

A Word from the Pastor for November...

November begins with All Saints and ends with Christ the King. Then we are on to a new church year with Advent.

The Gospel readings for the end of the year have us reflecting on the end times, when Jesus speaks of His kingdom. One of the November texts is the story of the widow who gives all she has, as compared to the scribes and the Pharisees, who do not.

So, on the insert in this Crossbeam you will find a sheet that shows how to figure what you give, based on the Biblical theme of a tithe, or one-tenth of your income. This way, you figure out where you are, and then "step-up" to the next percentage, or half percentage. I realize that many cannot commit one-tenth, but the goal is to continue to see that as an ultimate goal. Last month I mentioned ways to do this, like collecting your change or giving up a small luxury each week.

St. John's is an amazing church, full of faithful and passionate members. We are gifted with a music ministry that is second to none, we have a vibrant school and Sunday School, energetic committees planning everything from worship to social activities. We have an ideal location. My challenge to you is to give this your prayerful consideration, so that we can do more. Both Pastor Roger and I have dreams for St. John's, but to fulfill those dreams, we will need commitment.

Each Sunday in November will feature a special something regarding stewardship. I have confidence that we can - and will - grow. And when Advent comes, I am expecting to see an increase in giving. I know that I am challenging myself, and I look forward to what we can do together.

Pastor V.

Ladies Aid

It is time for our "Mystery Pound Sale" at the November 1 meeting, 7 PM in the fellowship room. All are welcome to join in the fun. All you have to do is wrap up a gift so it cannot be identified and we will bid on it as Sylvia entices us to up our bid. The monies raised will be going to the Crop Walk Fund. So join us for a fun evening while benefiting those in need. If one of our members would like to supply the refreshments for the evening, please let Sandy know.

Also, mark your calendar for our December Christmas Luncheon at Ilio's. Sandy has all the info and is ready to take your reservation and money by November 11. The date is December 2 at 1 PM. We will once again be collecting donations for the Kathleen Mary House. They love gift cards to the McKinley movie theatre, McDonalds, or Tim Hortons as a special treat for the ladies and their children. See Sandy if you have any questions. All are welcome to join us.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

Monthly Community Dinner is again A Thrivent Action Team Project. It will be on November 30th, 2018

Dinner is served 4pm—6:30pm or until we run out, whichever comes first. We will be serving a Mystery Dinner. 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.

Assisting Minister Schedule

	9 am	10:45 am
Nov 4	Pat Lipka	Evelyn Hicks
Nov 11	Sandy Gordon	Nancy Kessler
Nov 18	Jim Steiner	Karen Rothenberger
Nov 25	Sue Springer	Adam Wolff

PowerPoint Schedule

	Preparer	9 am Presenter	10: 45 am Presenter
Nov 4	Nick Barnhard	Lee Delaney	Matthew & Autumn Brown
Nov 11	Nancy Kessler	Lee Delaney	Trevor Godus
Nov 18	Nick Barnhard	Lee Delaney	Linda Altman
Nov 25	Nancy Kessler	Lee Delaney	Jean Stankowski

Altar Guild

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who attended our Penny Sale last month. It was a Huge Success. Also thank you to everyone who donated sale items, baked cakes, and helped set-up and clean-up. To our young runners and cake seller, Thanks for your help! It was a great evening of fun, fellowship and laughs!!

Again a reminder to mark your calendar for our next meeting on November 4th at 9:30am. We will be making the new schedule for 2019 altar duties and meeting dates. Also, preparations for Christmas will be discussed. Please try to attend!

Caring for the Altar in November are Judy Kelly and Nancy Weber.
Hostesses are Barbara K. and Sylvia D.

Submitted by Nancy Weber

Remember to add your name to the birthday list if you have not done so and would like to. There is cake to be shared the first Sunday of the month during fellowship time between services. All are invited to come each Sunday for fellowship and a shared treat.

