

A Word from the Pastor for November...

"A doctor who used to see a lot of depressed and unhappy patients used to prescribe a "thank-you" cure. He told his patients that for six weeks they had to say 'Thank you' for every good thing that happened to them and keep a journal of the incident. The cure rate was remarkable.

This is not surprising since the world seems to consist of two groups of people: those who are grateful and those who are not. Thanksgiving is a time of the year that retail America almost ignores. It's like they know that the important holiday is right after Thanksgiving - when the stores open for Christmas shoppers. Thanksgiving is that little holiday between Halloween and Christmas. Right after Halloween, the Christmas decorations come out. Thanksgiving just happens to fall in between.

If you are a retailer, you really don't want to emphasize Thanksgiving. If you are thankful for what you have, you're not likely to be rushing out to buy stuff. And that is bad for corporate America." -Based on an article by Rurel Ausley Jr., "Give thanks in all circumstances," Northwest Florida Daily News, November 6, 1999, C1.

What are you thankful for this year? Here is a short list:

- Thankful always for God's love and grace in my life, which is often surprising and mysterious;
- A call to a church that is kind, generous and loving, with members who see their time here as ministry.
- Being at Mercy with those who are frequently fearful;
- Family that I enjoy spending time with and friends for when I don't;
- Good health;
- A cozy home;
- Plants that continue to grow;

Thanksgiving has always been my favorite secular holiday, as it comes at the time after the harvest. Farm-girl to the core, there is something gratifying about seeing the work -begun in April- coming to its completion. This signaled the time when as a family we ate earlier, before the milking, and then had many evenings watching tv, eating popcorn. The air was often frigid, snow on the way, but home was always warm. I miss those days, but am thankful that I can draw on my memories.

Continued on page 2.

A Word from the Pastor for November, con't...

So, what are you thankful for? My list doesn't contain much of the material, because with each passing year, that has become less important to me.

Draw up your own list and remember these words from a favorite hymn:

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices:
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

A blessed Thanksgiving to all!

Pastor V.

Altar Guild

Nothing new to report for this month. Just a reminder that our next meeting will be held on Nov. 10th. at 9:30 between services. Hostesses are Judy Kelly and Nancy Weber. Please try to attend as we will be preparing the schedule for altar duties in 2020 and would like to know your availability. Also we will be discussing Christmas preparations and poinsettia sales. Caring for the Altar in Nov. are Judy and Nancy.

An old, proverb
"What soap is to the body, laughter is to the soul"

Submitted by Nancy Weber

LOST & FOUND

PLEASE NOTE!

The following items have been in the Lost and Found Cupboard since winter:

- ◆ TechGear olive green man/boy hoodie size M
- ◆ Lady's burgundy neck scarf lined in satin
- ◆ Ladies Dress gloves - 3 pair
- ◆ Ski hat, orange with green shamrocks
- ◆ Dagnet tape
- ◆ Baking pan
- ◆ Photo albums - 3
- ◆ Eye glasses, reading glasses, men & women
- ◆ Child's tin box of crayons
- ◆ Umbrella, blue, collapsible, left in church in August

If these items are not picked up by the end of October, they will be washed and donated to Goodwill.

If you find items around our complex, please place them in the lower cabinet in the Foyer, next to the Guest Book stand. Please do not leave them lying where you found them.

If you lose something please look in that cabinet first.

Items of value are kept in the church office

Please call Carolly Huth if you can't find what you are looking for at 826-0506.

Women of the ELCA

Special thanks to Sylvia for leading the bible study on Jonah. It is only 4 chapters long and you will find there is much more to think about than Jonah in the whale. Check it out if you can, you may be surprised to read what there is to think about from Jonah and God.

On Tuesday, November 12, we will be having our annual Thankoffering service for our meeting. The theme this year focuses on water and looks to be a memorable one. All ladies are welcome to come to the fellowship room at 7 PM. After the service, we will enjoy some fellowship and refreshments provided by Sandy H.

A Thanks-giving thought:

Even though I keep my eyes tightly closed against the morning light as long as I can, thank you Lord that I can see. There are many who are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed and put off the effort of rising, thank you Lord that I have the strength to rise. There are many who are bedridden. Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burnt and tempers short, thank you Lord for my family. There are many who are lonely.

Even though our breakfast table never looks like pictures in magazines, and the meals are sometimes unbalanced, thank you Lord for the food we have. There are many who are hungry.

