

The Good News

of Christ Lutheran Church

Pastor Joel

“Giving Thanks”

“O give thanks to the God of heaven, for God’s steadfast love endures forever.”

Giving thanks is an act of our will, recognizing all good gifts come from God. Defining what “good gifts” are may be a little more challenging.

God promises to give us each day our daily bread, and Luther writes in the catechism, “daily bread includes everything needed for this life, such as food and clothing, home and property, work and income, a devoted family, an orderly community, a good government, favorable weather, peace and health, a good name, and true friends and neighbors.”

What do we make of it when so many even in our own country do not have these daily necessities? Perhaps then, giving thanks, involves sharing what we have received with those who are in need. The need is so great. And the opportunity to give is always before us.

A few years ago I bought a book “An African Prayer Book,” compiled by Desmond Tutu. Here is one of my favorite prayers in the book. I would like to share with you this Thanksgiving season:

Thank You Very Much

Thank you very, very much;
my God, thank you.
Give me food today,
food for my sustenance every day.
Thank you very, very much.
Samburu, Kenya
Grace and Peace,
Pastor Joel



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YOUTH HAPPENINGS-TRACY MCCLURE

Programming for Youth Ministry is warming up even as the temperature begins to fall! Our Confirmation class, which meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30am, started for the year on September 24th. Our first class consisted of “getting to know you” games and icebreakers before diving into the Old Testament. Throughout the fall, we have been looking at Old Testament stories such as Abraham and Sarah, Joseph and King David. We will round out the year by discussing the books of Judges and Ruth, as well as the various prophets of Israel. Outside of the classroom, our Confirmation students will be spreading God’s word through service as the holidays approach. On **Wednesday, November 22nd at 7pm**, our Confirmands will host the Thanksgiving worship service as well as a pie fellowship afterwards. Please consider joining our class for worship and then to kick-off the holiday season with a piece of your favorite pie!

The Christ Lutheran Youth Group has also been busy throughout the fall. We started our year in a messy way on Sunday, September 17th with a “Mess Fest” at St. Peter United Church of Christ in Lake Zurich. Earlier in the summer, the St. Peter youth challenged our group, as well as the youth from Peace Lutheran, for an afternoon of pure, messy fun! We started with kickball, where the bases were kiddie pools filled with mashed potatoes, mud and flour. The pitcher’s mound even became a kiddie pool filled with Hershey’s syrup. The kickball game morphed into an all-out food fight, then we had a whipped cream battle, Silly String war and finished off the afternoon with a water balloon fight! Laughter was abundant as all of us became covered in mashed potatoes or mud!

The “Mess Fest” was the first of three meetings between the youth groups from Christ Lutheran, Peace Lutheran and St. Peter UCC. On October 1st, the youth came together to serve the community during the CROP Hunger Walk. The youth manned both of our rest areas during the walk and helped pass out water and snacks, as well as guided and cheered on the walkers. On October 15th, the groups met again at Peace Lutheran to decide on a location for the 2018 mission trip. **I am excited to announce that we will be going to Madison, WI during the week of July 22nd-28th!** Next year’s mission trip will be very different from last year’s in that instead of doing construction work, we will be focusing more on relational ministry. Our teens will have a chance to serve in soup kitchens, connect with kids through the Boys & Girls Club and Vacation Bible School, as well as assist at senior centers. We will have a chance to connect and listen to the stories of those that we are helping instead of meeting them in passing while we do construction. This is a unique opportunity for us and I think that the face-to-face interactions will be just as meaningful as working with hammer and nails.

As our youth group looks toward winter, we will begin planning our two mission trip fundraisers: the spaghetti dinner and pancake breakfast. The spaghetti dinner will most likely be held in late February at St. Peter UCC and the pancake breakfast will be hosted by Christ Lutheran once again in early May. I am also looking into service opportunities for our youth group as the holiday season approaches. I am currently researching needs to help those who have been affected by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and I would like our youth to be involved with a food drive or Feed My Starving Children before Christmas.

Outside of Youth Ministry, I was involved with the planning and coordination of the Northwest Community CROP Hunger Walk, which was hosted at CLC on October 1st. I am happy to report that the walk was a great success! We were blessed with beautiful weather, fantastic energy and lots of fellowship. There were roughly 120 people either walking and volunteering and we were able to raise a total of \$8,411.00! Some of the proceeds raised will go to local food pantries, such as the Palatine Food Pantry, while other funds will be distributed to victims of the recent hurricanes. Overall, it has been a phenomenal start to the Youth Ministry year! The energy and enthusiasm that our youth have is not only infectious, but also such a blessing to Christ Lutheran! I’m tremendously excited to see what the holiday season and beyond will bring for our program!



