



ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

1377 Lester Road, Valley City, Ohio 44280

330-483-4119, www.spvc.org

November 2015

Pastor's Musings:

A Few Thoughts on Generosity and Thanksgiving

The leaves are changing and the harvest is being gathered in. The time of Thanksgiving is upon us. What a time for thanks it is indeed! We have so much to be thankful for and so many ways to express that gratitude toward God (even sometimes, expressing gratitude by being ones who receive blessings from the generosity of others). St. Paul writes these words regarding giving thanks, generosity, and God's blessings:

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (ESV)

⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written,

"He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹²For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

You, as a member of the Body of Christ here at St. Paul, are a part of the life of generosity that flows from God, through us, and to our neighbors. God has provided for all our needs of body and soul and as He gives, you are "enriched in every way to be generous in every way."

How can I be generous? How do I give? The funny thing is, sometimes our heart's desire to be generous is side-tracked by distractions or by difficulties in actually making it happen—actually getting the gift into the offering. Sounds a little silly to many of you, doesn't it? Grab your envelope and you just write a check and in it goes! Or, rifle through your wallet and drop in a few bills right? Well, if you're 20-30-something, I'll bet you don't really carry cash and likely don't have much use for a checkbook. Either you pay for things electronically, use a card, or pay online. So, how can you be a generous part of the Body of Christ, returning to God a portion of the blessings He has provided to you?

Electronic Giving is likely already possible with your bank!

1. **Set up St. Paul to get an “online bill-pay.”** (Your bank will cut a check and mail it to the church)
2. **Prayerfully consider a regular gift amount that reflects God’s gifts to you** (often 10% of gross income and other income, but that’s neither a minimum nor a maximum; give as freely as God has given to you; the important thing is, start somewhere, and challenge yourself to increase in your generosity) It’s not about how much, it’s about a proportional gift as God has given you. Jesus praised a woman who gave two pennies, because it was all the money she had in the world. Small in amount, but huge in faith that God would indeed provide. There is no fear in generosity, only joy in giving.
3. **Pick an interval for when to send your offering:** weekly is good, around your pay schedule is good too, monthly, etc.

That’s it! You’ve just jumped into the life of generosity in support of the work of the Gospel. It feels good to do something pleasing to God. That’s your faith rejoicing to live the new life that Christ has created in you. A generous spirit is a gift from God.

St. Paul Endowment Fund

Another realm of generosity is the Endowment Fund set up here at St. Paul. A number of years ago we established a fund to grow the gifts of God’s people and support the special ministries and opportunities that God would lay before us. The time is right to begin growing that fund and preparing it to be a blessing to our future ministry goals.

The Endowment Fund is a lot like the work of Joseph in Egypt when God showed him that there would be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. Joseph prepared for the lean times by laying up stores of grain. When the famine came, “all the world” came to Egypt to buy bread. God preserved His people through planning and preparation. With birthrates declining and hostility toward the Gospel seeming to increase on every side, there may indeed be leaner times ahead for God’s people. How can we prepare now to be a blessing to others later?

The Endowment Committee has been meeting to revise the structure and tools they will use to help the members of St. Paul make deliberate, planned gifts toward the future work of the congregation. Do you have an estate plan? Does it include the work of the Gospel here and around the world? Wouldn’t it be tremendous to learn about how you can leave a legacy for your family and for your church with the same resources God has provided you? Keep an eye out for information about free gift planning services arranged by the Endowment Committee working together with the Ohio District and the LCMS.

The Vicar of the Valley

(Sounds like a book title.) Last month I introduced you to what a “vicar” was and that we are considering hosting a full-year vicarage program here at St. Paul. More than 40 people came to hear our very own Jeff Burgess talk about his vicarage experience and encourage us as we consider the future.

On November 8, between services, we will hold our annual Voters’ Meeting to approve the 2016 Budget, which includes funding for the vicarage program. Pastor and the Elders will talk about the Vicarage opportunity, but time will be limited, so take advantage of these next few weeks to learn about the program. If you have questions, drop me a line, or catch one of the Elders to learn more.

Thanks be to God for you, and the blessings He freely gives us through His Word and Sacraments here at St. Paul.

In Christ,

Pastor Zielinski

LWML

[Lutheran Women's Missionary League](#) or LWML is the official women's organization of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. The LWML supports mission outreach and personal spiritual development. As a woman of St. Paul, longtime member or new, you are invited to be involved in LWML. There are lots of new faces and if you have or have not been involved in LWML before, please consider attending LWML which meets the first Tuesday evening of the month at 7:00 PM in the church fellowship hall.

