



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Saying Thanks!

"Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" Psalm 107:1

November brings us Thanksgiving, and the "Holiday Season". In today's culture, the things that instantly come to mind when you mention Thanksgiving are first and foremost turkey, football and shopping...yes Black Friday continues its constant encroachment on Thanksgiving Day. My opinion is that far too many people now refer to this holiday as Turkey Day rather than Thanksgiving. If that's all that it means, a day to eat turkey, why bother? I like to eat turkey on other days of the year too, as many as possible! I checked the football schedule and found that there are no less than three NFL games again this year, beginning at 9:30 in the morning with the Vikings and the Lions, while the Giants and Redskins wind things up somewhere around 9:00 in the evening. If that's not enough football for you there is also a college game that you can watch. Now there's nothing inherently wrong with any of these activities; eating, football and shopping, but we seem to have lost proper perspective, and completely lost the significance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

The verse above is a familiar one. Not only can you find it at the beginning of Psalm 107, but also in two other Psalms (118 and 136) along with 1 Chronicles 16:34. These are the words of God given to his people, the Church;us! They come in the form of an imperative, a command. Giving thanks is what we are supposed to do, continually. *"Give thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (Ephesians 5:20). I wonder, how are we doing on that; thanking God always and for everything? How are we, the Church of Jesus Christ doing in our own Thanksgiving celebrations? Many churches, including us Lutherans, have given up holding Thanksgiving worship services. Why? Because of poor attendance...few come! We try to make them as convenient as possible, on Wednesday evening in many cases, but the results are the same. There are very few for the choirs to sing to, and for pastors to preach to.

Well enough of the guilt trip! What I really want to focus on is the second part of these verses, on what comes after the command. Here we have the compelling reason for our thanksgiving...*"for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."* Indeed, we have a good God, one who loves us without fail and forever. Think about that and what it means for a few moments, chew on it for a bit and see how you feel. God's very nature, his entire being, is goodness and love, which is continually expresses to you, and to me. Even though we choose over and over again to ignore him; to rebel against him in our sin, He never changes. He never stops loving us and showering us with his goodness. When we do the most hateful things, to others and to him, He still provides us with food to eat, homes to live in, clothing to wear and cars to drive. Our list of blessings goes on and on. That's not to say that we are always doing bad things, it just illustrates the psalmist's points that God is with us through thick and thin. James writes; *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."* (James 1:17). The greatest gift that ever came down from above is Jesus our Savior; who *"came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven."* (You'll find that in the 2nd Article of the Nicene Creed) Jesus, the eternal Son of God became flesh, a human being, one of us, so that He could take on our sin and die under the weight of our guilt and punishment, satisfying the righteous wrath of God against sin and sinners. His innocent death atones for our sins and in his resurrection, we are justified, made right with God the Father, so that we might receive the gift of eternal life by faith. Now there is something and someone to be truly thankful for!

Whenever you hear the word "Thanksgiving" during this month of November take a moment to remember who it is that we should truly be saying thank-you to. That would be our good and loving God, the God who saves us. And if it's not too much stop by our Thanksgiving worship service that begins at 7:00pm on Wednesday November 22nd. I'll be here, along with a few others.

~ Pastor Brian



**OUTREACH MINISTRY
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS JOY
MISSION COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER
NOVEMBER 1- DECEMBER 4, 2017
DISTRIBUTION DECEMBER 8-9**



MCOOC needs your help to provide gifts of new clothing to 1000 children, infant through 6th grade (sizes 0 through 16). *Goals for this year are 1000 pairs of new jeans and tops, 2,000 pairs of underwear, 800 sets of*

has, scarves, gloves or mittens, 1000 books and \$8000 in monetary donations. Each child will receive an age appropriate book. One of the special things about this event is that only parents may attend and pick out the clothes and books. The materials are then gift wrapped for the children to be opened Christmas morning.

The needs of low income families in Spokane have continued to grow and today Mission Community Outreach Center provides clothing for more than 1200 people per month and infant items for more than 240 infants per month.

