

November 2024

Faith Lutheran Church & Preschool

Newsletter

Reflections of Faith



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Pastor Jim's Office Hours - Monday thru Thursday 8am-1pm (or by appt.)
Church Office Hours - Monday thru Thursday 7:30am-2:00pm | Friday 7:30am-noon

Growing in Faith Towards God...and in Love for One Another

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Financial Secretary

Lori Okrasinski

Treasurer

Roxanne Mueller

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 3, 2024

As we consider all the memories and emotions we feel when we reflect on those saints who have 'passed before us' in the one true and saving faith, we are especially comforted by these two passages from the final book of the Bible – "Apocolypse / Revelation of John."

The first verse is Revelation 14:13, *"And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Blessed indeed,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!'"*

Christians have often wondered about the intent and meaning of the words, *"for their deeds follow them!"* What deeds? Why do they "follow us?"

The foremost theologian of our time and unparalleled expert on the language, translation, and interpretation of the book of the "Apocolypse / Revelation of John" was the departed saint of God – the Rev. Dr. Louis A Brighton. He served on the faculty at Concordia Seminary (St. Louis, MO) and in addition to many published articles and books, he is the author of the foremost authoritative commentary on the book known to Christians as simply "Revelation" which was published by Concordia Publishing House (St. Louis, MO).



His commentary contains these words to address the words in Rev. 14:13 as included above:

"Those who are entering their eternal rest are accompanied by their works (14:13). Those in eternal torment are never separated from their sins and guilt (cf. Matthew 25:41-46). In contrast, the 'saints' are separated from their guilt and shame but are not separated from their godly works, for those works follow them. God does not forget all they have endured in loyalty to the faith. But this also means more. While the Christians lived on earth, their works – by which they adorned the Gospel – honored Christ and glorified God the Father (Titus 2:10; cf. Matthew 5:16). And such works will be cited by God at the final judgment (Matthew 25:31-40).

The second verse is Revelation 21:4, *"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

This verse teaches and reminds us of the blessings that follow the earthly life of the children of God who die in 'the faith' – the saving faith in Jesus. Here is part of the explanation of this verse as provided by Dr. Brighton:

"In Revelation 21:4 the blessed benefits of God dwelling with His people in the new heaven and earth are described. Though given in negative terms, they are telling in their implications. Abolished forever are the debilitating effects of sin. Sorrow, death, mourning, and pain are all part the 'first things' which are now past and gone."

“Grocery Cart Sunday”

The Board of Missional Life rolls out the cart for “Grocery Cart Sunday” on the last Sunday of each month. This is how we collect non-perishable food items and cash donations for the homeless at The Abundant Life Mission & Homeless Shelter and personal hygiene and clothing items for the homeless served by NEWCAP, Inc.

The Abundant Life Mission & Homeless Shelter (ALM), located at 1406 10th Ave., in Menominee, MI, serves the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Northeastern Wisconsin. It costs thousands of dollars to keep the power on and the heat going in winter as well as providing 3 meals a day and training for the 88 men, women and children at the Shelter. It costs \$10 per day to feed just one homeless person and \$50 per day to feed the average homeless family.

Beyond shelter, safety and food, ALM also helps with securing jobs, identification, counseling, medical treatment, affordable housing, and transportation where the need exists for it's clients. They also assist their residents in reaching educational & training goals that will help them succeed.

NEWCAP, Inc., is a non-profit community action agency, located at 1939 Hall Ave., in Marinette, WI, which serves individuals and families who are homeless in Marinette and Menominee Counties. They help people who are living on the streets or in emergency shelter transition, as quickly as possible, into housing, then helps them achieve stability in that housing. To be eligible for help, an applicant must be below or at 30% of the County Medium Income.



Many grocery stores have food in big cans. But, bulk packaged food and spices are harder to find. Places like Brubaker's Country Store at 3152 Co. Rd. A in Oconto, WI is a good place to find these. They have good quality bulk food at affordable prices.

FOOD THAT ALM NEEDS: Soup (cream of mushroom/celery, tomato paste, rice, elbow macaroni, noodles, spices (salt/pepper, garlic salt/powder, almost any spice).

