

# Reflections

A PUBLICATION OF ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

## *All Saints' Day*

“But the  
holy people  
of the Most High  
will receive  
the kingdom  
and will possess  
it forever—yes,  
for ever and ever.”

DANIEL 7:18, NIV

For all the saints  
Who from their labors rest,  
Who Thee by faith before  
The world confessed  
Thy name, O Jesus,  
be forever blest  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Chloe Leann Hunt  
(1938-2023)

Nancy Mae Lawson  
(1940-2023)

Joseph Pitt  
2023

From earth's wide bounds,  
from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl  
streams in the countless host  
Singing to Father,  
Son and Holy Ghost:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: William W. How, 1823-97, alt  
Text: Public domain



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Fall back one hour on November 5

VISIT US ONLINE [www.ascensionhsv.org](http://www.ascensionhsv.org)



FROM THE PASTOR:

## Rev. Derek Waffel

Greetings in Christ!

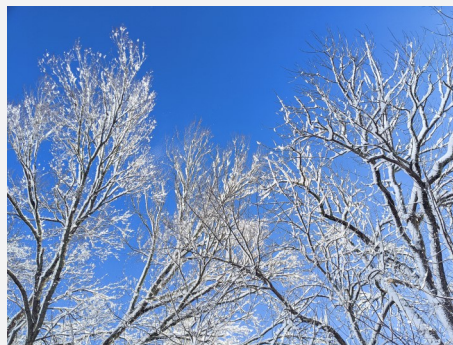
I wanted to take my first contribution to this newsletter to introduce myself. I was born and raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee, so coming to Huntsville feels like coming home in many ways, being so close to where I grew up. In fact, on my mother's side, I have quite a lot of ancestral roots in northern Alabama. In terms of my family, my mother still lives in Chattanooga and my father, a native-born German, now lives in Switzerland. I have one sister, a nurse who lives in Denver with her husband.

As a child, we attended a Presbyterian church; I was introduced to the Lutheran world and the LCMS when I met Eve and her family back in high school – in fact, we met doing a community production of “Fiddler on the Roof.” I quickly became friends with her brother and the whole family, and started going to youth group and church activities with them. When I went to UT in Knoxville for undergrad, I attended another LCMS congregation there, and was finally confirmed by my now-father-in-law, Pastor Barry Hildebrandt, at Cross of Christ LCMS in Chattanooga.

In college, I majored in theatre, and minored in German and Business – mostly focusing on the

technical and management side of theatre. I got to work with a professional theatre company there, as well as two summers at a music festival in Brevard, North Carolina. However, by my senior year, I realized that wasn't what I wanted to do for a career after all. After graduating, I ended up back in Chattanooga, and during that time, a vicar at Cross of Christ along with several other people started encouraging me to look at seminary. It had not been in my mind at all before that!

In fact, I cannot attribute it to anything but the work of the Holy Spirit: in the span of about a week, five different people, all independently of each other, said something to me about considering ministry. From there, I ended at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, and now here I am!



Eve and I were married half-way through my second year, and we went together to Rochester, Minnesota, for my vicarage year.



It was fun to experience the frozen north for a short time, but after that, we told the placement office we'd like to go further south – and they were able to oblige, placing me at Christ Lutheran Church in Pascagoula, Mississippi, right on the Gulf Coast.

During that time, a couple of highlights were that I was able to finish my Master of Sacred Theology degree through Concordia Saint Louis, and to lead a trip to Wittenberg and other Reformation sites in Germany during the 2017 anniversary year.

Christ-Pascagoula is a fantastic, warm, and loving congregation that blessed us immensely for these first eight years of ministry, and now we are excited to get to know not only the Huntsville area but the people of Ascension as well! I can honestly say that your reputation among those who have spoken to me is just as welcoming and loving.

Of course, my first priority will be to get to know everyone better, and let you

← PAST  
PRESENT  
→ FUTURE →



## FROM THE PASTOR (Continued)

get to know me further. If you would like to get lunch or coffee some day, please get in touch! If I can visit you in your home, or you'd like to come here to the church and chat, that's all fine too – whatever you and your family are the most comfortable with!



