



Shared Life Newsletter

Caring, Witnessing, Serving
Nativity Lutheran Church

November 2021

Later this month, families will gather together for a thanksgiving meal in gratitude for all God's blessings. The practice of giving thanks to God while sharing a meal has its origins in the Jewish Passover meal, which many scholars believe Jesus was celebrating on the evening before his crucifixion. The celebration of this sacrament clearly includes thanksgiving to God for the salvation offered to us through his Son, Jesus.

For people of the Jewish faith, the Feast of Passover celebrates the Exodus event in which the Israelites were released from their slavery to the Egyptians. This dinner also serves as a thanksgiving to God. The Old Testament provides us with many other examples of people giving thanks to God in response to God's generosity. Although there is no specific word for "thanksgiving" in Hebrew, there are examples in the Old Testament, where the Israelites praise and glorify God for God's goodness, this is especially found in the psalms. Thankfulness is found throughout the New Testament. The concept of thankfulness in the New Testament comes from the use of two Greek words. The first is *charizomai*, which comes from *charis*, "grace." The second is *homologeō*, "to confess, acknowledge."

So what is thankfulness? Thankfulness is an expression of our acknowledgement and appreciation of God's grace, blessings, and work in our life and the world. In our prayers, we give thanks in everything and for everything. Giving praise and thanks to God for God's many blessings is a natural part of our faith. We praise and honor God not because God needs our praise and honor, but because thanking God brings us into a deeper union with God, and reminds us of our humanity. In her book 'Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers', author Anne Lamott says - "Gratitude begins in our hearts and then dovetails into behavior. It almost always makes you willing to be of service, which is where the joy resides. When you are aware of all that has been given to you, in your lifetime and the past few days, it is hard not to be humbled, and pleased to give back."

Thanksgiving to God is not so much an action as it is an attitude; it is awareness that all of life is a gift from God. Soon, we will once again gather around tables of food with our family and friends. Some of us may use that time to express gratitude to God and our loved ones for our many blessings. Yet, it is important to remember that every day of our lives is a gift from God, worthy of thanks. May we use each day gifted to us to thank God with grateful hearts and reflect God's love to the entire world.

For those looking for a prayer to use, or a guide for your own, here is a prayer as you gather with loved ones...
Gracious God, we give thanks for gathering us here together. We give thanks for this food prepared by loving hands. We pray for those who go without food, family, or friendship this day. We give thanks for life, our freedom to enjoy it, and for all other blessings. Nourish this food to our bodies; give us good health and strength to love, live, and serve as you would have us. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our savior and Lord. Amen.

Thanksgiving Blessings,
Pastor Jennifer Soltis

Of News and Note

The Worship and Music Committee are discussing the possibility of having grape juice available in addition to wine for communion.
Let Pastor Jen know if you would like a grape juice option available.

Recent Worship Participation

	<u>In-person</u>
Oct 3	50
Oct 10	42
Oct 17	40
Oct 24	38



**Don't forget to set your clocks
BACK one hour on Saturday
November 6, or you'll be late for
church Sunday!**

WELCA

WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS

All women of Nativity and their friends are welcome to join our weekly meetings which will be held in person or via Zoom by request.

Our schedule for November is as follows (all events begin at 10:00 a.m.):

Tues., Nov. 2 - Project Day – Quilting

Tues., Nov. 9 - Business Meeting

Tues., Nov. 16 - Bible Study – The Gift of the Spirit: Session

Three: “Wind of God, Refining and Rerouting”

Tues., Nov. 23 - Book Review: All Creatures Great and Small

By James Herriot

Tues., Nov. 30 - Project Day

The SWPA Synodical Women's Organization will hold a virtual cluster meeting on Saturday, November 13 at 10:00 a.m. The theme will be “Hope for a New Day” and there will be a program on Thankofferings.

If you wish to attend via Zoom (all events except the project day), you can do so by contacting the church office or Ruth Kiefer for the Zoom ID and pass code, prior to the day of the event.

Thank You's

Hi Nativity,

Tom and I want to thank you for all the cards, phone calls, food, thoughts and prayers you have sent our way in the last few months. It was all appreciated more than you could ever know. We are continuing to regain health and enjoying the Florida weather and being with our family. We do miss everyone at Nativity, think of you often and attend the live-stream services as we can. Nativity and Pr. Jennifer continue to be in our prayers. We send "the peace of the Lord" to all.