We have barrels in the Narthex for your donations or you can bring them directly to MCOOC Monday, Wednesday, or Fridays 1 to 5 p.m. Donations of clothing, shoes and outerwear, basic household goods including small appliances hygiene items, bedding, towels and infant care supplies such as diapers, wipes, and infant formula are always welcome and needed.

Questions about this event or about MCOOC can be addressed to me, Karen Schatz, or the MCOOC Director Ruth Wagley at 509-536-1084. ~ **Carole Nesbitt**

ST. JOHN'S MISSION STATEMENT

Our purpose is to worship God and to glorify our Lord, Jesus Christ by sharing His love, bringing people to Jesus and His family, growing together toward Christ-like maturity and equipping each other for service.



A Ministry Coordinator Corner

My life now centers around helping others in one way or another. I've worked my entire adult life and I've learned that I crave human interaction. As Jared used to tell me, "You don't play well by yourself." In other words, I need to be around other people. Once I retired (two times to be exact) completely I decided that I had to figure out what to do with my life and all this "free" time that I was going to have. I am not a "crafty" person, I have no appreciable hobbies, and I am not a loner. Volunteering twice a week and now working for the church as well as being a Lay Minister and a Stephen Minister, suits me just fine.

As a Christian, we are told to help others. "Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you". (Matthew 5:42) "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" (Matthew 25:40).

WAYS TO HELP OTHERS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Smile and be friendly. | Do a chore |
| Call a charity to volunteer. | Send a nice email. |
| Donate something you don't use. | Show appreciation. |
| Make a donation. | Donate food. |
| Redirect gifts | Just be there. |
| Stop to help. | Create a care package. |
| Teach. | Be patient. |
| Comfort someone in grief. | Tutor a child. |
| Buy food for a homeless person | Lend your voice. |
| Lend your ear. | Offer to babysit. |
| | Love. |
| | Help someone |

With the love of Christ.

~~Karen Schatz, Ministry Coordinator



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR KITCHEN DUTY

We now have volunteers signed up for November, but we are still in need of December Kitchen Duty. Please Sign up if you can help! Thanks, Bud Ehrgott.



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR AND KAY!

Pastor Brian and I would like to thank everyone who made the Reformation service and dinner successful. We had 226 in attendance for the service and served more than 160 in the German dinner. Thanks to the women's Bible study for making the German potato salad, the quilters for the cakes, also the Worship and Music Board for organizing the event and the musicians for the wonderful music. A BIG thanks goes to all those who helped set up, serve and clean-up on Saturday and Sunday. Thanks to Al Anderson for finishing the dishes Monday morning, and also a special thanks to Louis Huang, our AV guy, who set up an alternate sound system after our main system failed. It was a wonderful day! Let's do it again in 2517! Thanks!



COME CELEBRATE WITH US

Pastor Brian & Kay's Retirement Party

When: Sunday, November 19, 2017

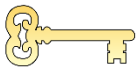
Time: 4 P.M.

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church

What to Bring: Salad or Side Dish,

Main Dish and Dessert Will Be Provided.

We still need pictures of Brian and Kay for a special slide show as well as ideas and stories. These can be given to the Office Staff. Donations for parting gifts are taken in the office. (See the Minion on Karen's desk.)



KEYS, KEYS, WHO'S GOT THE KEYS?

We are currently updating our records of key holders. We need your name and what kind of key you have. It might be a master key, house key, front church door key, etc. Please contact the office and let them know. Security is important to all of us and we need to know who has these keys. Thanks, Karen Schatz.



NOVEMBER VOTERS ASSEMBLY:

The Annual regular meeting of the Voters Assembly is set for Sunday November 12th between the worship services. We'll get going as close to 9:30am as possible. As always, there are Church Council elections, reports, and the budget for 2018 to be approved, and there will likely be information regarding the pastoral call process. Please plan to attend and take part in the discussions and business.