I know everyone will be wondering where Eve and our three kids are. Until our house down in Pascagoula sells, it's not very practical for us to buy another house here – so for the time being, she and the kids are staying in Chattanooga with her parents. Since we're so close, I'll still go up to be with them frequently, and I hope they'll be here sometimes as well, but please continue to pray for us in this extended transition and that our house may sell quickly! We certainly want to be settled here, and to have our whole family be part of this congregation. In the meantime,

I appreciate your understanding, and look forward to serving our Lord together with you.

*Pastor Waffel*



# WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR

## WE ARE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

## Carla Jo Peebles

Thank you, Jesus, Thank you, Jesus.... These are the opening phrases or a children's prayer we do daily, but it is so appropriate for not only the season of the year we are in, but also for how much we as a congregation have to be thankful for.

Here at the CDC, we are thankful for our dedicated staff, our faithful volunteers, our families who chose to send their children to a Christian center, and the love of Christ that permeates all that we do and are. We are thankful that we can proclaim Christ Crucified and Risen for the forgiveness of our sins.

We hosted Muffins with Mom on October 13. We had a good turnout, and both Moms, and Mom types enjoyed spending time with their child here at school. We had school picture day on October 16. Many smiles – and not many tears were present.



We will be having our first costume dress up day in more than a decade. There will be lots of fun costumes to see. Maybe we can give a parade for the Bible study ladies since Halloween falls on a Tuesday. We have almost the whole package of M&M's accounted for. The staff also participated in a door decorating contest. The impartial judges will

announce a winner on Halloween. Our next event will be Donuts with Dad (and Dad types) on Friday November 10.



A shout-out for all participated in our first annual Trunk or Treat! Thank you for all of your work – and the joy you brought to the neighborhood. We had 16 vehicles decorated and handing out candy. There were hundreds of children there. I noticed current students, former students, and even former teachers with their families.

We are already learning the songs for our Christmas program, which is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16. This will be our first indoor “performance” since before COVID. As soon as we learn the songs, we want to move over into the church to start practicing. The kids are enthusiastic about the music – hopefully they will stay that way with a full house of parents, grandparents and parishioners.



## HARVEST \* Trail Mix \*

This portable snack combines favorite fall flavors.



### What you need:

- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 2/3 cup pecan pieces
- 1/3 cup roasted pumpkin seeds
- 1/3 cup almonds
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 2/3 cup dried fruit (any)

### What you do:

1. Microwave syrup, spices, seeds and nuts for 30 seconds at a time, stirring frequently, until mixture thickens.
2. Spread the mixture on a baking sheet lined with wax paper. Let cool and harden.
3. Break the candied nuts into chunks. Combine with dried fruit.
4. Store in airtight container.

## Linda Hirschbuehler

This year, October 15 was recognized as LWML Sunday at Ascension.



Our ladies were involved in the worship service by participating as readers, ushers, and greeters. Marcia Pate and Mary Engel spoke about our ongoing projects after the 8:00 and 10:45 am services. We wish to acknowledge Cynthia Pruitt who made the beautiful corsages this year. Our thanks to our members and friends who contributed so generously to our door collection this year. Those funds will be sent to The LCMS Seminary Fund.

The LWML Yard Sale on October 21 was a great success, this year. We had the Fellowship Hall and The Sunken Room filled with sale items. We had a beautiful day and we were thankful for the favorable weather. This was a tremendous amount of work, and the proceeds totaled \$1500.00. We appreciated all the help we received from the regular attendees of our group and those who "jumped in" to help price things and organize items beforehand. We had a lot of people working that day to make it all a memorable event!

Our work at The Rose of Sharon continues with the monthly loaded baked potato lunch on the 4th Thursday of the month. We served approximately 100 lunches on October 26 and there were many

"go" orders given out for family members and children who were in need of food at home. Theresa Wilson the Director at Rose of Sharon said they will be collecting food boxes for Thanksgiving. All the traditional holiday foods, either boxed or canned, are welcome.

We ask for your prayers that a grant from the Gulf States District for \$5000.00 be approved for use at The Rose of Sharon. We applied for this grant in October and await their response. We have adopted this facility as our local community outreach project and their stipend from a local business has now reached its end with funding. If this money is approved it's to be used for food boxes for families in need.



There is another ministry that is ongoing in LWML and is mentioned in our monthly minutes but has not received an in-depth explanation on how it serves as a blessing to our baptized children and their parents.

