

# Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2016



- **Pastor-**  
Mark Willig
- **Secretary-**  
Deb Carter
- **Music-**  
Bonnie Nelson
- **Organist-**  
Kris Farber
- **Chair-**Kim Breyman
- **Vice Chair-**  
Bonnie Nelson
- **Treasurer-**  
Bob Hunt
- **Assist. Treasurer-**  
Carol Hansen
- **Elders-**Dick Enervold
- **Missions-**  
Vicki Kahn
- **Youth-**  
Cathy Thompson
- **Hospitality-**  
Earlene Enervold

## “What About Good Works”

It is the question that lingers after the truth of the Reformation begins to sink in –

*“If everything is free and I can’t earn it; why exactly should I do good works?”*

Answer: Because everything is free and given by the grace of God and I can’t earn it.

The month of November is the perfect time to ask and answer that question, because . . .

1. This month we have Thanksgiving Day.

What is that day all about? We look back and we look forward. We remember that God is good. He has given us life and breath; friendships and community; the food on our tables and the clothes on our backs (Remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms His covenant . . .

Deuteronomy 8:18). And in addition to all the blessings for this life; He has given us salvation,

*Continued on page 2...*

## November Dates to Remember:

*(See Calendar for times)*

- 1 - Euchre club  
Elders’ Meeting
- 2 - LWML
- 3 - St. Vincent’s Table  
NO Handbells/Choir
- 5 - (SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK  
WHEN YOU GO TO BED!)
- 6 - Daylight Savings Ends  
Voter’s Meeting
- 8 - Friendly Seniors
- 14 - Senior Service
- 15 - Missions Meeting
- 20 - Youth Night
- 23 - Thanksgiving Eve Service
- 24 - Thanksgiving Day  
NO Handbells/Choir  
NO TRUSTEES MEETING  
UNTIL EARLY DECEMBER

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!

*We need your help!*

We are looking for people who enjoy knitting or crocheting and would like to share their favorite pastime passion for this ministry.

Please contact Tina Nighsonger for more information

815/942-6737

## ATTENTION!

VOTER’S  
MEETING

SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 6

9:30 AM

## **What About Good Works**

(continued from page 1)

forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

We didn't earn or deserve any of it – it is all from His grace and mercy. There is a huge difference between doing good in order to get something for it, and doing something good because you have been given an amazing gift that is more wonderful than anything you could have ever imagined. John, who walked with Jesus, says, “from His fullness we have all received grace upon grace.” (John 1:16) Why do we do good works? Because what we have received is free.

**2.** This month finishes with the beginning of Advent. We are getting ready for Christmas.

What exactly did God do in that stable so many years ago? He came to be born for us; to be one of us. Jesus' birth should end forever the question of whether God loves us. He came to be one of us. Did we earn it or deserve it? Can we ever be worthy of it? Clearly, simply it is all by grace. God did an incredible act of grace and it should completely eliminate any idea of earning or deserving.

And then notice how we will do part of the celebrating for Christmas. We will go shopping and get presents for each other. And in the best part of our gift-giving there is no thought of earning deserving. It becomes an act of love, done simply for the joy of the doing it.

So it is with the Christian life. We end up doing things that come out of the simple joy of belonging to God. The apostle John said about the letter he was writing to one of the churches, “we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.” Why do we do good works? Because of the joy of what we have received.

**3.** We will begin November with “All Saints Day”; and later on observe “Christ the King” Sunday.

On All Saints Day we celebrate that because of Jesus our loved ones are blessed. Because of His dying and rising all who know Him are with Him forever.

On Christ the King Sunday we celebrate that Jesus is returning and we will be blessed to be with Him forever. The future is sure. No matter what happens in this world we know the end of the story. Jesus is risen. Jesus lives. Jesus will come again. And we will be a part of His eternity.

All this is a gift. It is by the grace of God. And it is yours through Jesus, through faith, through His cross, through His rising, and completely free. So we are free. We are free from having to constantly fight for our own rights. We are free to give and do and love; and know that God has promised, and we are safe. Paul says, “If God is for us who can be against us ... Christ Jesus is the one who died ... who is at the right hand of God interceding for us ... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ ... in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us ... neither death nor life ... nor anything else ... will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:31-39)

Since we already know our destiny, none of our good works are for earning anything. We don't do them in order to get a blessing. We do them because we have been given a blessing; and it is a gift. Do I do good and love my neighbor to earn something from God? I do good and love my neighbor because Jesus has already earned the blessing, because the blessing is a gift, and because it is already mine. Why do we do good works? Because I can't earn anything from God because Jesus has already earned and promised all the blessings already.

