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November 2021 St. Paul Happenings

From Pastor Brand's Desk: "In Everything Give Thanks"

It's November and my thoughts turn to the fourth Thursday, which has been set aside as a national day of Thanksgiving. I really like the holiday. I am thankful that we will make it a Holy Day; when we gather the night before to sing our praise of thanks, to receive the Lord's blessing and peace, and to gather in a harvest for our Hand to Hand program. Thanksgiving belongs to the life of the Christian. Christian thanksgiving is too big and all-encompassing to fit into one day a year - or even one day a week! This is the sort of thanksgiving which occupies the life of the Christian. Just listen to the Scriptures: "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus", 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

We are to give thanks in everything. That doesn't mean just to give thanks for the stuff we really enjoy, but in everything and every moment. If you do a search in the New Testament of the word "thanks", and its other forms, "thanksgiving" and "thanksgivings", you will find that it is the constant exhortation and expectation of the Apostles. Jesus was always giving thanks, and Paul writes about thanks or giving thanks in almost every single letter in the New Testament. After a while, it begins to sound like the chief activity of the Christian church.

And that is probably because it is. Realistically, what else is there? Think about it. God gives us life - physical, daily life. We rebel against Him in sin. Our race chose death over life in Adam and Eve, and each one of us personally makes that choice every time we sin - particularly when we sin deliberately and consciously. Of course, we would never choose to think of it that way, just like we try not to think about how we are growing old, or how heavy we are getting, or how well our cherished ideas and activities comport (or fail to comport) with the things we confess on Sunday mornings in Church. Reality is often at odds with our preferred and personal perspective on things.

We have made ourselves enemies of God, and proven ourselves fit for nothing but death and destruction and eternal condemnation, repeatedly. But God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even as unlovable enemies, so He sent His Son to live for us and die in our place, though innocent of any sin Himself. He redeemed us from the curse of the Law and therefore from sin and death and hell. Then, because we cannot choose to believe - being, by nature, enemies of God and lovers of evil - God chose us, and called us sweetly by the preaching of the Gospel, and made us His children by the working of His Holy Spirit through the Word proclaimed. He saved us, Paul writes in Titus 3, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy. He called us into faith, since faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ.

So we exist by His goodness, and we have salvation by His goodness, and we possess all of the wonders and blessings which we possess by His grace and goodness. What did you do to deserve or earn your birth? The question is laughable. Of course, we did nothing. What did you do to earn your salvation? The question is seriously entertained by many, but the answer, according to Scriptures, is just the same - 'Nothing'. How did you impress God so that He would select you, among all the people of the world, to be His chosen child, one of the "elect"? A few people are bold enough to claim they did something, or to point to their lives, conveniently forgetting every evil and wicked thing they have thought, spoken, or done. They are, of course, deliberately out of touch with that part of their own reality. The true answer here is that we have done nothing, and could have done nothing. When perfection is the demanded qualification, how do you un-ring the bell of previous sin, or un-spill the milk of prior guilt? It is the grace and goodness and love of God. As scripture clearly says in Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

The last link in this chain of reasoning is the question of why you should have the abundance and riches which you enjoy in this life? Is it your hard work? Then what of those who worked just as hard elsewhere - and in other ages - without such abundant results? Is there something about you that merits the reward of hard work more than the poor man who must work just as hard for poverty as you have for abundance? No. It is the blessing and gift of God. Sure, we have all worked, and endured the hard stuff of our lives, but God has been unthinkably good to us! We have all that we have - and are all that we are - by God's rich and abundant blessing, without our needing to do anything - much less anything extraordinary or unique - to achieve or deserve it.

So, what else have we to do, really, than to give thanks? What is left? All that you need is given to you. All that you really need done has been done for you. Your own guilt and sin has been punished already, and Christ bore it on the cross in your place. The life and health that you would desire - and should want - is His gift to you. There is nothing left for you to do but live in God's grace and goodness and enjoy it, and give thanks.

You have two possible directions to go, basically, two possible responses to this reality. One is thanksgiving - the only thing left to do, realistically. The other direction is to live as though everything really depends on you and your work and your self-determination. Sadly, most people, even most Christians, choose direction number two. It is particularly sad when one remembers that, in the catalog of sin in Romans chapter one, the first sin is thanklessness; "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (Romans 1:21)"

The example of the Apostle Paul should serve us. He is always giving thanks. For example: "But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed" (Romans 6:17), "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin" (Romans 7:25), "I do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers" (Ephesians 1:16), and, "We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you" (Colossians 1:3). There are numerous other passages, but these few should suffice.

