

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Denise Stamatis
- 3 Ruby Hickey
- 4 Amanda Gray
- 4 Gerald Bryant
- 7 Erma Richter
- 8 Hayden Sappington
- 9 Michael Lockwood
- 10 Rachel Belcher
- 10 Janet Kitchens
- 18 Beverley Swink
- 24 Barbara Edwards
- 25 Emma Moerbe
- 26 Danika Jones
- 28 GERALYN Trahan
- 29 Robert Rahja



GOOD SHEPHERD
Lutheran Church

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

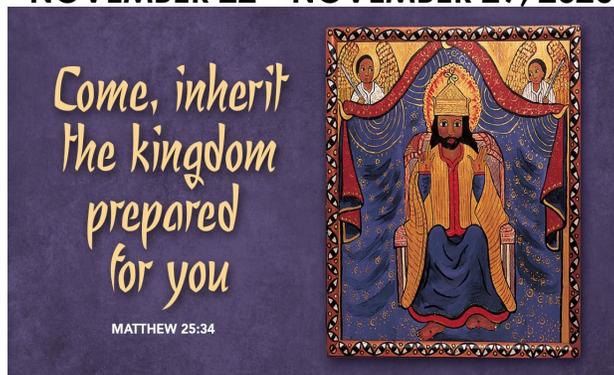
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OUR MISSION

A caring Christian family following Christ,
the GOOD SHEPHERD, where we:
SHARE God's Love! **GROW** our faith!
and **SERVE** others!

TAKE HOME ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 22—NOVEMBER 29, 2020



Christ the King—Advent III

November 22, 2020

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

The Chancel Flowers for the month of November are given by Kathy and Victor Viator and Maye Hanson in memory of Corbyn Lowe and Bob Hanson.

The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (Jn 1:29)

Nov 15, 2020

First Worship Service

Attendance: 27 Offering: \$173.00

Second Worship Service

Attendance: 19 Offering: \$726.00

Beaumont Worship Service

Attendance: n/a Offering: \$0

Online Offering: \$75.00

MTD Income : \$10,270.11

MTD Expenses : \$7,905.39

YTD Income : \$169,783.31

YTD Expenses : \$159,329.85

TODAY

Traditional Worship — 9:00 am
Contemporary Worship—11:00 am

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24

AA Meeting — 9:30 am

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26

THANKSGIVING DAY

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27

SEEK & FIND Resale—12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28

SEEK & FIND Resale— 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29

Traditional Worship — 9:00 am
Contemporary Worship—11:00 am
Sack Lunch Ministry

FRIDAY DECEMBER 4

First Friday @ First Presbyterian Meals—
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Many of our activities were cancelled due to COVID-19. We will keep you updated as this continues to change.

BUILDING FUND

Approximate cost: \$920,000.00
Collected: **\$329,199.42**
Pledge: \$160,450.00

Please pray about a special donation or commitment to the BUILDING VISION!



our idols. American culture is a lens that distorts the things we want into the things we need. But the tithe is a corrective lens; it shows us that we do not need all that we are tempted to grasp, and it blesses us with a lessening of the desire for more.

An additional way is as a witness to an alternative vision in a consumer culture.

Quite a few people I know who give away 10% or more of their income are targets for frequent auditing because it is unusual for auditors to see sacrificial giving. And perhaps quiet financial witnessing is preferred by Lutherans and others who find public displays of faith to be unimaginable. It is consistent with Jesus' teaching to be humble — to pray in closets and give without expectation of thanks or reciprocal services. Yet Jesus also said that we should not hide our lights under a basket, and the very conviction that motivates us to give away so much money is the thing that many people are missing in their lives. To be able to talk about habits of giving in a joyful way is a powerful witness in a culture that deifies wealth; it is a way to de-throne money and raise awareness of a different kind of abundance that outshines paltry material wealth.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

We will be participating in the Christmas Angel Tree sponsored by Bridge City/Orangefield Ministerial. The gifts will be given out the first week of December. The names of the participating children are on the table under the mailboxes. Please review and see if you want to buy for a child.

NOVEMBER SERVICE PROJECT

Our November Service Project is collecting Baby items. Please bring all things BABY to the church. These items will be given to the Rainbow Room in Orange. Please prayerfully consider donating for this worthy cause.

Yet compassion is not the only challenge for disciples. Each day we, as disciples of Jesus, struggle with forgiveness, grace, responsible living, courage, love, stewardship and other issues. Sin yanks at us to go our own way with no regard for anyone but ourselves. Thankfully, we have other Christians to encourage, support, and challenge us. We have God's Word to ground us in the teachings of Jesus. We have the Spirit to nudge and prod us.

7. *How have the challenges of being a disciple of Jesus changed for you over the years?*

8. *Today, what is the greatest challenge for you as a disciple of Jesus?*

9. *What might help you face that challenge?*

Prayer

O Christ, continue to teach us to be your disciples. Forgive us when we seem slow to learn. Challenge us to grow in your Word.

Dig Deeper

1 John 4:7-12

last word

This week,
each day, name your greatest challenge
as a disciple of Christ.
Ask God to help you with that challenge.

Daily Discipleship

Written by John and Robin McCullough-Bade

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www.elca.org/evangelizingchurch/dailydiscipleship*

TITHING: Each week, ways to re-imagine the tithe as an essential expression of the life of faith will be examined.