ITEMS NEWCAP NEEDS: Childrens' hats/gloves (mittens), personal hygiene items, laundry soap.

WE USE DROP BOX & “GROCERY CART SUNDAY” CASH DONATIONS TO BUY FRESH MEAT & PRODUCE FOR ALM.

Thank you, everyone for helping us to fill the cart every month!

Rev. Samuel Bobby (Latvia) October 2024 Newsletter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wish to begin by apologizing for the long interval since my last newsletter. I offer no excuses; only my pledge to get back on track now that school is back in session.



And speaking of school, students and faculty at Luther Academy (me included) are off and running! This year we have 10 new students which means we have a total of 26 students from 16 countries. This is very, very exciting. These future pastors are bright, thoughtful, and faithful. They love Jesus and whole heartedly desire to proclaim Christ to their people.

I am continually amazed at our Lord's gracious provision in allowing this mission to continue to flourish. I say that because I know the devil has much to fear from this endeavor. Every potential pastor in a congregation will be a shepherd who will draw others around God's grace and forgiveness (given us in Word and Sacrament). Every potential pastor in a congregation will result in, by God's grace, a community of believers who pray for one another, who share the gospel with their neighbors and family, and who grow and mature together. The devil would like nothing more than to stop Luther Academy and the work God is doing here, yet we know Christ's promise that He will be with us to the end of the age. Nevertheless, Erica, the boys, and I, along with all our teachers and students, are so grateful for your prayers and support. Challenges abound as we missionaries try to navigate issues ranging from visas to finding adequate medical care. Our students are continually beset with obstacles arising from their competing obligations as fathers, husbands, workers, and students. The devil loves to exploit these challenges to sow seeds of doubt, worry, and fear. Thus, we constantly rely on God's grace. So, please know your prayers for us are not in vain! They make all the difference!

Rev. Samuel Bobby

Theological Educator

Eurasia Region

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REV. LEIF CAMP – ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

Greetings and blessings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I have been trying to get to this letter for the last two weeks so that it will not be so late as the last few. I remind you that if you wish to respond to this email, better to use my g-mail address (lzkcamp@gmail.com).

Since my last prayer letter much has happened and is still happening. The new academic year has begun at our Theological Institute in Koltushi (outside of St. Petersburg) and I am teaching two classes this term along with my other duties there. English Language Worship has begun services after our summer break, but we have moved from St. Anne's to St. John's the former Estonian Church. The Ingrian Lutherans have 4 Church buildings in St. Petersburg: St. Mary's, St. Michaels, St. Anne's and St. John's. I am at a pastors' meeting and when it's over the bishop and I will drive to visit parishes in the Moscow District, the Volga District and the Southern District--a weeklong trip (and I want your prayers for the trip).



Discipling - Praise to our Lord that the new academic year has begun with 5 new first year students in our resident program (the distance/non-resident program I will talk about in a future letter): Pavel, Daniil, Ella, Victor and Valeri. Our Theological Institute is our only official educational facility and although our

resident program is small, we also hold all the intensives for our Pre-Sem "Basic Theological Course," distance BDiv Program, master's program, and courses for deaconesses, cantors, bookkeepers, youth workers and Sunday school teachers. Recently a local government school has asked us to rent during the day part of our new building for their special needs children, and we have agreed. We are hoping from this to get experience that we can use to then open our own Christian schools, something we have been seriously trying to do for the last 3 years.

Ordination - Because of our need for pastors, after two years of study we often ordain a student as a licensed deacon to fill a vacancy while he then finishes his studies (this is often why we have few resident third year students as they often transfer to the distance program). Two weeks ago, we ordained Nikita as deacon. The Church is sending Nikita and his wife Ina to fill a mission vacancy in Israel for two years while Pastor Ostanin gets all the proper paperwork for residency. The mission is supported by a conservative Norwegian mission. They need a Russian speaking pastor to lead Russian language services and do outreach to the Russian speaking community.



English language Worship Services Continue - After nine years at St. Anne's English language worship has moved to St. John's, an Ingrian parish also in St. Petersburg. Part of the move was due to the upcoming remodeling of St. Anne's and partially because one of the few pastors who can fill in for me when I am gone, Konstantin Subbotin, is the head pastor at St. John's. The move makes it easier for him. In a future letter I will go into the history of this parish as well.