Thanksgiving is also a consistent instruction by the Apostle, as I mentioned before. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15) and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. (Ephesians 5:4) And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. (Colossians 3:17)

Our minds are to be set on the awareness of the great goodness of God toward us, and toward all mankind. In the past, the cliché "The attitude of gratitude" was a very popular sentiment. It is a cliché, but it does capture the proper mind-set for Christian living. For the Christian, however, thanksgiving is not simply something we speak - or even an attitude. It needs to be part and parcel of how we live. God would have you to consider how love and thanksgiving can shape your desire to give back to God by being a blessing to those God places around you for you to serve in His stead. Viewed in this way, Thanksgiving becomes a stewardship thing.

I want you to go back and read those last two sentences again. I want you to pay attention to the fact that there was no mention of money. The word "stewardship" has been tossed around in the institutional church so often as a way of digging into your wallets that many people read or hear the word, and they stop . . . listening or reading, or thinking, for that matter. This is not about money, primarily, although you cannot talk about all of your life and ignore that one piece of it. That would be artificial.

Thanksgiving is accomplished by expressing thanks to God out loud - and to yourself - and by living out the reality of your dependence on God and your delight in His goodness to you. For example, Paul, in Romans 14, in the discussion of eating meats or not eating meats, writes, "He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God." The giving of thanks and the decisions of life are all bound up together in the same cause, the goodness and grace of God.

The other side of this truth is that thanksgiving also includes serving God with a free spirit - you know, gladly and willingly. And we cannot serve God directly. If we are serious about serving God, we must do it through the people He has placed around us, that we may serve them. So, thanksgiving is accomplished, in part at least, by caring about and caring for the people around us. We live out the truth that all is gift and we are well-supplied by our gracious God when we live boldly and 'liberally' with our neighbors.

When we live as though our supply is secure, and we can care and give and serve for the welfare and well-being of those around us, we are living thanksgiving. We are also living our confession of God's goodness and abundance to us.

Charity begins at home, or so they say. By charity we mean love, not giving money to worthy causes. It must begin closest to you - with your immediate family, with your congregation which is your family, with fellow believers with whom you are acquainted, and then with the people nearby, where you see their need and see your ability to help. I think of those people as our 'circle of neighbors'.

People may want your money, but they need your care, concern, compassion, and your time. Thanksgiving is lived when you care enough to take the time, to reach out your hand to help, when you listen to others because they need someone to listen, when you pray with and pray for others because they need blessings from God. When you are secure in God's abundance towards you, so secure that you can share all of that abundance with those in your circle of neighbors, then your life confesses His goodness and not only expresses your thanks, but causes others to give God thanks on account of your living out the thanksgiving which is the life of the child of God. Who among us can does this consistently? No one.

We are, after all, sinners by birth and by nature. Consistent and comprehensive thanksgiving such as I have been describing is a goal, not a present reality for any of us. When we live in the new heavens and new earth, I imagine that this is the way we will all live - for others because we are secure in God's love and provision for ourselves. But here and now, we who understand and believe the goodness of God towards us are encouraged and commanded to endeavor to be the people God has called us to be, and live out the truth of all that we confess. Paul writes, "but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Thanksgiving. It is the fruit of the lips, according to Hebrews 13. So we should be ready to speak aloud our thanks and praise. And our thanks ought to well up in us in how we live and how we make decisions and what our values are. We should confess both by word and deed our confident trust in our heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Having all things as His gift, thanksgiving is then all that He has left for us to do.

May all your days be blessed thanksgiving days! Peace and joy in Jesus, Pastor Brand

LADIES AID – Next meeting will be November 11th (Veterans Day of Prayer). We'll be meeting at 10 AM to tie some quilts. **A REAL POTLUCK LUNCH** at noon, followed by short devotion and business meeting. Last two meetings have been very productive. Keep up the good work ladies. Always happy to see new faces.

As the cold weather is fast approaching, it's time to be thinking about the annual "Hat, Mitten & Misc. Tree". We weren't able to do this outreach last year due to the pandemic, but will be resuming the tradition this year. So, if you're crafty, handmade articles are always nice. But, if you're not that handy, or maybe just short on time, purchased items are just as welcome. It's always pleasing to offer some warmth to the less fortunate.

Pastor David's Thoughts: *Harvest Time*

It is a good time to be a Christian. We have no lack of places to be, people to speak truth to, or things we ought to be doing. Right now it is tempting to look at the evil of the world and wish we were dead and with Jesus. I completely understand this sentiment. But we must shift our focus off of how the evils of this world make us feel, and onto what the Lord has commanded us to do. This season of Covid, which seems to have no end in sight, is a season of harvest for us Christians. John 4:35 tells us "Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are ripe for harvest." We will return to this idea at the end of this article.