Even though the routine of my job is often monotonous, thank you Lord for the opportunity to work. There are many who have no job.

Even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day wishing my circumstances were not so modest, thank you Lord for the gift of life.

Thank you Lord for the opportunity to spread kindness and share my many blessings.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

Birthday and Anniversary Form

If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed, fill out this form, bring or send to church and put in the bag on the counter or email the information to church and Amy will get it to the right person.

Name _____

Birthday (month and day only) _____

Name _____

Anniversary date including year _____



This is the QR code for the St John's website. If you're not familiar, a QR code will take a mobile device directly to our web site, just by taking a picture of it.

WHAT IS A THRIVENT ACTION TEAM?

Thrivent Action Teams are groups of volunteers who donate time and effort to help a charitable cause of their choice. As a **Thrivent** Financial benefit or associate member, **Thrivent** Financial will arm you with \$250 of seed money for your project.

If you want to learn more you can contact your Thrivent representative (Brian Makey) or talk to Mark Koepfel or Nancy Kessler.

The funds can be used to help pay for a Community dinner, a Youth event, an Outreach program and more.

You can learn more by checking out the web site below.

https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/files/CA_Conversation_Guide.pdf

Food Barrel for WS Food Pantry

Needed for November are soup and canned pasta (ravioli, spaghetti, etc.), also park and beans.

As always, paper products are useful as well.



HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

11/1 Jaclyn McKewan
11/3 Sue Woodard
11/9 Bob Drezek
11/9 Kayla Woodruff
11/10 Bethann Hintzman
11/12 Sylvia Delaney
11/13 Victoria Wetzler
11/15 Jay Delaney
11/17 Ashley Coder
11/18 Christopher W. Gulas-Karazewski
11/19 Laurie Abendenschein
11/20 Phyllis Gulas
11/20 Graham Vosseller



HAPPY NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY TO:

11/6 Rob and Melissa Germano
11/22/1973 Jim and Maxine Steiner

News from the Pews

It's November, but we're thinking Christmas Cookies! Our Christmas Cookie exchange will be on Saturday, December 14th at 11am. Bakers sign up between 11/17 and 12/1. We'll have brunch, we'll have laughs and we'll go home with 6 dozen cookies. 1 doz of each kind in your group! Look for the sign up sheet the weekend of 11/17!

"To the kind person (people) who placed flowers on the altar for my birthday: Thank you so much. It was a nice surprise and came at just the right time." **Carolly Huth**

**ANYONE ENJOY
DOING JIGSAW PUZZLES?**

- WHAT:** A Puzzle Library
WHERE: The bookcase between the Fellowship Room and the Parish Hall
WHEN: Whenever you would like to borrow one... just for fun.
HOW: Look at those available and select the one that you like best. When you have completed the puzzle, please place the pieces in a zip lock bag, return it to the shelves and take another.
NOTE: If you find that pieces are missing, please mark the box.

ENJOY!!!



Note from property:

In recent weeks, doors to the building have been left unlocked after hours. In some cases the door locks have been modified with the use of an allen wrench to hold the door lock in the open position.

Please, if you have a key to the building, it is your responsibility to see that the door you entered through is locked after leaving. In no case should a door lock be modified to remain in an open position.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Rick
Building & Property manager

Assisting Minister Schedule

	9 AM	10:45 AM
November 3	Jim Steiner	Evelyn Hicks
November 10	Pat Lipka	Nancy Kessler
November 17	Dawn Corless	Karen Rothenberger
November 24	Al Kerner	Adam Wolff

ST. JOHN'S DINING OUT CLUB

Just a reminder that we will not be Dining Out in November and December due to the holidays and all the parties planned by our St John's Family.

Check the December/January issue of the Crossbeam to see where we will be dining in January. Due to the storms we usually get the last week in January, our Dining Out date will be on Thursday, January 23 at 6:00 p.m.

Restaurant Review: in September, 20 of us dined at Kodiak Jack's restaurant in East Aurora. As always, the prime rib was excellent and very popular. Salads were good too, the place was packed and noisy...who us? No complaints about the service nor the food.

