

# The Messenger



In all things,  
give  
*thanks*  
1 Thessalonians 5:18

Thanksgiving Day is not an appointed church holiday but a national celebration. Nevertheless, the church celebrates it for good reason. Surely, when we consider the blessings from our Heavenly Father from whom comes every good and perfect gift, we have reason to say every day:

*"Praise the Lord. Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."* Psalm 106:1

There is a lot happening in this nation/world that prompts the question of giving thanks. As Christians we are not unaffected by the economic, political, moral, and cultural deterioration. Christians too suffer personal afflictions.

Should we celebrate a festival of Thanksgiving?

Yes! The Lord continues to be at our side. He has strengthened us. He has provided for us in remembrance of His mercy. *"For a mere moment I have forsaken you; but with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid my face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," says the Lord your Redeemer. For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no more go over the earth, so have I sworn that I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall my covenant of peace be removed, says the Lord who has mercy on you.*" Isaiah 54:7

The Triune God (and He alone) lives to hear our prayers. As the Giver of every good and perfect gift, He delights in our expressions of thanks. Every other god is an idol that neither hears nor answers prayers.

The gospel of our Savior Jesus is the greatest reason we Christians give thanks every day. The gospel gives hope in what is otherwise a hopeless world.

Our God will keep His believing children unto everlasting life. In the meantime, appreciate the material blessings that He provides in measure according to His will. Whatever the future holds and until He takes us home, let us be *"...casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."* 1 Peter 5:7

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

## ORGAN REDEDICATION

St. Paul's Johannis Rembrandt organ will be rededicated to the glory of God during our Thanksgiving service of worship on

Sunday, November 20, at 10:30 a.m.

The organ which was built in the Netherlands, was purchased and installed during the fall of 2002, thanks to the congregation's generosity and a grant from St. Paul's Endowment Fund.

Join us as we give thanks for this wonderful gift of music.



Another wonderful Oktoberfest! Thank you LWML ladies for all of your efforts in planning, preparing, and decorating. A great big **Thank You** for all the great food and entertainment too.



Pastors



Lutheran  
school  
teachers



Directors of  
Christian  
education



Directors of  
Christian  
outreach



Directors of  
family life  
ministries



Directors of  
parish music



Directors of  
church  
ministries



Deaconesses

## SET APART TO SERVE

### LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

Do you know about these opportunities to serve in the LCMS?

For more information about Professional church work vocations within the LCMS

<https://www.lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve>





The Central Alabama Zone LWML fall rally was hosted by the Ladies of St. Paul on Saturday, October 22nd. 31 ladies attended and five churches were represented. Pastor Elam led a devotion with communion and gave a Bible study on the rally's theme: *Focus on Jesus*. St. Paul's LWML President, Karalyn Maevers, blessed the Gifts of the Heart donations for Preschool Plus. Gifts of the Heart were delivered to Preschool Plus. Director, Mrs. Kayla and Program Director Mrs. Latisha were so thankful for the generous gifts. Preschool Plus now teaches close to 100 students!

Zone President, Debra McDaniels, led the business meeting, and new Zone Officers were elected. The new officers are:

President: Debra McDaniels, Trinity Lutheran Selma

Vice President: Jessica Smith, St. Paul Montgomery

Secretary: Agnes Pegues, Trinity Lutheran Selma

Treasurer: Mary Rose Cronian, St. Paul Montgomery

Christian Growth Director: Benita Madison, Trinity Lutheran Selma



NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> TO DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>

LWML WILL COLLECT COATS AND SWEATERS FOR THE HOMELESS VETERANS. The coats and sweaters can be used but in good clean condition, please. We will accept new socks and undergarments also. This is a wonderful cause to help those who gave for us.

A Collection box is in Welcome Center.

Thank you for your donations.

To enhance our streaming capabilities, we could use some used (but good condition) phones. If you have one of these phones in good working order and don't know what to do with it, please consider donating them. See Scott. Thanks!

**IOS 10.x, 11.x, 12.x**

iPhone XR  
 iPhone Xs Max  
 iPhone Xs  
 iPhone X  
 iPhone 8  
 iPhone 8 Plus

**Android 7.x, 8.x, 9.x**

Samsung Galaxy S9/S9+  
 Samsung Galaxy S8/S8+  
 Samsung Galaxy S6 edge  
 Samsung Galaxy S6



**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Thank you for your generous donations to this ministry. Seventy-two shoe boxes are on their way to children around the world who will get to enjoy the treasures you packed in the boxes and the most valuable treasure – the Message of Jesus.

**SHUT-INS AND THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Ideas for remembering our folks who are home bound:

- Send a greeting card
- Call, text, or email
- Schedule a visit
- Bring a meal or sweet treat
- Make a grocery store run
- Make a "goody box" (note cards with stamps, pen, crossword puzzle pad, candy bar, etc.

AND of course, PRAY for and with our precious sisters and brothers.



