

St. Luke's NEWS

A Newsletter for St. Luke's Lutheran Church, New Richmond, WI | Vol. 45 Issue 11

November 2018:

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PEACE
I leave with you;
MY PEACE
I give to you.

John 14:27

Words from Pastor Ryan

Thanksgiving – It’s a Sabbath of sorts. I say ‘of sorts’ because not all have the chance to rest. But it is a brilliant Sabbath nonetheless – a day where work, if you’re hosting, and rest, if you’re gorging, are tempered by time as well as the chance to share memories. Thanksgiving is a node in the season where the completion of harvest and the preparation for winter force us to take a day for renewal, and for all that the day is worth, for gratitude. The brilliance of a Thanksgiving Sabbath inspires us to think on the way that a true sense of gratitude shapes our lives.

In my experience of mercy care and visitation, I’ve collected a few stories under the theme of thanksgiving, and not just the holiday. Each story seemed to amount to a sentiment or a quote that might bring you too to dwell on the ways gratitude shapes you. What follows here are a few sentiments collected from folks whom God has placed on my path, in His timely fashion.

“Being thankful makes you hold up a magnifying glass. If it’s ‘good’ that you focus on, that kind of goodness will grow.” ~Margaret

I’ve heard it said that whatever you focus on grows larger. That can be true for positive things as much as negative things. Fears, hopes, dreams, offenses, and of course, blessings, all fall into these categories. If it is that gratitude magnifies our blessings, such sharp focus on the good might just make the bad unnoticeable.

“What if instead of a glass half-full, we saw it as 90% full?” ~Robert

An open, honest moment of gratitude makes for a radical change in perspective. Imagine, like Robert, looking to someone and keep them guessing for a moment when you say: “I’m really not a glass-half-full sort of person. I’m a glass 90% full person!” Being equally optimistic and realistic, if we’re not best-case scenario thinkers, we would need many more reminders to be thankful. Does it seem a coincidence to you that optimistic folks seem to express their gratitude frequently? Find that person who’s equally optimistic and realistic, and you’ll experience the joy of one who is not only grateful, but empathetic too.

“God is always there. I’m sure it’s through joy and thanksgiving that God makes Himself known more in our lives.” ~James

Of course, we know that God is ever-present. But what about His manifest presence? How do you experience the presence of God? I’ve become convinced, that when

Psalm 100 pushes us to ‘enter His gates with thanksgiving,’ it might mean more than just coming forward with gratitude. It’s not simply about ticking the box of ‘giving thanks.’ Instead, an attitude and active gratitude becomes one way that we can enter His gates. If God makes it so simple to be in His presence, we come to a place where we cannot help but be thankful, if it means being that much closer to Him. Does God seem that much closer when you express gratitude?

“In my long years, I believe that remaining thankful has kept me healthy, and has fought away boredom and depression.” ~Susan

Interesting – thanksgiving as an anti-depressant? For some it might be that simple; for others, not. I didn’t consider Susan’s wisdom until I accepted her challenge of starting the day by stating, out loud, three things that I’m grateful for. Susan believed that, no matter how great or small, stating your gratitude would change your mood for the day. Try it! Thankfulness is healthy. Where constant complaining can be as unhealthy as a poor diet, our overall health improves when God brings us from a place of bitterness to gratitude.

“There’s a mighty power in a grateful prayer.” ~Hank

I’ve shared some of Hank’s story before. Hank was a believer in this – you might get more from God by thanking Him rather than begging Him. Both sorts of prayer are appropriate, but if you are in a place to choose one type of prayer over the other, consider a bit of Hank’s wisdom: Thanking God in advance for something He has promised, but not yet given, is a profound statement of faith!

“God is sufficient. I am dependent. I live a thankful life in my humility.” ~Marla

Marla was on my daily check-in list when I volunteered in a memory care wing. Marla echoed the story of my older brother’s life – wheelchair bound, some days better than others, with nagging symptoms of disability: chronic pain from open hernias, to be specific. Marla’s life, as a living reminder of Christ’s love, helped me to begin to appreciate why God is drawn to humble hearts.

A blessed Thanksgiving to you and your families. As you are able, enjoy your family members, the day off, the meal – and yes, even the football games and shopping, if that’s your thing. But above all, don’t forget to give thanks!