Prayer Requests:

Pray for my teaching and the new students of our Institute, for my upcoming trip with the Bishop as we do have some serious questions to deal with as some of the parishes we will meet, especially in Saratov. Pray that our Lord bless the move of English Language Worship service, that we may grow and better spread the word. Pray for Nikita and his wife Ina as they prepare for service in Israel (I will be working with them before they leave--so pray that the Lord guide my preparation),

Pray for the parishes also in Kuzyomkina and Gubanitzki (see below) and pray that in all things Bishop Ivan, Seminary Rector Konstantin and all our pastors, and I remain faithful to our callings and spreading the Gospel. Also pray the founding of Lutheran day schools in Russia; that our Lord raise up competent and faithful administrators and teachers. Continue to pray for my knee and back which continue to annoy me and make travel sometimes painful; and for continued wisdom, faith and strength (which includes my health I suppose) to discern, trust and follow our Lord's will.



Other Work and Happenings - First, to kick off English language worship at St. John's we had our annual English Language Church picnic. We have not had one since the COVID Pandemic.

Last month Bishop Ivan invited me to preach in Gubanitzki, where he is the official head pastor. Under Ivan's care the parish has been growing. Before he was elected bishop he was planning to move his family to this village to work more effectively.

Blessings In Christ

Pastor Leif R. Camp –

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria, St. Petersburg Russia.

A CHRISTIAN OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS' DAY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024

Throughout my years of service as a pastor, it has been my custom and practice to include in the worship service closest to "Veterans' Day" a 'Christian Observance' in order to pay our respects and give honor to all who have served and for those servants of our nation who are on 'active duty.' That is what you will see and celebrate during our worship service on the second Sunday of November (10th).



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PROVIDED / VERIFIED AND AMENDED THE INFORMATION ABOUT VETERANS / ACTIVE-DUTY PERSONNEL FROM OUR PAST AND PRESENT FAITH LUTHERAN FAMILY AND YOUR OWN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS!!!

PLEASE take time to review the information for this year's booklet by visiting the table in the Narthex and making any changes and / or additions AND by putting an OK next to the information we currently have – thanks, again!

ONCE MORE -- THANK YOU for helping us to honor our veterans and our active-duty men and women! I look forward to sharing this special service with you on Sunday, Nov. 10.

This is a wonderful opportunity to invite former members, friends, and neighbors to worship with us – especially those who have close friends or relatives who have or are currently service in the armed forces of our nation.



The Christian Life Simple, But Not Easy



Lutherans may use big words when talking about the Christian life (vocation and sanctification), but what those words mean is really pretty simple. While every other religious system in the world besides Christianity is based on karma (you get what you deserve), Christianity's core teaching is that we are saved by God's grace on account of Jesus' death and resurrection. The Christian life, therefore, is not a means to God's love, but a response to God's love. Loving God and loving one's neighbor are those responses in our daily lives.

Individual Christians demonstrate that love for God and others in their unique callings. A mother shows love for God and others as she cares for the needs of her child. A firefighter serves God and others by putting out the fire. Church leaders use their particular gifts to serve at their congregations "in many and various ways." It's not complicated, but it's also not easy.

Christians can grow weary in doing good to others. There are times when we turn in on ourselves and are not eager to serve others. That's why we daily need to be reminded of the joy of the Gospel of sins forgiven. Since God has so loved us by giving Christ unto the altar of the cross, we are set free from the demands of the Law to serve God and those around us as our lives become our sacrifices of praise to God for what He has done for us. Lutherans do talk about good works, sanctification, vocation and what we do for others. All of that flows from what God has done for us in Christ. Our prayer is that the people of God are blessed by clear preaching of God's grace and that they have been well-catechized so they know how the Gospel frees us for lives of loving service to God and others. May you always remember God's love for you in Christ so that this love may overflow to others as you love and serve where the Lord leads you.

LET US PRAY: O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Financial Summary

September 2024 Year-to-Date Numbers:

Offerings for Operations	\$156,444
Operating Expenses	\$161,694
Interest Income	\$ 233
Loss from Operations	\$ (5,017)

Offerings for missions and community outreach projects thru 9-30-24 totaled \$36,948 (over and above the offerings for operations)

I pray that we will each prayerfully consider an over-and-above sacrificial offering that will help our church cover our expenses for the year. May God continue to bless our service to Him, our church, our members, and our community outreach ministries throughout 2024.

