

THE VOICE OF FIRST LUTHERAN

November 2020 Edition

November 1, 2020

First Lutheran Church



What Thanksgiving Reveals about You

*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. **Psalm 100:4.** And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. **Colossians 3:15***

If worry is the opposite of faith, then thanksgiving is the expression of faith—in fact, the highest expression. God has blessed you, but you may not think so if you're measuring blessings by the barometer of health, wealth, and happiness.

You say, "I don't think I have as much to thank God for as some other people." Well, the apostle Paul was in a filthy Philippian jail, awaiting a possible death sentence, when he wrote, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."

Unthankful people are never happy people. They're filled with bitterness, fear, negativism, selfishness and self-pity.

My friend, let me tell you what blessings we have. "Blessed be the Lord who daily loadeth us with benefits..." (**Psalm 68:19**). God has loaded your wagon. How often? Every day! "It is of the LORD'S mercies we're not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning..." (**Lamentations 3:22-23**). Every day you wake up to blessings.

Thank Him for spiritual blessings. Thank Him for the simple blessings of good, clean water, enough food, shelter, the simple things. We are so blessed. Refuse to worry. Instead, carry everything to God in prayer. Rejoice in the presence of the Lord. Rely upon the power of the Lord. Reflect on the provision of the Lord. Rest in the peace of the Lord. Do everything with thanksgiving.

Credit: What Thanksgiving Reveals about you—Thanksgiving Devotional—Nov. 3, LoveWorthFinding with Adrian Rogers: <https://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/thanksgiving-devotionals/his-grace-thanksgiving-devotional-nov-23.html>, November 3, 2020.

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From the Pastor's Desk

Stewards of God's Love

Dear members and friends of First Lutheran...

As I write this, nearing the very end of October, it is cold outside. It just seems that the weather has turned much to quickly! None the less, it is what it is and we move forward.

We move forward knowing that we are God's children and we are called to serve our neighbors. Hence, you will be receiving very soon, Stewardship material for 2021. The theme for our program is "Stewards of God's Love." We ask that you fill out the form concerning you financial commitment to the church for God's work and also your welcomed intention(s) for serving on any number of various committees. The forms are very self-explanatory.

Often times we take God for granted. God is the One "in whom we live, and move, and have our being." God is with us, around us, within us, like the air we breathe. But sometimes we forget to live mindfully and thankfully. Sometimes we fail to open our hearts in prayer.

This fall my prayer is that we recommit ourselves to lives of prayer and action. Prayer is our connection with God and action is our connection with our neighbors.

Pray about your intentional financial support and your personal commitment to active participation in the activities of First Lutheran Church.

God Bless you with thankfulness and appreciation always!

Wishing you a Blessed Thanksgiving!

Pastor Nord



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Church Council News!

The Church Council would like to thank all our members during this time. Everyone did a great job following our Safety Policy while we were open for Sunday Service. We pray that everyone will continue to stay safe and healthy as we head into the holiday season.

If you need anything please contact the church to receive the support you need at this time.

Church Council will be meeting on December 1, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

Church Council Members

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Stewardship

What is Stewardship?*

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word “stewardship”?

- + Action?
- + Budget?
- + Pledge cards?



How about God and Love?

Stewardship encompasses so much more than money. It is a way of life. It calls for integration between our faith and the way that we live our lives—we are a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life.

Each year, we take time to pray and meditate on how we had committed ourselves to the God’s Love over the course of the year. This process brings us to meditate on how we can commit to his love again for the upcoming year. Commitment may mean financially, by service, or maybe both. It is up to us and God to make the decision. We are all good at being stewards in God’s Love.

The practice of stewardship invites us to look in three different directions: DOWN, IN, and OUT. When looking DOWN—we are looking at how God has come down to us. IN — We are discovering all that God has entrusted to our care. OUT —Looking out we understand the needs of our neighbors. Sometimes these three actions don’t happen in order, but the process of stewardship always includes all three.

Over the course of the next year, we will look at Stewardship year round. Each month a story or article will be shared in THE VOICE of First Lutheran, to help you think about your own stewardship. In December will look at the DOWN part of Stewardship.

I invite all who would like to share a story or an article on Stewardship that made an impression on you, to share it for a future newsletter. After all stewardship is all about loving God and loving our neighbor.