Pastor Ryan

WORSHIP

Sundays – 8 & 10:30 am
Wednesdays – 7 pm
TV – Northwest Cable channel 6
Tuesdays 2 pm, Wednesdays 6:30 pm

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Sunday Adult Bible Study 9:20 – 10:20 am

(Upper Level - Fellowship Hall, Conference Room)

Sunday School 9:20 – 10:20 am, begins



Sunday Coffee Fellowship
(After worship) *volunteers welcome*

Tuesday AM Bible Study 8:45 am – 9:45 am

(Upper Level - Conference Room)

Prayer Vigil dates are:

Monday at 9 am, Nov. 12 & 26; Thursday at 6 pm,
Nov. 1 & 15 (On 2nd & 4th Mondays | 1st & 3rd Thursdays)

Advent Services

Beginning in December we will host special services on Wednesdays leading up to Christmas. Our services will focus on the coming of Christ, as we look forward with anticipation and hope. Before each of our Advent services we will host a dinner from around 5:30pm to 6:30pm. Sign up will be posted after Harvest Dinner.

SERVICE

Flower Sponsor Opening

Nov. 11, 18 & 25 and Dec. 9 & 16

New sign-up sheets are on the bulletin boards. Please email us or write a note to let us know your "why" for sponsoring the date, we can then post it in the bulletin.



Board of Family Ministry

We are looking for more volunteers to join BOFM to plan events and shepherd our youth. Contact Todd Zuberbier, Kristin Birkholz or Kirstin Mehls with your interest or questions about the board of family ministry.

- **RENT-a-Youth.** To schedule, please contact Terri Mattmiller at terrijo21@hotmail.com or call her at 715-418-0513. Please give a free-will donation to the NYG 2019 for the work done.
- **Youth Night:** On Sunday, Nov. 11, from 6-8pm, join us to decorate cookies and play games for youth, grades 6-12. *There will be other treats as well!*
- **Family Fun Night:** On Friday, Dec. 7th, from 6-8pm,

we plan an evening of card making & cookie decorating, for our younger members. All ages are welcome to participate.

Women's Group Women's Group voted to meet November 10th at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will have election of new officers, and plan the "Christmas Cookies for shut-ins" day. We hope to have a great turnout.

COME St. Luke's will again host the COME Meal (Community Outreach Meal for Everyone) on Tuesday, Nov. 19 from 5-6:30 pm, at the United Methodist Church. This meal is free to anyone so come and enjoy some good food and fellowship. Watch the bulletin board for sign up sheets for items to donate and times to volunteer to help out. Any questions call Pat Strege at 715-246-6333. Thank you

Red Cross Blood Drive St. Luke's will host the Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, Nov. 12th from 12:30-6:30pm. Please if you are able, consider giving, blood supplies are in critical need with the two hurricanes this year.

Christmas Concert The Vocal & Handbell Choirs' Christmas Concert will be on Sunday, Dec. 9, at 2pm. Concert is free and refreshments will be served following the concert. There is a free-will offering for the refreshments with proceeds going to a local charity.

Congregational Meeting On Tues. Nov. 13th at 7pm we will have a congregational meeting. There will be an update on the Grace Place project, as well as a proposal from the Trustees on air conditioning for the voters to consider. An announcement from Guatemala Mission Team and we will vote on new members for our boards. There are openings on Board of Family, Board of Elders and Board of Trustees. To learn more about the boards talk with board members or with heads of the boards. They are Elders: Bill Klopp, Trustees: Gary Svenningson, BOFM: Todd Zuberbier.



Fall Back

Don't forget that November is now the month we fall back! This arrives early this November so set your clocks back on Saturday evening, Nov. 3 so your timing for Sunday church service is not too early!

Helping Hands Here & Abroad

MISSIONS



LWML Corner

Our delegates to the North Wisconsin District Convention in Stevens Point reported that it was a wonderful, very uplifting experience, especially hearing so many voices joined in praise during the opening worship service. There were about

398 persons in attendance. The next district convention will be held in Green Bay in 2020.

We will meet again on Tuesday, November 6 at 2 pm in the conference room. Contact Dawn Shafer at 715-246-4012 or Annette Jones at 715-248-7891 if you have questions or need a ride.

Ana, Julian, Oscar, Manuel, and Aracely, The American staff who keep us organized, fed, and safe are Kevin and Ginny in Guatemala and Rachel and Randy in the US.

The veterans of previous trips are delighted to have three newbies join us. We need new ears for all of our stories.

Nov. Dedicated Mission: Love Baskets

Love Baskets is the distribution of gifts to children whose families have difficulty Christmas buying Christmas gifts for their children. We are again offering this service to the families in the New Richmond/Somerset school districts.



Team Guatemala 2019

SEEKING THE LOST, EQUIPPING THE FOUND (Groundwork Guatemala's mission statement)

Our sixth mission trip is getting closer. *Members of St. Luke's are pictured in the team above from our mission trip last fall.* Usually we have asked for your help to collect school and medical supplies. However, due to the high cost of extra luggage, we are not taking in kind donations with us and you do not have to go shopping! Instead we will be collecting funds during December and taking those donations with us so the very resourceful Guatemalan missionaries can get exactly what they need. We might save some money purchasing items here, but the baggage costs would outweigh the savings. Checks can be made out to St. Luke's, marked "Groundwork Supplies," and placed in the offering.

