

Faith Family News

From the Pastor’s Pen...

It is again that time of year – the holiday season is upon us. Each year as I reflect upon the holidays, I find myself thinking about gratitude and the many things for which I am grateful. So, I thought I would google the word *gratitude* and see what would come up. I was surprised that one of the top results was this quote from

Psychology Today:

Gratitude is an emotion expressing appreciation for what one has – as opposed to a consumer-oriented emphasis on what one wants or needs. Gratitude is getting a great deal of attention as a facet of positive psychology. Studies show that we can deliberately cultivate gratitude and can increase our well-being and happiness by doing so. In addition, grateful thinking – and especially the expression of it to others – is associated with increased levels of energy, optimism, and empathy.

Wow!! As I thought about this, I realized how true this is and how important gratitude is as we enter the holiday season. We are entering a time when we will see a consumer-oriented emphasis that comes at us and hits us with fever pitch. Before Thanksgiving Day is even over, stores will be opening their doors to attract and seduce shoppers. We cannot escape what is happening in our culture during this busy, bustling season of the year. However, we **can** intentionally focus on what we are grateful for, what is really important. We can “deliberately cultivate gratitude.” And, guess what? What I read from **Psychology Today** is not new news! We find words about gratitude and being grateful throughout scripture, especially in the book of Psalms. Here are just a few examples:

Psalm 100:1-5

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

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Serving Faith

LAY ASSISTANTS

11/6 Mike Eschelbach
11/13 Doug Hirt
11/20 Bob Nelson
11/27 Paul Hereza

USHERS

11/6 Hirt
11/13 Kopf
11/20 McCracken/Milne
11/27 Harrison

NURSERY

11/6 Connie Nelson
11/13 Connie Nelson
11/20 Connie Nelson
11/27 Connie Nelson

READER SCHEDULE

11/6 Harold Sollenberger
11/13 John McCracken
11/20 Alexa Warwick
11/27 Jon Harrison

ALTAR CARE

11/6 Kathy Mace
11/13 Rich Weingartner
11/20 Jamie Royalty
11/27 Elaine Harrison

ACOLYTE

11/6 Abby Steinke
11/13 Maddie Webb
11/20 Calvin Kadrofske
11/27 OPEN

COFFEE HOUR

11/6 Nelson
11/13 Stewardship Lunch
11/20 Nelson
11/27 Open

GREETERS

11/6 Harold & Jan Sollenberger
11/13 Rich Weingartner
11/20 Chris & Jean Lewis
11/27 Mike Eschelbach

Lay Assistants/Readers: Diane Hill: hillmaxd6@gmail.com

Ushers: Ken Schoepf: kjschoepf@yahoo.com

Altar Care: Elaine Harrison: jon.harrison@comcast.net

Sunday School: Pam Williams

Nursery: Jennifer Coe: jenlynncoe@yahoo.com

Greeters: Mike Eschelbach: eschelbachm@gmail.com

To Sign up for Coffee Hour please use the sign-up sheet on the Narthex Kitchen Counter



From the Pastor's Pen Cont...

Psalm 107:1

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

Psalm 118:28-29

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

As I continue to think about being grateful, one item at the top of my list is you, the people of this Faith Lutheran community. I give thanks for you with all my heart and I am deeply grateful TO you and FOR you. You have been an incredible gift to me and you are such a gift to the greater Okemos community as we daily live God's good news. I thank God for you.

Pastor Ellen

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Join for a Stewardship Sunday Extravaganza – Sunday, November 13!

Join us for a Stewardship Extravaganza on **Sunday, November 13**. On that day, we will give thanks for the gifts we have been given as a people. On Sunday 11/13, we will give thanks as we:

- ***Gratefully offer our Pledge Cards to the glory of God in morning worship***
This is also the Sunday when we will experience a **5-minute sermon!**
- ***Gratefully celebrate by enjoying a Stewardship Presentation given by Rich & Linda Triemer***
Rich performs as a magician and Linda performs as a clown. They will share their gifts with us in the sanctuary during a 30-minute presentation following worship. This should be a delightful treat.
- ***Gratefully celebrate by sharing a Potluck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall following the Stewardship Presentation***
Come and bring a dish to share!
- ***Gratefully learn of the various ministries in which we participate as a community of Faith***
You will be able to discover and learn more about these ministries as you view the **Ministry Fair Displays** that will be set up around the perimeter of the Fellowship Hall.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

You are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for the **Adult Sunday School Class & continental breakfast**, every Sunday morning at 9:00 AM.

ADULT Sunday School

We are presently focusing on ***How Lutherans Interpret the Bible***. Each Sunday morning session begins with a video by Dr. Mark Allan Powell, a Lutheran pastor and seminary professor. Each video, designed as a teaching tool for congregational use, will be followed by a time for group discussion. The seven sessions include:

Session 1: The Word of God

Session 2: What Lutherans Say About the Bible

Session 3: Where the Bible Comes From

Session 4: Interpreting the Bible in Context

Session 5: Determining Right from Wrong

Session 6: The Many Meanings of the Bible

Session 7: Devotional Bible Reading

All adults are welcome to participate in this education experience. If you have children attending Sunday School, drop them off for 9:00 AM Sunday School then come join us in the Fellowship Hall.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE!

The Worship Committee made the decision that *there will be NO in person worship service on Christmas Day*. This is one of those years when Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. The Worship Committee concluded that most people will be celebrating with their families on that day, so we will invite people to view the online Christmas Eve service on that day.



Decorate the Church



We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, November 26th at 9:30 a.m. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Everyone is invited to join us.



There will be No Sunday School classes on Sunday, November 27th.

