



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings of joy in peace in the name of our victorious Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

A National Day of Thanksgiving is celebrated during the month of November. St. Paul wrote, "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thess. 5:16-18). We are to be continuously offering our gracious God thanksgiving and praise for all that He has done for us, does for us, and will do for us.

Our thanksgiving is to be offered in all circumstances. Too often our gratitude is dependent upon the circumstances of life. A beautiful hymn was written by Martin Rinkart during the thirty-year war to help us look beyond our circumstances and see the hand of God. Rinkart was a pastor in Saxony, Germany as the turbulent years of the war dragged on. For a time he was the only pastor in his town. His pastoral duties caused him to preside at nearly 4500 burials in 1637 alone. In the context of this sad situation and these unfavorable circumstances he penned the words to "Now Thank We All Our God". It is a hymn of unconditional gratitude to God.

Now thank we all our God  
With heart and hands and voices  
Who wondrous things has done  
In whom His world rejoices

Thankful people don't have to have everything going their way to rejoice. No matter our circumstance in life this year, we can all pause and thank our gracious God for the blessings (spiritual and material) that He has given to us. Join us for our Service of Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 25 and rededicate ourselves to being God's thankful people in all circumstances.

May our gracious Lord bless and keep each of you in His care as we give Him thanksgiving and praise. May you make this a blessed thanksgiving.

In Christ,  
Pastor Raether

*Pastor Raether*

#### Giving Acceptable Gifts

The first act of giving from a person to God in God's Word is found in Genesis 4 when Cain and Abel gave their gifts to God. Both brothers gave gifts from their profits. Cain gave some of his crops, whereas Abel gave the firstborn of his flock and of the fat portion. "And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering He had no regard" (Genesis 4:4b-5). God viewed their gifts differently. Abel's gift pleased God and Cain's did not.

In the Hall of Faith chapter, Hebrews 11, we read, "By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he

was commended as righteous, God commended him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks" (Hebrews 11:4). So why was Abel's gift more acceptable than Cain's? Abel gave a better sacrifice not because of what he brought but because of his faith that prompted his gift. His gift was acceptable because of his motive for giving. God looks at the heart of the giver. Abel loved and trusted God and gave accordingly.

We demonstrate our faithfulness through what we give. Through faith, we give acceptable gifts. Knowing Who God is and what He has done for us through Jesus, we want to thank and praise Him with gifts that are acceptable and pleasing to Him. When we give God our first and best out of thankful hearts, God is pleased to receive them.

There are gifts we can give to God that are not acceptable. When we give token amounts and only go through the motion of giving, God is not pleased. If we give to God for tax purposes, for recognition, or give only our leftovers, God is dishonored. God wants our total devotion. When He has our hearts, we will make the effort to give our first and best in gratitude for Who God is and all He has done and continues to do for us.

As sinful people, we struggle in our efforts to give acceptable gifts. Our nature is to keep rather than to give. Left to ourselves, we would limit our giving to what is leftover rather than to make giving a priority. By God's grace, we acknowledge that He is the one Who has made it possible for us to earn an income, and He is the owner of all that we have. In essence, we are merely returning to Him what He has already given to us. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to make giving a priority and to give generously. We seek to thank and honor Him by giving our heavenly Father acceptable gifts. God gave us the most acceptable gift of all when He sent His Son to the cross for our redemption and salvation. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

FROM: STEWARDSHIP COUNSELORS

Thank you to everyone that helped with the Quilt, Craft, and Bake Sale. If you helped with serving the lunch, donating crafts, baked goods, quilts, monetary donations, money tellers, setting up, or cleaning up; your help was greatly appreciated! We had a great turnout. Proceeds will go to Orphan Grain Train and Home Missions.

-Lutheran Women's Missionary League and the Sewing Group

The Family Fellowship will be held on Sunday, November 12, 2023 after church. The theme is "Thanksgiving". A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for those who can attend. Come join the fun!

-Board of Education

We thank those who picked up Christmas shoe boxes. We have labels that can be attached to a box to indicate if the box is for a boy or girl and age of child. There will be a \$10 charge for shipping each box. Labels are by the empty boxes on a table in the Narthex. Shoe boxes must be returned by November 13th. There is another table set up for the completed boxes in the Narthex.

## SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

The Sunday Morning Bible Class, which meets are 10:15 p.m. will continue the study of "The Life of David. The tentative schedule is as follows:

- 10-29 Session 5 – "The High Point and the Low Point in David's Life"
- 11-5 NO 10:15 am BIBLE CLASS
- 11-12 NO CLASS "Family Fellowship Brunch"
- 11-19 Session 6 – "God Calls David to Repentance and Forgives Him.
- 11-26 Session 7 – "David's Problem with Absalom"
- 12-3 No Class
- 12-10 Lesson 8 – "David's Music and Poetry"

## THANKSGIVING SERVICE November 22, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.

We will gather as God's people to celebrate Thanksgiving on Wednesday November 22 at 1:00 p.m. While every day we should offer our gracious God praise and thanksgiving, we gather on this special day to give thanks to God for His love and many blessings." We encourage you to invite friends and neighbors to our worship.

## MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES

Midweek Advent Services will begin on Wednesday November 29. There will be four midweek services this year because Thanksgiving was early than usual. The services will begin at 1:00 pm. The theme for this years midweek services will be announced later in November.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS (10:00 AM)

The 10:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Class will conclude its study of "Ninety Minutes in Heaven." The schedule is as follows:

- 10-25 "Are Angels Real"
- 11-1 "Does heaven Change Things Now" & "Are You Longing for Heaven"

With the Conclusion of this topic we will take up Lee Strobel's "The Case for Christmas" Consulting experts on the Bible, archaeology, and messianic prophecy, Strobel searches out the true identity of the child in the manger, analyzing the following topics: Eyewitness Evidence--Can the biographies of Jesus be trusted? Scientific Evidence--What does archaeology reveal? Profile Evidence--Did Jesus fulfill the attributes of God? Fingerprint Evidence--Did Jesus uniquely match the identity of the Messiah? Following is a schedule of topics:

- 11-8 "Setting the Record Straight"
- 11-15 "Beneath the Fake News"
- 11-22 NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING
- 11-29 "A Mind Boggling Proposition"
- 12-6 "The Prophetic Fingerprint"

The Wednesday Morning Class, when it resumes on January 10, 2024 will take up Max Lucado's video series "God Never Gives Up On You." This is a study of the life of Jacob.

## Board of Education

October 4, 2023

**Members:** Kari Johnson, Jill Davis, Rhoda Waddell, Susan Macek, and Pastor Raether.

**Library:** We have a new book titled, "The Power to Change" by Craig Groeschel from Zondervan Books. This book offers practical advice and biblical wisdom in discovering the path to true transformation or change in our life. You are invited to check this book out anytime.

**St. Paul:** October 2nd is Professional Development, Oct 25th is the end of the first quarter, Oct 27th is K-8th Fall Festival, Oct 23-27th is Red Ribbon Week, and Oct 31st is Trunk and Treat.

**Confirmation report:** They are working on the book "God's Plan of Salvation" which covers the Old and New Testament. Thirty lessons in all.

**Sunday School report:** Lessons for October include Isaac and Rebekah, Esau and Jacob, Jacob, Leah, and Rachel, Joseph, and Joseph forgives. We are also working on the ten commandments.

**Family Fellowship report:** Next meeting is November 12th after church. The theme will be "Thanksgiving". We will serve breakfast pizza, fresh fruit, mini muffins, coffee, chocolate milk, juices, and water. We will include games and crafts.

**Wednesday and Sunday Bible Study:** Wednesday is "90 Minutes in Heaven" and Sunday study is "The Life of David."

**Cradle Roll:** Kari is continuing sending out information to the baby baptismal families.

**Old Business:** Kari is working on organizing the Christmas room where we house several VBS and Christmas items.

**New Business:** We will discuss the Sunday School Christmas Service in November.

Next meeting is November 1st at 6:15 pm

Sue Macek, Chairman

## Lutheran Women's Fellowship

October 5, 2023

The Lutheran Women's Fellowship met on October 5th at 1:00 p.m. Meeting began with devotion "Fear Not" and prayer by Sally Zuspann. Eleven members attended the meeting. Florence Sandgren gave the mites devotion; "Overflowing Love". Sally Zuspann called the October 5th meeting to order. The minutes of September 7th were given out in the meeting, were read, and approved.

### Committee reports:

Treasurer, Card Counter, and Funeral Fund reports were all approved.

### Old Business:

**Shut-ins:** Received a thank you card from Billie Jo Matter on receiving shut-in card and gift.

**Needed Microwave:** Microwave for the kitchen has been purchased.

**LWML Sunday, October 1:** Display was in church overflow room. LWML brochure of year activities and missions were included in Sunday bulletins.

### New Business:

**October 7 Quilt, Craft, and Bake Sale:** Items not sold at sale will be in church basement to purchase after church service.

**October 29: Reformation Service** will be at Prince of Peace.

**Christmas Shoebox Project:** Boxes will be available at the church October 15 to pick up. There will be a brochure included of items that can be filled in the boxes.

**Advent coffees:** Discussion on having this after church at November meeting.

**November 26:** After church set up for Christmas decorations.

**April Spring Rally:** Good Shepherd Lutheran.

**November 2:** Meeting for nominating officers.

**November Funeral Committee:** Connie Tyrrell, Jean Martinson

**Shut-ins birthday:** Mary Escobedo

**Birthdays:** Sue Macek

**The next meeting:** November 2. **Hostess:** Sue Macek, Sally Zuspann. Sally Zuspann closed meeting with Lord's Prayer and table prayer at 1:50 PM. All in favor to adjourn meeting.

LaVonne Peters, Secretary

## NOVEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sue Heistand-(11/7), Vickie Claude -(11/10), Christiana Christian -(11/21), Dorothy Holtorf -(11/23), Jackson O'Brien -(11/24), Margaret Castor -(11/25), and Rusty Hansen -(11/27).

No Anniversaries.

## Membership Report for October 2023

### GAIN

**Confirmed +**

**Baptized +**

### LOSS

**Confirmed - 1**  
Delbert Ginger  
passed away

**Baptized -**

**Communicant =164-1=163**  
**Baptized (not confirmed) = 46**  
**Total baptized souls = 210-1=209**

## Financial Report October 2023

### Income (Offerings)

Home/Current \$11,715.50, Missions Budget \$182.50, Loose Offerings \$10.18, Cable Tv Broadcast \$20.00, Special Offering \$240.00, Miscellaneous \$425.00.

**Total Offerings \$12,593.18**

### Expenses

Pastor \$2,125.00, Payroll \$1,063.88, Organist \$360.00, Pastoral Expenses \$401.36, Ministry Expenses \$369.80, Television Ministry \$51.01, Office Supplies \$64.20, Computer/Internet \$389.52, Water \$105.78, Pest Control \$39.00, Gas & Electric \$732.00, Sanitation \$40.66, W/H Tax \$146.88, Missions \$182.50, Charities \$425.00, Advertising \$236.00.

**Total Expenses \$6,732.59**

**Net Income \$5,860.59**

## **ATTENDANCE**

Sunday	Worship	Communion
10/1	33	
10/8	38	32
10/15	43	
10/22	41	40
10/29	38	
Circuit Reformation Service	53	50