



proclamation

November Is To Be Thankful

By Pastor Tim

NOVEMBER - 2016

Volume 3, Issue 28

November is the month we typically are thankful for all of the gifts and blessings in our lives. Sadly too often we take all of these blessings for granted and rarely pay attention to them as we should - things like water, electricity, and food. If you want to train for a profession? All sorts of colleges, universities, and vocational schools are available. It's the same thing with becoming a pastor. To be a minister of the Gospel, one normally attends college and then studies for some sort of a degree in seminary. The opportunities are endless here in the western world.

However, it's not always that easy around the world and especially in certain parts of Africa. There, one travels great distances and the facilities are far below our so-called American standards. (We should be more thankful for our American pastoral training programs.)

Being thankful also means sharing what we have with those who don't have as much.

Therefore I am very excited to announce my next missions teaching trip to **Uganda, Africa**. Our Lutheran Church Missouri Synod is beginning a partnership with the Lutheran Church in Uganda as they develop their own seminary – the Lutheran Theological College of Uganda. This fall (2016) is their very first inaugural semester to train Lutheran pastors in Uganda.

LTCU's second semester starts in mid-February 2017 and that's when I've been invited to teach a 2 week intensive course on the Gospel of Matthew. It will be part of their very first New Testament survey course. I'm very excited to be part of this new Lutheran pastoral educational venture in Uganda.

The challenge is to again raise the funds for this short term missions trip. I'm thoroughly excited because while I've been to Africa to train pastors before, this trip is specifically for the LCMS and pastors in our Lutheran tradition! My wife Amy will also be going with me to aide with computer needs around the seminary and also to attend to other ministries with women and children.

Very shortly, we will be finalizing all of the necessary budget requirements and sharing them with you. The trip is still categorized as a short term missions trip and therefore all of the funding must be locally generated.

Please pray for God's blessings on this trip, the school and students. Also, please begin to pray and ask how you might be involved in sharing God's blessings in your life here with those in need there by enabling us to travel and share the depths of God's Word. Thank you.



Jack McNutt

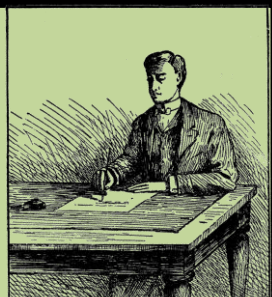
I've spent years trying to figure out what exactly I'm doing with my life. What job should I have? What are the qualifications? What colleges should I apply to? And this is where it gets me every time. Colleges, criteria, and jobs. I find myself questioning why I need a college degree to work in a church. Surprisingly, several churches don't even require non-religious based degree for non-pastoral positions. I'm a rare case of a person who has all of the experience, but no schooling to back it up. Usually, it's the other way around.

Leading worship is what I was made for. I'm sure of it. Lately, I've been applying to colleges so that I can further my education. I plan on getting my degree and then going through seminary. I wish I would've started earlier, but I fully believe that God granted me the opportunity for experience so that I could start serving Him.

All of this to say, we may feel like we are being held back, doubted, and neglected, but really we are being molded and prepped for the next step in our time of serving. I urge you to join me and in prayer and praise as we thank God for everything He presents us so that we may serve Him better.

From the desk of the Congregational President

Paul Mehrkam



In this upcoming advent season, there are several opportunities to celebrate and share in the fellowship of Christ. For starters, the Christmas Bazaar is this month. Then there will be setting up the Christmas tree in the sanctuary, a Christmas concert, sharing in the community through the angel tree, and a Sunday School Program. All of which are leading up to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

I look forward to meeting everyone at this fall's Voter's Meeting scheduled on December 4th after the 10:30 service. The two main objectives are to elect the council officer positions and to approve the 2017 budget. There will also be council and committee reports. We still have openings for Vice President, Elder, and Building and Grounds. Contact Gayle Gepert or Pastor if you are interested in serving in one of these positions. For congregational members that are unable to make the Voter's meeting, a proxy vote can be submitted to the church secretary.

Dear Lord Jesus, With Thanksgiving coming, help remind us to be always faithful to You and thankful for Your gift of eternal salvation. Amen





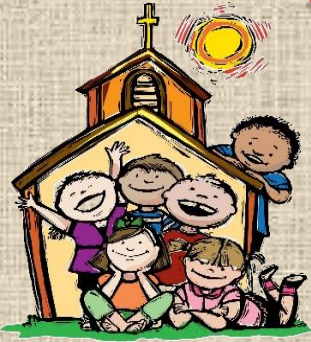
We should consider what stewardship means for us personally, and as a church. If we consider the three things most people think of when we think of stewardship – namely time, talent, and treasure – let's take a look at a few ideas for maximizing what we've been blessed with.