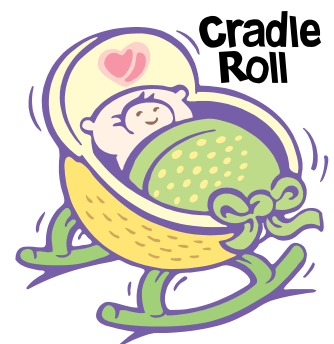
The Cradle Roll duties are attended to by Roberta Willenberg. She has been serving in this capacity for many years, and I recently asked her to explain how this program works, and what items families receive from their home church after their child is baptized.



Examples of items that are sent are

- ♦ pamphlets on Baptism for parents, and a Book on Baptism for the child, "Your Growing Baby" which is sent at six months.
- ♦ They receive their first birthday card and a First Baptism birthday card with a "My Bible" book about Jesus.
- ♦ At eighteen months we send "Your Growing Toddler" and "My Book About the Church."
- ♦ They receive their second birthday card and Second Baptism birthday card with a "My Bible Story Book."
- ♦ At age three she sends a birthday card and a Third Baptism birthday card with a Family Devotional.

She has taken on this Cradle Roll Ministry and stayed connected with the parents of our baptized infants in order to remind them of this important sacrament. This type of follow-up gives families the opportunity to reflect on their child's baptismal day and the significance of that special day in their life. All these materials are furnished through Concordia Publishing House.





# Bobbie Scroggins

**PRAYER:** We are unworthy of Your many kindnesses, O Lord, yet You open Your hand and grant life and breath to every living thing. Lead us to return to You this day what is truly Yours, not the least of which is our gratitude for all You bestow upon us. We cannot repay, but we ask You to bless our tables each day and to receive our heartfelt thanks for the gifts of life and salvation through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

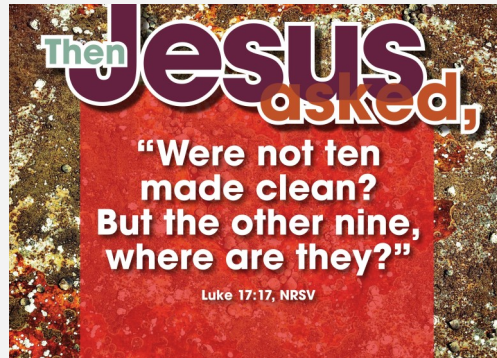
## BE GRATEFUL AND GIVE THANKS

I love Thanksgiving. It's time for friends, family and food. For many, it's the start of the holiday season. Just thinking about it, I can almost smell the roasting turkey.

Luke 17:11-14: *Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.*

Because leprosy was contagious, people who had leprosy were required to stay away from other people and to announce their presence if they had to come near. Sometimes leprosy would go into remission. If a leper thought his leprosy had gone away, he was supposed to present himself to a priest who would declare him clean. Jesus sent 10 lepers to the priest before they were healed – and they went. They responded in

faith, and Jesus healed them on the way. Is your trust in God so strong that you act on what He says, even before you see evidence that it will work?



Luke 17:15-19: *One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."*

Not only was the man a leper, he was also a Samaritan, a race despised by the Jews as idolatrous half-breeds. Once again, Luke is pointing out that God's grace is for everyone.

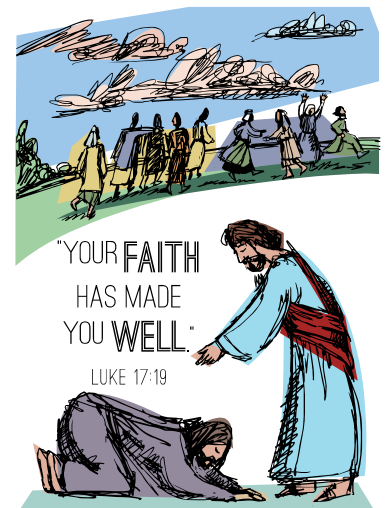
Jesus healed all 10 lepers, but only one returned to thank Him. It is possible to receive God's great gifts with an ungrateful spirit – nine of the 10 men did so. Only the thankful man, however, learned that his faith had played a role in his healing. Only grateful Christians grow in understanding God's grace. God does not demand that we thank Him, but



He is pleased when we do so. And He uses our responsiveness to teach us more about Himself.