The Food Pantry is open the third Saturday of the month to the public from 10:30 to 12:00. It is available to church members when the church is open. In November we will be assembling Thanksgiving baskets for those in need. We also do baskets for Christmas. Thank you to everyone who so generously continues each month to support the food pantry. If you bring in food donations, please place the bags on the table in the food pantry. If you wish to donate monetarily, please give your donation to Jean Wadle, Wendy Patrick or Diane Johnson. All money donated to the food pantry is kept separate and used to stock the food pantry when donations are down.

Family Christmas Tea is Tuesday, **December 1 at 7 PM!** Pastor will open the evening with devotions and hymns, then a performance to follow by Christopher Milo. Fellowship continues with refreshments. A door offering will be taken for Christopher Milo's Anti-Bully, Suicide Solution Program. He will also have CD's for sale after the performance. Everyone is invited for this special evening. A sign up list is at the welcome center. Please sign up to help with this special event by baking, cleaning up, or the bow tie men of the congregation to serve refreshments!

There are still two positions open for officers/appointed positions for 2016. If you are interested in serving please talk with Diane Johnson, Ethel Schiemann, Sandy Turner or Jean Wadle for more information. All women of the congregation are warmly welcomed to the LWML meeting on Nov. 3 meeting at 7 PM.

LWML Lorain-Medina zone met on Sat Oct. 10th. We were led in prayer by Pastor Ramsey as he continued to base his devotion on "sew, nourish, and reap". We, as Christians, need to communicate the gospel to all we meet and then let the Holy Spirit take care of the rest. We are the antidote to sin, LWML can be the medicine to cure sin. He asked for prayer requests and finished in a most touching prayer, including all our requests. The business part of the meeting was held and we discussed past issues and planned into 2016. Our new 2016 theme is "Plant your roots in Christ" from Colossians 2:6-7. Join us at our next meeting, Nov., 14th, 10:00AM, at Trinity, Grafton and learn about our fall retreat, convention and many other things planned for 2016.

Ethel Schiemann, Zone President.

QUILTING

Like to sew? Bring your scissors and join the St. Paul Quilters on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:15. This month it is Nov. 18 after Bible Study. There are quilts in different stages in progress. Sew, you don't have to be a sewer to cut or tie. Join us for an afternoon of fellowship in the church basement. If you have questions, talk with Jeannette Rafter, Judy Renz or Diane Johnson.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer shawl ministry has returned and is once again on the move. What is a prayer shawl? It is a hand crocheted, knitted, or quilted shawl; scarf; lap robe; or baby blanket that is presented to individuals as a heartfelt gift to let them know that they are in our thoughts and prayers. It is more than just a garment. It begins with a prayer that whoever receives this shawl will feel less alone, whatever their situation.

What is a prayer shawl ministry? It is an out-reach ministry intended to provide additional care and support for people in our congregation, our families, and in our neighborhoods. The purpose of this ministry is to touch the lives of those in need of prayer for care, support, and life's celebrations.

Participation is easy. Some will choose to prayerfully knit, crochet, or quilt for people in need of prayer. These crafters will select and use their own supplies or those provided by the prayer shawl ministry. Others will choose to prayerfully create the thinking-of-you cards that will be attached to each item. Additional folks will make it a point to pray for the participants and recipients of the shawls, scarves, lap robes, or baby blankets.

Most often the prayer shawls will be distributed by Pastor Zielinski during his pastoral visits.

This ministry has just gotten a grant from Thrivent. This will help with the cost of yarn and supplies, and enable our ministry to grow and reach more people.

We are thankful and so ready to start our work. If you can knit, crochet, quilt or write a note to accompany the shawl, please join us.

If you are interested in being a part of the prayer shawl ministry or have any questions please contact: Margit Gery 330-635-2860 or "Charlie" Djordjevec 440-655-3729.

TRUSTEES

Both parking lot lights are again working, new bulbs were needed and just in time for earlier darkness.

West parking lot was buckled and damaged and after considering a number of bids, the work was ordered. Although this damage was basically in one spot, both parking lots are aging and may need a 2" top layer of asphalt applied to protect it for the future. Not sure if only a seal coat would be sufficient. The Trustees will be seeking bids next spring.

HVAC vendor called in to service all units in the Fellowship Hall, a couple of minor alarms were found and two control units were found non-functional. All units tuned up and are running clean and efficient.

After 11 years we are starting to see some lighting issues in the entrance area and narthex. After replacing the CFL bulbs, then the ballast component fails. Therefore the Trustees are investigating replacing the current lighting and fixtures with LED fixtures. We have not had to replace a bulb in six years since we installed the LED lights in the Sanctuary. If there are any members willing to help remove the old fixtures and install new fixtures and lights, please contact a Trustee for a Saturday work day possibly in November.

We will again be taking orders for engraved paving bricks for the cross in the Memorial Garden in 2016. Please contact the church secretary if you are interested in ordering an engraved brick for the cross. We will probably not offer this again for a few years since we need a minimum number of bricks for engraving.



