



THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures.

~Thornton Wilder

Once again the holiday season has rolled around and people are saying, "Where did the year go?" Already the stores are filled with Christmas decorations. These days Thanksgiving is basically a pre-season holiday, something you do to get in shape for Christmas. We eat, we sleep, we watch football, and we don't stop until January. That's a shame because the art of giving thanks is one thing that separates man from the animals. To receive a gift and say, "Thank you," is one of the humblest and yet honorable things a person can do.

There is nothing small or trivial about it. To say "Thank you" is to acknowledge that we have been given something we did not earn and do not deserve. Happy is the man who understands that all of life is a gift of God and that life itself is the ultimate gift. Which is why the Bible says, "***In everything give thanks.***" (1 Thess. 5:18) When we can't do anything else, we can always be grateful. As someone has said, "If you can't be thankful for what you have received, be thankful for what you have escaped."

With that in mind, I'd like to bring a special Thanksgiving message from Psalm 131, one of the "Songs of Ascent." That means it was part of a group of Psalms which were sung as the Hebrew pilgrims made their way up the mountains toward the city of Jerusalem for one of the annual festivals. Fifteen of these Psalms are grouped together—numbers 120-134. Their purpose is to prepare the heart for worship. There are three verses in Psalm 131 and each one

reveals an important quality for us to consider as we approach the Thanksgiving season.

1. **Humility** - The Psalm begins, using the Contemporary English Version (CEV) with these words, "***I am not conceited, Lord, and I don't waste my time on impossible schemes.***" Not many of us would begin a prayer this way. But to be honest, it's always tricky to talk about humility. How do you know when you're truly humble? Come to think of it, if you are truly humble, will you even know it? It has been well said that humility is the virtue which, when you think you have it, you've lost it. So let's be very honest with ourselves on this point - There are no merit badges for humility. We live in a culture that puts a very low value on humility. From the moment we enter the world we are urged to get ahead, to climb the ladder, to look out for number one, to win through intimidation, and to prove our success by the car we drive, by the home we buy, by the clothes we wear, and by the friends we keep. We all feel the pinch. Not long ago a friend told me that he hates Christmas because giving gifts has become a game where your love is measured by how much you spend. It's a sad commentary on the way we live.
2. **Simplicity** - Verse 2 brings before us a second quality that is very useful as we approach Thanksgiving. It is the quality of simplicity. "***But I have learned to feel safe and satisfied, just like a young child on its mother's lap.***" The picture is one only a mother can fully understand. Yet here is the truth: Unless a mother weans her

(continued on next page)

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR (continued)

child, the child will never grow up. To be weaned is to have something removed from your life which you thought you couldn't live without. David is saying, "I've come to the place where the things I thought I had to have, I don't need anymore. Now my soul is quiet and content." Is that how you feel? If not, then no wonder Thanksgiving just whizzes on by. No wonder Christmas is a nightmare. No wonder we are never satisfied. Instead of being weaned from the world, we are wedded to it. Or maybe I should say, welded to it. In any case, our soul is anything but quiet, our outlook anything but peaceful.

3. **Integrity** - There is a third principle to be added to humility and simplicity. It is the principle of integrity. Verse 3 says, "**People of Israel, you must trust the Lord now and forever.**" The word "trust" in Hebrew means first to wait, then to wait expectantly. The concept is very close to our English word "confidence." An expanded definition would be "to wait on something because you know the thing you are waiting for will happen because the person you are waiting on is trustworthy."

David is saying, "**You have a choice to make. Either you choose to live like everyone else or you choose to wait on the Lord.**" Once a child is weaned, the apron strings have been cut. The child comes to rest on his mother's lap not because he wants something but because he wants to be near his mother. In the same way, God weans us from our dependence on the things of this world so that we will not be bribed into trusting him. What credit is it if you trust God because you have a spouse, a house, a job, a happy home, a secure future, and good health? What will you do when you lose your spouse, your job, your home, your family, your security, your reputation, and your health? When life tumbles in, what then? That's what integrity is all about. It's choosing to put your confidence in God alone. It's believing that he has answers to questions you can barely understand. It's coming to the place where you don't measure your spirituality by your prosperity. It's finding rest in your soul because you discover that the things you used to crave aren't so important anymore.