Let's finish with a quote from Martin Luther about faith:

***“A Christian man who lives in this confidence toward God knows all things, can do all things, ventures everything that needs to be done, and does everything gladly and willingly, not that he may gather merits and good works, but because it is a pleasure for him to please God in doing these things.”***

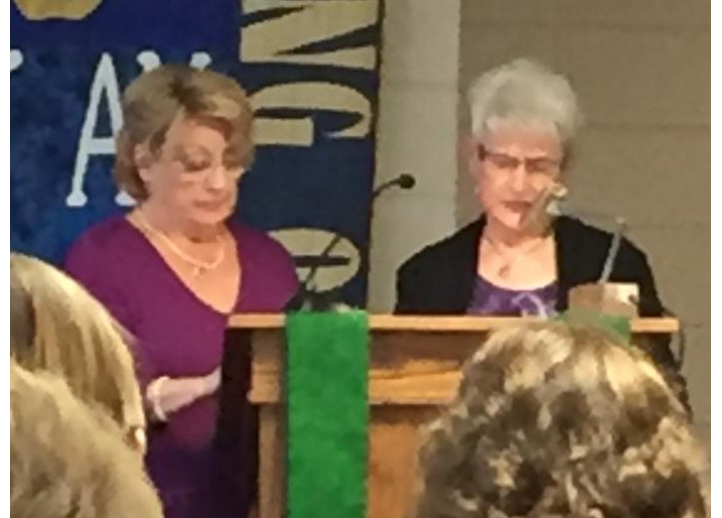
May God bless your November from All Saints Day to Advent



# LWML

The LWML Meeting this month will be **November 2nd at 10 a.m.** We will have a short devotion and then work on packing the boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We will have election of officers as well.

**Our meeting in December** will be our celebration potluck before Advent service. The whole congregation will be invited to celebrate our 2nd anniversary with us on December 7th at 6 p.m.



Reading  
on  
LWML  
Sunday...  
(October 8 & 9)



# CHOIR & HANDBELLS



All who are interested are welcome!

Simply let us know by signing the sheet on the bulletin table.  
Make sure you leave your contact information so that we can send you further notice of our rehearsal days and times.

**HANDBELL REHEARSAL:** Thursdays ~ 3:30 pm

**CHOIR REHEARSAL:** Thursdays ~ 4:30 pm

## **PLEASE NOTE:**

There will be **NO REHEARSALS** on November 3<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>

## Missions

### ST. VINCENT'S TABLE

It is our turn to serve on **NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Helpers should arrive between 4:00 and 4:30 pm. We will be serving at 5:00. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin table in the sanctuary. Funding donations are always welcome.

### FOOD BASKETS & CHRISTMAS GIFT CERTIFICATES

Food items, cash and gift certificates for the Thanksgiving baskets are due by November 13<sup>th</sup> in order to have time to distribute them prior to Thanksgiving. We will continue to collect Aldi gift certificates (or cash if you prefer us to purchase the certificates,) until Christmas. The Mission team thanks you for your continued support of the project.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

If you are planning on backing a shoebox for a child overseas, please have it back to the church no later than November 13<sup>th</sup>. Call Deb in the church office if you need more information.

### FOOD CABINET

Just a reminder that our own Food Cabinet is for those we know personally who might need help. If you would like to give someone food, please contact Cathy Thompson, Paula Willig or Vicki Kahn.

### WE CARE ITEMS

We are focusing on one item per month, but if you want to pick up other items, feel free to! The item(s) for November is TOOTHPASTE /ORAL CARE. Please leave donations in the kitchen on the black shelving unit.