HOMEMADE PUMPKIN ROLL

Save yourself the time and hassle of making a homemade dessert this holiday season. The pumpkin rolls will arrive frozen and will thaw in 2-3 hours. Great gift for teachers, hosts, neighbors, and friends. The order forms are at the Welcome Center or you can order on-line at www.spvc.org. **The last day to order is November 15th**, so order yours today! Pumpkin Rolls will be available for pick up on Sunday November 22, 2015 from 8:00 to 11:30 am.

ADVENT SERVICES

ADVENT MID-DAY service will be each Wednesday beginning on Dec. 2nd (Dec. 9th & Dec 16th) at 11:30am followed by a light luncheon and Bible Study. This is a great opportunity to attend Advent Services for those who are not able to attend Evening Services.

ADVENT EVENING SERVICES will begin on Dec. 2nd (Dec. 9th & Dec 16th) at 6pm with a Soup Dinner in the fellowship hall. Following the dinner will be our Worship Service at 7pm. A Sign-up sheet for the Soup Dinner is at the Welcome Center. Plan to join us in fellowship and worship each Wednesday.

THE GOD WITH US CONCERT

The music of over 80 voices and instrumentalists from over 20 N.E. Ohio congregations will fill the sanctuary in musical worship experience at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Valley City, Ohio, on Sunday, November 8 at 6:30pm. The church is located at 2233 Abbeyville Road in Valley City. This is a gift from our hearts to yours; a free-will offering for Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry/Next Step will be accepted. For more information, call 330-483-3873. Their website is www.zionvc.org.

VALLEY CITY CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG

You are invited to the Valley City Christmas Sing-A-Long to be held on Saturday, **December 12th at 6pm here at St. Paul**. Each year the churches in Valley City join together to brighten the Christmas season with song. Each choir will sing a selection or two and then there will be community singing. The sing-a-long is sponsored by the Valley City Chamber of Commerce. If you would like to help with the refreshments following the Sing-a-long it would be appreciated.





St. Paul's LWML
Cordially Invites You to Our

Annual Christmas Tea

December 1, 7:00 p.m.

1377 Lester Rd., Valley City, Ohio

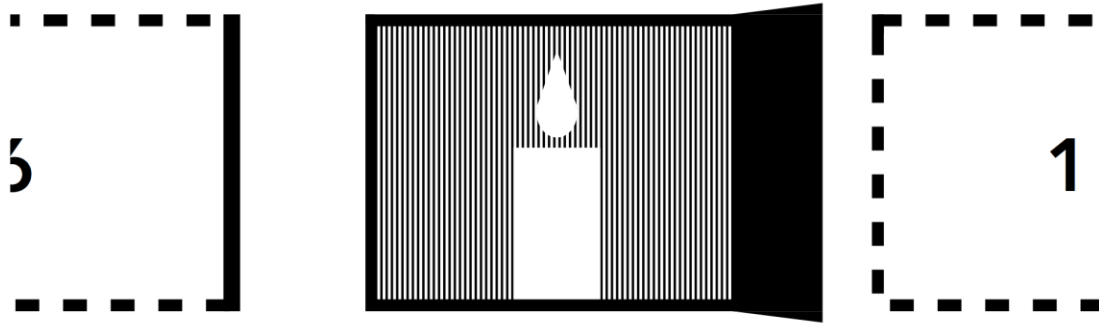
Join us for an evening of entertainment by Christopher Milo, musician, performer, motivational speaker. He has a heart for the youth and the elderly. Everyone is invited to join us and bring a friend for the opening devotion, entertainment and a marvelous offering of cookies, pastries, punch, coffee and tea.



This event is made possible in part by a grant from Thrivent Financial. Admission is free. A freewill offering will be taken to support a Leadership, Anti-Bully and Suicide Solution Program which is taken into schools.

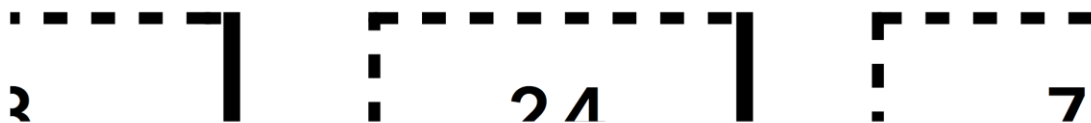


Christmas at St. Paul



WE ARE WAITING

Prophecy ~ Fulfillment ~ Promise



Advent

Wednesdays

December 2, 9, & 16

11:30am - Midweek Service

12:00pm - Lunch / Bible Study

6:00pm - Supper

7:00pm - Midweek Service

Christmas

December 24

Times to be Announced

December 25

10:00am - Divine Service

Special Events:

