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NOVEMBER, 2021

GIVING THANKS DURING PANDEMIC

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever. 'See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.' (Revelation 22:1-5, 12-13)

In our part of the Northern Hemisphere November is a time of "ends." The summer is well past; a season of green has given way to pale hues of bare survival and the time for growing is at an end. It is at this time that we begin to take account of the year's produce. The pandemic has greatly complicated this process. By so many measures how we typically assess our "life's harvest" for the year is just too complex to measure.

Possibly it is precisely because of the complications created by Covid that this November is a good time to consider how God has been with and blessed us and our communities even in the midst of a global pandemic.

The holiday of Thanksgiving itself is the summation of a month dedicated to the evaluation of blessings and gratitude for the good gifts of God. November is also a month of taking account in the church. I don't mean simply budget preparation and year end reports. The liturgy at worship in November leads us through a process of assessing the harvest, not of our gardens, but of our lives. This year, how we measure the productivity of our church is necessarily different from how we did it "pre-pandemic." But it is vitally important that we take stock of how God has supported and strengthened us for ministry even under restricted circumstances.

November begins with the festival of *All Saints*. Immediately, we remember those who have left the fields of this world and been gathered into the Lord's garner this past year. And we will have to acknowledge on All Saints Sunday that we have commended many people to God's eternal kingdom this year and last without the kind of community memorialization we would normally have gathered to do.

It has been a tough year. But part of the importance of All Saints Sunday is the acknowledgement that death is a reality we live with but is not the *end* of God's intention for us in Jesus Christ. Such a beginning allows for no misunderstanding, November is about the harvest of our Lord. Framing out November's first and last weeks are biblical texts from the Revelation to John. Here is described the coming judgment at the *end* of time, the day of reckoning when God will take account of God's harvest.

We Lutherans rightly emphasize the grace of God, yet November challenges us to remember that there is an *end* in sight.

In the New Testament the word *end* appears frequently such as "the *end* is near." We generally interpret this use of the word *end* as cessation. But in Greek the word (*telos*) also means purpose, intent or goal, such as in the expression, "the *ends* justifies the means." When Jesus speaks of the *end* of the world or the age his meaning has more to do with the world realizing its fulfilled purpose as God created it as opposed to the world ceasing to be. When the book of Revelation refers to ends it clearly means purpose.

November impels us to consider endings, year ends, harvest ends, fiscal ends. Liturgically we also explore ends in biblical texts that look to the

ends as the decisive moment where God’s purposes for the world come to fruition. Our task is to assess whether our ends and God’s ends align, individually and communally.

This November is an important opportunity to take account of the harvest (ends) of your life in all its pandemic complexity. For as complicated as our lives have become God still has an end in mind for us, that we live in love with God and one another and that we nurture a harvest of goodness, kindness, generosity and good will in our lives.



This November, in this season of thanksgiving, in this complicated time, may we find our purpose in God’s purpose, our ends in God’s ends.

Lord of Harvest, grant that we, wholesome grain and pure may be.
--Pastor Frey

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS.....

Funerals: Sept. 25—Sharon Gokey
Oct. 9 – Eleanor Diane Dougherty

--YTD Giving thru September 2021--				
	<u>Jan.-Sept. 2020</u>	<u>Jan-Sept. 2021</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 265,969	\$ 260,086	-5,882	-2.21
Vision 2020 Contr.	45,273	40,074	-5,198	-11.48
Total Giving	\$ 311,242	\$ 300,160	-11,082	-3.56

Contribution to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of **Diane Dougherty** given by Len & Gerry Trauger.

THOUGHTS.....by Joy Gerhart

Whenever I can’t think of a meaningful topic for the newsletter, I resort to sharing what we’ve been talking about in confirmation class. This year I combined two chapters of our curriculum, inspired by the gospel for the day which talked about stuff. Jesus had a much deeper message than just “stuff,” but “stuff” seems to be a topic universal to youth and adults. Our student book asked what three things would we grab if our house was on fire. I asked the kids what was important to them. One said their phone and one said family and phone (they also said family and friends). What would you answer? Those of you who know me well would probably know I would feel the greatest loss of pictures I have taken through the years. I just scanned and sent over 60 old pictures to a friend from school who had lost some.