Psalm 65:1-3: *Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled. You who answer prayer, to you all people will come. When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.*

Although we may feel overwhelmed by the multitude of our sins, God will forgive them all if we ask sincerely. Do you feel as though God could never forgive you, that your sins are too many, or that some of them are too great? The Good News is that God can and will forgive them all! Nobody is beyond redemption, and nobody is so full of sin that he or she cannot be made clean.



Psalm 65:4-5: *Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple. You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior, the hope of*

*all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.*

Access to God, the joy of living in the temple courts, was a great honor. God had chosen a special group of Israelites, the tribe of Levi, to serve as priests in the tabernacle. They were the only ones who could enter the sacred rooms where God's presence resided. Because of Jesus' death on the cross, all believers today have personal access to God's presence, everywhere and at any time.

Psalm 65:6-13: [*the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,*] *who formed the mountains by your power; having armed yourself with strength, who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations. The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy. You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it. You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops. You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.*



This Psalm glorifies God the Creator as reflected in the beauty of nature. Nature helps us understand something of God's character. Nature was a sign of His love and provision for them. Nature shows God's generosity – giving us more than we need or deserve. Understanding God's abundant generosity should make us grateful to God and generous to others.

Psalm 92:1: *It is good to praise the Lord and make music to Your name, O Most High.*

During the Thanksgiving holiday, we focus on our blessings and express our gratitude to God for them. But thanks should be on our lips every day. We can never say thank you enough to parents, friends, leaders and especially God. When thanksgiving becomes an integral part of our lives, we will find that our attitude toward life will change. We will become more positive, gracious, loving and humble.

But what is Thanksgiving all about? Feeling thankful is not enough, nor is the counting of blessings. Thanksgiving is more than full stomachs and personal satisfaction. What satisfied the psalmist? To be in the house of the Lord – not just to feel thankful, but to give thanks to the God of creation, the Lord of our salvation. At life's end, all we will have to offer is our thanks. Ten lepers were cleansed, but only one returned to Jesus to give thanks. So today, let us thank God for house and home, family, friends and our very own lives. Then let us move toward the Eucharist, which is the feast of thanksgiving. With Mary, we can be thankful that God fills the hungry with good things and sends the rich away empty (See Luke 1:53). Whether or not our tables or plates are full, rejoice in the things that endure. Like the leper, we have been cleansed. Nine lepers felt



thankful, one returned to Jesus and offered the sacrifice of thanksgiving, the stuff of the Eucharist. See you in church.



**MAKE TODAY WONDERFUL**  
Psalm 118:24: *"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

Regardless of how bad things appear, God is greater than any situation.

Every day is a unique gift to us from God. What we make of it is our responsibility. The way in which we welcome each new day will depend on our frame of mind and attitude toward life. Fortunately, our frame of mind is not something that we have to leave in the hand of fate or coincidence. God has given us the ability to choose our frame of mind, as well as the pace of our life. Meet every day with joy and expectation and then live a happy, victorious life.



Those who bring  
thanksgiving as their  
sacrifice honor me.

Psalms 50:23



### THE BLESSING OF A GRATEFUL HEART

Psalms 50:23: *He who sacrifices thank offerings honors Me.*

Sometimes a complaint is valid, but the danger of complaining is that it can become a habit. Eventually, we forget that there are more things to be grateful for than to complain about. If we are complaining more often than we are expressing gratitude, then we are living an inferior quality of life.

Never let a day go by without consciously expressing gratitude. We should open our eyes to that which is beautiful around us and praise God for what we see and experience. When we start thanking God for His gifts of grace, He is already planning the next blessing for us.

### BE THANKFUL IN EVERYTHING

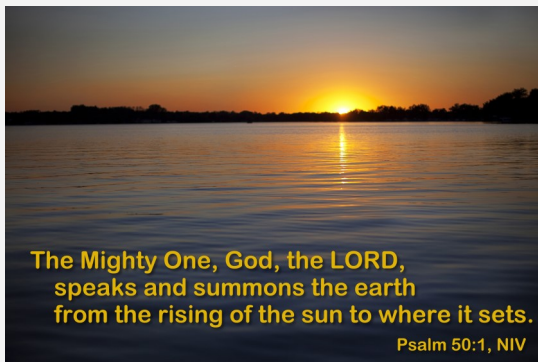
Proverbs 15:16: *Better a little with fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil.*

The average Christian is so busy looking for a spectacular revelation of the miracle working that he cannot see God at work in the common, everyday things. When we have learned to appreciate the small blessings from God, we will see how God is at work in our life. The wonder of friendship, the kindness of strangers and an understanding heart are all expressions of the greatness and the blessings of God.