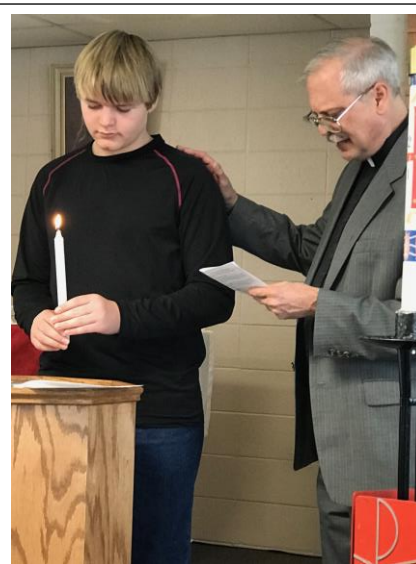
# Baptisms



“...He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, Whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become living heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”  
-Titus 3:5-7 ESV

*God bless you on your baptism day!*

Logan Gregory Tondini – October 23, 2016



Tarahji Denae Taylor – October 30, 2016



## BIRTHDAYS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mary Heren  
2<sup>nd</sup> Donna Carlson  
Carol Hansen  
3<sup>rd</sup> Barbara Jenkins  
6<sup>th</sup> Lynn Thorson  
8<sup>th</sup> Earlene Enervold  
9<sup>th</sup> Alexander Applebee  
Jeffrey VanHeiden  
12<sup>th</sup> Dennis Gjerde  
13<sup>th</sup> Delores Herman  
Morgan Wills  
Andrew Applebee  
18<sup>th</sup> Judy Johnson  
24<sup>th</sup> Kevin Olson  
25<sup>th</sup> Dennie Thompson



## ANNIVERSARIES

- |                  |                            |          |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Harry & Sharon Benner      | 54 years |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Terry & Deb Carter         | 21 years |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Jerry & Kris Farber        | 27 years |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Gene & Carol Hansen        | 38 years |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Max & Jeanette Langbartels | 44 years |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | Gary & Pat Schultz         | 48 years |
|                  | Stephen & Diana Wills      | 48 years |



*Congratulations, Mark and Lori!*

*October 28, 2016*

*God bless you  
today and always!*

“So they are no longer two but one flesh.  
What therefore God has joined together,  
let not man separate.”

*-Matthew 19:6*



# Jesus Signs Conference

Paula Willig helped teach the Jesus Signs workshops given in East Dundee, Illinois and Topeka, Kansas.

Jesus Signs provides instruction for deaf people, and those that want to communicate with deaf people in church. There are classes for beginners, intermediate signers and interpreters. There are also classes for deaf people. We had about 40 participants for the two weekends. Paula taught the interpreter class. After the workshops, participants interpreted part of the worship service. In Topeka there was also a Silent Supper at a restaurant. If anyone talked they had to pay a quarter. The waitress was such a good sport, and even put a quarter into the pot. It was a fun learning experience and we made new friends and reconnected with old friends.

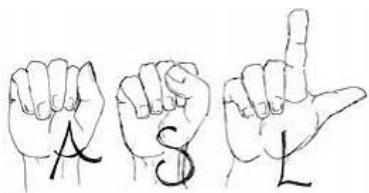


*(At far left)*  
**Rev. Bud Palmer  
in the Whole  
Group Session**



*(Center)*  
**The Topeka group**

*(Below)*  
**The Silent Supper**



**American Sign Language**



## *Senior Service*

Our next Senior Service will be on

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14  
AT 1:00 PM**





# YOUTH NIGHT



The October Youth Night was held at Jim and Diana Ruedin's house in Seneca. We cooked hot dogs and S'mores over a bonfire and had a BLAZIN' good time!





## Looking ahead...



Mark your calendars for a Spaghetti Luncheon put on by the youth on November 20th! Details coming soon...

Watch for details on a Youth Servant event for our members...

FREE CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAPPING!!!



### **Youth Retreat Lock-In Zion Lutheran Church, McHenry, IL November 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> (Friday – Saturday)**

A Higher Things Youth Retreat will be held at Zion Lutheran Church and School in McHenry, IL. Geared for confirmation age through Sr. in high school, the topic will be “How to talk to your atheist friends about Jesus.”

The kids may bring sleeping bags if they want to. There are two gyms that the kids sleep in, one for the boys and one for the girls. Check in is at 6 pm on Friday, and you would need to eat before arriving. All other meals are provided. It is over after closing service Saturday evening.

To find out more, call Diana Ruedin (815/357-1284)

To register, please call Paula Willig (618/615-2812)



The Friendly Seniors  
annual Turkey Dinner will be on

**November 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm**  
**R-Place Restaurant**

The cost is \$12.95 per person.