Actually, one of the chapters we covered was on a thing called “Adiaphora.” Adi WHAT???? Don’t worry if you’ve never heard of it. It comes from a Greek word that means “indifferent things” or things that don’t really matter. (Why they want us to devote a WHOLE class to this topic is beyond me!) I usually skip this, but decided to touch on it this year because it had to do with stuff—probably as a transition between what Reformers felt was important to change and what wasn’t all that important. The book asked what makes church seem like church to you? (Right now BEING IN CHURCH makes it feel like church.) They quote 1 Corinthians 10:23 “All things are lawful, but not all things are beneficial...not all things build up.” The book also used the metaphor of a spider weaving a web on a sturdy tree branch, explaining: “The church God is weaving together is built on a few essentials, leaving room to create strong, beautiful communities of faith.” The book asked, “What are some foundational strands in the church?” and listed these to choose from: the Sacraments, Name tags, Sermons, Passing of the Peace (remember that?), Jesus, Coffee hour, Sunday school, Hymnals, with room to write in more. Which are foundational for you?

Then the next chapter started with the focus statement: “How is anyone supposed to be a good Christian when there’s all this stuff to know and remember? If only there were a simpler way to learn the basics.” Well, there IS!!! And of course, you’ve guessed, this was an introduction to the contents of the Small Catechism. The “stuff” discussed in the Small Catechism is what Luther considered the basics of the Christian faith—

The Ten Commandments, The Creed, The Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. This is good stuff, important stuff. I explained that this is stuff that some people had to memorize and recite in front of the council or congregation in ages past to be confirmed. (They were relieved that we don't do this anymore.) How much do you remember of the catechism? Did you know that Luther created this catechism for families to use to teach their children? Did you know that while Luther was writing this, his young son Hans was running around the house uttering "Was is das?" ("what is this?") This is exactly the wording Luther put into the Small Catechism. Did you know that, like an apple a day, the catechism was intended for regular, daily use and includes morning and evening prayers, simple explanations of the commandments and Apostles' Creed, and some background on the two sacraments?

There's a lot of stuff in our lives, and a lot of stuff in our brains. Some of us struggle to remember names and are working on "downsizing" which I guess might be a nice word for throwing away "crap" (Clutter that Robs An one of Pleasure—according to Vali Heist) that we've accumulated. Unlike the stuff we need to get rid of, our faith nourishes us and helps us articulate what we believe. Our faith helps us live our lives in accord with God. Our faith helps us live our lives WITH God now. So there's stuff and then there's stuff. Spend time with and hang on to the right stuff!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS.....

Sunday School is in Full Swing

Please bring your children on Sunday mornings for our Sunday school classes at 9:15 am. We have a full staff of teachers eager to share Bible stories and activities. The Bible lessons coordinate with the Bible passages being read in church each Sunday so the children can make connections with church. We do ask for masks to be worn by teachers and children at this time. Please let Joy Gerhart know if you are interested in substituting or assisting in a class since we do have need to occasionally supplement leaders in the classes because of their busy schedules.



First Communion Class on November 20

We are preparing to hold a First Communion class for all children in 4th grade and up who are interested in receiving their First Communion. Things may not feel quite the same as they used to—especially the way we have been "serving" communion, but our Lord still comes to us in Holy Communion. Pastor Frey and Joy Gerhart will be leading a workshop on the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Saturday, November 20, and Holy Communion will be offered on November 21. The workshop will begin at 9:00 am and continue until 11:30 am. Please call Joy at the church office if you would like to sign your child up to attend the workshop.



YOUTH OPPORTUNITY.....

ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN—July 24-28

The Youth Gathering postponed from 2021 to 2022 has now opened early bird registration. We have three youth interested in attending and welcome more. The theme is "boundless" and is based on the passage from Ephesians 3:19 "I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is." (CEV translation). July 24-28 are the dates for the actual gathering. Then we add on time to travel to and from the event. All youth currently in 8th grade and above are eligible to attend. The gathering includes amazing experiences with speakers, music, service to the community, interactive learning, time with others from our synod, meeting youth from all over the country, and much, much more. Please let Joy Gerhart know if you are interested. We need to start preparing and fund raising.



ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY – NOV. 7.....



On this day we will be remembering those who have been laid to rest by this congregation during the past year:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Wilson Yerger* | Alma Shirey |
| Nancy (Pat) Jackle* | Lucas Pusch* |
| Patsy Smale | Arthur Yerger |
| Bernice Hampton* | Sharon Gokey* |
| John Buck | Eleanor Diane Dougherty* |
| Lynwood Weil | Carl Pratt |
| Robert Wendel | Janice Jancovic |
| Helen Schaeffer* | *Denotes non-member |

We invite you to give us the names of friends and family members who have died (since November 1, 2020) who you would like remembered with a lit votive candle in front of the church. These people do not have to have been members of St. Paul's. We will place a candle in their memory and have a tribute to them during the service. Please call the church office (610) 385-6616 to add the name.