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Respectfully submitted,
Roxanne Mueller
Treasurer

A special thank you to everyone who has committed to supporting the work of our church as we return our tithes and first fruit offerings to God our Father. Your generous, regular, consistent offerings help us fund the administration of God's work week in and week out. A special thank you also goes out to those, members and non-members alike, who have so generously given back to God through anonymous and loose offerings. This type of offering has included someone covering the Camp Luther registration fees for four youth; support for the Food Pantry; financial gifts for the Seminarian students, and offerings for the greatest need. Then we have the overwhelming support of our missions and community outreach projects...thank you to all those who have so freely and generously given their support. We are so blessed at Faith to have members freely and generously share their time, talents, and treasure work together to share God's love with each other and the community! May God continue to bless you all as he promises in Luke 6:38

Give away
your life;
you'll find
life given
back. ♡ ♡ ♡
- LUKE 6:38 -

Ministering Through Doing Good

(Please read these excerpts from Joining Jesus on His Mission: How to Be an Everyday Missionary, by Greg Finke)

Last month we talked about the missional practice of "Ministering Through Prayer: Praying with People Out Loud." This month let's talk about "Ministering Through Doing Good."

For
We are God's
Masterpiece

Ephesians 2:10

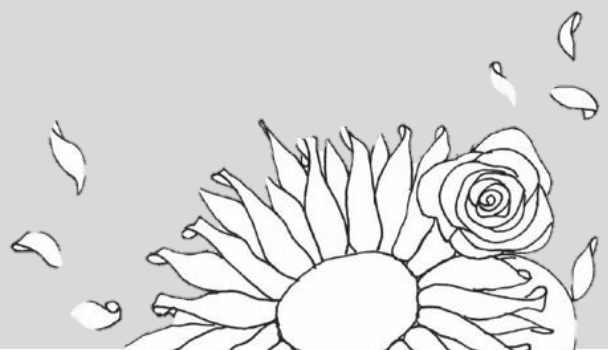
What if random acts of kindness aren't so random? What if the unplanned good that we go around doing for people is actually planned out by God? In fact, that's how it works. Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do."

The "missional practice" of doing good begins with us looking for the good we can do. Sometimes we can plan to do something good in advance for people. But most of the time the good God has prepared in advance for us to do looks spontaneous or serendipitous to us. We weren't planning it, but we were *looking* for it. And so we recognized the opportunity when it arrived to bless someone with a word of hope, an act of kindness, an attitude of grace, a little time or a little help. The good God has prepared for us to do often seems small but will always be significant...perhaps not to the human eye but to the redemptive plan of Jesus. Jesus speaks of little seeds through which God grows mighty works. Our job is not the mighty works; Our job is the little seeds.

Mother Teresa once said "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." Yes, this we can do because God has prepared it in advance for us. His work, our fun.

There is another reason doing good is such an important missional practice. These days, in our culture, words mean very little. So, it doesn't take much to understand why a non-Christian could dismiss our words even though our words are the words of God. So it is important that people see Jesus in us before they hear about Jesus from us. The good works that he has prepared in advance for us to do become the visible proof that Jesus is real. Words regain meaning because through our simple acts of kindness people are seeing that the kingdom of God has come to them.

The missional practice of doing good is the result of God preparing and us responding. What good can we do around here? How can we help to make the kingdom and grace of God a little more real to people nearby?



PRESCHOOL

Hello Spring?? Just kidding, but it sure has felt like spring throughout October hasn't it. In preschool we have been enjoying extra time outside. We know the cold is coming soon so we are enjoying the extra warm days God has given to us this year. We truly enjoyed the nice weather during our field trip to the pumpkin patch on October 17th at Bergeson Farm.



We received a very kind donation for all the students and their families to attend free of cost. All the families were very thankful. The students and their families enjoyed the day as we went on hayrides, bucket car rides, gave goats a snack, pet kid sized ducks, watched big ducks stare at us with no interest to come near us, and slid down a slide that was attached to a tractor made out of hay bales.