It was Jesus who said, "**Unless you change and become like little children, you will never**

enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3) What was he talking about? Was it not a faith that is childlike in its simplicity? I think that is exactly what Jesus was talking about when He said, "Unless you become like a little child." It is faith which is childlike in its simplicity. There is something our children can teach us at Thanksgiving. They can teach us what it means to have a simple and uncomplicated trust in God.

How does God go about weaning us from our dependence on the things of the world? I ran across a three-part answer from a Bible commentator writing over a century ago.

First, he makes the things of the world bitter to us.

Second, he removes one by one the things on which we depend.

Third, he gives us something better.

In the end, we find that we no longer need the things we used to think we couldn't do without. And our walk with God is stronger than ever before. To illustrate this truth I would like to share this prayer folded in the pocket of dead Confederate soldier who was found at the end of a bloody battle during the Civil War:

- I asked God for strength, that I might achieve; I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
- I asked for health, that I might do greater things; I was given infirmity, then I might do better things.
- I asked for riches, that I might be happy; I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
- I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men; I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
- I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life; I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
- I got nothing I asked for, but everything I had hoped for.
- Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
- I am, among men, most richly blessed.

It is a great advance in spiritual understanding to be able to say, "I got nothing I asked for, but everything I had hoped for." That's what simplicity, humility, and integrity are all about.

SANTA IS COMING!

On **November 25th** we will be holding a free event for church members and their families to visit with Santa and have your picture taken. On November 26th we will have paid sessions with Santa for the general public as well. The real Reason for the Season will be shared with the children. **SIGN UP NOW for a spot on Friday, November 25th bit.ly/3Ntc0Ym.**



TIME OF GRACE



TIME OF GRACE
IT ALL STARTS NOW

Straight talk about God's Word and real hope for this life. A strong gospel message delivered in an informal Bible study style.

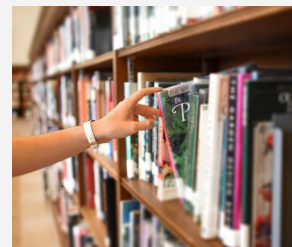
Subscribe to **Time of Grace** (www.timeofgrace.org) resources to be delivered to your email inbox daily. You will receive daily devotion emails with "Grace Moments" written devotions and "Grace Talks" video devotions.

Pastor Mike Novotny
The Core, Appleton, WI
KARE (NBC 11) 10:30 am

CHURCH LIBRARY

Did you Know Holy Cross has a Library?

We have refreshed the Holy Cross Library, but where is it? It's not a mystery, it's located in the Youth Room.



The Fiction section fills the double stacked shelving on the right side of the TV, alphabetized by the last name of the author. Non-fiction books fill the shelves on the left. At this time that category isn't organized but the hunt is always part of the fun, right?!!

Choose a book, sign it out in the borrow notebook and enjoy. When done just place it in the return bin. Stop in and peruse the shelves. A huge thank you to those who helped re-organize the library.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Boxes, boxes, boxes! We've got boxes! Check out the display in the Commons. Pick up the pamphlet listing ideas, and grab a beanie baby to put in your box! There are also labels that you can use in which you can track your box(es). **Deadline is Monday, November 14th.** Please pick up your box(es). Our shoe box Goal page can be found by scanning the QR code with your phone or opening the link below, Either way you will be brought to our page, titled "Pack a Shoebox, Bless a Child". There you can "build" a shoebox which will be added to our tally.



<https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanpurse.org/view/9007adc4-14d9-4221-8235-a59bec9ab3bd>

MAIN STREET LIVING NORTH



Main Street Living is an hour-long Lutheran television program that airs new episodes each Sunday morning. The Twin Cities program is broadcast at 9 am Central time on WFTC channel 29/9-2. Each Sunday, viewers enjoy a 30 minute remastered episode of "This is the Life," a popular Lutheran Hour Ministries series from the 70s and 80s. The episode is followed by a modified Lutheran worship service—led by a different local pastor each week. Main Street Living (Twin Cities) is endorsed by the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; however, the program receives no funding from the District. It is totally funded by viewers and congregations of the WFTC viewing area.

www.mainstreetliving.com/twincities

OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



The last two years we have enjoyed bright lights outlining our church building. Many remarked on how nice they looked, but they do come at a cost of approximately \$1,900. We relied on donations to do this. Anyone wishing to donate to this year's lights can write a check to Holy Cross with Christmas lights in the memo. The money will not come from our church budget. Questions can be directed to the Board of Missions. Thank you.