Note to families of church members who have passed away during the past year: Please supply a photo of your loved one.

PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING THIS MONTH.....



If you see your name here it is not because we think you have a specific need for prayer, but to let you know you are in our prayers whatever your need may be. Please include in your prayers this month: Timothy Simmons, Bonnie Simmons, Brett Simmons, Ryan Siwinski, Deborah Smith, Henry Smith, Mark Smith, Jessica Smith Ryan Sonon, Sean Sonon, Aidan Sonon. If you have anyone to add to the prayer list, call the church office. Please pray for those with special concerns: Christina, Dave DiMarino, Eve, Angel & Israel Gamble, Glenn, Mary Graefe, Joanne Guss, Sara Hartline, Arlene Hildebeitel, Kasper, Ramona Kennedy, Sandy Klinger, Kim Koury, Ruth Krouse, Troy Lambeth, Irene Lecki, Priscilla Leh, Bill Lerch, Lisa Lerch, Cheryl Lucia, Wendy Magargal, Michelle Moriaty, Craig Nichols, Gloria Rhoads, Elizabeth Roy, Gene Schaeffer, Nick Scullilli, Anne Weiser, family & friends of Diane Dougherty, Pastor Dewalt, and all others listed below or those we name in our hearts: Makayla Becker, Avery Boorse, Michael Burd, Jake Campbell, Darrell, Barbara DePrefontaine, Ethan, Ron Glaser, Jevin Heller, Connie Hunter, Terry Johnson, Joanne Marnell, Ron Mutter, Richard Randolph, Henry Rhoads, Lauren Ridge, Audrey Serrian, John Shaner, Vernet Spence-Brown, Jason Stalneckner, Craig Williams, Jane Williams; Sandi Zelinski, homebound -- Charles Brown, Fern Brown, Peggy Burns, Jennie Clouser, Carol DeLong, Betty High, Arlene Hildebeitel, Ellen Sheeler, Dale Szajek.

FEED THE NEED—A FOOD PACKAGING PROJECT AT CHRIST MERTZ CHURCH



On Saturday, November 13, starting at 9:30 am, volunteers will be gathering at Christ Mertz Evangelical Lutheran Church to help package 20,000 meals to be distributed to local and regional food banks and even possibly to Haiti to assist in their ongoing earth quake recovery. Anyone over age 10 may participate, and they anticipate that the whole project will take a couple hours to finish. Please let Joy Gerhart know if you are interested in participating. We can try to arrange carpooling or at least inform Christ Mertz how many are coming.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE—NOVEMBER 21.....

There will be a community service of Thanksgiving on November 21st at 6:00 PM at St Gabriel's Episcopal Church. Participants from St Gabe's and St Paul's Lutheran and UCC will be a part of this service meant as an opportunity to give thanks for God's blessings for our selves and for our community.



BAZAAR PIE ALERT!



At this critical pandemic time bazaar pie baking and planning in 2021 are rapidly approaching. What is new and different? In order to be efficient in our baking of perishable items, we need to have NUMBERS to determine which items on our SURVEY order slips we'll bake or not bake! The survey order slips will be in the narthex this weekend and are intended for ALL MEMBERS of the church. Please take extra order slips for friends, neighbors, and those unable to attend in person. Response deadline is OCTOBER 31!

Replies can also be made by calling Anna Brown (610-582-4598), Tom Longstaff (484-941-3814) or Susanne Leier at church (610-385-6616). A QUICK RESPONSE will be greatly appreciated enabling us to move forward!

Thank you. The Kitchen Committee

Member Survey for Bazaar Baking	
Name	
Phone No.	
<u>Items</u>	<u>Est. of how many</u>
Shoo-fly	
Coconut Cream	
Apple dumplings	
Mince meat (early Nov).	

AN INVITATION FROM AMITY FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE.....

Everyone is invited to the Friendship Circle program on November 4. The program, Early Jazz, will be presented by Robert Kreitz and will be held in the sanctuary beginning at 1:00pm. It is open to everyone.

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU TO HELP SUPPORT THE NEED.....



It has been decided that gift cards to Redner's or Boyer's Market in Birdsboro be collected for Thanksgiving and Christmas for five families in the Daniel Boone School District. In the past we requested donations of food items that we provided for the families. It is hoped that five families each receive gift cards totaling \$75.00 for Thanksgiving and again for Christmas. We thank you for your support.