Lately I have not been sleeping well. Sleepless nights, horrid dreams, restless sleep, things of this nature. After several rough nights I realized what is going on. I'm concerned. I'm concerned about the state of Christ's Church, the Synod, our District, our Church here at St Paul, friends, family and much more. My prayer list is not getting shorter. It's multiplying! At night I often pray as I fall asleep, petitioning the Lord to help whomever is on my heart. Lately I've been dwelling not on the Lord working in them, but on my actions and what I should do. I've been losing sleep over many things. One of the thoughts that keeps me up at night is that I am concerned about the members of St Paul who have yet to come back. I'm at a loss. My hope was that they would, when they are comfortable, just come back and we can resume how ministry was pre-Covid. This has not happened to the degree I wish it ought to. I have many theories, but without polling them all, they are just that. Theories.

If you interact with someone who has yet to return to Church, be gentle and kind, but also truthful. The questions that I've asked people who are hesitant to return to Church are this: *At what point will you come back? What has to change? What are you waiting for?* Not in a sarcastic tone mind you, but in a very serious manner. What changes are the cautious waiting for? Because we all must be patient. Patient with ourselves who are here, and those who have yet to return.

We must understand that what we went through, and are going through, is a once-in-a-100-year occurrence. Covid created a level of uncertainty that many of us haven't lived through. As we begin to come back together, we must not push the anxious. It's been harder for some than others, especially if you've lost a loved one during this time. Rhythms were broken and it will take time and care to return to where we ought to be.

The Shut-down offered all of us a sabbatical of sorts. Working from home. Less activities. People had more time to be at home with their families. We are to be aware that maybe they don't want to become as busy as they were and are hesitant to say yes to new commitments (or resume previous commitments). It's going to be a slow process. Instead of worrying about it, repent and surrender to the Lord and do what He calls us to do. With those that are waiting, call upon them. Listen. And when appropriate ask questions. If you flat out tell someone "You need to be in Church!" (Which they do) they might respond poorly to that because they have concerns. So ask gentle questions and don't give up. Galatians 6:9 says "*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*"

The Church is a unique institution. It is only in Christ's Church where we find a place of identity, belonging, and community of people who are longing for it. It is up to Christ to grow His Church. He sends us where we ought to go. Remember, God uses His Word and Sacraments to grow the Church. It's not about

our programming, the type of music, or our fellowship activities that grows the Church. It is only truly grown through the Word and Sacraments.

We all have people in our lives we pray will come to Church. Keep praying. And when the moment is right, you point them to Christ, and where to find him. His Church. Some people are going to have to hit rock bottom before they realize what they've been missing. Some might need to come to that point intellectually, and others might realize that their children need to be back in Church. Whatever is going on in those lives that you're praying for, be gentle and be patient.

At the start of this article I said "It's a good time to be a Christian". Perhaps you scoffed at that idea. I understand the hesitancy to believe that. At our voters meeting we passed amendments to cover Tim and I so that we don't go to jail for preaching and teaching God's Word. How can it be a good time to be a Christian if jail time is a possibility? Because it is more obvious now than ever. Our Church has leaned out. Our services are not as full as they once were. We've been tested and tempted through this season. It is a good time to be a Christian because we are surrounded by need!

There is an appropriate saying for a time such as this, perhaps you've heard it before. It goes like this: *"They are in front of us, behind us, and we are flanked on both sides by an enemy that outnumbers us 29:1. **They can't get away from us now!**"* And the response to that original saying: *"Great. Now we can shoot at them from every direction."* This first statement was spoken by Lewis Puller, nicknamed "Chesty" because his chest resembled a full-size beer keg of lead bricks. He spoke it during the Korean War.

These statements summarize my point, and the one that Jesus says in John 4 about the harvest being ripe. Covid has shown us that there is an incredible need for the Word and Sacraments. The entire world is even more broken than we thought it was. It's clear that our neighbors, friends, and family members need to be pointed back to Christ! We've had a leaning out period. And as a Church we're coming out through this stronger because our strength comes from the Lord. The need is everywhere! We're surrounded by this need!

So please, be patient, speak the truth in kindness and gentleness. Ask questions and listen. If you know someone who has yet to return to church, and you feel the Spirit to prod you to talk about, actually listen to that person's response. They may be thinking all sorts of things. Satan is probably working in them to cause them to doubt that they'd be welcomed back, or that they've been missed. Listening to someone in pain is the first step to healing. Being present and listening, and when it's ok to talk, you point them to Christ. They have authentic concerns and in Church, no matter the concern, we walk with them. If you dismiss a concern that causes walls to be built and divides to grow. Listen and ask good questions.