Volunteers are needed to bring in a "goodie" each week. It can be bought or made. Fruit, Cheese and Crackers, Brownies, Doughnuts- whatever you might like to donate would be welcomed and enjoyed. The sign up sheet is on the counter by the coffee. Just ask Diane Molnar if you have any questions about this ministry.

Community Nights!

St. John's is proud to present our new monthly Community Nights. These nights will be filled with family friendly events that seek to foster a deeper sense of community within St. John's. All of the events are after our monthly Community Dinners unless otherwise noted. So come on out eat some good food and then stay for a fun time!

Below is a list of the upcoming Community Nights along with their tentative dates. As we get closer to each event more information will become available.

Nov 30th - BOWLING

Dec 28th - MOVIE NIGHT

Jan 25th - TRIVIA NIGHT

Feb 22nd - SKATING

Mar 29th - MOVIE NIGHT

Apr 26th - BOARD GAME NIGHT

May 31st - MUSEUM NIGHT

Jun 28th - OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

Jul (TBA) - BISON'S GAME

Submitted by: Megan Marrano
(marrano92@gmail.com)

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 Mackey) 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

We have been asked to try something a little different starting this month. The West Seneca food pantry has asked us to donate Soup, Soup and more Soup. It can be canned, ramen noodles, cup o noodles, etc. We are also looking for paper products.



Women of the ELCA

We were treated to one of Pastor Valerie's wonderful, informative Bible Studies at our last meeting. She went over the book of Ruth with us. It is only 4 chapters but it sure is full of adventure and intrigue. Take some time to read it and if you have any thoughts or questions, Pastor Valerie will be able to help you out. We thank her very much for her time and thoughts and for our enlightenment.

On November 13, we will be celebrating our Thankoffering Service. Evelyn Hicks will join us as the leader of this service. It is a lovely evening of worship and praise and all ladies are most welcome to come at 7pm and worship together with us and then join us for fellowship as we enjoy the refreshments provided by Sandy H.

November brings thoughts of Thanksgiving and thankfulness. The Thought for the Month touches on this and your blessings too.

TOP 10 THINGS GOD WON'T ASK

1. God won't ask what kind of car you drove, but will ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
2. God won't ask the square footage of your house, but will ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
3. God won't ask about your social status, but will ask what kind of class you displayed.
4. God won't ask how many material possessions you had, but will ask if they dictated your life.
5. God won't ask what your highest salary was, but will ask if you compromised your character to get that salary.
6. God won't ask how much overtime you worked but will ask if you worked overtime for your family and loved ones.
7. God won't ask what you did to help yourself, but will ask what you did to help others.
8. God won't ask how many friends you had, but will ask how many people to whom you were a true friend.
9. God won't ask what you did to protect your rights, but will ask what you did to protect the rights of others.
10. God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, but will ask how you treated your neighbors.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

- 11/3 Sue Faust
- 11/9 Bob Drezek
- 11/9 Len Forth Sr.
- 11/9 Kayla Woodruff
- 11/10 Bethann Hintzman
- 11/12 Sylvia Delaney
- 11/15 Jay Delaney
- 11/17 Ashley Coder
- 11/18 Christopher W.Gulas-Karazewski
- 11/19 Laurie Abendenschein
- 11/20 Phyllis Gulas



HAPPY NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY TO:

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

Give now for Hurricane Michael Relief

Lutheran Disaster Response is monitoring Hurricane Michael and is coordinating its response with Lutheran Services Florida, the Florida-Bahamas Synod, as well as our partners and affiliates in other potentially impacted areas.

As a church, we're ready to stand by our neighbors as they recover from this storm.

If you wish to donate, please make out a check to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and write "Hurricane Response" in the memo line.

Pastor Valerie's Bible Study for November:

Nov. 1: Revelation: 21: 1-6a, John 11: 32-44

Nov. 8: I Kings 17: 8-16, Mark 12: 38-44

Nov. 15: Daniel 12: 1-3, Mark 13: 1-8

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 for the details about our January dinner location.

Restaurant Review: in September, 24 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

SAVE THE DATE!