Our team, which is still fluctuating between eight and ten at this writing, requests your prayers for a safe and successful trip. We also ask you to include the Groundwork Guatemala team in your prayers. If you like to pray for people by name, the Guatemalan missionaries are Caesar, Carlos, Sondra,

There are multiple ways in which your church can help:

- We are in need of people to sponsor families.
- Boxes will soon be available to collect donations. There will be suggested items listed on the box.
- **Call 715-246-4508 after October 22 if:**
 - You would like to become a sponsor
 - Your family needs a Love Basket
 - You know someone that needs a Basket
 - You would like to volunteer
- If you would like to help with the Christmas party Call 715-246-1222 (Grace Place)

- Monetary donations can be mailed to Love Baskets
P.O. Box 142
New Richmond, WI 54017

It takes a community to provide this valuable service.



Thank you,
The Love Baskets
Committee
With The Salvation
Army and Toys for
Tots

Youth Pizza & Movie night



Youth enjoyed a Make Your Own Pizza & Movie Night on Sept. 30th. Grades 6-12 enjoyed creating their own pizzas with all the available toppings and then watched *A Wrinkle in Time* afterwards. Those present voted for a repeat of this idea down the road with maybe tacos as the meal. . . Although the weather did not cooperate, the Bonfire & Bingo family night was also well attended. Thank you all for your support!



Sunday School

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



Boaz Provides for Ruth & Naomi

It's already November and it's time to start planning for our Christmas program! Please check out the dates listed below for the program and practices. Our Christmas program directors will be sending a survey link soon, so please watch your email. They are hoping to assign parts early and will need to know who all will be participating in this year's program. We are looking for parent volunteers to assist during the Christmas program practices, so please reach out to Karrie (karrie7660@gmail.com) if you are willing.

This month we will be working on the lessons below:

- Ruth
- God's Servant Samuel
- Saul Becomes King

Thank you all again for your continued support!

God's Blessings,
Sunday School Staff

Note: We are sending the newsletter electronically as well. If you do not receive the newsletter, please contact Karrie Lynch at karrie7660@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list.

Board of Family Ministries

Board Members

Todd Zuberbier,
Kristin Birkholz,
Kirstin Mehls

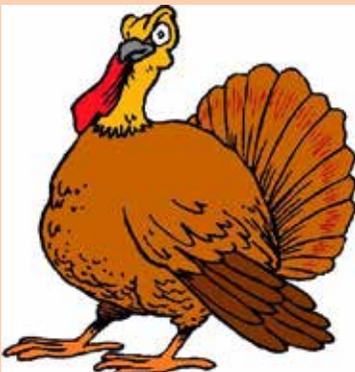
Youth Event Nov. 11

Cookie decorating and games on Sunday evening, from 6-8pm, grades 6-12.

Family Fun Night Dec. 7

We will decorate cards and cookies on Friday evening, from 6-8pm.

Do you enjoy working with youth or children? Consider volunteering, talk to a BOFM member to learn more.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 18th – Children sing (end of 8:00am)

November 25th – No Sunday School (Thanksgiving break)

Please Note Practice Dates have changed:

December 8 – Christmas program practice (9:00-11:00am)

December 15 – Christmas Program practice (9:00-11:00am)

December 16 – Christmas Program (10:30am)

December 23 – No Sunday School (Christmas break)

December 30 – No Sunday School (Christmas break)

Worship Assistants Nov. 2018

Ushers

- Nov. 4 8am:** Mark & Melinda Hanson, Darrell & Sheryl Stoddard
10:30am: Dan Stansbury, Russ Miller, Ben and Tyler Hebert
- Nov. 11 8am:** Jim Richert, Norm Schutte, Brian Volkert Sr., Brian Volkert Jr.
10:30am: Marty and Adam Tryba, Russ Miller, and Nick Dols
- Nov. 18 8am:** Ryan, Jack and Sydney Schradle, Tom Green
10:30am: Nick Dols, Dan Peterson, Russ Miller, Nolan Gunderson
- Nov. 25 8am:** Lisa & Steve Skoyen, Dave Wold, Brian Mattmiller
10:30am: Paul Richard, Nick Dols, Russ Miller, Dan Harding