WE 'RE DECORATING WITH POINSETTIAS ON CHRISTMAS EVE.....

Use the form printed below if you would like to order a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary. Orders must be placed early to ensure availability. **Try to place your order by Sunday, December 5, but final deadline to order is Sunday, Dec. 12.**

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Please order _____ poinsettias (5 blooms +) at \$9.25 per plant. Amount enclosed \$_____.

Information for the bulletin: Given to the Glory of God:

_____ In memory of

by _____

_____ In honor of _____

by _____

_____ As a gift by _____

Name _____





11/1	Brett Simmons	11/17	Emily Gaskins
11/3	Jeanette Forster Ryan Musselman		Blake Grim Barbara Kunkel
11/4	Alexander Kutz Elisabeth Yoder Jamison Young	11/18	Matthew Fusco Henry Szajek
11/5	Lee Walley	11/20	Dominick DeNardo Aubrey Garman
11/6	Kiley Davidheiser		Lauren Musetti
11/7	Brynn Detwiler Leah Detwiler Mary Hoffert Chelsea Knabb	11/22	Elizabeth Haring Christopher Lynagh Michael McCormick William Stalneck
11/8	Jeff Angstadt Jerry MacMullin	11/23	Diane Stauffer
11/9	Fred Gaskins Alexander Prizer	11/24	Sean Kochert Jeane Serrian
11/10	Noah Charlton	11/25	Betty High
11/11	Thomas Beil Kendra Day Letisha Leahy Donald Levengood Sean Sonon	11/26	Meridith Gaskins Raegan Ruotolo
11/12	Torie Shaffer	11/27	Elena Eidell Jenna Hendricks
11/13	Piper Braun Brian Kupp	11/28	Craig Yambor
11/14	Nathan Haring	11/29	Jacob Beil Austin Bonetz Kynlee Coyle
11/15	Kenneth Adams		Cassandra Johnson Stephanie Szajek
11/16	Sandra Berger Christian Cicala	11/30	Joyce Drey Harold Grim
11/17	Amelia Boyd		Michael Shingle

Barry & Susanne Leier	11/8	52 yrs.
Gary & Cindy Weidner	11/12	33 yrs.
Calvin & Lorrie Monroe	11/13	39 yrs.
John & Tara Bologa	11/17	31 yrs.
John & Pam Wolfe	11/20	45 yrs.
Barry & Vicci Eidell	11/22	46 yrs.
Brad & Mindy Haring	11/24	31 yrs.
Lou & Valerie Day	11/25	21 yrs.
Tom & Deb Longstaff	11/26	16 yrs.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!
Sunday, November 21, 2021
 9:15 A.M.

The budget for 2022 will be presented for approval and other important business will be conducted. Plan to attend in person.

HELP NEEDED FOR FALL CLEAN-UP.....

Our fall clean-up will be held on Saturday, November 6th from 8:00 AM to noon. (The rain date will be Saturday, November 13th.) We need volunteers! Everyone is welcome. Bring rakes and work gloves if you have them. Hope you can join us!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE CELEBRATING A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.....

John & Claudia McCalicher	11/5	44 yrs.
Russell & Elizabeth Burns	11/7	51 yrs.

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom) 1 PM—Prayer shawl 7 PM—Christian Ed.	2 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS 6:15--CDC	3 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person)	4 Noon—Amity Fr. Circle 6 PM—T3	5 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	6 8 AM—Fall clean-up 6 PM—Holy Comm
7 <i>All Saints Sun.</i> 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm 9:15—Sun. School 9:30--Finance	8 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom) 7 PM—Pastoral Care	9 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS	10 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person) 7 PM--Council	11 7 PM—Prayer Shawl	12 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	13 Rain date for Fall clean-up 9:30 AM—Feed the Need @ Christ Mertz 6 PM—Holy Comm
14 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm 9:15—Sun. School	15 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	16 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS	17 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person)	18 10 AM—Social Min. 6 PM--Technology 7:30—Crime Watch	19 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	20 7:30 AM—Property 9—11:30—First Comm. class 6 PM—Holy Comm
21 <i>Christ The King</i> 8 & 10:30—H.C. 9:15—Sun. School 1 PM—Girl Scouts 6 PM—Thanksgiving Service @ St. Gabriel's Episc.	22 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	23 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS	24	25 <i>Thanksgiving</i> 	26	27 6 PM—Holy Comm
28 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm 9:15—Sun. School	29 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	30 Quilting 2 PM--TOPS				