Submitted by Carolly Huth

Financial Highlights

Sept. 2019 Regular Church Donations = \$23,153 (an increase YTD of \$8,019 or 17.8% over prior year).
Current month includes a \$5,000 special donation from a member

Benevolence Expense = ELCA Lutheran Disaster Relief (Hurricane Dorian) \$1,000, World Hunger \$100, Community Dinner \$200 (YTD Benevolence \$3,500 or 6.5% of Budgeted Expense)

Major Expense - \$6,793 spent on Sewer Drainage Repair (under main parking lot at catch basin)

Borrowed from Church Savings = \$1,400 (YTD \$5,400 Borrowed from Savings)

Sept. 2019 Mortgage Reduction Fund Donations = \$6,528 (an increase YTD of \$208 or 1.1% over prior year)

Mortgage Balance (Mission Investment Fund of ELCA) = \$735,420 & Cornerstone Fund Loan Balance = \$0 (PAID-in-FULL Sept. 2019)

Thank you, Michael Woodard
Treasurer @ 9/30/2019

Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes for the Seneca Street Community

WHEN: Lists of items needed will be available the weekend of November 2nd - 3rd

WHY: To help the Seneca community fill a need for families to celebrate a joyful Thanksgiving

WHERE: As your list of items is completed, please return the list with the items purchased to the Parish Hall no later than Sun., November 24th

SPECIAL REQUESTS: If you wish to donate a turkey, please bring it to the church early Tuesday, November 26th as there is no place to store frozen turkeys at St. John's.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Sunday, November 24th to help sort the donations and 9:00 am Tuesday, November 26th to help transport items to Seneca United Methodist Church.

Please contact Nancy Kessler
@ 716-997-6012

THANK YOU!



Monthly Community Dinner

Dinner is on 11/29/19 and is served 4pm—6:30pm or until we run out, whichever comes first.

This month we will be serving soup & salad with a hard roll.

We will offer drinks and dessert with the meal.

The meal is provided for ANYONE in need of food, fellowship or fun... As always, the food, the seat and the smiles are FREE but good will offerings are always accepted.

PLEASE CONSIDER A GIFT FOR THE DECEMBER COMMUNITY DINNER!!!

Each year we do a giveaway for the Christmas time community dinner. We are asking for gifts in the amount of \$10 for this year's meal in December. It can be a gift card, a small tchotchke or anything else that can be given to either a male or female. These items can be given to Mark or Sue Koeppel any time before December 15th. The items should be unwrapped gifts.

Thank you for your consideration...
Mark Koeppel

Hands and Hearts Ministry

The members of the Hands and Hearts Knitting Ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church would like to extend an invitation to everyone to join our small but dedicated group. We knit and crochet Prayer Shawls for those in need of healing warmth and christening caps to welcome newly baptized infant members. Throughout the year we also make items of outerwear for donation to groups in the community that pass them along to their clients.

We welcome everyone from those wishing to learn the craft to the expert. The first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Room is our new meeting time. We have a small stock of tools to get new members started and look forward to welcoming you with a quiet evening of companionable conversation and needlework.

If interested please contact Linda Wetzler (716)512-8106. Thank you.

Bible Study for November

November 7: Job 19:23-27, Luke 20:27-38

November 14: Malachi 4: 1-4a, Luke 21:5-19

November 21: Jeremiah 23:1-6, Luke 23:33-43

Gateway Longview Angel Tree will go from November 16th thru December 8th. Seneca Babcock food drive will from December 15th thru end of January.

Just a reminder that the recycling "rules" have changed a bit in West Seneca. Recycling will now be picked up every other week and while most everything we have previously recycled is the same, please note that ONLY NUMBERS 1 and 2 plastics can be recycled. Please make every effort to do this along with only other items that can be recycled since our containers fill up rapidly some weeks and having items in there that do not belong takes away from what we can properly recycle.

Items that can be recycled include: newspaper, office paper, phone books, paper bags, and junk mail. Also, paperboard, magazines and catalogs, cardboard and pizza boxes, jugs and bottles with small top openings(#1 and #2) only along with clear bottles and jars, aluminum cans, metal cookware and steel and tin cans.

Check out the list by the recycling bin in the kitchen for the list of what cannot be recycled. Thanks for doing your share to help out!

Fellowship Hour needs your help. It is so good to have so many share the time between worship services in the parish hall. This has posed a good problem to have. In order for the coffee hour clean up people to get to church on time, we need you to clean up your table space. Wipes are available or even your napkin will do as long as the table is cleaned up and ready for the next week.