It truly is a great time to be a Christian. And how great is it that God is using us in this time for his glory? Yes there will be hard times and difficult decisions, but it is through the Lord that we are sustained. I will leave you with this last thought. Are we so naive to believe that this is the first time in Church history that the Church has thinned out? The Church goes through cycles of growth and shrinking. God maintains it through the good seasons and through the difficult seasons. God's in control. Have no worries about it.

And yes, I have been sleeping better lately. Reading God's Word, going to the gym, and resting in Him are causing me to worry less. I hope you all are sleeping well and resting in God.

Third Quarter Update Ministry Governance Board St Paul Lutheran Church

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Hebrews 1:11

Your Ministry Governance Board has had a busy 3rd quarter as we approach the beginning of a new church year and prepare for the upcoming holiday seasons. We continue to thank our outstanding Pastors for continuing to guide us through these most challenging of times. We are almost back to "normal" in all of our worship and fellowship activities. Following are the highlights of your MGB's 3rd quarter activities:

- In conjunction with the Facilities Committee, completed several roof repairs and launched a capital funding drive to replace / repair major sections of our existing roof.
- In conjunction with the Finance Committee, began the 2022 budgeting process.
- In conjunction with the Nominating Committee, finalized our ballot for MGB candidates (Paul Kableman and David Leark).
- Finalized the agenda and date for the October 24 congregational voters meeting.
- Finalized proposed resolutions to the St Paul Constitution and By-Laws (to be presented to the congregation at the October 24 annual meeting)
- In conjunction with the Human Resources Committee and Pastor Brand, accepted the resignation of Sally Gless as our part time Office Assistant.
- In conjunction with the Human Resources Committee, added vision and dental coverage to Pastor Brand and Susan's Blue Cross Health Insurance Plan, effective December 1.
- In conjunction with the Human Resources Committee, removed Pastor Miller and Kiristin from the church sponsored Blue Cross Health Insurance Plan, effective October 1 (as they are now covered by Kiristin's employer)
- Completed our MGB annual Self Review
- Hosted an "open" meeting to the congregation on September 13 (attended by Dave Leark and also field-ed questions submitted by others)

We thank you again for all for your prayers, your patience, your diligence and your financial support during the past 18 months. We ask for you continued prayers and ongoing support as we navigate together (with guidance from the Lord) through the balance of the year.

Please feel free to seek out any member of our governance board, should you have any questions or concerns.

Blessing to all and all glory be to God our Father and His Son, Our Savior.

Your Ministry Governance Board

Bill Born	Paula Kunst
Amber Seifert	Lynn Marutz
Tony Dykhouse	Mike Wilson
Jacob Ergang	

Train Up a Child.....with Creation Facts

Acts 17:11

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”

Many, if not most, of the leaders of the creationist movement today were once evolutionists. Most of them once believed that God created, but that He created through evolution. When they accepted evolution, they were considered objective by many. As soon as they rejected evolution, they were considered biased by those who still accepted evolution.

Those who were once convinced evolutionists point out that there are serious objections to evolution. For example, the fossil record paints no picture of the development of living things from simple to complex. If you are a theistic evolutionist you might not believe this, but check it out. Representatives of every major phylum of animal living today are found in the deepest layers of rocks containing multicelled fossils. They appear suddenly without any evolutionary ancestors.

Further, the fossil record offers not one undisputed connecting or “missing link” between the various kinds of creatures. Dr. Colin Patterson of the British Museum, who is not a creationist, admits in a well-publicized letter that there is not a single transitional form to link any kind of animal with another. Even the most famous so-called transitional forms have not stood the test of scientific scrutiny.

There is no single fact or group of facts that demand that the educated Christian abandon the Bible’s account of creation and history. There is no intellectual reason for Christians to adopt evolutionary beliefs!

Prayer: Dear Father, I thank You that Your revealed Word is trustworthy in everything that it talks about, including history. Help me to be more regular and systematic in my study of the Bible. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Author: Paul A. Bartz

REF: Sunderland, Luther D. 1988. *Darwin’s Enigma*. El Cajon, CA: Master Books. Image: Sign post.

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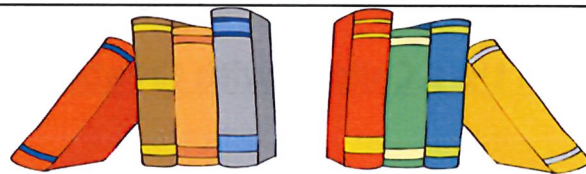
A Few Facts About Our Library:

A little under 3,000 titles shelved in the library

Thirteen categories/sections

Books, games, DVDs, assorted Bibles

Printed catalog binder available of titles listed alphabetically to help in searching



Easy checkout process: The honor system is used for checking items from the library. Just pull the checkout card from the pocket, sign and date it & place the card in the plastic receptacle by the door.

