanks be to God for the Lord's indescribable gifts! Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



DAILY DEVOTIONS

FROM THE REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY

Sunday Nov 1 – All Saints Day

Revelation 7:9-17 Psalm 34:1-10, 22, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

Mon – Nov 2	Jeremiah 5:18-31	1 Thessalonians 2:13-20	Psalm 5
Tue – Nov 3	Lamentations 2:13-17	Acts 13:1-12	Psalm 5
Wed – Nov 4	Proverbs 16:21-33	Matthew 15:1-9	Psalm 5
Thu – Nov 5	Amos 1:1–2:5	Revelation 8:6–9:12	Psalm 70
Fri – Nov 6	Amos 3:1-12	Revelation 9:13-21	Psalm 70
Sat – Nov 7	Amos 4:6-13	Matthew 24:1-14	Psalm 70

Sunday Nov 8 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost. Amos 5:18-24, Psalm 70, 1 Thess. 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13

Prayer of the Day: O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – Nov 9	Amos 8:7-14	1 Corinthians 14:20-25	Psalm 63
Tue – Nov 10	Joel 1:1-14	1 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Psalm 63
Wed – Nov 11	Joel 3:9-21	Matthew 24:29-35	Psalm 63
Thu – Nov 12	Ezekiel 6:1-14	Revelation 16:1-7	Psalm 90:1-8
Fri – Nov 13	Ezekiel 7:1-9	Revelation 16:8-21	Psalm 90:1-8
Sat – Nov 14	Ezekiel 7:10-27	Matthew 12:43-45	Psalm 90:1-8

Sunday Nov 15 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost. Zeph. 1:7, 12-18, Psalm 90:1-8, 1 Thess. 5:1-11, Matt 25:14-30

Prayer of the Day: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – Nov 16	Zechariah 1:7-17	Romans 2:1-11	Psalm 9:1-14
Tue – Nov 17	Zechariah 2:1-5, 5:1-4	1 Thessalonians 5:12-18	Psalm 9:1-14
Wed – Nov 18	Job 16:1-21	Matthew 24:45-51	Psalm 9:1-14
Thu – Nov 19	1 Kings 22:13-23	Revelation 14:1-11	Psalm 85:1-7a
Fri – Nov 20	1 Chronicles 17:1-15	Revelation 22:1-9	Psalm 95:1-7a
Sat – Nov 21	Isaiah 44:21-28	Matthew 12:46-50	Psalm 95:1-7a

Sunday Nov 22 – Christ the King Sunday

Ez. 34:11-16, 20-24, Ps. 95:1-7a, Eph. 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46

Prayer of the Day: O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen

Mon – Nov 23	Esther 2:1-18	2 Timothy 2:8-13	Psalm 7
Tue – Nov 24	Esther 8:3-17	Revelation 19:1-9	Psalm 7
Wed – Nov 25	Ezekiel 33:7-20	John 5:19-40	Psalm 7

Thursday, Nov 26 Day of Thanksgiving

Deut. 8:7-18, Psalm 65, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Luke 17:11-19

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.



Northern Great
Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org

2020 JOINT NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER

***Our Monthly Newsletter covers information for the Congregations
of both Gethsemane + St. Stephen's Lutheran Churches.***



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