To make a reservation  
please call Tina Nighsonger

815/942-6737

## *Thanksgiving Eve Service*

*Come, give thanks to God with a grateful heart!*

**Wednesday, November 23, 2016**  
**7:00 PM**

*Give Thanks to the Lord,  
for He is good.*  
*Psalms 107:1*





# THE GREAT *Psalm*

## A CONTINUING DEVOTION FROM PSALM 119

*Come, let's walk together in the ways and testimonies of God's Word....*

**<sup>11</sup> Buried deep in my heart I hold Your promise,  
that I might not sin against You.**

**<sup>12</sup> Blessèd are You, O LORD;  
teach me Your statutes!**

### **Verses 11-12 "The Deep Foundation"**

Therefore – because God has planted His word in my soul – because He has put His hand on me – only because of that – I bend my heart; turning to seek God. Deep in my heart I hold and treasure His promise.

Notice verse 11 does not say "promises." Yes, there are many promises from God, too many to count. But they all come together in the One Promise. This One Promise is the Promise with hands and feet. He is God Himself who gives Himself **for** us, to win us back from being lost. It is Jesus who brings all the promises together in His cross and empty tomb! And He gives Himself **to** us, so that our life is bound together with His life and His life is connected to our lives forever. His life flows into and through our lives. He binds Himself to us.

Day by day He is our Savior, our Shepherd, and our Brother. Week after week He gives Himself through words of blessing and in the meal of bread and wine. Together with His body and blood He gives the promise, "given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Day and night He hears my prayers; and all through the years to come He has promised to be with me.

How do I respond to all this? How can I respond? I am caught up in the wonder of it all! I have a treasure that is beyond price, beyond riches, beyond imagining! His word, His grace, His Spirit, His love – all of these work deeply in the soul. They move, they call, they invite and they draw me to Him. They change me. The promise comes from God and is enfleshed in Jesus. He comes into this world to bring the promises in Himself. He then teaches and brings the promises into our ears, from God, spoken deep within me and those words and promises begin to change me – first by creating a new heart and new me. And then God's word works out into every part of me. Because of what He has done, I want to guard this treasure through the strength of His word. I want to desire what God desires.

So, the whole idea of wandering off from God and forgetting His word, His commandments and His promises – Preserve me dear Lord, may I never! This is not because I am afraid of God and think I had better obey; but simply because He is my God who has loved and saved me, and these are His words. They are my treasure. It is like something I learned about my grandfather. When my parents were going through papers, they found letters from my grandmother, and exclaimed, "He saved every one of her letters from before they were married!" So it is with God's words and promises to me. They are His. They are from Him. And they call to my soul. They are love letters from God.

## THE GREAT *Psalm* Continued...

All of this leads to the cry. It wells up and comes from deep inside. "Blessed are You, O LORD; teach me Your statutes!" What do I want, O Lord? I want more of You!

### **Prayer:**

Blessed are You Lord, my Savior and God. Blessed are You for Your promises of life, salvation, glory, fellowship. Blessed are You for every answer to prayer; and blessed are You for the hidden blessings held within Your wisdom. Blessed are You because You are the promise and You are the blessing. Guide me and lead me in Your word all through life . . . and forever! Amen.


