

October
2018

St. John Lutheran Church



Mission Statement

St. John is a living witness to the love of God as shown in Jesus Christ.

We gather faithfully in His name to worship and praise Him; and we go forth in peace to share the Good News and to serve the world around us.

St. John Lutheran Church
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Dear friends in Christ,

In October and November we are again exploring our discipleship faith practice of giving as we participate in year two of the three year "First We Give of Ourselves" stewardship emphasis. The focus this year is "Giving in Gratitude." Our Lutheran faith tradition holds to the conviction that we live out our faith everyday in gratitude for what God has first done for us, primarily including the giving of God's own Son for our sake. The Christian life is best summed up as an active grateful response to God. This sense of embodied, lived thankfulness is found in the psalms:

*I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.*

*I will be glad and exult in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. (Psalm 9:1-2)*

I remember my mother telling me to "count your blessings." At bedtime we used to ask our children, "What was a good thing that happened today?" On Thanksgiving Day many of you may sit around the dinner table and announce something you are grateful for. What are God's blessings in your life? Where have you experienced God's presence? We have so much to be grateful for, how do respond? Do we respond with heartfelt gratitude? How do we share the blessings we have been given more fully for the sake of others and the glory of God in response to what we have received? Let's explore this together.

As part of this emphasis there will be a four part sermon series with an accompanying bible study offered on Wednesday's and Sunday during the Sunday School hour. On **November 4th we will celebrate "Gratitude Sunday"** lifting up all we are grateful for, and on **November 11th we will come together at one worship service at 10:00 a.m.** for "Commitment Sunday" with a celebration lunch to follow worship.

Let us pray,

God, our divine designer, praise be to you for you have gifted us with life and directed our lives with purpose. Show us how we may live fully for you. Guide us to carry out your will. Amen

-From *Bread for the Day*, page 293

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bob Zimmerman

“Giving in Gratitude” Bible Study

Beginning in October, our congregational Bible Study begins with a couple of opportunities to participate. This is a four-week study and a key spiritual growth opportunity in our **First, Give of Ourselves** emphasis.

The bible studies will occur on Wednesdays during the Brown Bag Bible Study-lunch at noon and the study begins at 12:30.

The “Giving in Gratitude” Bible Study will also be offered on Sundays during the 9:00 am Sunday School hour, downstairs in the couch corner of the Fellowship Hall.

3Q18 Mission Emphasis Update

As of September 23, 2018, we have collected \$1,016.00 to Help Feed a Refugee Family. This means we can feed a family for a little more than ten months; with this being the last day of the quarter, it will be exciting to see our grand total in next week’s bulletin! Thank you so much for your wonderful generosity!

4th Quarter Mission Emphasis Supports Local Refugee Family

It is with great pleasure that the Mission Endowment and Outreach Committee announces that all Mission Emphasis gifts received during the fourth quarter will help a local refugee family. The Daini family is from Nigeria and currently lives in Beechview. Single mother, Yinka, is raising three boys and one girl ages six, eleven, thirteen and fourteen. The family is in great need of new mattresses and bunk beds for the children. Therefore, all monies raised, plus an additional gift of \$1,000.00 from MEOC, will be used for this purpose. As you contemplate your own blessings, please consider helping this local family starting a new life here in the United States. If you have questions, or would like more information, please speak with one of our committee members. Thank you!



Giving in Gratitude Commitment Sunday November 11, 2018

One service only at 10:00 am on Sunday, November 11. Luncheon to follow.

Rally Breakfast Donations

Thank you for your generosity in donating at the Rally Breakfast to help the family in need. \$624.00 was raised by the congregation, and the Mission Endowment Fund will contribute \$500.00 for a total of \$1,124.00. Your help is greatly appreciated!



WEDNESDAYS FROM 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. THROUGH NOVEMBER 21ST

To be held at Old Union Presbyterian Church, 200 Union Church Rd, Mars

This fall St. John will team up with our brothers and sisters from Valencia Presbyterian and Old Union Presbyterian Churches to be part of a weekly multigenerational evening fellowship and education opportunity called **G.R.O.W.** for adults and children.

G.R.O.W. is a way for individuals to get "renewed" and for families to stay connected with God and with each other in the midst of the weekly busyness.