COFFEE TIME



There's nothing like coffee and a treat after worship; it's the Lutheran way!!! A signup is posted in the Commons, so please sign up to help out! Never provided goodies or made coffee? Talk to Pam with any questions. We ALL enjoy the refreshments, please be a part of putting a smile on everyone's faces!!!

Upcoming EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| November 14 | Samaritans Purse Shoe Boxes |
| November 25 | Decorate the Church for Christmas |
| November 25 | Santa Photos for church members and their families |
| November 26 | Santa Photos for the public (must pre-register) |
| December 4 | CAP Agency Adopt a Senior |
| February 10 | Night To Shine |

VOICE OF THE MARTYRS



National Day of Prayer November 6th

We remember the Martyrs around the World who die for their faith daily. Christian historian David Barrett estimates that, since the time of the apostles, around 70 million Christians have been martyred - killed for their faith in Jesus. What may surprise you is that the last 100 years have been the bloodiest.

Our Sunday School project this year is to have a free will offering on **Sunday November 7** for Bibles for children in areas where Christians are especially persecuted. The entire month of November we would ask that you keep these brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers for safety and protection.

Thank you for your generosity.

ONE VOICE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

The Coming Election: What's at Stake?

Friends in Christ,

With less than four weeks until the election, we can all anticipate a steady diet of political ads trying to draw our attention toward some issues and away from others, depending, of course, on what politicians judge to be most advantageous to their cause. Given that dynamic, I'd like to offer brief reflections on a few specific issues Christian voters should pay special attention to as they prepare to cast their vote. The Church, of course, has no particular expertise, and takes no stand, on a majority of issues that are dealt with in the political sphere. But, it does speak to some, including those dealing with life issues (abortion and physician assisted suicide), marriage/family, religious liberty, and parental rights. The Church speaks to these issues because Scripture speaks to them in clear and unambiguous ways.



As it stands now, the following are some of those specific issues that will be directly impacted by the outcome of November's election.

On the federal level:

1. Concerning the Redefinition of Marriage – Though, sadly, the Courts have previously redefined marriage to include same-sex couples and are now actively contemplating the legalization of polyamory (marriages of more than two persons), these changes have not all been incorporated into federal statute, that is, through legislative action. Depending on the outcome of November's election, the effort to embed these unbiblical changes into federal law will either be squelched or propelled forward (largely through the deceptively named "Respect for Marriage Act"). Therefore, I urge you to know where the candidates stand on this specific piece of legislation and to withhold support from those who would advocate for it, especially those candidates running for the U. S. House of Representatives.

On the State level:

2. There is currently an effort to radically change the Minnesota State Standards that govern teacher licensure. If these proposed changes are finalized in their current form, every teacher wishing to be licensed by the State will be pressured to incorporate various disturbing concepts in their teaching. These concepts fall under the general heading of Critical Race Theory ... though that specific terminology may not be used in these standards. These various elements are not appropriate for K-12 classrooms as they are clearly

forms of political indoctrination and, in some cases, reflect anti-Christian doctrines. If you are unfamiliar with these proposed changes, I would direct you to the 2022 Lutheran Voter Information Guide recently released by our District's Public Policy Committee. It can be accessed on the District website or on the website of the Minnesota Child Protection League (<https://cplaction.com>). Again, I would encourage you to inform yourself of where candidates stand on this issue.

3. One of the more disturbing trends of recent years has been the tendency of the State to regard itself as the primary authority in the life of children rather than their parents. This tendency surfaces most frequently in K-12 educational settings. More specifically, the State frequently asserts it has the right to a) dissuade parents from choosing a religiously grounded education for their children by denying them the same funding offered to parents who choose a non-religious education, b) provide forms of pro-abortion advocacy and access without parental knowledge or consent, and c) provide gender transition counseling to students without parental knowledge or consent. The outcome of this election will be crucial in determining whether these and other encroachments on parental rights will be allowed to continue and perhaps intensify.

4. With the recent Dobbs ruling by the U. S. Supreme Court, the issue of abortion has now been largely returned to the states. Unfortunately, in Minnesota this has not meant the end of legal abortions. Quite the opposite, Minnesota is now becoming a "mecca" for those seeking abortions from other states where it is now restricted or banned. It is, therefore, more important than ever to elect legislators and a governor that will stand up for the life of the unborn, who like us, are made in the image and likeness of God.

