



November 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, ...that he may teach us his ways.” Isaiah 2:3. “...It is necessary to hear the Word of God constantly, in order that our feelings may be enlightened...Christians must live every day by the Word as the body lives by food...The heart is always grinding. If the grain, namely, the Word of God, is good, the flour will be good, and the bread will be good.” From Daily Readings from Luther’s Writings, selected and edited by Barbara Owen.

“The heart is always grinding...”...life and death, sin and Jesus’ righteousness...sinner and saint...lost and found. Our hearts are grinding, and our church year in November brings much of the grinding to our ears and our hearts. We remember All Saints, Christ the King...Christ’s return, the end of the age, and Thanksgiving. Indeed, a full month that runs full circle around our human experience.

The end of the church year and the readings we will hear as we come together around God’s Word look to the end. Do we live and look with anticipation, or do we hold back, putting on the brakes as we are directed to Christ’s return? Living in the now, and yet waiting, this is a part of the grinding of our hearts.

The last Sundays in our church year will confront us with life and death, death and resurrection. The readings will bring out the fearful child in each of us AND the comfort and challenge of the faithful adult.

Living as God’s sinner/saint means living a common life with uncommon generosity, and realizing that it is God alone who can make us righteous people. I invite you to use the days of November as an opportunity to acknowledge the grinding of your heart, and to consider the places that we might “come to the mountain”, to be fed and nourished by God’s Word.

Peace,
Pastor Julie

What's Happening at Messiah Lutheran Church

**Saturday November 4, 9:00am: Property Work Day-
Fall Clean up.**

Please bring rakes, tarps, blowers and willing hands.



Saturday, November 4: Don't forget to set your clocks back!

Sunday November 5: All Saints' Sunday – one service at 10:00am followed by luncheon. [More information inside this newsletter.](#)

Sunday, November 12, 8:00am: Men's Breakfast

Friday, November 17, Fish and Chips Dinner at Messiah



Wednesday, November 22, 7:30pm
Thanksgiving Eve Communion Service

Planning Ahead

**December 10 after our 10:45am worship:
FAMILY COOKIE BAKE and
CHURCH DECORATING for Christmas**



December 24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent Service
Communion service, 10:00am
Christmas Eve service, 7:30pm
December 31 – Lessons and Carols, 10:00am

All Saints' Sunday



O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come...

On Sunday, November 5th, we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday by naming those who have gone before us and are now at rest. We will name those who have left us in the past year and then remember all the saints who have touched our lives. Please join us to remember and give thanks and praise.

O God, we remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you on earth, who now rest from their labors. Keep us in union with all your saints, and bring us with them to the joyous feast of heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Communion

On Sunday, November 5th, **Evan Wild** will receive First Holy Communion. Please join us at the 10 a.m. service where Evan will be welcomed at the Table.

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Table Blessing from *the Small Catechism of Martin Luther*.

Living Generously

These last few weeks we have heard thoughts on living generous lives in response to God's great generosity to us. On Sunday, November 5th, we will dedicate our pledges and commitments at a festive service. We hope to see you there! Thanks to Pastor Schantzenbach and the NJ Synod for many good ideas and materials.



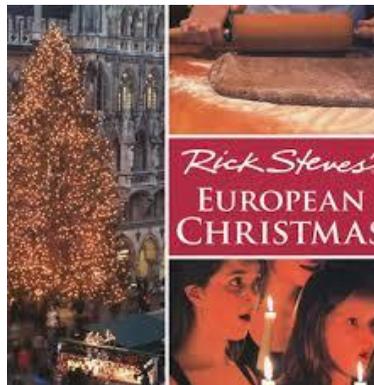
Messiah's Oktoberfest, Sunday, November 5th following the combined 10:00am service. We will have sausages, frankfurters and other German foods.

It is important to know how many will attend by October 27 since meats have to be ordered a week in advance. If you plan to attend but have not signed up, please call Brigitte Albrecht.

Council Highlights

October 18, 2017

- Church garden has produced approximately 250 pounds of produce.
- Pastor Julie will be looking for volunteers for an "EQUIPPING 4 VITALITY" program, a 12-18 month journey to equip congregational leaders for ongoing vital ministry in our community.
- 6 new programmable THERMOSTATS have been purchased and will be installed in the building hoping to better control temperatures and heat costs.
- An EVANGELISM meeting will take place on Sunday, November 12 at 9:45am between worship services. Ideas and participation will be most welcome.
- Council approved Gary Schenk's proposal for the installation of a DECK on the PARSONAGE.
- Our two Sunday school classes are studying Pentecost. We have talked about a season of growing and that culminated with both classes picking from the memorial apple tree with Linda Axtell. We are going to have apple baked goods next week courtesy of Linda.



European Christmas with Rick Steves

On Sunday, November 19, at 7 p.m., we will join Rick Steves for a colorful, musical celebration of Christmas across Europe. From England to Wales, France, Norway, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Italy, you'll see the bright Christmas markets, hear local choirs, share holiday traditions with families...and even play in the snow.



Alex Boyce
Nick DeRoda & Karen Bell
Vesna Haymon

A great big THANK YOU to everyone on our lawn cutting team for their dedication from spring to fall this year. I have heard several comments on how well-kept our property is, and the thanks goes to each and every one of you:

Arnold and Amy Ludke
Mike O'Neil
The Vollmin Family: Craig, Terry, & Andrew

Extra thanks to Craig and Terry Vollmin for all their much-needed work trimming trees.