BOOK CLUB NEWS: The Book Club will be meeting Saturday, Nov. 4 at 9:30 at the home of Sue Burden. We will be discussing the first three chapters of our new book LUTHER. Those who want to carpool, please meet at the church parking lot a little before 9:00. We will leave there at 9:00 to drive to the Burdens. ~ Grace Miller



We are officially on Twitter! Our user name is StJLCSpokane. You can add us and comment anything you'd like regarding our church, events and ministries. Tonya Gaskins is the administrator.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday (for the first time since 2006) our worship schedule will be different than the past few years. On Christmas Eve day our morning worship; which is the last Sunday in Advent, takes place at 10:00am (again, just ONE service). The Lord's Supper will be included. On Christmas Eve (the evening) worship will take place at 6:00pm...with a Christmas Hymn Sing and a Candlelight closing.



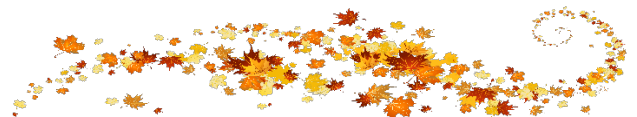
EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION!

We need to have someone listed as your emergency contact person in our church records for all our parishioners. It's extremely important to have someone listed in case of emergency in our records. You are all very important to us. If you already have someone listed that's great, but many of you don't. Please contact Karen Schatz. Thank you.



CHURCH DIRECTORY PICTURES

During the month of November, we'll be taking pictures for the new church directory. If you'd like a new picture please contact Karen Schatz. She'll be more than happy to take a picture of your smiling face. Some of the pictures that we have are several years old and you might just want to get an updated one.



TREASURER'S REPORT



**A LOOK
at the
BUDGET**

General Fund Offerings for September 2017 \$14,369 (Amount needed monthly to meet 2017 budget \$15,070.
YTD Total for 2017 \$149,703
(Amount needed to meet 2017 budget \$144,747)

Building Mortgage Income for September 2017 \$2,752 YTD 2017 total \$34,052 (Amount needed to meet 2017 budget \$30,042)

--- Ron Mindemann, Parish Council Treasurer



DINNER CLUB

We are still looking for people to join our merry band of Dinner Club diners. This is a great chance to not only dine with many of the folks of

St. John's Lutheran Church, but a chance to really get to know each other. I'd love to see even more people get involved. All are welcome to join us. Please contact Karen Schatz if you would like to join this group.



MacCallum

Again we apologize for last Sunday's bulletin misprint – the "Martial" Arts Class should have read "Marital" Arts. And we continue to pray for Greg and Becky Davis' speedy recovery.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....Brian Albrecht
Organist, Choir DirectorLaurie Eash
Ministry Coordinator.....Karen Schatz
Administrative Bookkeeper.....Christine Miller
Administrative Assistant.....Tonya Gaskins
MCS Director, Lead Teacher... Jolee Wilke
MCS Teacher.....Shannon Lorenz
MCS Librarian..... Julie St. Germain

NOVEMBER COUNTERS

Nov 5Carole Anderson & Bud Erghott
Nov 12.....Pat Foster & Linda Rowley
Nov 19 ..Allen Bremner, Sheri & Kevin Jenkins
Nov 26.....Lois Bremner, Bonnie Heimbigner, Louis Huang

NOVEMBER DOOR GREETERS

Nov 5 8:30 Carol Kyлло
10:30 Phyllis & Bob Luiten
Nov 12 8:30 Carol Baker & Joyce Cook
10:30 Barbara Purcell
Nov 19 8:30 Vikki & Peter Paulovic
10:30 Carole & Gary Nesbitt
Nov 26 8:30 Vikki & Peter Paulovic
10:30 Barbara Purcell

Please call Marcia Graham (998-3645) if you want to be a Door Greeter.

November Happy Anniversary

11/11/1995 David & Maria Woehl
11/11/1989 David & Dawn Burnside
11/24/1957 Virtus & Donna Young

November Happy Birthday

2 Larry Doud
2 Evan Ford
2 Kellen Beam
3 Jason Doud
6 Jim Smith
9 Jerene Poppe
12 Kathy Faris
13 Grant Beam
17 Eily Fitzner
17 Anika Paul
21 Shirley Bell
21 John Zurenko
23 Ron Mindemann
24 Nina Deboise
24 Jonah Wright
25 Chris Fitzner
26 Glenn Duncan
28 Bob Schumann