Each Wednesday evening begins with a family style meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by a time of Music and Worship and from 7-8 there are classes and activities for all from preschool to adults. The pastors from all three congregations will take turns leading the adult group. If you come for the meal, a suggested donation of \$5 per person is requested (*family max of \$15*) to cover the cost of the food.



For Youth and Adults: World Vision Service Day- 9 am to noon, October 27th

At World Vision's Pittsburgh Global Distribution Center for gifts-in-kind (GIK), donated products are sorted, processed, and prepared for domestic and international distribution. Since 1990, World Vision's GIK program has distributed high-quality donations valued at \$3.0 billion, including medical supplies, clothes and shoes, school supplies, personal care products, and other needed items. The 40,000-square-foot center in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, enables World Vision to process and ship more donated product more efficiently. Volunteers are integral to the work in Pittsburgh, with over 7,500 volunteers working in the facility every year.

For three years our youth have spent a day sorting and packing items to be sent throughout the world at the distribution center in Sewickley. This October 27th they invite everyone to join with them in this morning of service. In October there will be a sign up sheet for those able to help but mark your calendars today!



**Mars Applefest
Saturday, October 6
10:00-4:00 pm**

Come for a day of fall food,
fun, crafts, entertainment and
more!

The Second Sunday of each month is Food Bank Sunday.

Quilting Group – October 8 – 6 pm



For the next few months we will be meeting at Cindy Knauff's house – 469 Browns Hill Rd., Valencia.
Whether you are a beginner or a novice you are welcome to join us as we make quilts for Lutheran World Relief.
We are in need of blankets for batting and sheets for backing if you would like to donate these items it will be much appreciated.

October Worship Helpers

Assisting Minister

10/07

8:00 am Dave Knauff

10:30 am Missy Kramer

10/14 & 10/21

8:00 am Dave Knauff

10:30 am Carol Zimmerman

10/28

8:00 am Dave Knauff

10:30 am Denise Hager

Usher

8:00 am Clarence Strabel

10:30 am John Fritz



Ladies Craft Night Wednesday, October 10 – 7:00 pm

Get ready for fall and join us as we make wine cork pumpkins! **The cost is \$20 per person.** If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet in the greeting area and enclose fee in an envelope and put in Denise's mailbox. You must pay in advance to reserve a spot.



Kid's Club October 26, 2018 – 6:30-8:00 pm

Our Kid's Club program at St. John is for kids age 4-10 (or if they attend Sunday School). We will have music, stories, games, free play, a craft to take home and the all important snack! Any questions, please speak to Tanya Nagel.

Ladies Book Group October 17– 3 pm



We are currently reading "The Dovekeepers" by Alice Hoffman. Join us as we read this historical novel.



Fall Clean Up Day Saturday, November 3

Save the date! If you are able to help clean up the church grounds on this day, your help will be greatly appreciated.

Youth Fun Night

Friday, October 12, 2018 – 7pm-Midnight

Youth Night is a fun, social evening for the youth of our congregation. Please bring a snack to share, a game, or a favorite PG or G rated movie. Hope to see you there!



October Birthdays

- 10/06 Rozlyn Ludloff
- 10/11 Marlene Strabel
- 10/17 Ruth Bielo
- 10/20 Melissa Kramer
- 10/22 Charles Davidson Jr.
- 10/22 Amy Adams
- 10/24 Kim Richards
- 10/26 Carolyn Zimmerman
- 10/27 Denise Julio
- 10/28 Grant Werner
- 10/30 Karen Schulz

Upcoming Events
Nov. 3 – Fall Clean-up Day
Nov. 11 – Commitment Sunday



- 10/02 Francis & Grace Kratz – 70 yrs.
- 10/10 Robert & Christine Dishong – 20 yrs.
- 10/13 David & Ellen Hrach – 17 yrs.
- 10/17 Frederick & Susan Bielo – 31 yrs.
- 10/20 James & Denise Hager – 39 yrs.
- 10/22 Charles & Anne Olescyski – 52 yrs.
- 10/25 Reed & Kimberly Richards – 15 yrs.

October Newsletter

Communion Bread Schedule
 October, November, December
 Denise Hager

Counters for October
 Katie Niklewicz & Carol
 Zimmerman



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