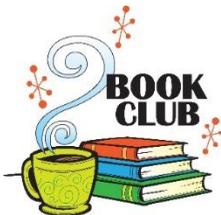


Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

The “Thanksgiving Tree” was in full bloom on October 22th! All the leaves name items needed to prepare Thanksgiving dinner baskets for the Center for Food Action for distribution to local families in need. Please prayerfully consider participating. Non-perishable items will be collected until November 12. Information about dropping off turkeys and fresh produce will be available in the weekly bulletin and in an upcoming email. Thanks in advance for your generosity.



Look for more information on this year’s Christmas Angel giving in the coming weeks.



Book Discussion Monday November 27, 7:30pm:
We will meet and talk about Chocolat by Joanne Harris. Books will be available soon. Please join us!



To All Members of Messiah Lutheran Church,

Total Income in September was \$16.2K versus expenses of \$19.0K, resulting in a deficit of \$2.8K. YTD Total Income is \$149.0K versus YTD Total Expenses of \$164.4K. YTD there is a deficit of \$15.4K.

Restricted Accounts decreased \$.4K, from \$133.2K to \$132.8K in September. There is a net increase of \$53.6K since January 1st.

Cash Accounts (Checking and Savings) decreased \$3.2K, from \$120.6K to \$117.4K in September. There is a net increase of \$41.6K since January 1st.

Ron Rubner
Treasurer

Year to Date - September 2017

	Budget	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
Income Accounts			
01, Ministry at Messiah	152,070.00	134,519.00	135,315.00
02, Mission Support	14,475.00	14,488.00	15,485.00
Total Income	\$166,545.00	\$149,007.00	\$150,800.00
Expense Accounts			
01, Ministry at Messiah	148,864.00	144,737.00	144,805.00
02, Mission Support	17,550.00	19,651.00	19,738.00
Total Expenses	\$166,414.00	\$164,388.00	\$164,543.00
Income Less Expense	\$131.00	(\$15,381.00)	(\$13,743.00)

Core Values of the New Jersey Synod

Core values are guiding principles that are essential and enduring, and provide guidance for all aspects of this expression of the church. Core values express what the organization stands for and how it will conduct itself. A set of Synod leaders, when asked to identify the core values of the New Jersey Synod, offered a variety of thoughts that were distilled into twenty value words (these are found in *italics*). The following core values describe what we are deeply passionate about as a Synod:

FAITHFULNESS

Rooted and nurtured in relationship with God through Word and Sacrament, we follow Jesus for the sake of the world. Daily prayerful *discernment* and striving for *excellence* in discipleship move us forward into God's future.

RESPECT

This is about *justice*: justice for each child of God, honor especially for the least, and respect in all relationships so that they are life-giving, grace-filled, safe, and create peace, as the Creator intended.

DIVERSITY

All of God's children together express the wonder and majesty of creation. Life in *community*, fully and richly *inclusive* and marked by unfailing *hospitality*, is a sign of God's Kingdom.

GENEROSITY

To live is to give. Giving beyond expectation or reason can reflect the *grace* and *compassion* of the One in whose image we are made.

CHANGE

The Gospel is about *transformation*, stirred by the power of life over death. *Hope*-filled people can change; hopeless people cannot.

INTERDEPENDENCE

Synod literally means to walk together. Our journey together is experienced as *accompaniment*, committed to *collaboration*, marked by *multiplication*, and blessed with *synergy* as we engage in God's mission.

BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH - NOVEMBER

Our benevolence of the month is Scholarship Funds for Christian Service; to provide financial assistance to persons continuing their education in preparation for ministry.

Reprinted from the NEWSLETTER Newsletter

Christ our feast

Christ is not only a remedy for your weariness and trouble, but he will give you an abundance of the contrary, joy and delight. They who come to Christ do not only come to a resting place after they have been wandering in a wilderness, but they come to a banqueting house where they may rest, and where they may feast. They may cease from their former troubles and toils, and they may enter upon a course of delights and spiritual joys.

—Jonathan Edwards

Counting blessings

Numbered lists grab our attention. In the checkout aisle or on the internet, we gravitate toward headings such as “10 ways to lose weight by summer!” or “3 simple steps to acing that test!”

Ancient Jewish sages urged people to count out and speak at least 100 blessings, or statements of gratitude, each day. What would happen if we intentionally listed 100 blessings daily? Can you imagine?!

What if the first blessing we counted was simply the day itself? “Thank you, God, for this brand new day!” “Bless my use of this day, Lord, that I might glorify you.” Scripture encourages such awareness and promises an additional blessing in return: “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12, NIV).

—Heidi Mann

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

228 Ramapo Valley Road
Oakland, New Jersey 07436

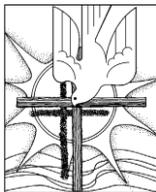
Rev. Julie Haspel, Pastor
Church phone: 201-337-4900
Email: info@messiahoaklandnj.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Contemporary Worship: 8:45am

Christian Education: 9:45am

Traditional Worship: 10:45am



November 2017

The
M E S S E N G E R
A faithful serving community, joyfully sharing Christ's love.

Address correction requested. Thank you.