Make a decision, today, to never again take anything for granted. As we thank God for His blessings, we unlock the treasure room of God, which fills our lives with new beauty and riches.

Ephesians 1:3-4: *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.*

We should regularly praise and thank God for all the spiritual blessings that He gives to us, such as our salvation and our inheritance in heaven. Praise Him also for the spiritual blessings that you cannot see, such as joy, inner happiness and hope in your heart. Give thanks, praise and worship to our merciful God from whom all our spiritual blessings come.



The Mighty One, God, the LORD,  
speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to where it sets.

Psalms 50:1, NIV

We praise and thank You, gracious Lord, for the small things that make each day so delightful. Help us never again to take our daily blessings for granted. Amen.

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.

### Refrain

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise  
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light,  
[Refrain]

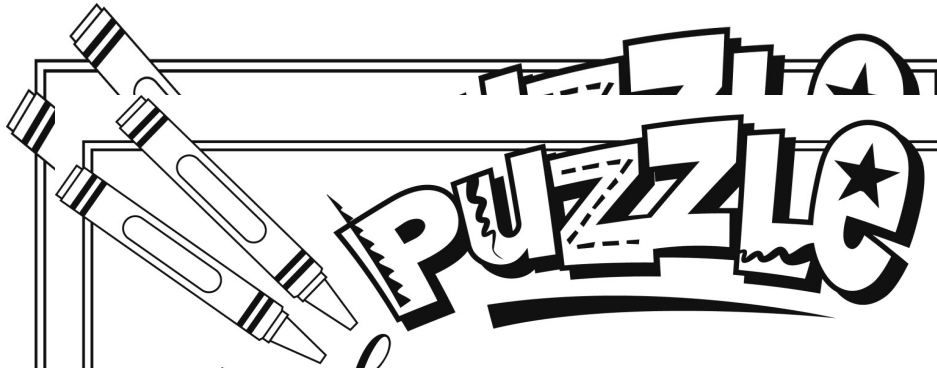
For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends  
above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild,  
[Refrain]

For yourself, best gift divine,  
to the world so freely given,  
agent of God's grand design:  
peace on earth and joy in heaven.  
[Refrain]

In the spring of 1863, Folliott S. Pierpont (b. Bath, Somerset, England, 1835; d. Newport, Monmouthshire, England, 1917) sat on a hilltop outside his native city of Bath, England, admiring the country view and the winding Avon River. Inspired by the view to think about God's gifts in creation and in the church, Pierpont wrote this text. Pierpont was educated at Queen's College, Cambridge, England, and periodically taught classics at Somersetshire College. But because he had received an inheritance, he did not need a regular teaching position and could afford the leisure of personal study and writing.

Taken from [https://hymnary.org/text/for\\_the\\_beauty\\_of\\_the\\_earth](https://hymnary.org/text/for_the_beauty_of_the_earth)





# Wonders of creation

Our Creator is in control of the entire universe!

*Directions: Beginning with column 1, go down each column until you come to a dot. Write the letter that's found to the left of the dot on the blank below to complete Psalm 147:4, NIV. (Some columns have more than one letter.)*

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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PSALM 147:4, NIV

Answer: He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Psalm 147:4, NIV

PSALM 147:4, NIV

Answer: He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Psalm 147:4, NIV



Make a Scary Snack—

# EDIBLE SPIDERS!

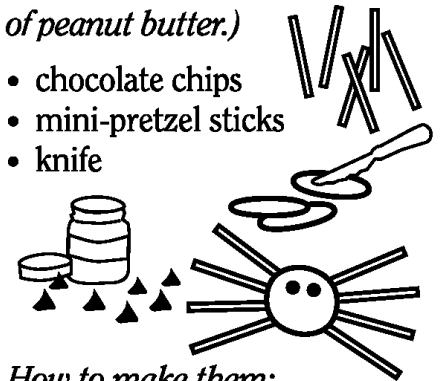
*They may sound creepy, but these snacks are yummy.*