Time. This is a tricky one. Many times people think this is the easiest, and for some it is but not for everyone. I remember being a young mother of four and having to learn to say 'no' to request from school and church. There were too many times I said 'yes' and simply could not give the best of myself because I stretched myself too thin trying to lead at church, school, with my kid's scout troops, soccer teams, etc. I wasn't giving my best in any of those areas because I was stretched too thin. I had to learn to say 'no' so when I did say 'yes,' I could give myself fully. Are you over-extended and need to start saying no? Or are you actively looking at how your gifts and talents can be better used for God's purposes?

Talent. Have you ever stopped to think about why you've been blessed with certain skills and abilities? God gifts each of us in different ways. Some of us are great at and enjoy leading others. Some of us are excellent at accounting and financial management. Some are wonderfully compassionate listeners. Some have a knack for all things technical. At work, and in our church, each of us works better together. Together, we form the full body of Christ. But we're not to just sit back once we've achieved a certain level of skill. We should keep developing ourselves and sharing where we can. Taking classes or working with an expert are good ways to increase the knowledge we already have. As we can, we can share our talents with the church for the benefit of our fellow members and our community. We've seen this beautifully played out at St. Paul's as so many of us were able to come together to finish up our new modular classrooms.

Treasure. In this case, I'm just talking about money. Which, in some ways, is the least fun to consider, isn't it? But let's look at it with fresh eyes. We know we've been blessed with certain talents, skills, and abilities. And in many cases, we also enjoy using and developing those gifts. It is those blessings that allow many of us to make a contribution through our work, for which we are paid by our employers. But it's because God has blessed us that we have that work we're paid to do, so the wages truly do belong to God. In the early church, tithing was considered repayment (a tithe is 10%). The thinking was that we earned income because of God's blessings and the 10% was nothing more than keeping 90% and giving 10% back to God. And that makes nice logical sense. But it's a blessing to choose to tithe. Automatic deductions work well but I wonder, does that rob us of the opportunity to intentionally consider how blessed we are? When we stop to pull out the checkbook and write the check, we have the opportunity to stop for a minute and remember that we can give back to God because of all he's given to us. We have the opportunity to thank him again for all he's done for us. It reminds me of a song we sang in VBS about how God loves a cheerful giver – writing that check should be a cheerful, joyful moment. Having said that, life gets complicated so we can be thankful that we have other ways to be consistent in our giving. We're fortunate that we have the opportunity to use automatic online tools that will deduct exactly what we want exactly when we want so we're sure our tithe reaches the church with every paycheck.

Regardless of our stage in life or current circumstances, God provides us with plenty of ways to express our love back to him and to each other.



The Little Children and Jesus – Matthew 19:13-15

The little children were brought to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

Greetings from the Sunday school!

Sunday school classes are in full swing and we have so much for which to be thankful this November. Earlier, some of our students took the opportunity to leave special gifts for people they wanted to express a sincere thank you to here at St. Paul's. There are definitely many people in the congregation who contribute to make St. Paul's an amazing place and the students took a lot of pride in being able to express their gratitude to some of those people.

All of our students have been participating in the Sending Smiles project over the past few weeks. This is a nonprofit organization, which delivers thousands of mostly humorous, hand-drawn postcards to children in hospitals. It was created and is managed by two local sisters who are 10 and 13 years old. Truly an inspiration and our students have really enjoyed creating postcards of their own.

As always, we welcome any newcomers and want to remind everyone that we begin the Sunday School Opening promptly at 9:00 AM in the new building.

Melissa Chew, Sunday school directress



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Christmas Bazaar

November 12th from 8 am – 1 pm

- ❖ We are currently looking for Direct Sale vendors as well as crafters. If you know someone or would like to rent a table for yourself, please pick up one of the Vendor Contract forms in the front hallway or contact Meredith Johnson (Meredith.s.johnson@gmail.com) and she will send one to you.
- ❖ We are looking for **gently used items (no clothes)** for our white elephant table along with **baked goods** for the bake sale, and **used books** for the Book Nook table.
- ❖ **We would like to receive all donated items by Nov. 6th.**
Bake sale items can be dropped off the day before on the 11th from 1-6pm or the day of starting at 7am.
- ❖ **We need Volunteers!!!** Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Christmas is right around the corner!