**Health:**

Doris Schreiber	Becky Culver (shingles)
Audrey and Bob Cordes	Marge Elam
Sue Gill	Janice Mather
Debbie Mikulka	Linda Elliot (Pastor Elam's Sister)
Doris and Jim Nieme	
Austin Collett (Mary Ficzer's grandson)	

"The Lord is the strength of my life." Psalm 118:14

**Shut-ins:**

Becky Culver	Betsy Milton
Carolyn Culver	Ann Ohme
Milton Kennedy	Jack and Mary Smiley
Daniel Killion	Berna Wittkop

"Fear not for I am with you; be not dismayed for I am your God..." Isaiah 41:10

\*\*\*\*\* Contact information can be obtained through the Church Office (334) 272-6214.\*\*\*\*\*



Do you ever wonder what's happening at St. Paul or what time something is starting. Check out the calendar on the [St. Paul Website](#).



## ATTENTION: VOLUNTEER NEEDED --- CONGREGATIONAL TREASURER

The Board has approved engaging a bookkeeper (Adams Technology Solutions) to do the "heavy lifting" tasks previously done by our dedicated, volunteer Treasurers. These tasks include: semi-monthly payrolls (and all related monthly and yearly State and IRS taxes and employer filings), assigning the proper account number to all vendor bank drafts, monthly reconciliation of QuickBooks, delivering monthly financial reports the Board. Adams Technology Solutions will perform their work remotely on a PC retained by our Treasurer. Adams will also monitor the PC and perform multiple offsite backups of our data on a daily basis -- further reducing the complexity of our Treasurer's role. Adam will also be available by phone, text, email, or in person as needed for assistance.

The Board is hopeful that offloading these complex and time-consuming duties will encourage a member to assume the balance of the Treasurer tasks including: collect all vendor invoices and correspondence (via mail and email), monitoring deposits (ensure designated gifts are correct), maintain a limited set of paper files, interface with Pastors, the Bank, Adams, and suppliers as needed. A PC with QuickBooks installed is provided. Out of pocket costs will be reimbursed. QuickBooks is Windows-based software and quite intuitive to use after a little training. The "hands on" computer work would be modest -- printing a limited number of checks to suppliers who do not accept bank drafts (Note: about 85% of all our bills are bank drafts including all direct deposit paychecks). Overall, it is anticipated that after a reasonable transition and orientation period, the Treasurer's role could be completed in a couple hours per week. The Treasurer is also a Board position per our Constitution and Bylaws.

Mike Nisbet has been serving as interim Treasurer since the death of Sandy Huffstickler and will assist in transition as long as needed. The Board is hopeful that a transition will begin as soon as the 2023 budget is approved. If a member volunteer does not become available soon the Board plans to engage Adams more fully and at additional cost.

Please pray about being involved in this important ministry -- resting assured that it will be far less daunting than in the past.



Montgomery Area Food Bank Service Day  
November 10



November 17 ..... Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. at St. Paul  
 November 19 ..... Church Chicks at 8:30 a.m., Chappy's on Vaughn Rd  
 November 20 ..... Congregational Thanksgiving Meal (Single Service at 10:30 a.m.) - No Sunday School  
 November 20 ..... Organ Rededication at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary  
 November 20 ..... Decorate the Church for Christmas after the Thanksgiving Meal  
 Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14 ..... Advent Worship Service at 7:00 p.m., Meal at 6:00 p.m.  
 December 4..... Voter's Meeting after the 10:30 service  
 December 8..... Food Bank Service, 9:00 a.m.  
 December 10..... Mexican Train, in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m.  
 December 13..... LWML Christmas Party at restaurant San Marcos, 6:30 p.m.  
 December 17..... Church Chicks at 8:30 a.m., Chappy's on Vaughn Rd  
 December 24..... Christmas Eve Worship at 5:00 p.m.  
 December 25..... Christmas Day Worship at 10:30 a.m. (Single Service) - No Sunday School  
 December 30 ..... Reality and Truth Feeding the Hungry at 4:30 p.m.

**Upcoming  
Activities**

#### OCTOBER FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions ..... \$24,086 (\$753 Above Budget for the month)  
 Monthly Budget ..... \$23,333  
 \*Endowment Fund ..... \$52,966

\*Members are encouraged to submit applications for funding within any of the 11 approved "Mission/Giving" categories within the Fund. All the information needed is on our website under Giving/Endowment Fund. The Fund is required to disburse 5% if the yearend balance of the fund each year.



November 20 ... Debbie Howard  
 November 27 ... Renee Perry  
 December 4..... Jessica Smith  
 December 11.... Karalyn Maevers

Dan DeVaughn    November 21  
 Debbie Olsen     November 28  
 Milton Kennedy   December 1  
 Jehle Garnto     December 2  
 Ryan Richardson   December 11  
 Eli Bradshaw     December 12



Jack & Mary Smyly    November 22

Congratulations on 69 years of Marriage!

Please submit pictures/information for the newsletter by the 12<sup>th</sup> of each month to [dhoward@knology.net](mailto:dhoward@knology.net).

#### PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

To activate the prayer chain, contact the church office at 272-6214.