Christmas Tea with Christopher Milo

Tuesday, December 1, 7:00pm

Valley City Christmas Sing-a-Long at St. Paul

Saturday, December 12, 6:00pm

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 20, 10:30am

November 2015

Church Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 & 10:30 am Worship Serv. 9:15 SS & Bible Class	No CONFIRMATION HANDBELL PRACTICE 7:00PM	LWML MEETING 7:00 PM	Bible Class 11:30am –1p Worship Committee 6:30 pm	Choir Practice 7:00 pm		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8 & 10:30 am Worship Serv. 9:15 SS & Bible Class Voters Meeting 9:15 Grand friends Thanksgiving dinner 5pm	CONFIRMATION 6:30PM HANDBELL PRACTICE 7:00PM	ELDER MEETING 7:00 PM	Bible Class 11:30am –1p	Choir Practice 7:00 pm		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8 & 10:30 am Worship Serv. 9:15 SS & Bible Class Last day to order pumpkin roll	CONFIRMATION 6:30PM HANDBELL PRACTICE 7:00PM	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM	Bible Class 11:30am –1p Quilters Meet 1:15pm	Choir Practice 7:00 pm		Food Pantry 10:30am
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8 & 10:30 am Worship Serv. 9:15 SS & Bible Class Pumpkin Roll pick up	CONFIRMATION 6:30PM HANDBELL PRACTICE 7:00PM		Bible Class 11:30am –1p Worship Service 7pm	Thanksgiving Day No Choir Practice		Christmas Decorating 9:00am
29	30	Note: Christmas Tea Dec. 1 at 7:00				
8 & 10:30 am Worship Serv. 9:15 SS & Bible Class	CONFIRMATION 6:30PM HANDBELL PRACTICE 7:00PM					

November 2015

Birthday/Anniversary

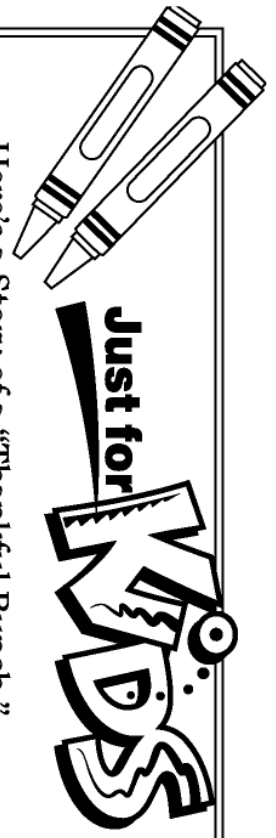
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Natalie Myers	2 Samuel Strba	3	4 Bill & Tolley Schnurr # 9 Brian Dearth	5 Larry Krueger	6 Jeff & Grace Bailey # 16 Ron Strba Sr.	7 Bob & Ethel Schiemann # 45
8	9 Miles Heyse	10 William Schnurr IV	11 Sharon Jaeger	12 Richard & Dorothea Miller # 49 Debbie Heffinger Diane Peters Jessica Shook	13	14 Ricky Rasschaert
15 Ethel Schiemann	16 David Spry Ezmarelda Winterstein Valeria Zielinski	17 Adam Read Kathe Stumpf	18 Ron & Holly Pierce # 20 Ron Strba Jr.	19 Richard Olee	20 Don & Debbie Gotsch # 43	21
22 Anita Praisler Matthew Shook	23 Madison Jakabcic Ron Pierce Joshua Whitmer	24 Holly Hinderer Molly Ross	25 Nina Spry	26 Irene Sopata	27	28
29	30					

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1377 Lester Road
Valley City, OH 44280

Address Service Requested

November Newsletter 2015



Here's a Story of a "Thankful Bunch."

We can rejoice and give thanks to God, just as many thankful people did in Bible times. Use the list of names to fill in the blank lines, and then use the leaf code to complete the verse.

Names: Elijah, Naaman, Hannah, paralyzed man, Jairus, Moses, Rahab, Mary & Martha

Led his people through the Red Sea.

Jericho fell, but she and her family were saved.

Her prayer was heard and she gave her son to God.

Ravens brought him food.

Cured of his leprosy, he worshiped God.

Their brother was raised from the dead.

Lowered through a roof, Jesus healed him.

Jesus brought his daughter back to life.

"SO WE ... W _ L L _ G _ V E _ Y _ N K S _ F _ E V E _ ;

W E _ W _ L L _ S _ W _ F _ Y _ I S E

_ L L _ G E N E _ N S . " Psalm 79:13, NKJV

Answers:
Moses, Rahab, Hannah, Elijah, Naaman, Mary & Martha, paralyzed man, Jairus.
"SO WE ... WILL GIVE YOU THANKS FOREVER; WE WILL SHOW FORTH YOUR PRAISE TO ALL GENERATIONS." Psalm 79:13, NKJV