Notes from Music Ministry: How is it possible that we are about to flip the calendar to November, Advent and Christmas? I feel like I celebrated Labor Day just last week!

I hope that you have enjoyed the “Luther Door” and the various articles that have appeared there over the course of this last year while we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It will be moving on to its new home, but please come by my office to read the articles that I posted the door there. I think you will find them quite thought-provoking.

Looking a bit to the future, we are preparing for Advent and Christmas. We will have special Advent services on Wednesday evenings December 6, 13, and 20 beginning at 7:00 p.m. **Please note that during Advent, the Wednesday evening services will move from the Chapel to the Sanctuary to accommodate a larger number of worshippers.**

The 3rd Annual “Do-It-Yourself Christmas Pageant” will take place during the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 17th.

To close out the holiday season, we will have three services on Christmas Eve. One service at 9:30 a.m., a quiet close to Advent and then services at 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. -- both featuring our Chancel Choir and the music they are working so diligently to prepare. The 4:00 p.m. service will be piano-led and a bit more relaxed; the 9:00 p.m. service will be organ-led and a bit more traditional. Both services will include the traditional singing of “Silent Night” by candlelight. December 31st we will also have one service at 9:30 a.m.

Finally, mark your calendars for the last of this year’s concert offerings on Sunday, December 10th at 4:30 p.m. SwingSets will be returning for another evening of “I Remember That!” music. As a special bonus, the group is adding a bit of Christmas music to their repertoire just for us! The concert is free and a great way to invite friends to visit CLC.

Outreach-Bridget Witt-Schuardt

Homeless Palatine Teen Collection - Starting today we will be collecting in November for homeless teens at Palatine H.S. We will be collecting gift cards for \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20 or \$25 to Wal-Mart, Target, Aldi's, Subway, McDonalds, Chipotle, Jersey Mike's, Taco Bell and Domino's. We will be also collecting shampoo, chapstick, new hats, new gloves, granola bars, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant and feminine products. You can place gift cards in the offering plate or drop them off at the church office. The other items can be placed in the box in the Narthex.

Religious Education Theresa Greining

Youth religious Education is up and running for the 2017 / 2018 school year. We are blessed to have two classes of students. Our Pre-K through 3rd grade class is taught by Dina Huske and team led by Katie Minasola and Katie Barclay; Susan Vevang is again the gracious leader of our 4th -6th grade class. Students and teachers have been enjoying fellowship and the Word of the Lord together.

The start of the year has brought some fun changes to the YRE program. We are now using a curriculum titled "Buzz". This curriculum presents the Word in an age appropriate way and in a manner that is relevant to the lives of the children. Lessons are hands-on, active, and the majority of the activities are student led. The students have enjoyed having more ownership and control of their weekly lessons!

It is amazing how the children have grown and matured. As we are always looking to add new "on ramps" into the lives of our youth, YRE is taking further advantage of our iPads. Technology is where it's at for our youth. So, the Bible is now available for students on the iPads! Teachers and students alike are enjoying the application. With the added feature of "read to me", they can even listen to the Word spoken to them. For the past couple of weeks students have been vying for the use of the iPads, not for games, but to use the Bible!

An additional use of technology has been the development and

implementation of a private YRE website. The creation and use of this site puts everything YRE in one location – photographs, messages, copies of email, contact information, weekly and monthly calendar details, special projects, and a weekly sign-up so that teachers know who will be attending class each week. Families enrolled in YRE can sync this entire site and its calendar information in real time to their phone or home computer. It has taken some getting used to, but has now proven a very effective means of communication and organization of information.

For the past couple of years our main bulletin board has been themed with a Bible verse and designed to grow and change throughout the year. As the board changes weekly, the students can concretely track our walk with the Lord. This year our verse is from Matthew 5:14, You Are The Light Of The World! Our bulletin board contains an extremely large sticker by letter puzzle. This puzzle needs 3,996 colored sicker tiles to be complete and reveal the image. Each week we discuss how, even in the simplest of ways, we are the light of the world. Stickers are added to our poster so that students can concretely see that through time, adding color and light to the world can bring change and even reveal something unexpected. You are invited to check out this project in the YRE hallway! You are always welcome to visit with the students and share The

Light! Can you guess what the image may be?

May God continue to fill your hearts!