Another way is as an exercise in relinquishment. Have you ever tried to pry a baby's fingers from the side of the eye glasses that he has grabbed from your face? It is extraordinarily difficult. Partly that's because a baby has remarkable strength in those little digits, but it is also because the baby has not yet learned how to let go. The first skill learned is grasping, and only then can a child be taught to release what he has grasped.

And so it goes in other aspects of our lives. It is important to learn how to grasp — to acquire food, education, jobs, a place to live, and a vocation. But an equally important skill is relinquishing — to separate out the necessities of life from the things that have become a source of longing and



PRAYERS ARE UPLIFTED FOR:

**Edith Babcock,
Frances Boudreaux,
James Brown,
Nancy Carlson,
Ann Duwe,
Anita Fox,
Tammi Geren,
Jim Graham,
Elinda Gregoire,
Tim Guillory,
Kenneth Heycock,
Ruby Hickey,
Iris Hughes,
Brad Lanthier,
Dorothy McCallum,
Nancy Meek,
Kenri Mugleston,
Carol Ann Nichols,
Mark Norville,
Maxine Pierce,
Arnold Proellochs,
Linda Rahja,
Mike Rahja,
Lisa Reeves,
Paula, sister of Dorothy Schmidt,
Dorothy Schwarzlose,
Pat Sherwood,
Grant Stewart,
Beverley Swink,
Kathy Viator,
Grace Walhood,
Harper Demis (great-grand of Grace
Walhood),
and Amanda Warden.**

AND

**Rev. Francis Schroeder,
Rolf & Linda Schulz,
Dorothy Schwarzlose,
Chuck & Pat Sherwood,
Clint & LaVerne Smith,
and Jean Spitznagle.**

Christ the King Sunday (A) – Matthew 25:31-46

The Challenge of Discipleship: *Compassion*

Focus Question: *When in the previous week did someone extend compassion to you?*

word of life

“Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40 (NRSV)

Read Matthew 25:31-46

This text is often referred to as the Last Judgment, describing the end of time when the Son of Man returns. Jesus uses the phrase “Son of Man” to describe himself sitting on the throne with all the angels at the time of judgment. All nations gather before him.

The age-old questions about the second coming of Christ – *when?* and “*what sign?*” – are answered in a surprising way: Christ comes now, in the “least.” The poor and the suffering are signs of Christ’s presence.

1. *How does Christ connect and identify with those in need?*

Jesus uses the image of a shepherd who divides the sheep from the goats. This would have been a commonly understood image. Sheep and goats mingle and graze together in the pastures during the day; but at night, or when the sheep are to be sheared or the goats milked, they are separated. The Great Shepherd is the shepherd for both the sheep and goats and knows them all.

Note that neither those identified in the parable as the sheep nor the goats knew who it was that they were serving (or not serving). They did not act (or fail to act) to earn Jesus’ favor or to gain their salvation. Rather, the faithful lived out their faith daily in the ordinary actions and service to others in need. They are called “blessed” – the word Jesus uses in the Beatitudes to describe the faithful disciple (Matthew 5:1-12). They have an *attitude* of a servant, reaching out and caring for those in need with the heart of Jesus. They fulfill what Jesus described earlier in Matthew as the great commandment: to love God and to love the neighbor (Matthew 22:37-39). Followers of Jesus of every time and place are to act with the same attitude of servanthood and compassion.

This parable sheds light on the sins of omission – the things we are called to do that we fail to do. It is one thing to admit and confess our sins of commission, naming the wrongs we have done. We can often readily identify and name our sinful actions. But it is a more difficult task

to name and identify those things we failed to do – those needs we did not even recognize. This passage shakes us to our core. The world is big; the needs are great.

2. *What are some sins of omission, those things left undone?*

The parable of the Last Judgment leads directly in Matthew’s Gospel into the account of the passion and death of Jesus. Just as Jesus has identified in the parable with the least and the suffering, so he enters into his own suffering and death.

3. *What role does compassion have in this passage?*

4. *What is the surprise in this passage?*

Word among us

Small, seemingly insignificant and forgotten deeds done in everyday living are lifted up as service to Jesus himself. The sheep in the parable today were surprised – unaware of the good things they were doing. Their ministry had become a natural response to being a part of Christ’s family, a natural outflowing of life, an internalized faith and lifestyle – so much so that they were unaware of the good works they were doing as they shared God’s love.

Following Jesus means being an every-day disciple, not just one who shows up on Sundays. Instead, the challenge of being a disciple is to live with eyes open, seeing Christ in each person and extending the love of Christ to each.

1. *Identify ways you could live out this passage and “do” for Christ.*

2. *What attitude does Jesus want us to embrace as we encounter others with needs?*

3. *What does it feel like when someone extends compassion to you?*

4. *Is it easier to give than to receive acts of kindness? Why so?*

What needs do you see around you? Look closely, for you just might be surprised at whom you might meet in your neighbor, in the poor in your community, in the imprisoned, the lonely, and the hungry. It just might be the very face of Christ in your midst. Close your eyes and imagine driving home from your congregation. As you imagine driving by buildings, and people, try to identify people who might have special needs. The challenge of the disciple is to extend compassion today, tomorrow and then the next day.

5. *How might you get involved in helping others, especially the hungry, thirsty, naked, sick and those imprisoned?*

6. *How might your congregation further help those in need?*