Missions & Ministries

Page 7



We are collecting new or gently used coats and jackets on Sundays, along with non-perishable food donations through the month of November!

Thank you



POINSETTIA'S FOR CHRISTMAS 2016

If you wish to place a poinsettia plant at the altar for Christmas fill out this form and mail to or drop off at (you may also leave it in the collection plate on Sundays with the check attached):

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
37707 New Market Turner Road
Mechanicsville, MD 20659.

Please mark your check "Christmas Plant" in the memo section.

The cost for each plant is 6 inch pots \$7.25 and 7 inch pots \$12.50

All orders must be received by Sunday, December 4, 2016

of \$7.25 Red plants _____

of \$7.25 White plants _____

of \$12.50 Red plants _____

of \$12.50 White plants _____

DEDICATION - Dedicated To: Honor of, Memory of, or For the Glory of God.

How your dedication should be signed: **FROM**

Your name: _____ Phone: _____

All orders must be received by Sunday, December 4, 2016, and all money must be in by that date. You may also bring this form to church and place in the Altar Flower mailbox. For information, call the church office and speak with Lorrie at 301.884.5184

November 2016

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<u>BIRTHDAYS</u> 2 – Jessica Werth 24 – Dylan Vogt 29 – Phil Drury		1	2 Confirmation Class and Prayer Group 7-7:45 pm Both @ St. Paul's in the Christian Education Bldgs.	3	4	5 Daylight Savings Ends tomorrow @ 2 am! Fall back one hour!!! 
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Praise Service: 9:15 am Sunday School: 9 am Adult Class: 9:10 am Acolytes: 8:00 Emily Maack 10:30 Nicole Williams Reader @ 10:30: Jason Reithmeyer	7	8  Church Council Meeting 6:30 pm	9 Confirmation Class and Prayer Group 7-7:45 pm Both @ St. Paul's in the Christian Education Bldgs.	10	11  VETERANS DAY Christmas Bazaar Setup 1-6 pm	12 Christmas Bazaar 8 am – 1 pm 
13 Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Praise Service: 9:15 am Sunday School: 9 am Adult Class: 9:10 am Acolytes: 8:00 Russell Watson 10:30 Katy Nelsen Reader @ 10:30: Gene Bostwick	14	15	16 Confirmation Class and Prayer Group 7-7:45 pm Both @ St. Paul's in the Christian Education Bldgs.	17	18	19
20 Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Praise Service: 9:15 am Sunday School: 9 am Adult Class: 9:10 am Acolytes: 8:00 Dylan Otte 10:30 Jacob Gray Reader @ 10:30: Lois Beverage	21	22	23  Thanksgiving Eve Service 7 pm	24 Thanksgiving 	25	26
27 First Sunday in Advent Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Praise Service: 9:15 am Sunday School: 9 am Adult Class: 9:10 am Acolytes: 8:00 Danielle Hoffman 10:30 Kaleh Wollin Reader @ 10:30: Megan Green	28	29	30  Advent Service 7 pm Confirmation Class and Prayer Group 7-7:45 pm Both @ St. Paul's in the Christian Education Bldgs.	<u>ANNIVERSARIES</u> 1 – Gary & Cindy Werth 5 – Brett & Karen Wiggen 11 – Fred & Sally Gheen		



Proclamation

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

37707 New Market Turner Road
Mechanicsville, MD 20659-3075

Sunday Services:

Traditional - 8:00 and 10:30 am

Contemporary – 9:15 am

Sunday School: 9:00 am

Adult Bible Study: 9:10 am

Office Hours Mon.-Fri. 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Phone: 301.884.5184 Fax: 301-884-2063

Website: www.stpaulssomd.org

Email: stpaulslcmsmd@netzero.net

Facebook: [St. Paul's Lutheran](#)

Behold, now is the favorable time;

Behold, now is the day of salvation.

2 Corinthians 6:2

Connecting with Jesus, each other, & Southern Maryland

Dates to Remember:

Sunday, 11/6

@ 2 am DAYLIGHT SAVING TIMES ENDS
– Turn all your clocks back ONE HOUR!



Tuesday, 11/8

Election Day

Saturday, 11/12



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 8 am – 1 pm

Thursday, 11/23

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE 7 PM



Wednesday, 11/30



SERVICE 7 PM