Greeters

- Nov. 4 8am:** Tom & Wendi Krueger
10:30am: Richard & Sue Volkert
- Nov. 11 8am:** the Drinkens: Tom & Brandee, Makayla and Madylen
10:30am: Laura Henrichsen
- Nov. 18 8am:** Carol and Gen Richert
10:30am: Rick & Deb Hebert
- Nov. 25 8am:** the Mattmiller girls: Terri, Alexis, Laura, Ava and Lindsey
10:30am: Paul & MaryAnn Richard

Altar

Sun. Nov. Diane Heintz; **Wed.** Sharon Denker

Elders for Service

- Nov. 4** JC Mickelson
Nov. 11 Justin Townsend
Nov. 18 Jeff Silver
Nov. 25 Doug Hager
Wednesdays — Mike Boucher

Acolytes

- Nov. 4 8am:** Caleb Miller
10:30am: Austin DeBoer
- Nov. 7 7pm:** Sam Powers, Sammie Lynch
- Nov. 11 8am:** Henry Germain, JT Schradle
10:30am: Adam Tryba
- Nov. 14 7pm:** Madison Naylor, Emily Zeller
- Nov. 18 8am:** Grace Schmidt
10:30am: Nolan Gunderson
- Nov. 21 7pm:** *Thanksgiving by request*
- Nov. 25 8am:** *by request*
10:30am: *by request*
- Nov. 28 7pm:** Jacon Hall

Music

Organist (Pianist) Jeanine Carlson, Sue Svenningsen, Loretta Kummerfeldt,
Music Directors Joan Nasset (choir) Susie Beedle (handbells)

Videotaping

- Nov. 4 8am:** Alex Birkholz
Nov. 11 8am: Tori Zinsmeister
Nov. 18 8am: Kristin Birkholz
Nov. 25 8am: Tori Zinsmeister



November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Prayer Vigil 6pm GA 7pm	2	3 Fall Back!
4 Reformation Worship 8 & 10:30 am Communion Sunday School Bible Study 9:20-10:20 am	5 Staff mtg 9:30am Boards meet times vary	6 Bible Study 8:45am LWML 2pm	7 Wmn's Brkfast 8am Play & Learn 10-11:30am Handbells 5:45 pm Worship 7pm Confirmation 6-6:45pm Choir 8 pm	8 Willow River Piecemaker's 6:30pm GA 7pm	9 Golden Girl's @ 12pm	10 Men's Group 8am Women's Group 9am
11 All Saints Worship 8 & 10:30 am Communion Sunday School Bible Study 9:20-10:20 am Youth Event 6-8pm	12 Prayer Vigil 9am Staff mtg 9:30am Blood Drive 12:30-6:30 pm Council 5:30pm	13 Bible Study 8:45am Congregation Meeting 7pm	14 Wmn's Brkfast 8am Play & Learn 10-11:30am Handbells 5:45 pm Worship (Comm) 7pm Confirmation 6-6:45pm Choir 8 pm	15 Homeschool Group 9-12 Prayer Vigil 6pm GA 7pm Newsletter deadline	16	17
18 Worship 8 & 10:30 am (Comm.) Sunday School Bible Study 9:20-10:20 am	19 Staff mtg 9:30am	20 Bible Study 8:45am	21 Wmn's Brkfast 8am Play & Learn 10-11:30am Handbells 5:45 pm Confirmation 6-6:45pm Thanksgiving Worship 7pm Choir 8 pm	22 Church office closed for Thanksgiving GA 7pm	23 Church office closed	24
25 Worship 8 & 10:30 am Communion No Sunday School Bible Study 9:20-10:20 am	26 Prayer Vigil 9am Staff mtg 9:30am	27 Bible Study 8:45am	28 Wmn's Brkfast 8am Play & Learn 10-11:30am Handbells 5:45 pm No Confirmation Worship (Comm) 7pm Choir 8 pm	29 GA 7pm	30	

Help victims of Hurricane Florence and Michael.

When disaster strikes, Christians are among the first to look for ways to help those in need, whether it means lending a helping hand or making a monetary donation. In addition to relief efforts your church may be involved with, Thrivent members and others can help hurricane victims in the following ways:

- **Donate:** Make a personal donation. Thrivent will match individual personal donations – up to \$1 million – made through Thrivent.com to assist specific disaster relief organizations.* Eligible members can also direct Choice Dollars®.
- **Volunteer:** Thrivent members can share their time and talent to help with recovery efforts by leading a volunteer Thrivent Action Team.

Thrivent members pray for those who have been affected by Hurricanes Florence and Michael. Thrivent – a membership organization of Christians – is mobilizing its financial resources and members to help those in need. Thrivent members and others who want to help with recovery efforts are encouraged to visit Thrivent.com to learn more.

Visit the *Disaster Response page on Thrivent.com* for details on these opportunities.