*Credit: ELCA’s Stewards of God’s Love: A year-round guide to stewardship in your congregation. Copyright 2013. All rights reserved. Used with permission.⁴

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Service Project!

Pecatonica Community Food Pantry

Did you know the Pecatonica Community Food Pantry has moved? It is now located at 527 Main Street in Pecatonica. They have scheduled drive through distribution each month during the following days and times each month:

2nd Saturday 10:00 am—11:30 am

3rd Wednesday 3:00 pm-4:30 pm

4th Tuesday 10:00 am—11:30 am

First Lutheran is collecting food items for the Pecatonica Community Food Pantry. Please bring your donations to the church and we will arrange to have it delivered at the end of each month.

We will be focusing on **can fruit** for the month of November.

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Holiday Sponsor Opportunities

Memory Lights

St. Mary's Catholic Church is hosting this year's Annual Memory Lights program. Forms were included in the weekly sermon email and mailing in October. Another copy can be found on our website or in the church office.

Forms and money are due to Lori Peterson by November 20, 2020. See form for address to send in the form.



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Poinsettia Garden Order Form

The 2020 Poinsettia Garden order form is included in this newsletter. If you wish to sponsor a poinsettia for our sanctuary during this holiday season, please fill out the form and return it and the money by November 29 to the church office. Pick up after the Christmas Eve Service is still being determine. Those who sponsor a poinsettia will be contacted with pick up information as soon as we know.

Poinsettias are \$9.65 each this year. Let's make our sanctuary beautiful this holiday season!

Contact the church office if you have questions.



Volunteer Opportunities

First Lutheran has several volunteer opportunities available currently. If interested in any of these opportunities, please fill out the online form or contact the Church Office at firstluthpec@gmail.com

Social Media Committee— We are looking for 3 to 4 volunteers who are interested in helping Jen Camplain develop the following for the Church:

- ◇ Social Media Guidelines for First Lutheran's Facebook page and Website.
- ◇ Social Media schedule keep our members, potential members and community active and in the know of First Lutheran's activities.
- ◇ Develop a plan to grow our website and social media to invite and welcome new members or potential members to First Lutheran.



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



In Our Prayers



Beverly Banks (friend of Kathy Dougherty)
Stacey Beyer (member)
Carrie Brockway (Pec Elementary Principal)
McKenzie Camp (Craig's grand-daughter)
Kaden Degner (Pec HS Sophomore)
Aiden Doner (Pec MS 7th grader)
Kathy Dougherty (member)
Bryan Durand (member)
Martha Ebbesmeyer (member)
Dee Hickman (Pec Elementary School Librarian)
Raelynn Merrick (Taylor Merrick's daughter)
Alan Olson (Former head custodian at Pec CUSD)
Audra (Carlson) Smith (member)

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We continue to pray for those in care facilities or homebound

Margaret Stahl

And for those serving away from home

Addison Haas, Jake Jenkins, Jason Hoover & Jacob McGrew

Invite a Friend to Church!

If you know of a visitor or anyone else who would be interested in becoming a member of our family, please notify the office. We would love to help them become a member of the family of First Lutheran.



Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations



November Anniversaries

6 Mike & Lynn Love

November Birthdays

- 3 Dave Daly,
Grant Ebbesmeyer
- 4 Ken Schafer
- 6 Raya Jean Smith
- 7 Kaylee Finnan
- 8 Sherri Wurster
- 9 Isabella Finnan
- 18 Emilye Martin
- 19 Jennifer Camplain,
Corliss Beyer
- 20 Kathy Miley
- 26 Janis DeWall



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Special Message from Adell

Adell sent the following Thank You message to the members of First Lutheran:

“I would like to give a big ‘THANK YOU’ to my wonderful First Lutheran Family, for all the lovely cards and greetings I received for my 95th Birthday. It was a delight to be remembered by so many friends.” - Adell Peterson

First Lutheran Church

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Spread the News!



Have a positive story or awesome news to share with the congregation?

Send an email with information, flyers, pictures...anything you want to share to firstluthpec@gmail.com. We will include it in our next newsletter, Facebook post, or blog on our website.

Let's show our community First Lutheran is here doing awesome things!