*Here's what you need:*

- round crackers
- peanut butter

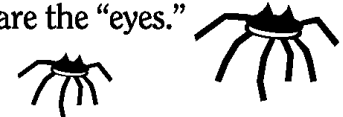
*(Caution!: If you're allergic to nuts, you can use marshmallow cream instead of peanut butter.)*

- chocolate chips
- mini-pretzel sticks
- knife



*How to make them:*

1. Check with a grown-up before you start.
2. Take one round cracker and spread peanut butter (or marshmallow) on it.
3. Push 8 pretzel sticks into the peanut butter. These are the "legs."
4. Put a second cracker on top. (You may need to add a little more peanut butter first.)
5. Using a little peanut butter as "glue," stick 2 chocolate chips on top of the crackers. These are the "eyes."



# MISSIONAL OUTREACH MINISTRY

Members of the Missional Outreach Ministry go to two separate locations to preach, pray and sing. The schedule for November is

November 1, 15 & 29—HHR at 10:26 AM

November 9 - Regency at 12:30 PM (No visit on Thanksgiving Day)

The worship service consists of the following:

Welcome by Bob Smith

Song 1

Song 2

OT Reading

Song 3

Song 4

NT Reading

Song 5

Song 6

Gospel Reading

Song 7

Message

Song 8

Song 9



## MINISTRY TO THE Homebound

### BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Andre Cowart	11/01	Jordan Reynolds	11/12
Abrielle Mwakabumbila	11/01	Harrison Grott	11/17
Ron Salem	11/03	Carl Engel	11/17
Robby Gehring	11/05	Lincoln Hartwig	11/18
Lynne Heape	11/08	Bob Beamer	11/18
Jonathan Glenn	11/09	Ellen Rosson	11/18
		Steve Booze	11/22

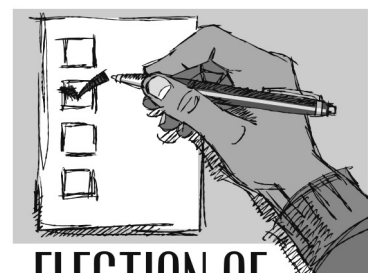


### Update Recap

The cold has come upon us and reminded us that the seasons change - and so do we. However, some things continue *with* the seasons, and here is our list for November:

- ◆ November 10 - Decorate Fellowship Hall at 9:30 AM.
- ◆ November 12 - 100 cans of cranberry sauce and yams are due!
- ◆ November 12 - Voters' Meeting following potluck lunch after 10:45 AM Service
- ◆ November 16 - Decorate the Narthex at 9:30 AM
- ◆ November 19 - Pack Thanksgiving Bags at St. Mark's at 2:00 PM
- ◆ November 23 - Thanksgiving Day Service at 9:30 AM
- ◆ November 25 - Men's Prayer Breakfast at 8:30 AM
- ◆ December 2 - Decorate Sanctuary Trees

Don't Forget! November 12 Voters' meeting with election of officers. Still needed warm bodies to serve on Boards of Directors and Elders.



### ELECTION OF OFFICERS



## Rick Hilst

### KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS

*"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"*

Matthew 14:28-31

With everything that's going on in the world and in this country right now, it's easy for us Christians to take our eyes off Jesus and focus on what's happening all around us. Like Peter, when we see the waves and feel the wind, when we focus on the problems, the dangers lurking around us, it's easy to become afraid.



To Peter's credit, unlike the other disciples, he was willing to get out of the safety of the boat and trust in Jesus to have the water hold him up. Only when he got distracted, when he took his eyes off Jesus, when he saw the danger all around him, did his faith fail

him. Even then, he made the right choice and called out to Jesus to save him.



Although he ultimately came up short, there is much we can learn from Peter. First, it took great faith for Peter to get out of the boat and walk on the water. Under the same circumstances, is your faith so strong that you would have followed his example? Second, as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus, Peter was able to walk on top of the water. So, not only did Peter have the faith to step out of the boat, but he also had the faith to walk on the water. However, even with that faith, Peter eventually took his eyes off Jesus and saw the danger lurking around him. His faith then faltered, and he began to sink. However, even as his situation worsened, he knew who to call out to, who could save him.