These, of course, are not the only important matters at stake in this coming election. It is my hope and prayer, however, that you will use whatever opportunities God gives you to lift up these particular issues in your congregation, as well as among your friends and acquaintances. It has, of course, become cliché to say this may be one of the most consequential elections ever. But, in view of the truly radical new views being actively and coercively promoted in recent years, I believe this is, indeed, just such a crucial election. God grant each of us will not only cast our vote in a God-pleasing way, but we might also serve as His instrument to influence others in a way that will bring honor and glory to God and serve the needs of our neighbor.

**Rev. Fredric Hinz, Public Policy Advocate
Minnesota Districts, LCMS**

2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER

2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER

FIVE TWO

A weekday 2-minute devotion that helps you see Jesus at work in your world.

Signature

FedEx and UPS promised deliveries today. One's been delayed for a few days. The other's on schedule. I really want them today. I'm leading a retreat all day with a church staff. The wife has appointments out. Both deliveries require proof I'm over 21 and am who I claim to be. An in-the-flesh signature. I'm leaving a signed letter begging them to leave the items on the front porch. Affirming I'm over 21 and of sound mind.

Signatures prove presence. Commit you to a course of action. Signify you're on board legally. The Bible writer Paul often ended his letters wanting the reader to know it was really him. "I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand." God's signature on your heart is your conscience. The knowledge of right and wrong. Proof He was there at your creation. Proof He really made you. Proof He made everyone.

Good Friday and Easter are God's bold signatures in history. Proof His will would win. Proof eternity would be great. Proof for everyone who would receive it. God's signature presence in the lives of Christians is His Spirit. His gift to every Christian at baptism. A gift that produces identical fruit in the lives of all who bear His name. A gift that speaks the same voice. Offers the same counsel. Flows from the same God. A gift that signs and seals you for eternity. Proof you belong to Jesus. Proof you're His forever. An eternal signature.

Rev. Bill Woolsey
President and Founder
FiveTwo Network

Sign up to receive the 2 Minute Multiplier emailed to you! www.fivetwo.com/2mm

PRAYER REQUESTS

SEND

US YOUR

PRAYER

REQUESTS

If you have a prayer request on Sunday, please fill out the form in the pew and put it in the offering plate. Pastor will include them in Prayer of the Church during the service. You can also email weekly prayer requests, and any prayers that should go out to the whole congregation, to megan@holycross-pl.org.

FREE WILL MONEY



What does free will money buy? We thank you for donating during Sunday coffee hour. Your giving provides the LWML with more buying power. Coffee, creamers, cups and napkins too. All these we are able to buy for you! Treats and juice our members supply, but for the coffee and stuff on your generosity we rely.

LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY – NEWSLETTER ARTICLE, NOVEMBER 2022

What Makes for a Cheerful Giver?

St. Paul wrote to Church of Christ in Corinth: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for *God loves a cheerful giver*" (2 Cor. 9:7). God loves a cheerful giver. But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, he gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God's sight. Abraham was. By faith, he prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware. So also were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel's God and they His people.

What more shall we say? For time would fail us to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy of giving but for the joy of knowing the One to whom they gave.

So also our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything – yes, even His life – enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty, we might be rich beyond measure.

So then, let us like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ, give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart for the joy set before us. It's the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 6	All Saints' Day	<i>"Living in a World of Death"</i>	<i>Revelation 7:8-17</i>
November 13	23rd Sunday after Pentecost	<i>"There Is A Point To All This!"</i>	<i>Luke 21:5-36</i>
November 20	Last Sunday of the Church Year	<i>"Yes, and that day is coming"</i>	<i>Luke 23:27-43</i>
November 23	Thanksgiving Eve	<i>"Let Us Bless the Lord"</i>	<i>Deuteronomy 8:1-10</i>
November 27	First Sunday in Advent	<i>"Put on the Armor of Light"</i>	<i>Romans 13 11 14</i>
November 30	Wednesday Midweek 1	<i>"The Angel Gabriel Brings Hope"</i>	<i>Luke 1:5-25</i>

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

If you or someone you know is in a crisis or emotional distress, call 988 to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline! This free and confidential lifeline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. It is comprised of a national network of more than 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Men's Tuesday morning bible study is every **Tuesday from 8-9am**. Please join us!