November 2021 Following is a list of recently added titles to the church library collection.

“Case for Christ,” by Lee Strobel [1998 – Nonfiction] – The author traces his own journey from atheism to faith.

“Crow’s Call” (Amish Greenhouse Mystery #1) by Wanda Brunstetter [2020 – Fiction]

“Mockingbird’s Song” (Amish Greenhouse Mystery #2) by Wanda Brunstetter [2020 – Fiction]

“Robin’s Greeting” (Amish Greenhouse Mystery #2) by Wanda Brunstetter [2020 – Fiction]

“This Beautiful Book,” by Steve Green [2019 – Nonfiction] - President of Hobby Lobby and founder of The Museum of the Bible, highlights life-changing themes woven through the mosaic of Bible’s various stories.

WARM UP AMERICA

The Warm-Up America mission is easy to be involved in. There are no meetings or dues! Everyone works at their own pace at home making any type of afghan pattern they choose and someone else will take care of delivery. Even if you only want to make squares, there are volunteers available to assemble them into afghans. If you would like to participate there is yarn available for working on this craft. Just contact Sandy VanderArk at 616-877-4488 for a supply of yarn. Can it be any better than this? Other ways to help is to provide skeins of yarn or purchase gift cards for local craft stores. If you have questions, please contact Karen Martin at 616-532-3316. I would be happy to talk with you about “Warm-Up America.”

The previous collection and delivery was made last May to Hope Network and Project Linus. For a review it is a mission here at St. Paul to provide knitted or crocheted afghans to various charities in West Michigan who will in turn give them to people in need of warmth or comfort. With the current Corona virus situation the American Red Cross will still not accept delivery. Time to gather the completed afghans is approaching. If you have been busy crafting afghans for this mission, bring them to the church coat room in labeled bags, “Afghans” between November 1st-November 15th. Our plan is to send some of the afghans to the seminary for their Christmas shopping and some to Hope Network.

God Bless You

It's Our Mission: PERIOD

At our September meeting Donna Terpstra (missionary-founder of It's Our Mission:Period) was able to join us. It's always a pleasure to have her come and give us updates on this project. She was able to show us a video and talk to us about the latest developments with this mission. Her latest God inspired story was how she has been approached by World Vision. Lots of thoughts and prayers are needed for her to get involved with this. Having her speak is always uplifting to us all. It always gives us reason to continue what we do. After she spoke to us we were able to get back to work and put together 100 more complete menstrual packages. They were then delivered to Good News Baptist Church for delivery to Bangladesh. That's a total of 220 packages for the year!

November 2, 2021 will be our last meeting for It's Our Mission:Period . We will meet again in April 2022. We have accomplished so much in the last 6 months. Thanks to all our faithful volunteers that can do it all. A special thanks goes to Carol Wilson who buys and cuts fabric at home. Her dedicated time to our project always keeps us ahead of the game. God has blessed this group with 15 to 20 volunteers. We're not always all together at one time but much is done each time we get together. We're always able to solve the world problems as we work too. The fellowship is always fun. This summer we had our youngest volunteer come to help. Sandy VanderArk brought her granddaughter Emma. She even brought her own sewing machine. We're always looking for new volunteers.

After the November 2 meeting we will have our closet in the Gathering Place set up for those who want to work at home. There will be tracing , cutting and sewing that can be worked on this winter if you would wish.

Thanks again to all that make this possible.

TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Questions call Mary Stehouwer 616-293-4461



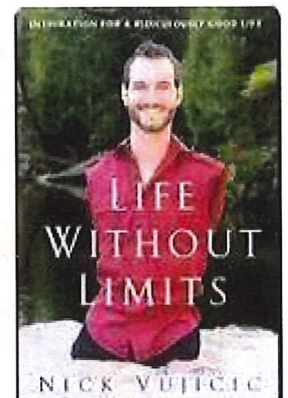
It's Our Mission:

PERIOD



**Women Enjoying
Literature and Laughter**

W.E.L.L. - Join us for the book discussion
of the bibliography
"Life Without Limits" written by Nick Vujicic.
All are Welcome - Sunday November 21
3:00pm—5:00pm @ Marlee Stouffer's home.
Questions? Call 616 250-1354





ALTAR GUILD

If you are looking for a way to quietly serve at church but have limited time, Altar Guild is for you! We are looking for two new members to serve in the month of October as we have had a few members retire after serving many years.

Responsibilities include setting up and cleaning up communion, filling candles, and general dusting and vacuuming of the Altar area. Time commitment would range 2-3 hours for the total month depending how you and your partner for the month wish to arrange your schedule. Please prayerfully consider serving! Please call Dianna Peck at 616-826-5732 to sign up or have questions answered.