In that same week we got to meet some Firefighters. We practiced how to stop, drop, and roll and got to see what a firefighter looks like and sounds like in all his gear. We then were very excited to go check out the big red firetruck. What fun experiences we got to explore at Faith Lutheran Preschool. Thank you for all your continued support throughout the year.



Kathleen Ehlers

Director, Faith Lutheran Preschool
715-732-9903

From Your Shepherd's Heart ~

For Christians "Thanksgiving" is NOT a national holiday celebrated annually on the fourth Thursday of November. NO, it is much, much more than that! For Christians, it is our DAILY way of living. Morning, noon, and night we live and offer the words of Psalm 107:1, **"O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good; His mercy endures forever."** Used by many of us as a part of our mealtime prayers, they were first part of an ancient liturgy sung by the Old Testament Israelites in their act of worship and praise to God for His unending mercy (undeserved kindness) shown to them.

"O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good." The word 'good' first appears in the Bible in Genesis 1 as the adjective God used to describe all that He created, **"And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good"** Genesis 1:31.

In the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, we are reminded of God's **'good'** gifts. Take some time today to look in your Luther's Small Catechism at the 'expanded' explanation of the First Article in the "Question and Answers" portion of the catechism.



In addition to that incredible list, there are many other gifts that come from our **good** and gracious God: our calling to be part of the one, holy, Christian, and apostolic church ... the faith-creating and faith-sustaining gifts of His powerful Word and Sacraments ... the sending of His Son Jesus who died on the cross for the forgiveness of all our sins ... the sending of His powerful Holy Spirit who gives and strengthens the faith given to us by God. **"O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good."**

The word 'mercy' is also used to describe God in Psalm 107:1, "His mercy endures forever." The word for **'mercy'** comes from a Hebrew word which is translated as loving kindness, loyalty, and steadfast love.

In Psalm 136, each verse ends with the chant celebrating God's faithfulness to all generations – **"His mercy endures forever."** The love of God as demonstrated by His **'forever mercy'** has given each of us access to His 'spiritual' gifts of forgiveness, and salvation. Our heavenly Father reached out to create a relationship with each one of us – a relationship based on His grace alone through faith alone in Christ Jesus alone.

God's **goodness** and **mercy** are free gifts offered to all sinners. Our life of faith demonstrates our 'response' to these undeserved gifts. How are you giving and living thanks to God whose **goodness** and **mercy** fills each day of your life? Consider creating such a list and then bless the name of the Lord your God with the response of faith that continues to echo from ancient times, **"O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good; His mercy endures forever."**

LWML FALL MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH.

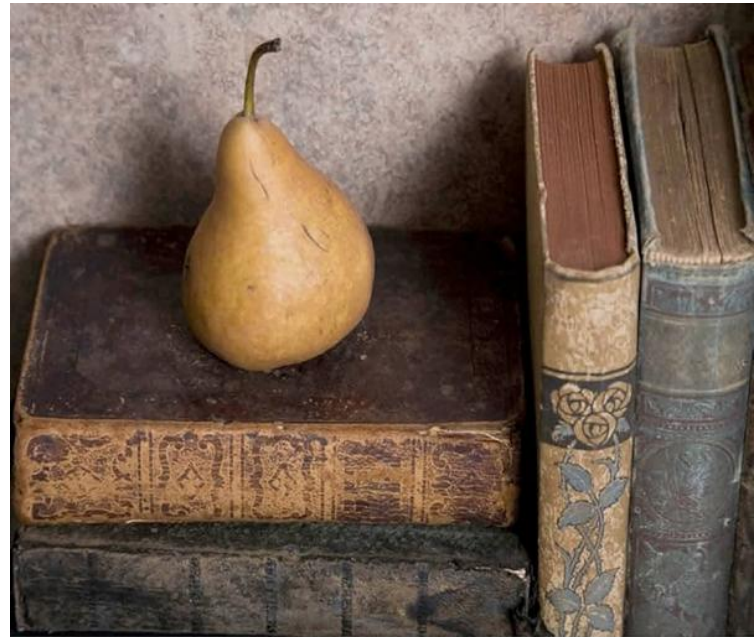
ALL ladies welcome! When you become a member of the Church you are a member of LWML.