Betty Weller



My sister and I wanted to thank you all at Nativity Lutheran Church for the beautiful funeral for our mother Jean Carter and the luncheon that followed. The service was lovely - our family in Chicago, South Carolina, and Philadelphia were grateful for the simulcast. The eulogy was perfect. It was a real tribute to her life and her devotion to her church. Nativity meant so much to my parents and I understand why. You were all family to them, and we are so grateful to you for being there for them for so many years.

Our serenity blankets will be a reminder to us of our mother and your caring hearts. Thank you.

Beth Johnson

Dear Church family,

We can't thank you enough for the outpouring of love and support these past weeks. Our grief has been unbearable, and we thank God you have all been there supporting us. Cards, hugs, prayers, phone calls, texts, meals, dusting, doing dishes, providing dinner at the funeral home, making pans of Jimmy's favorite, Very Berry Delight for the funeral luncheon, flowers and helping with the church service. I've always felt it took a village to raise a child. It has taken our "church village" to help us through this process. From the bottom of our hearts, we love and thank you all.

In Christ's love,
Dan, Jean Chantz and Family

Words can't express the gratitude in my heart after the celebration of my installation as your pastor on October 17. It was a wonderful service making our partnership in ministry official. It was lovely to hear and sing with the choir. The delicious food and fellowship afterwards was so lovely. Thank you to all those served in worship, for those who organized the beautiful reception, and for those who made and served the food. I'm grateful for my family and friends who traveled from near and far to celebrate with us and for Pastor Amanda's words for each of us as we embark on this journey together. Thank you to all who were present, in person and online, and for all your support, thoughts, and prayers. I give thanks to God for this wonderful calling to serve as pastor, for each one of you, and for the opportunity for us to serve alongside one another. May we go with God's love and guidance.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Jennifer Soltis

NOVEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

November Birthdays

Gianna Sander	1
Ivy Kara	2
Quentin Romero Lauro	4
Ruth Kiefer	6
Jane Dollhopf	7
Doug Messner	7
Jesse Coon	8
Braden Hoburg	12
Meiling Glock	14
Joe Coon	17
Lisa Chapman	18
Katherine Stoeher	22
Holly Werner	22
Ruth Sakala	27
Susan Specht	30

November Anniversaries

Tom & Gayle Henne	9
John & Diana Mitchell	13
Ed & Carol Banks	23

NOVEMBER

Baptisms

November Baptismal Anniversaries

Kathryn Bishoff	11/1/05
Denis A. Britenbaugh	11/10/46
Jeremy A. Britenbaugh	11/21/82
Jonathan D. Chantz	11/5/95
Chese S. Davis	11/15/87
Kai Edmonds	11/27/16
Ruth A. Kiefer	11/27/49
Kimberly Y. Price	11/ /70
Wade E. Sander	11/21/76
Rachel E. Schmitz	11/18/90
Allison M. Stover	11/28/04
David P. Rembe	11/25/65
Kelly A. Rembe	11/18/73
Grace Wolf	11/27/05



Prayer List

On-Going Prayer List:

Mary Pataky
 Ken & Jean Johnson
 Pat Brick
 Lorraine Howell
 Joe Lambert
 Eric Holsinger
 Rachael Faulkner
 Carol Gustafson
 Allen Kirkland

Service Personnel:

Sarah Foster



Kantor's Korner

Jerusalem My Happy Home

The first Sunday in November "All Saints Sunday" pokes its head around the corner, like an old friend. November 7th seems to sit well for this year. [Remember to change your clocks since daylight savings time comes to an end]. So many gray skies in November than usual. The month brings the starkness of dark brown trees or the disbelief in seeing how dark it gets around 5:30. This Fall has been disappointing. No frosts and without frosts, no brilliant colored leaves. But this November still has a gentleness to it. Have you ever listened to a shower of falling leaves as they cascade from treetops to the ever-so-dry ground? I was in my backyard the other day. Things were just so silent, nothing but the sound of gentleness with the falling leaves. It was a very sacred moment if you will. November seems to fit moments of contemplation.

November is a melancholy month. I find myself inescapably sitting down at the piano, and playing Brahms *Intermezzi*. The music of Brahms has a certain degree of melancholia attached to it. Certainly, I never play Brahms better than in November.

The Church does something each November. It is always "All Saints Sunday" which invites us to reflect upon the saints and those who have gone before us. We are the ones who need to remember them. There is something inside of us that wants to remember, something inside of us that does not want to let go.