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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
<div>Communion</div> <div>Reformation Sunday</div> <div>8:15am - Worship</div> <div>9:30am - Bible</div> <div>9:30am - Sun. Sch.</div> <div>10:45am - Worship</div>	<div>Halloween</div>	<div>9am - Bible Study</div> <div>1pm - Euchre Club</div> <div>4pm - Elders</div> <div>6pm - Adult Info</div>	<div>10am - LWML</div>	<div>4pm - St Vincnts</div> <div>4:30pm - 7th Gd</div>		<div>Communion</div> <div>5:30pm - Worship</div>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<div>Communion</div> <div>Daylight Saving</div> <div>8:15am - Worship</div> <div>9:30am - Bible</div> <div>9:30am - Sun. Sch.</div> <div>10:45am - Worship</div>		<div>Election Day</div> <div>9am - Bible Study</div> <div>5:30pm - Friendly</div> <div>6pm - Adult Info</div>		<div>3:30pm - Handbells</div> <div>4:30pm - 7th Gd</div> <div>4:45pm - Choir</div>	<div>Veterans Day</div>	<div>5:30pm - Worship</div>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<div>8:15am - Worship</div> <div>9:30am - Bible</div> <div>9:30am - Sun. Sch.</div> <div>10:45am - Worship</div>	<div>1pm - Senior Service</div>	<div>9am - Bible Study</div> <div>10am - Mission</div> <div>6pm - Adult Info</div>		<div>3:30pm - Handbells</div> <div>4:30pm - 7th Gd</div> <div>4:45pm - Choir</div>		<div>Communion</div> <div>5:30pm - Worship</div>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<div>Communion</div> <div>8:15am - Worship</div> <div>9:30am - Bible</div> <div>9:30am - Sun. Sch.</div> <div>10:45am - Worship</div> <div>5pm - Youth Night</div>		<div>9am - Bible Study</div>	<div>Thanksgiving Eve</div> <div>7pm - Worship</div>	<div>Thanksgiving Day</div>		<div>5:30pm - Worship</div>
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
<div>8:15am - Worship</div> <div>9:30am - Bible</div> <div>9:30am - Sun. Sch.</div> <div>10:45am - Worship</div>		<div>9am - Bible Study</div>	<div>7pm - Worship</div>	<div>3:30pm - Handbells</div> <div>4:30pm - 7th Gd</div> <div>4:45pm - Choir</div>		<div>Communion</div> <div>5:30pm - Worship</div>

# Prayer Calendar

# NOVEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p>Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter and their families. Missionaries all over the world. Deaf Ministry. Iglesia San Pablo Church. Christians being persecuted.</p>	<p>Lord, be with those in deaf ministry. Help this special ministry grow in all areas so we can all be fed your Word.</p>	<p>God, help me develop strong self esteem rooted in the realization that I am your workmanship. Eph. 2:10</p>	<p>Lord, may I regard your Word as more precious than gold and sweeter than honey. Psalm 19:10</p>	<p>Lord, help me to show proper respect to everyone, as our Word commands. 1 Peter 2:17</p>
<p>Lord, I pray I would be generous and willing to share what you have entrusted to me to others less fortunate. 1 Tim. 2:18</p>	<p>Lord, help me to be alert and self-controlled in all I do. 1 Thess. 5:6</p>	<p>Create in me a pure heart O God, and let that purity of heart be shown in my life. Psalm 51:10</p>	<p>Father, grant that I will learn to live a life of love, through the Spirit who lives in me. Eph. 5:2</p>	<p>Father, I pray that I would be kind to others. 1 Thess. 5:15</p>	<p>Lord, help me to make every effort to do what leads to peace. Romans 14:19</p>	<p>Lord, be with those who are ill or have had surgery help them to heal quickly. Bless Doctors and Nurses as they are trying to help others.</p>
<p>Lord, help me to love justice as you do and act justly in all I do. Psalm 11:7</p>	<p>Holy Father, I pray that you would clothe me with the virtue of compassion. Col.3:12</p>	<p>Lord, may I always be strong and courageous in my character and their actions. Deut. 31:6</p>	<p>I pray that I may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 2:18</p>	<p>Heavenly Father, grant me a heart filled with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 1 Thes. 1:6</p>	<p>God, please cultivate in me the ability to show true humility toward all I come in contact with. Titus 3:2</p>	<p>Lord, teach me to persevere in all I do, and help me run with perseverance, the race set before me. Heb. 12:1</p>
<p>I pray that I would fearlessly make known the Gospel of Christ to others. Eph. 6:19</p>	<p>Lord, grant me the ability to learn to be responsible in my every day living. Help me to make good decisions. Galatians 6:5</p>	<p>Oh Father, grant that I would be full of mercy and compassion as you are. James 5:11</p>	<p>Father, teach me the secret of being content in every situation, through Him who gives me strength. Phil.4:12-13</p>	<p>Let faithfulness never leave me. Prov.3:3</p>	<p>Lord, we are thankful for so much in our lives. We are thankful most for You loving us so much that You died and rose again for us. Thank you Lord.</p>	<p>We have had many baptized at church lately. May they all grow in your Word and follow you all the days of their lives.</p>
<p>Lord, I ask that you keep me committed to prayer. Help me to pray first, then do. Luke 18:1</p>	<p>Give me wisdom Father so I can live my life they way you want me to.</p>	<p>Thank you Lord for loving me.</p>	<p>Lord bless all those I go to church with .</p>		