Our Cookie Exchange will be on Sunday, December 9th, from 1-3pm!

The location of the cookie exchange will be announced via FaceBook & church bulletin inserts. Each person participating is asked to bake 6 dozen cookies, divided into one dozen containers. Sign up sheets and full details will be in the Narthex on November 11.



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Presents:

OUR 15TH ANNUAL CHILI DINNER

Proceeds will benefit:

Second Chance Animal Sheltering Network

Sunday November 11TH 2018

12pm - 6pm

4 TYPES OF CHILI...

TRADITIONAL, Buffalo Chicken Wing, **BBQ Chicken**

and **BEEF TACO**.

TAKE OUT and DINE IN AVAILABLE

BEVERAGES WILL BE INCLUDED AS WELL AS DESSERTS.

Prices:

- Dine and Take out will be \$10 That includes a sheet of auction tickets - Call Mark for detail @ (716)440-8173

- * DINE IN SPECIAL- Family of 4 for \$35

(4 Dinners - Includes 4 sheets of auction tickets)

- * TAKE OUT OFFER- Flight of all 4 types of Chili for \$13

(9oz containers of Chili- Includes Bread and 1 sheet of auction tickets)

Specials can **NOT be combined with other discounts or offers*

**No advance sale for special pricing*

This event is sponsored by:

Robertson & Bach 
Fine Jewelry

Manufacturing & Distribution

WEST HERR
NEW YORK

Crossbeam Deadline

Articles for the **December/January** issue of the Crossbeam are due by **November 11th**. Please e-mail your articles to Sue Koeppel (sekoeppe@gmail.com) or leave them in the Crossbeam mailbox outside of the church office. Electronic articles are preferred, if at all possible.

LOST & FOUND

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.

If you bring in goodies for our many receptions during the year, please take your dishes home. Those left in the kitchen will be placed on the pew next to the Classified Ads bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

We do thank everyone who brings in goodies but we just don't have room to store the dishes left behind. Please call Carolly Huth if you can't find what you are looking for at 826-0506.

Coffee Hour

We have the following members to thank for setting up the coffee from September - May for your fellowship time between services. They are Diane Molnar, Maxine and Jim Steiner, Peggy Cramer, Ruth and Norm Merckel, Dick and Edie Fischer and Charlie and Connie Arnold.

The following members are thanked for cleaning up: Mark and Sue Koepfel, Janet Hender, Linda Wetzler, Bethann Hintzman, and Danese Dick.

We are so thankful to these folks and would love to have more members volunteer since it is only 10-15 minutes of your time either before the early service to set up or around 10:20 to clean up before the second service. As of now, each team is on every 5- 6 weeks, but if we get more volunteers, the spread would be greater. Please see or contact Connie 674-2409 or kaketop@aol.com if you would like more information or to volunteer.

Also, Diane Molnar is in charge of making sure her sign up sheet for refreshments is filled each week during fellowship time. Pastries, fruit, donuts, cookies, cheese and crackers are just some ideas of what can be brought in so don't be intimidated thinking you cannot contribute. We Lutherans love whatever is there to share and thankful for your contribution to the fellowship time.

The sign up sheet is on the kitchen counter, you cannot miss it! Just ask Diane if you have any questions, 675-2481.

Art Supplies Needed...

A young person in West Seneca, Rachel, has started a group called LaRussa's Legacy of Love. This group sends hand made cards with inspirational messages to nursing home residents, shut ins, people who are ill and those in need of a pick-me-up. Rachel is currently making 200 cards a month and she can use the following:

Construction paper

Stickers (smiley faces, hearts, etc.)

Colored envelopes

If you have supplies you would like to donate please place them in the box in the foyer labeled Legacy of Love. I will deliver them on St' John's behalf.

Thank you, Rick Lipka

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

Sunday Church School

Thank you for bringing your child to Sunday School!

Advent begins Sunday, December 2nd and our kids have begun preparing for our Christmas program! Our Christmas program will be held during the 9am service on Sunday, December 23rd. We could use your help that morning and during rehearsals! If you would like to help out, please see Pastor Roger.

