



Peace Lutheran Church

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November, 2016

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Happy Allsaintsthanksgiving Day!

November 2016

There are two main holidays in November. One – All Saints’ Day – is exclusively a sacred holiday. The other – Thanksgiving Day – is essentially a secular holiday. We celebrate them differently. We celebrate All Saints’ Day in front of our Lord’s altar in a church with fellow Christians. We celebrate Thanksgiving Day in front of our dining room tables and television sets in our homes with our family. These two holidays seem to share nothing in common except for the month in which we celebrate them. But I would say these two holidays are quite complimentary.

The chief reason for All Saints’ Day is thanksgiving. Our Lutheran Church has always approved of giving honor to saints – those who have died in the faith - provided it’s done in a Biblical and God-pleasing way. There are three ways to do this. Our Lutheran Confessions say, “The first is thanksgiving: we should thank God for showing examples of his mercy, revealing his will to save men, and giving gifts to the church. Since these [the saints] are his greatest gifts, we should extol them very highly.” (Ap XXI, 4) Secondly, the Confessions go on to say, we honor the saints by having our faith strengthened through their demonstration of faith. Thirdly, we honor the saints by imitating their faith and their virtues.

One reason for our national Thanksgiving Day (other than food and football) is to give thanks. That may involve simply a prayer before the meal in which we thank God for our feast on that day. Some might take more time and thank God for all the blessings which He gives us. But do we remember ALL the blessings God gives us or do we only think of physical blessings? What if we were to import All Saints’ Day into Thanksgiving Day? We could take time to thank God for making us all His holy people – His saints – through the work of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus took our sin and unholiness upon Himself that we might be declared holy and righteous before God. As St. Paul writes, “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21) Jesus earned forgiveness for all our sins by His death on the cross. Jesus won eternal life for us with all of God’s saints in heaven by rising from the dead Himself.

By Jesus’ work and God’s declaration which we receive by faith, each of us is holy and each of us a saint. We enjoy God’s favor now and we look forward to receiving our eternal inheritance later. This is something special for which we can thank God on a special day of thanksgiving...and every other day as well.

Psalm 100 says, “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.” Coming into God’s House on All Saints’ Day with thanksgiving for the saints. Remembering God’s faithfulness to His saints and the gift of sainthood by grace through faith on Thanksgiving Day. These two holidays fit together perfectly. Happy Allsaintsthanksgiving Day!

In Christ,

Pastor Schlund

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Val Martin and everyone who helped in the kitchen during the Reformation meal.
Helen Lewis and Linda Aguiar for putting up the LWML display in the hallway.
All those who volunteer to teach Sunday school, Bible class, and midweek classes on Sundays and Wednesdays.
Val Martin and Gloria Creek for playing the organ during our worship services.
Everyone who came and cleaned the Lord's house on cleaning day.
Idell Croskrey for changing the banners and paraments.
Angelika Fisher and Jennifer Lewis for cleaning the church.
Everyone on the Prayer Chain for their time and prayers.
Everyone who has donated treats for our fellowship time.
Everyone who cleans the kitchen after Bible study on Sundays and Wednesdays.
All of the men who volunteer to usher.
Everyone who counts the offering.
Cheri Magnuson for cleaning the Communion linens.
This list is not inclusive. Please accept our apologies if we have missed giving you credit for serving the Lord in any fashion. We know that the Lord knows your service to Him.

Ladies Bible Study Schedule

November, a time of transition... Yard work and gardening have been put to bed, as the calendar slides into the holiday season. Perhaps there is a little more time for yourself. Consider attending a session or two with the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS, as they focus study on the BOOK of MATTHEW. Ladies will meet on November 4th and 18th from 1-3pm at the home of Ann Nimmick, 2327 15th Ave So. Know that you are always welcome!

Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion will meet at the following locations. At 11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 8th (yes, Election Day) ladies and gentlemen will gather at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. On Friday, November 11th (yes, Veteran's Day) at 11:45 a.m. the group will meet at Maple Garden, 5401 9th Ave So. for a no host lunch. After lunch many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Join these residents in praising God with the Thanksgiving hymns of faith!

Thanksgiving Day Worship Service at Peace

We will once again have a **Thanksgiving Day Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.** on November 24. It is the Order of Matins without Communion. During the service there will be a non-perishable food offering that will be taken to the Great Falls Rescue Mission. Following the service, we will also have a meal for families of Peace who want to come and join us. There is a sign-up sheet posted and a tentative menu. Please sign your name and the number of people in your family and indicate what you will be bringing to add to the meal. We all have sooo much for which to give thanks!

LWML

- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 15 after the tour of the Grace Home. You may meet us there at 2211 5th Avenue North, or meet at the church at 6:45 p.m. and we can carpool.** All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us! Remember your Mite Boxes!
- ♥ **From November 1 through December 15, we will be collecting items for the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Native Americans where Rev. Dan Jacobs and Rev. Dennis Bauer serve.** They are in need of **winter hats, gloves, mittens and warm socks, all sizes and for all ages.** Please purchase these items and bring them to the church anytime during this time and we will get them sent to the reservations before Christmas.
- ♥ **We have decided to NOT have the Gift of Love Tree this year.**
- ♥ Remember that the ladies of LWML will be sponsoring the first Advent Soup Supper on **November 30.** If you would like to help in anyway, please contact LWML President Val Martin.
- ♥ **Remember to bring your new soap for Soap Sunday on the second Sunday of each month.** Soap collected will go to Lutheran World Relief. Thanks for your continued support.