November Wedding Anniversaries

Troy & Tammi Elenbaas 11-3

John & Lori VanderKolk 11-10

Martin & Terri Betz 11-28

Bill & Nancy Browne 11-28

Gary & Connie Lynn 11-30

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 7

Daylight-saving time ends

- Turn your clock back one hour tonight before going to bed.
- It's also time to change batteries in your smoke detectors.



Please join us
Thanksgiving Eve for
Worship and Communion on
Wednesday, November 24th at 7pm.
There will be an Ingathering of items
for our Hand2Hand pantry.





THIRD QUARTER GIVING RECORD STATEMENTS

Giving Statements were recently put
in your church mailboxes.

Please, take a minute
to review them.

If you have any questions,
please call Joyce Keating,
Financial Secretary,
at (616) 698-8395

THANK YOU!

*A BIG Thank You to **Tom Boot**
(assisted by Lee DeGood)
for crafting and
donating the cabinet in
the Narthex for the Bell
Control Equipment.*



YES, IT IS ALREADY TIME TO ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We are ordering our plants thru
the Caledonia Women's Club.

Profits will go to the Caledonia Girls' Scholarship Fund. There are 4 colors (red, white, marble & pink) and 2 sizes (6 1/2" pots are \$9 and 8" pots are \$17). Orders & Payments are due in the office by **Friday, Nov. 19th.**

Plants will be delivered to church on Thursday, December 2. Order Forms are inserted into Sunday morning worship bulletins and on the table by the office.

Please, make your check payable to "St Paul Lutheran Church" and mark "Poinsettia" on the memo line.



VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE 2021

On November 11th, 1918, at 11 o'clock in the morning, the end of the First World War took place: Germany surrendered to the Allied Forces. After 4 long years of bloodshed, the final Armistice was signed...church bells around the world were rung in celebration of the war's end. Since then, November 11th has been known as 'Armistice Day' or 'Remembrance Day' in Great Britain and its Commonwealth countries, and as 'Veterans Day' in the United States. After the Second World War, the nearest Sunday to this day became known as 'Remembrance Sunday', and at 11 a.m. on this day, two minutes of silence are held, to give thanks to God who brought us through the war and gave us the victory, and to remember those who laid down their lives.

Sunday, 10/14/21, we will continue this tradition and give thanks and remember from two perspectives 1) We honor and thank our military veterans and remember again those who gave their lives, 2) We give thanks to God who has revealed blessing and favor upon us through His Son Jesus, and we remember (empowered by the Holy Spirit, who gives us faith) that there is so much more that our God has in store for us in this life and in eternity to come.

We will honor our veterans with a special breakfast at 9:30am in the gymnasium (Volunteers are needed for set up on Saturday 11/9 at 9am, for cooking and serving on Sunday and for clean up; a sign-up sheet is on the table outside the church office), and a special observance will occur at the flagpole at 10:30am.



WML GIVING DAY November 30, 2021

West Michigan Lutheran High School Association

601 36th Street SW, Wyoming, MI 49509

616-455-2200 www.wmlhs.org



Thank you for joining us in a month of prayer, praise and giving thanks to God. He has blessed the West Michigan Lutheran High School ministry for 18 years as it equips students with a Christ-centered foundation for their lives, prepares them for witnessing the Gospel in all they say and do and empowers them for lives of servant leadership in the Church and community. We praise God that WML has once again received National Accreditation from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and continues as one of the highest ranked quality education private schools in the State of Michigan.

Thank you in advance for your generous and sacrificial gift on this "Giving Day - November 30, 2021". We appreciate that you have many choices of ministries to support with the treasures God has given to you. We treasure your gift. Your financial support of WML is part of a strategic plan to make viable and sustainable Lutheran secondary education in Western Michigan for generations to come. **We need your support to do so.** You can visit the website and securely give your one time gift or a recurring gift. Or you can fill out the form below and send it to the address above. Whether this is your first time giving or you have given faithfully in the past, we thank you for your generous and ongoing investment in the ministry that together we lift up to God in prayer with praise and thanksgiving.

Payment: \$ _____ Check enclosed I am considering a recurring gift (monthly, quarterly, yearly)

Credit Card: Visa MC Discover AMEX

Name on Card _____

Amount: \$ _____

Credit Card # _____

Security Code # _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____





E-mail _____

We are a 501(c)3 organization.

We verify as a requirement of the 1993 Revenue Reconciliation Act that
no goods or services of value were given to you for this contribution.