******IT IS CHILI TIME******

The CHILI DINNER is almost here (11/10/19) and we still have TRAVEL RAFFLE tickets available. The drawing will take place at the end of the night. The prize is \$2000 in AAA travel credit at any Western or Central AAA office AND a \$500 Southwest gift card. Tickets are ONLY \$15 each and can be purchased from Mark Koeppel by calling him at **(716)440-8173...**

In addition, we are always looking for donations for the auction...

FINALLY... Anyone that wants to help out at the event is more that welcome to volunteer as well. Just let Mark know... Keep in mind, the money raised this year is being divided between the Youth group, the Community dinner fund & the Building and grounds at St. John's...

I hope to see you at the event...

Respectfully; Mark Koeppel



Hospitality Committee

NO MORE SIGN UP SHEETS!

We are asking for team leaders and individuals who would be interested in becoming a team. For this to be successful, we need 10 to 12 teams (or more). Coffee hour is an important gathering for our church family. It gives us a chance to share news and concerns with each other. Please contact BethAnn Hintzman 668-0833 or Diane Molnar 675-2481 if you wish to help.

Thank you, Hospitality

Parish Social Life will meet on November 17th in between services! We're planning 2020! Something you'd like to see us plan, but can't make the meeting? Call or email Kathy Moody.

WANTED: coupons from The Buffalo News Sunday paper. These coupons are mailed to Fort Bragg where our military personnel and their families can use them at their PX up to six months after the expiration date. Just drop them in the box on the counter in the Narthex and Sandy Stango will take it from there. Another way to support our troops and their families. Thanks, Sandy Stango

Ladies Aid

Well the time has finally arrived for us to get together in the fellowship room for a meeting and our mystery pound sale. It will be on Thursday, November 7 at 7PM. All are welcome! If you have any questions about coming and want to participate in the mystery sale, just ask Sandy Haase or Nancy Weber or any other member of the Ladies Aid . They will be happy to inform you. Monies raised will be donated to the Crop Walk. We look forward to that and also to the fellowship we share at these meetings.

We will be missing our buddy Arline Semlitsch but we know she will be there in spirit from her new residence probably encouraging Sylvia to get us to up our bids even more on the mystery items!

Feel free to join us or get ready for the Christmas luncheon on Sunday, December 8 at 1 PM at Ilio Dipaols. Just see Sandy to make your reservation and payment. It is another lovely and tasty time for us to enjoy our fellowship with you.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

Crossbeam Deadline

Articles for the **December/January** issue of the Crossbeam are due by **November 10th**. Please e-mail your articles to Sue Koepfel (sekoepfel@gmail.com) or leave them in the Crossbeam mailbox outside of the church office. Electronic articles are preferred, if at all possible.

Sunday Church School

Mark these dates on your calendars:

Sunday, December 1st: Celebrating the 1st day of ADVENT! Christmas Carol singing in the Parish Hall during the Sunday School hour! Grown ups, we welcome you to attend with your student! Please bring in a kuchen or coffee cake to share!

Sunday, December 22nd, at 9am: Christmas program

Sunday, December 29th: No Sunday School

Sunday, January 5th: Sunday School resumes

Sunday, January 12th: Epiphany Party during the Sunday School hour
We're looking for a coordinator for this event, please let Kathy Moody or Sandy Haase know if you are interested!

Thank you!

To everyone that brought in back packs for students in need!

To everyone that became a BIBLE BUDDY to our SCS students!

Thank you to every grown up for bringing your family to Sunday Church School!

Usher Schedule

	9 am	10:45 am
November 3	Don Denzel Tom Mudd	Ron Wirth Keith Lang
November 10	Lee Delaney Brian Napierala	Sue Koepfel Charlie Arnold
November 17	Lee Delaney Tom Kalinowski	Lowell Rothenberger Jeff Kline
November 24	Jim Ridley Susan Ridley	Lowell Rothenberger Charlie Arnold

Greeter Schedule

	9 am	10:45 am
November 3	Maxine Steiner Diane Molnar	Marie Ramey Janet Hender
November 10	Connie Arnold Carol Delaney	Marie Basher Janet McLeod
November 17	Edythe Fischer Diana Kalinowski	Chris Charnock Wayne Charnock
November 24	Maxine Steiner Diane Molnar	Marie Ramey Janet Hender

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