November Anniversaries

Nov. 1 Vic and Carol Scheuffele
 Nov. 6 Michael and Crystal Lewis
 Nov. 17 Charlie and Angelika Fisher

Baptismal Anniversaries

November 4 Val Martin
 9 Brenna Hasbrouck
 9 Andrew Schlund
 11 Pastor Steve Schlund
 11 Michael Lewis
 13 Dan Grove
 15 Kaylee Lewis
 21 Al Beute
 22 Katherine Onstad
 22 August Birkholz
 22 Josie Ryster
 24 Betsy Wirth
 26 Alan Brown



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

Tami Birkholz, Karen's sister-in-law who is battling a rare skin tissue disorder
Leonard Gidlow
Jane Hering
Connie Juden
Rev. Erich Kaelberer
Bill and Dorothy Neuman
David Norman

One member who is away serving in the military is **Michael Lewis**.

Deacon for November: Arnie Gidlow

November ushers:

6 – Kevin Aguiar and Matt Schlund
 13 – Arnie Wirth and Tyler Denning
 20 – Darrell Greenwood and Ed Ostlund
 27 – Lyle Onstad and Mitch Martin

Finances

JANUARY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2016		
CHURCH INCOME	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$ 97,271.55	\$105,239.97
Other Income	\$ 4,497.53	\$ 135.00
Interest Income	\$ 430.59	
Total Income	\$ 102,199.67	\$105,374.97
Church Expenses		
Personnel/Benefits	\$ 61,824.98	\$ 62,051.13
Administrative	\$ 5,707.04	\$ 6,277.50
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 15,433.96	\$ 18,600.12
Missions	\$ 11,500.47	\$ 8,624.97
Christian Education	\$ 3,393.92	\$ 3,750.03
Total Expenses	\$ 97,860.37	\$99,303.75
Net Church Income	\$ 4,339.30	\$ 6,071.22

Youth Events

On Sunday, November 15th the youth will be making their annual Christmas ornaments here at the church. December 5 will be the day we decorate the church for the Advent season.

Voters Meeting Set

The next Voters meeting for members of Peace will be **Sunday, November 20**. There will be a potluck meal before the meeting. The meeting should begin around 12:30 p.m. We will be voting on the 2017 budget and talking about other important issues. Copies of the budget can be picked up from the usher's stand for your review.

Advent Services Begin

Advent begins on Wednesday, November 30. We will begin having soup suppers at 6:00 p.m. followed by Advent Worship Service at 7:00 p.m. The first soup supper will be sponsored by LWML. The services will be interpreted for the deaf.

Applying Bible Principles

Describing the Macedonian Christians, Paul wrote, “Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability” (2 Cor. 8:2-3).

What does it mean to give beyond our ability? In some ways, it means to discard our treasured calculators and push our giving to the point where the numbers don’t add up. It means to give when the proverbial bottom line indicates we shouldn’t give. It might also mean to give away not just the luxuries, but also some of life’s necessities.

Let’s face it — most Christians (including most of us) do not give beyond our ability. Most of us do not give out of proportion to our income. In effect, we claim 1 Corinthians 16:2 as our life’s verse concerning giving, where we are admonished to give as God has prospered us or in direct proportion to our income. Make no mistake about it — that’s a good pattern for giving, a pattern that every child of God should be following. But sometimes, God calls us to give out of proportion to our income. He calls us to give sacrificially in order that His kingdom might advance and prosper.

Such giving is unguarded, spontaneous, and uncalculated. This type of giving refuses to count the cost of giving, but instead, counts only the joy of fully obeying how God has directed in our lives. Such giving is frequently lavish and represents an act of love and discipleship. Such giving is exemplified by the widow who gave all that she had (Mark 12) and by the Macedonian Christians.

David Livingston, pioneer missionary to Africa almost two centuries ago, was described as having “sacrificed” his life in service for Christ on that continent. His response is highly relevant to our living and our giving:

Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paid back as a small part of the great debt owing to our God which we can never repay? Is that a sacrifice which brings its own reward of healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter? It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say rather it is a privilege . . . when we remember the great sacrifice which He made who left His Father’s throne on high to give Himself for us.

As you consider your giving, are you giving less than your ability, according to your ability, or beyond your ability?

Nursing Home Ministry needs your help!



A ministry providing devotions and hymn singing has been provided weekly over a number of years for residents both at Benefis Extended Care Center and Park Place Nursing Home. Currently, there is a need for volunteers to help with this service. The weekly schedule is as follows:

Benefis Skilled Nursing Center –

Tuesday 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Park Place Nursing Home –

Thursday 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.

If you would like to help in this ministry of love, please contact Alice Schuman at 761-6657.