JUST OKAY IS NOT OKAY - WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

In addition to your financial support, please join us in prayer for the WML ministry beyond this month. Please also prayerfully consider the families with whom YOU can share the news about our school and encourage them to contact us for a recruitment visit in the near future. We want all of West Michigan to celebrate this ministry as THEIR Christ-centered education.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>West Michigan Lutheran November 2021 Calendar</h1> <h2>A month of prayer, praise and giving thanks!</h2>						
<p>1 <i>Let Us Give Thanks</i> </p> <p>1 All Saints' Day † Give thanks for all the saints who have gone before us along with all those who have faithfully supported WML</p>	<p>2 † Pray for the WML Principal and teacher, Kristine Angers who is now on maternity leave. Ask God to bless family</p>	<p>3 † Give thanks for Mr. Anderson (Principal) and Mr. Shafer (teacher) as they fill in for Mrs. Angers while on leave</p>	<p>4 † Ask God to bless the Middle School ministry that it would continue to grow and flourish as a bridge to the high school</p>	<p>5 † Lift up WML's newest teacher, Kalera Rahn who is in her first year of teaching. She teaches all math and MS history</p>	<p>6 † Pray for Melissa Eastland who teaches English 1 and AP US History along with helping out wherever possible</p>	<p>Join us this November praying for West Michigan Lutheran High School, its teachers, students, parents and the financial support of its ministry!</p>
<p>7 † On this Lord's Day, lift up to God, Steve Thompson who teaches religion, history, PE and Environmental Science</p>	<p>8 † Lift up the WML Board members from each Association church as they meet to further Christ-centered Ed.</p>	<p>9 † Pray for the upcoming boy's and girl's B-ball season and lift up the coaches and players as practice begins</p>	<p>10 <i>Luther's Birthday</i> † Ask God to bless our new secretary, Dawn Cook, as she serves and greets all those who call or visit WML</p>	<p>11 <i>Veterans Day</i> † Give thanks to God for all Veterans and their brave service and sacrifice to God and for our Nation</p>	<p>12 † On this late start Friday, pray for FIFA (Faith in Full Action) and Student Council as they pray and plan events</p>	<p>13 † Pray for Matthew Diener as he leads the FIFA group, Mustang Moves training group and serves as the Athletic Director</p>
<p>14 † Give thanks for the support of our four Association churches - Grace, St. Mark, Our Savior and Immanuel</p>	<p>15 † Give thanks for all the boosters and volunteers who work tirelessly to support the various ministries of WML</p>	<p>16 † Give thanks for Sarah Lawrence who teaches Biology, AP Bio, chemistry, MS Science and Study skills / health</p>	<p>17 † Lift up all our MS students, freshman, sophomore, junior and senior students as they grow in knowledge</p>	<p>18 † Give thanks for Sandra Hoffbeck who serves as the students' Guidance Director, Drama coach and so much more</p>	<p>19 † Pray for wisdom and guidance for the future of the Senior students who face testing and begin visiting universities</p>	<p>20 † Give thanks for Richard Wilson who serves as the custodian but is so much more to the staff, students and parents</p>
<p>21 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> † Give thanks for the Christ-centered education at our school and pray for God to lead more students to WML</p>	<p>22 † Pray for the Drama students and coaches as auditions are held today for the Spring Drama presentation</p>	<p>23 † Lift up Carrie Holstege as she teaches Band at the zero hour daily and directs wonderful concerts for us to enjoy</p>	<p>24 † Give thanks for all the parents who have entrusted their children to the quality education provided by WML</p>	<p>25 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> † Count your blessings, give thanks to God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and pray for contentment always</p>	<p>26 † Mucho Gracias for Roxanne Hoese who teaches Spanish 1 and 2 and equips our students with a foreign language</p>	<p>27 † Pray for Johan VanderTol as he teaches Art and brings out the talents and abilities of our students</p>
<p>28 <i>First Sunday in Advent</i> † Ask God for the faith to stand firm on the foundation of Jesus Christ and look forward to His return soon</p>	<p>29 † Pray for Obe VanderTol who teaches Choir and directs our students to use their voices to praise God</p>	<p>30 <i>WML Giving Day</i> † We are praying for YOU and asking the Holy Spirit to give you generous hearts to financially support WML</p>				<p>West Michigan Lutheran 601 36th Street SW Wyoming, MI 49509 616-455-2200 www.wmlhs.org Visit the website & give!</p>

November Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
October 31	1 Faith Aversano	2 Mike Miller	3	4	5 Caleb Abdelkaden	6 Darrel Mortensen Marlee Stouffer
7 Gabrielle Linton	8	9 Laura Boom Caleb Waldmiller	10	11	12 Matthew Linton Lynn Marutz	13 Betty Hall Jessica Maier Joshua Maier Julie Zacsek
14	15 Doug Wilson	16 Ray Troost	17	18 Louise Jahnke Ryan Miller	19	20 Sarah Ergang Bryan Jahnke
21	22 Ken Blakeslee	23 Gen Datema Maraline Meyerink	24	25 Donna Podbevsek	26 Lisa Holmes John Lark	27
28	29	30 Elijah Soto Thomas Tolan Addison Whisler	December 1	2	3	4



Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser November 21st after 2nd Service

Please sign up to bring a chili or a baked good item.