THE LUTHERAN HOUR



The Lutheran Hour can be heard each Sunday on WCCO (830 AM) at 6:05 am. And it can be streamed online too, www.lhm.org. Check-out LHM's daily devotions too.

NOVEMBER 6

"Barefoot Saints"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy

Moses heard God speak to him from a burning bush. Where do we hear Him? (Exodus 3:1-6 (7-15))

NOVEMBER 13

"Still Holding On"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God's judgment clears the way for God's new creation, in Christ. (Luke 21:28)

NOVEMBER 20

"Where It All Comes Together"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes

We see division and discord all around us, but there is one place where it all comes together—the fullness of God in the person of Jesus Christ. (Colossians 1:19-20)

NOVEMBER 27

"Freshly Fallen Snow"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about fresh snow and fresh starts. (Isaiah 2:1-5)

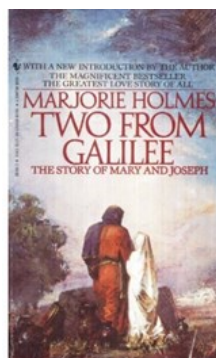
THE MASTER GREETER

Actions that Build a Friendlier Church

Communicate to others and through others that they are missed when absent. Knowing that we are missed when absent validates our worth to us. It says that we hold a special place in life. Our life has meaning to someone else and therefore it has meaning to us. If the husband is missing, tell the wife to let him know that you missed him. If a member brought a new person last week but the new person is not with them the next Sunday, tell the member to tell the visitor that you missed him. It tells the visitor that you missed him. It tells the visitor that he has a place in your church. It also gives the member a new reason to invite the visitor back.



BIBLE BOOKENDERS



Bible Bookenders will now be meeting on Tuesday evenings instead of Monday evenings. Our January book is an old classic, **Two From Galilee** by **Marjorie Holmes**. Join us at church from 7:00-8:30 pm on Tuesday January 31st. Blessings on your reading of first and foremost God's Word, and the fun books we read and share for Bible Bookenders. Questions? Contact Bonnie Nowak, Pat Harvey or Michele Lein.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY



Join us for Bible Study series in the back of the sanctuary after worship as we continue the series on the Hard Sayings of Paul. If you have any you are struggling with, come join the bible Study! Feel free to get a cup of coffee first and snack before we start at 10:15 am.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE



We have kicked off Sunday School this year with the oldest class studying martyrs for their Christian faith. We started with the definition of a Martyr, with Stephen in the Book of Acts and are now using materials and scripture from Voice of the Martyrs. We have learned about how Christians are treated in other parts of the world and their very lives are in danger for being a Christian and distributing Bibles. We are watching video clips from Voice of the Martyrs on Richard and Sabina Wurmbbrand, and their story.

We would like the congregation to join us in praying for the Martyrs around the World. Take a peek in the

Youth Room and see the banner and materials we are using. We also have a very beautiful liturgical calendar on the wall available from Concordia Publishing House.

Thank you to parents for your faithfulness in bringing your students to Sunday School. It is truly a blessing to teach the next generation for Christ and The Gospel.

National Day of Prayer for Martyrs worldwide is November 6. We will be taking a freewill offering that day and we'll send the money to Voice of the Martyrs to buy Bibles for restricted and hostile areas of the world.

Thank you for your support for Voice of the Martyrs and for your prayers for our entire Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes, Board of Education and Sunday School teachers and substitute teachers at Holy Cross.

PRAYER TIME

Join us for prayer at church every **Wednesday evening from 7-8 pm**. What a great way to de-stress from your day/week or busy life. There is something special and sacred about praying..... and praying at church is the best. We have the most calming stained glass and the presence of the Holy Spirit is mighty. We can pray anywhere at ANY TIME... but there is something special about setting aside an hour a week to pray at church. May God bless you as you pray at home, at church and throughout your days and weeks. Come join us for all or part of the prayer hour from 7-8 pm every Wednesday throughout the fall.



CONTACT UPDATE

IS YOUR
CONTACT
INFORMATION
CURRENT?



Has your address, phone, or email changed? Have your adult children moved away from home? Check with Megan in the church office and see what we have on file for you and your family, or you can pick up a form to fill out in the commons area. Help us have accurate information in case we or other church members need to contact you.