Despite exhibiting what I think is great faith, when he faltered, Jesus faulted Peter for having "little faith" and having doubt rather than trusting completely in Him. When I read this story, I wonder what Jesus would consider a strong faith. What could someone with a strong faith do? If walking on water, albeit eventually



sinking, is an example of little faith, then what could someone with a strong faith who keeps his eyes on Jesus do?

We so often set our sights very low. We expect so little from God that we are not truly expecting Him to do anything for us. This is not trusting in Jesus. This is not faith. This is doubt. This is hanging back in the boat and letting others try to walk on the water. This is failing without even trying.

With God nothing is impossible. Most of us have heard that statement since we were young. But do we believe it? Do we pay lip service to Jesus, to what He has done and can do, but are reluctant to put those words into action in our lives? Do we hang back and let others be missionaries, be royal priests, be God's ambassadors to a fallen world?

Jesus Christ is the almighty God, the creator of the universe and everything in it. Obviously, if He created this incredible universe, which is so vast that we can't really comprehend it, then anything we ask Him, if consistent with His will, He will surely do. Therefore, why do we expect so little? Why do we offer up prayers hoping that He hears us, hoping that He will answer our petitions, rather than trusting that not only does He hear us, but that He wants to help us?

*"If in my name You ask me for anything, I will do it."*  
John 14:14, NRSV



## From the CDC on Saturday Afternoon, October 28, 2023

God loves us so much that Jesus became man, that He lived a perfect life among us for 33 years, that He took on the punishment for our sins by suffering and dying on a cross for us! This is truly incredible. The omnipotent, omniscient Jesus died for us! Why He did this, when we are such miserable sinners, so full of filth, so totally undeserving of His love, His mercy, and His grace, is beyond my comprehension. But He did!



And now, Lord ... grant to  
your servants to continue to  
speak your word with all

**BOLDNESS**

Acts 4:29, ESV

He gave up everything for us! If the all-powerful God was willing to do this for us, surely He will be with us when we endeavor to do His will.

So, let's not be cowards. Let's not be quiet out of fear. Let's not be afraid to share our faith, to tell others what we believe, even if doing so may come with some risk. Jesus loves us and has shown us that love by His actions, by His atoning sacrifice. So, let's be brave. Let's reflect the love of Jesus to those around us.



The day for the first  
Trunk or Treat  
event at Ascension  
was just perfect.  
The skies were  
blue, the ground  
was dry, and the  
laughter floated all  
around the area.

Thanks to all  
who participated  
in the event and  
look out - next  
year is right  
around the  
corner!





# It Happened at Ascension. . .



Shepherds who attended the Installation service of Rev. Derek Waffel at Ascension Lutheran on October 29, 2023: Center Back: Rev. Derek Waffel and District President Rev. Eric Johnson  
Left to Right: Ival Toepke; John Bussman (Cullman); Aaron Kretzschmar (Decatur); Barry Hildebrandt (Tennessee); Charles Schaum (Muscle Shoals); Bernard Ansorge; James Garnett; Perry McCullam; Gary Nagy; Russ Gipson (Huntsville); Mark Moldenhauer (Madison); Lamb (Philip Ansorge)

# November 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:15 AM - HHR 6:00 PM - Choir	2	3	4
5 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Classes 9:45 AM - Regency	6 6:00 PM - Worship	7 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM - Board of Directors (Note one- time change)	8 6:00 PM - Choir	9 12:30 PM - Regency	10 9:30 AM - Decorate Fellowship Hall	11 10:00 AM - LWML
12 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Classes 9:45 AM - Regency Potluck and Voters' Meeting after service 100 cans of yams/cranberry jelly due here	13 6:00 PM - Worship	14 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study	15 10:15 AM - HHR 6:00 PM - Choir	16 9:30 AM - Decorate Narthex & Hallway	17	18
19 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Classes 9:45 AM - Regency 2:00 PM - Bagging Thanksgiving Bags at St. Mark	20 6:00 PM - Worship	21 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM - Board of Elders	22 6:00 PM - Choir	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25 8:30 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast
26 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Classes 9:45 AM - Regency	27 6:00 PM - Worship	28 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study	29 10:15 AM - HHR 6:00 PM - Choir	30		