You will be voting with money, so bring some cash/checks to vote with. The Chili with the most money at the end gets their name on the trophy!

All funds are directed towards the summer trips for our Youth.

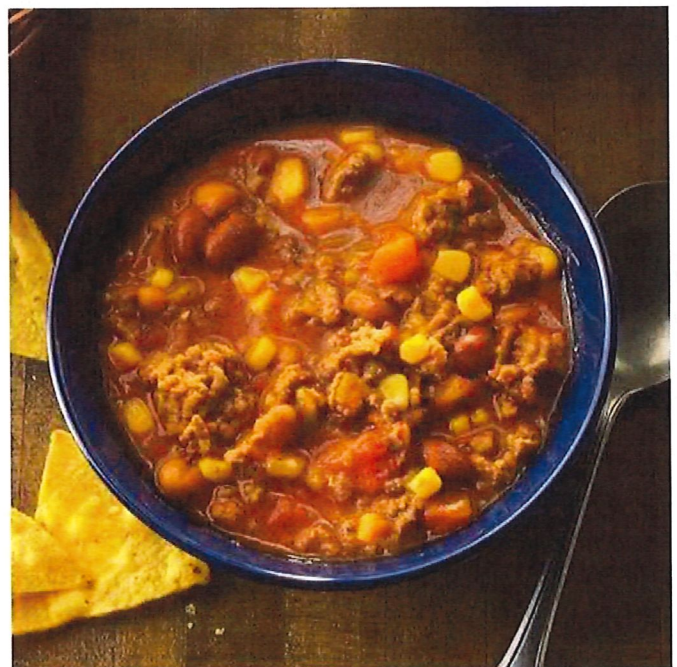
Questions, please contact Pastor David.

The Lions game will be on, come for fellowship and good Chili and baked goods!

Taste of Home Simple Taco Soup

Ingredients

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1 envelope taco seasoning
- 1-1/2 cups water
- 1 can (16 ounces) mild chili beans, undrained
- 1 can (15-1/4 ounces) whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 can (15 ounces) pinto beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) stewed tomatoes
- 1 can (10 ounces) diced tomato with green chiles
- 1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chiles, optional
- 1 envelope ranch salad dressing mix



 **TOTAL TIME:** Prep/Total Time: 25 min.

 **YIELD:** 8 servings (about 2 quarts).

Directions

1. In a Dutch oven, cook beef over medium heat until no longer pink, breaking it into crumbles; drain. Add taco seasoning and mix well. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 15 minutes or until heated through, stirring occasionally.

November Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>October 31</p> <p>8:30a Communion Service</p> <p>9:45a Sunday School</p> <p>10a Adult Bible Study</p> <p>11a Communion Service</p> <p>6p Youth Group</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7p Sisters In The Faith</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:30a It's Our Mission</p> <p>7p Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30p LWML</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9a Journey In The Word</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Set your clocks 1 hour back before going to bed—Daylight Savings ends.</p>
<p>7</p> <p>8:30a Communion Service</p> <p>9:45a Sunday School</p> <p>10a Adult Bible Study</p> <p>11a Communion Service</p> <p>6p Youth Group</p> <p>Daylight Savings Ends</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6p Hand Bells</p> <p>7p Sisters In The Faith</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7p Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9a Journey In The Word</p> <p>9:30a Men's Prayer Breakfast—Wayland Big Boy</p> <p>10a Ladies Aid & Potluck</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7p Euchre</p> 
<p>14</p> <p>8:30a Worship Service</p> <p>9:30a Veteran's Day Breakfast & Remembrance</p> <p>11a Worship Service</p> <p>12:30p Elders</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6p Handbells</p> <p>6:30p MGB</p> <p>7p Sisters In The Faith</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7p Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9a Journey In The Word</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>8:30a Communion Service</p> <p>9:45a Sunday School</p> <p>10a Adult Bible Study</p> <p>11a Communion Service</p> <p>12p Chili Cook Off</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6p Handbells</p> <p>7p Sisters In The Faith</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7p Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7p Thanksgiving Eve Communion Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>THANKSGIVING</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>26</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>10a Worship Service</p> <p>6p Youth Group</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6p Handbells</p> <p>7p Sisters In The Faith</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7p Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>December 1</p> <p>7p Advent Services</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9a Journey In The Word</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>