Kathy Gillespie	Nov 5	Jacob Oak	Nov 27
Heidi Cordell	Nov 13	Shannon Busse	Nov 29
Jon Dobberstein	Nov 13	Doug Albrecht	Nov 30
Becky Lepley	Nov 16	Greg Albrecht	Nov 30

STEWARDSHIP 3 YR LECTIONARY

November 6 – All Saints' Day (Observed)

Matthew 5:6 – "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." You only hunger and thirst for what you don't have. Jesus has come to fill us up with righteousness – His own righteousness. He is the self-giving Lord whose sacrifice inspires us to be givers, too.

November 13 – Proper 28

Luke 21:6 – "As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." Everything in this world is headed for the graveyard, but some things are also destined to rise from the grave. On that Day of Resurrection – as we look back on our earthly life – what will we see? What will have really mattered? This is a good question to ask ourselves in this season of the church year that focuses on The Last Things.

November 20 – Proper 29

Colossians 1:18a – "And he is the head of the body, the church." We are part of the Body of Christ; He is our Head. Where He goes, we follow. His thoughts direct our actions. This is how the people of God learn how to give and why they give. Because Jesus gives, indeed He gives all He has.

November 24 – Thanksgiving Day

Deuteronomy 8:7 – "For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land ..." Have we received any less than the sons of Israel in this great and glorious land? We are so very blessed! Let us then outdo even the sons of Israel in giving thanks!

November 27 – Advent I

Matthew 21:3 – "If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." Just a colt and her foal. How significant could they be? Could they really be used by the Lord for some great, heavenly purpose? This is one facet of stewardship we often forget. The blessing it is to us to be of service in the Lord's Kingdom. What honor the Lord bestows upon us by using our gifts for His goals!

THE SEASON OF ADVENT



Advent marks the beginning of the new Christian year. In 2022, Advent begins November 27. Despite the "high festoonery" our materialistic culture begins to pile on right after Thanksgiving, if not sooner, Advent is not a season for pomp or decoration, but for simplicity. Advent historically has been to Christmastide what Lent is to Eastertide: a season of solemnity and simplicity, and even a season of penitence, the reason why the color for the Advent season used to be purple. Although Advent is now less frequently penitential, it is no less solemn. The impact of the miraculous event of the incarnation continues -- and the light of hope that appeared in the darkness of that night in Bethlehem two thousand years ago still shines on us today, even in the midst of life's most difficult situations. This year the powerful messages celebrate the heartwarming joy of Christ's coming, under the theme **Angels: The Ultimate Divine Messengers of Hope** as they demonstrate how we can rely on the Lord to serve as our steady lighthouse while we navigate the shoals of life.

11/30/22 The Angel Gabriel Brings a Message of Hope in the Midst of Unbelieving Doubt

12/07/22 An Angel of the Lord Brings a Message of Hope to Joseph in the Midst of Fear of the Unknown

12/14/22 The Angel Gabriel Brings a Message of Hope in the Midst of the Seemingly Impossible

THANK YOU

I would like to express my thanks to all of you who expressed your appreciation for your Vacancy Pastor... me. Your words of encouragement and cards were truly expressions of love and support. We have been together for 7 months and in God's providence and will, my desire is to continue to lead you in your spiritual growth and nurturing in the coming Spring. May we together pray the words of LSB hymn 857. "Lord, help us walk Your servant way wherever love may lead and bending low forgetting self, each serve the other's need."

To God alone be the Glory!
Vacancy Pastor Dean W. Gade



2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Elder's Meeting	2 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due 7:00 pm Prayer Time in Sanctuary	3 7:00 pm Choir Practice	4	5
6 All Saints' Day 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	7	8 8:00 am Men's Bible Study	9 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due 7:00 pm Prayer Time in Sanctuary	10 7:00 pm Choir Practice	11 	12
13 23rd Sunday After Pentecost 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	14 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	15 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Newsletter Article Due 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	16 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due 7:00 pm Prayer Time in Sanctuary	17 7:00 pm Choir Practice	18	19
20 Last Sunday of The Church Year 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	21	22 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	23 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Worship Service	24 	25 4:00 - 6:00 pm Santa Event for Church Members	26 Decorate the Church 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Santa Event for The Public (must pre-register)
27 First Sunday in Advent 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	28	29 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	30 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due 7:00 pm Advent Worship			