Youth Group: 8th Grade and Up

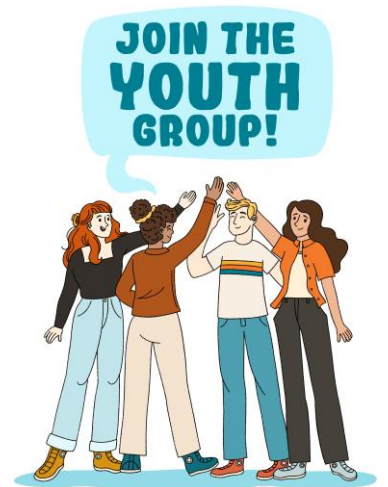
Meets each Sunday following worship. Contact Pam Williams for more information.

November 6: No High School Youth Group

November 13th: Take communion to shut-ins, then back to the church to make pizzas.

November 20th: No High School Youth Group

November 27th: No High School Youth Group: Thanksgiving Break



Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

We pray for those in military service who are connected to our community: Lani Yearicks, Jon Schoepf, Landon Belanger, Melody and Adam Wright, Tracy Tuthill and Jae Moore, Joe Galvin, Coleman Curry, Hannah Cunningham, and Aiden Seeley.

Calm all who are facing illness, surgery, or a new diagnosis, especially Heather Hall, Tim Hagstrom, Al Hirt, David Hicks, Linda & Steve Hastings, Mike Taylor, Dale Halverson, Helen Brinkman, Joe, Alice, Jesslyn Silva, Bob Shorman, Krista, Lee Gerard, Mabel Anglin, Rosie Brown, Shannon Stobel, Joy Coster, Carrie Christopher, Emily, Debra Vorce, Heather, Marilyn Hogan, Bill Williams, Todd Barricklow, Ben Cowin, Kenley and Allyson. We hold in prayer the ministry of Loaves and Fishes and we pray for all the Samaritas children who seek adoption.



With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayer to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Stuff the Stocking food drive which will start in November. The delivery will be on December 18th. Watch for a Sign-Up Genius to come out in November.

The annual Fall Cleanup will be Sunday, Nov. 6, right after the service. We will trim trees and bushes, weed mulch/flower beds, and pick up downed branches, etc. Bring pruners, rake, gloves, wheelbarrow, shovel, tarp, etc. All are welcome to join us and help in any way you are able to. The rain date will be Nov. 13. Any questions, contact Bob Nelson or Rick Beaderstadt. Thank you.



The quilting & ACTION group at Faith made 35 quilts, 40 school kits, and 35 health care kits to send to Lutheran World Relief. Great work Ladies!!





RIC Committee Restarting

After an unplanned break because of the pandemic - the RIC (Reconciling in Christ) Committee will be starting up again. This group's primary goal is to guide our congregation in its efforts to live out our welcoming statement - to ensure welcome, inclusion, and belonging for people of all ages, gender identities, sexual orientations, races, ethnicity, marital statuses, faith backgrounds, political leanings, and mental or physical abilities. As we restart, we will look at where we are and what we should plan for the future. In the past we have hosted educational events and participated in pride activities. Some goals for the next year would be to participate in pride again, look at how we can connect better to the Native American culture in our area and work on a land acknowledgement, ensure our welcome statement meets the updated RIC guidelines, and assess how our congregation is able to work with people with disabilities.

This may seem like a lot of work, and it can be, but it is important work. We primarily focus on one project at a time, so we don't get overwhelmed. We all take part in the work as we are able. The committee meets every couple of months - the schedule varies to adjust to the schedules of people on the committee. If you have been part of this committee in the past, or are interested in possibly joining for the future, please contact Rich Weingartner, mathwhiz@mathwhiz.org or 517-927-4481, with any questions.

LGBTQIA+ Bible Study - Third Monday of the Month

The next meeting will be Monday, November 21, at 7pm. at Sir Pizza in Old Town, 201 E. Cesar E Chavez Ave. Lansing, MI 48906.

This is a group for those in the LGBTQIA+ community and their allies to fellowship with other Christians in a welcoming and affirming space. Topics will vary each month. For more information please contact Pastor Alex Aivars at christunited.pastor@gmail.com.

November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Youth Group 11:30pm Quarterly Meeting	31	1 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	2 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 11:00am Dorothy Rush Funeral 7:30pm Chancel Choir	3 7:00pm Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group	4 Middle School Charge Retreat	5 Middle School Charge Retreat
6 Middle School Charge Retreat 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Worship Meeting 11:30am Fall Property Clean Up	7	8 Voting Precinct 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	9 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 6:00pm Confirmation 7:30pm Chancel Choir	10	11 9:30am Sanctuary Rental	12
13 Stewardship Sunday 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Ministry Fair & Potluck 11:00am Youth Group	14	15 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	16 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 6:00pm Confirmation 7:30pm Chancel Choir	17	18	19
20 No Youth Group 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	21 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	22 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	23	24	25	26 Decorating the Sanctuary
27 No Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	28	29 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	30 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 6:00pm Confirmation 7:30pm Chancel Choir	1 7:00pm Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group	2	3

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 No Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	28	29 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	30 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 6:00pm Confirmation 7:30pm Chancel Choir	1 7:00pm Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group	2	3
4 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	5	6 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	7 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 6:00pm Middle School Activity Night	8	9	10 Fellowship Hall Rental 10:00am Sanctuary Rental
11 10:00am Christmas Pageant 10:00am Worship Service 2:00pm Sanctuary Rental	12	13 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	14 9:30am Quilting and ACTION 6:00pm Confirmation	15	16	17
18 Sunday School Party 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Food Delivery	19 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	20 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Services
25 No Sunday School No Morning Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	31