The Church Year has a major shift on the first Sunday in November. We move from reflecting upon Stories of Jesus and his ministry and our thoughts inescapably turn towards heaven. It's one of the few times that we stop and pause to think about this ultimate destination. We remember those who have been faithful unto death since last All Saints Sunday. My favorite hymn which speaks of this ultimate destination is "Jerusalem, My Happy Home" ELW 628. I have been known to pull out a harmonica in an attempt to accompany the choir. The tune, *Land of Rest*, is very native to Southern Folk Hymnody, although its author, Annabel Morris Buchanan, says that she first heard it at her mother's knee. The tune shows up in many folk hymn collections from Tennessee to Texas. Much has been written about the similarity of the musical intervals to the Spiritual "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."

The lilt of the tune, the power of imagery within the words, tell us that time is short and once again we run this race which is set before us, so that we can receive the "Crown of Glory," from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Cyril Hurnyak
Kantor



Social Outreach

Glade Run Angel Program

Once again, Nativity will participate in the Christmas Angel Program. Gift tags will be available within the next few weeks and will provide Christmas presents for children who will be thrilled. Thank you for serving God's children with your generous participation. If you have questions, please reach out to Char Ott.



Friendsgiving

Mark your calendars, Saturday November 13 at 5:00pm will be our 2nd annual Friendsgiving dinner with all the fixin's!

Nativity will provide the food, you provide the fellowship! Don't forget to BRING A FRIEND for dinner Saturday and then Church on Sunday!

So we have an idea how many to plan for, please use the signup sheet on the bulletin board across from the kitchen or on our website.



Council Notes

Here are some of the highlights from the October Congregation Council meeting. As usual, the official minutes will be approved at next month's meeting and posted on the bulletin board outside the nursery as well as our website.

1. Ilo Romero Lauro was able to identify and fix the issue with sanctuary speakers (a capacitor needed replaced). Additionally, the remote speakers in the fellowship room, kitchen and nursery have been fixed. There is still a noticeable hum caused by the audio wire and the power cords crossing each other behind the audio cabinet in the sanctuary.
2. The congregational mailbox numbers will be updated and an updated membership list will be compiled this year.
3. All college students have a Nativity member to support them with monthly notes and small gifts. They will also receive an exam survival kit to help them cope with finals.
4. In sympathy, Serenity blankets were given to the Carter, Johnson and Chantz families.
5. Welcome packets were updated with the current Shared Life Newsletter and given to our visitors.
6. Someone has expressed interest in the Administrative Assistant Position, and an interview has been held. The vote goes to council at the November meeting.
7. Quotes for the two sanctuary air conditioners have been requested from a third vendor.
8. The wall behind the church where the Girl Scout's shed was located, has been painted.
9. Choir rehearsals and anthems will remain on hiatus for the time being. Worship and Music will evaluate this status monthly. There are plans to have some solos during this period.
10. With Betty Weller moving to Florida, Ken Saunders has agreed to take over the scheduling of worship assistants.
11. Worship and Music also discussed the possibility of having grape juice available in addition to wine for communion. Let Pastor Jen know if you would like a grape juice option available.

The next council meeting will be November 9 at 7:00 p.m.
All members are invited to attend

November Calendar of Events

November 1 – All Saints Day (celebrated on Sunday Nov 7)

November 6 – Turn Clocks Back (Daylight savings time ends)

November 11 – Veterans Day

November 21 – Christ the King Sunday

November 25 – Thanksgiving

November 28 – 1st Sunday in Advent

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from a psalm of thanksgiving: "Bless the LORD, my _____, and forget not all his benefits"

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| A. people | B. soul |
| C. heart | D. children |



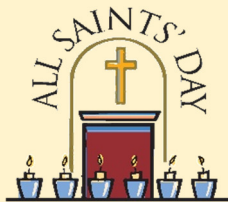
Answer: B (See Psalm 103:2, ESV.)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

November 7 - 10:15 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Sunday School)

Scriptures: All Saints Sunday (white)

- First Reading: 1 Kings 17:8-16
- Psalm 146
- Second Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28
- Gospel: Mark 12:38-44



Assistant: Ken Saunders

November 14 - 10:15 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Sunday School)

Scriptures: 25th Sunday after Pentecost (green)

- First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3
- Psalm 16
- Second Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25
- Gospel: Mark 13:1-8

Assistant: Tom Beecher

November 21 - 10:15 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Sunday School)

Scriptures: Christ the King (white)

- First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
- Psalm 93
- Second Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8
- Gospel: John 18:33-37



Assistant: Cheryl Kilbert

November 28 - 10:15 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Sunday School)

Scriptures: 1st Sunday in Advent (blue)

- First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16
- Psalm 25:1-10
- Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
- Gospel: Luke 21:25-36



Assistant: Alisa Michael

Offering Tellers for November: Don Schmitz & Bonnie Varley

Altar Guild: Kim Brandt