Please make a note of our December/January schedule:
Sunday December 16th: Pageant rehearsal in the Parish Hall

Saturday, December 22nd: Rehearsal 10am - 11am in the Sanctuary

Sunday December 23rd: Christmas program during the 9am worship service

Sunday, December 30th: No Classes/Happy New Year!

November 4th: Teachers & aides we have a brief meeting at 10:15 in the triple room on the first floor.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Submitted by Kathy Moody



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.



Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes for the Seneca Street Community

WHEN: Lists of items needed will be available the weekend of November 3rd - 4th

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 18th

SPECIAL REQUESTS: If you wish to donate a turkey, please bring it to the church early Tuesday, November 20th as there is no place to store frozen turkeys at St. John's.

THANK YOU!



News From the Pews

Funerals:

Robert Ward September 14th, 2018

Janice Trudnowski October 2nd, 2018

"As I write a thank you to my St. John's family and friends for the prayers, cards, visits, & food, and hospital visits from Pastor Val for my July surgery, never could I have imagined I would be adding a thank you from my entire family for the out pouring of love for the sudden passing of Bob. I cannot express our gratitude for the support we received from Pastor Val and Pastor Roger. Their hospital visits comforting, his funeral service a beautiful tribute to him. We could not have wished for more. Thank you to the congregation for the prayers, cards, visits and food we received. We are truly grateful." **Gayle Ward**

"A note of thank you from Rick and Pat.

We are writing this letter to give our personal "thank you" to each and everyone who prayed for us and gave us your thoughts, sent cards and whatever else you could have possibly done to help us through the difficult times Rick has had this last go around. As a lot of our friends and family know, we have had some rough times here lately with Rick's illness.

When you sit and watch your loved one in a hospital bed, or at home or just trying to help them out, sometimes you feel helpless that there is nothing else you can do but just be there for them, your life changes instantly. You pray more than you ever have, read your Bible more than ever before, you are so grateful for your family, friends, prayer chains, cards, flowers, food, encouragement and all the love that everyone and anyone does for you. Words can not express our thoughts. We are so very fortunate to know and have the relationships of each and every one of you.

We know that the power of prayer really and truly works. We thank you for coming into our lives and giving us hope. Belonging to a church where people are so concerned and are so willing to give you a helping hand is a great gift. So we again give our thank to each and everyone.

Love, **Rick & Pat Lipka**"

Spiritual Retreat

Saturday, November 3, 2018

This day event will invite participants into a conversation from the Lutheran perspective on the nature of faith and life in the midst of challenge and even tragedy. Participants will also explore how the nature of hope and healing can be enriched through an encounter with the contemplative tradition of Christianity represented by the writings of Richard Rohr.

For more information or to register, please contact

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center

5013 Rt. 430

Bemus Point, NY 14712

716-386-4125

contact@lclcenter.org

The Fundraising Committee will be holding a Book Sale on Saturday, November 3rd from 9 am to 1 pm. All proceeds will go to the Building Fund.

Branson Country Christmas!

We're joining Know How Tours on
Friday, November 16th,
on a day trip to Macedon, NY

We're traveling to Macedon, located just outside of Rochester, for "**A Branson Country Christmas**" featuring the Ozark Jubilee, direct from Branson, MO. There will be country music and good clean family entertainment, including great comedians of yesteryear, like Archie Campbell, String Bean, Minnie Pearl and many more. The trip includes lunch and the show. On the way home there is a stop at Oliver's Chocolates in Batavia. We leave West Seneca at 9:30am and return at approximately 5:30pm. Sign up on the Know How Tours website.

(www.knowhowtours.com OR 716-649-9694.)

Cost is \$105 per person, \$99 for veterans. **Please mention St. John's West Seneca, we have reserved a place just for you! Sign up early to reserve your spot! Our seats will be released on October 1st.** This tour will sell out.

If you have any questions or would like help signing up see or call Kathy Moody.



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