We would love. to have you join us..

- Starting at 12:00/noon : A 3 session Bible Study on the Articles of the Apostles Creed. This is in the Summer LW Quarterly; there will also be copies on the table in the narthex. (We will study Article 2 at our January meeting and Article 3 at the April meeting).

- The meeting at 1:00pm : bring your lunch if you want.

God Bless You All and I hope to see all Betsy Gill.



THE HISTORY OF THE APOSTLE'S CREED...

Voters' Assembly Meeting



The Voters' Assembly meeting is scheduled for December 1, following the Sunday Worship service. It is at this meeting we will vote on members who wish to fill open positions of leadership in the congregation's various boards, committees and on church council. We will also be voting on the 2025 proposed budget. Members please plan on attending. Thank you. Church Council



November 2024

Nov. 3rd

All Saints Sunday

Elder : Dan Everson

Greeter : Rosie Wolbrink & Judy Stroming

Reader : Aaron Mullins

Musician : Lois Zill

Altar : Kelly Coan

Screen Assistant : Ali Mullins

Ushers : John Nygren | Kent Newby
and Mike Evancheck

Counters : Chris Froehlich | Sandy Lesperance

BIRTHDAYS :

11/01

Ann Pieper

11/06

Roger Marquardt

11/09

Terry Hanson

Nov. 10th

Twenty-fifth Sunday a. Pentecost

Elder : Dennis Froehlich

Greeter : Duane & Jane Bucholtz

Reader : Jim Olson

Musician : Marilyn Theel

Altar : Lori Okrasinski

Screen Assistant : Ali Mullins

Counters : Char Kielcheski | Laura Isaacson

Usher : Jeff Starks | Bob Dennison
and Dave Kielcheski

Nursery : Sharon Starks

BIRTHDAYS :

11/12

Maggie Nygren

Nov. 17th

Twenty-Sixth Sunday a. Pentecost

Elder : Keith Mueller

Greeter : Roy & Betsy Gill

Reader : Dan Everson

Musician : Lois Zill

Altar : Lisa Charlesworth

Screen Assistant : Devin Scuderi

Counters : Sandy Lesperance | Kelly Coan

Ushers : Bob Charlesworth | Jesse Sebero

Nursery : Lisa Charlesworth

BIRTHDAYS :

11/21

Irene Marquardt

11/23

Jeff Voeks

Nov. 24th

Last Sunday of the Church Year

Elder : Bill Ritson

Greeter : Jesse & Kylie Sebero

Reader : Jeff Voeks

Musician : Danielle Moon

Altar : Sandy Lesperance

Screen Assistant : Ali Mullins

Counters : Kelly Coan | Chris Froehlich

Ushers : Dennis Froehlich | Roy Gill
and Kieth Mueller

Nursery : Roxanne Mueller

***Nov. 27th (Thanksgiving Eve Worship) – 6:30**

Elder : Bill Ritson

Musician : Lois Zill & FLC Choir

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
Silent Auction Bidding : Nov. 3 - Nov. 10						Vicky Chaitry Funeral 10a-12p - Visitation 12p - Service 1p - luncheon
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
ALL SAINTS DAY MITE Collection 9:00am - Worship Service 10:15am - Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday School and Bible Study	6:00pm - Board of Elders' Meeting	Pastor's Circuit Winkle	6:00pm - Discipleship Class	6:00pm - Adult Choir Practice		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
CHRISTIAN OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS' DAY 9:00am - Worship Service 10:30am - Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday School and Bible Study	9:30pm - Endowment Meeting 6:00pm - Board of Ed. Meeting	12:00pm - LWMIL Fall Meeting	6:00pm - Discipleship Class	6:00pm - Adult Choir Practice		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
PENTECOST 26 Missions Collections 9:00am - Worship Service 10:15am - Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday School and Bible Study			6:00pm - Discipleship Class	6:00pm - Adult Choir Practice		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
LAST SUNDAY Grocery cart Sunday 9:00am - Worship Service 10:15am - Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday School and Bible Study	DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		6:30pm -Thanksgiving Eve Worship NO SCHOOL	Thanksgiving Church Office Closed NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	