Monthly Newsletter

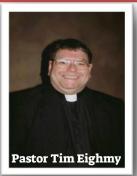
November 2021

Community Lutheran Church

PASTOR TIM EIGHMY

Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me, streams of living water will flow from within them." John 7:38





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> Office Hours Tues.– Fri., 9 am to 1 pm; Weekend Worship Sunday, 9:00 am & 11:00 am







"| thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ" | Corinthians 1:4

Mission Statement of Community Lutheran Church: Living Christ's love in all we do.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR TIM

"Celebrating and Commemorating the Blessings of God"

November is a month filled with commemorations and celebrations before we get into the Advent and Christmas seasons.

As the Church, we begin the month with All Saints Sunday. On All Saints Sunday we honor all of the saints who live on earth now (that is, people of the Christian faith) and all of the saints who lived before us (who now have eternal life in heaven).

The month continues when our nation celebrates Veterans Day on November 11. This is a day when we honor the heroes (that is, all of our veterans) who have honorably served to protect our nation from foreign adversaries.

Then the Church celebrates Christ the King Sunday on November 21. Before we start our Advent and Christmas celebrations in earnest, we focus our attention in our worship on the core of the Christian faith: that we are saved only through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. So we focus on Jesus being our Christ because of what he did for us on the cross.

Thanksgiving Day is on Thursday, November 25. This is when our nation, the Church, and people of all faiths celebrate the blessings we share in our country.

And then the season of Advent that leads up to Christmas Day begins on Sunday, November 28. This is a time when the Church looks forward in anticipation and hope of Christ's coming into the world.

Also throughout the month of November, we plan on having people give "temple talks" during our worship services on how they share their blessings with the life of the church through stewardship.

So as you can see, November is a busy time before things get really busy for us as we prepare for the Christmas season. My hope and prayer is that all of our celebrations and commemorations this month will help you see just the 'tip of the iceberg' of all the blessings God pours out upon you every day.

In Christ's loving peace,

Pastor Tim

Blessed



GRACE and MERCY

We hear a lot about Grace and Mercy. We've learned that Mercy is when we DON'T get what we deserve; Grace is when we DO get what we don't deserve.

That is important – and to understand grace and mercy, we also need to understand that we DO NOT deserve either...or the foundation on which they stand...God's love!

In God's mercy, he DOES NOT deal out the full consequences of our actions—what we deserve. In His grace He blesses us with many gifts and blessings in spite of what we have done...giving us what we do not deserve. God is good always!

All of this shows that "God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the Son of God, is where mercy and grace intertwine. If we read carefully in the Old Testament, we can find many beautiful stories that reflect these amazing characteristics of our God.

And believe it or not, it begins with Adam and Eve being cast away from the Tree of Life. We might read that story and say that Adam and Eve being cast out of the Garden of Eden was punishment. In many ways it was. I'm sure Adam and Eve saw it as severe punishment.

But it was also mercy on the part of God. Had they continued to live in the garden they would have had access to the Tree of Life while also living under the curse of sin.

"And the Lord God said 'The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever...after He drove them out, he put a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life."" (Genesis 3:22-24)

I had never looked at Adam and Eve being banished from the garden as part of mercy and grace. But it really is. The flaming sword meant a lifetime of living in a world full of the effects of sin. Yet it was the beginning

of the path that would lead to Jesus' sacrifice...his death on the cross for us and the forgiveness of our sins...and the path that leads us to an eternity with God in perfection...Heaven.

We are blessed every day with gifts and blessings that we don't deserve (God's grace). And Jesus has paid for our sins so that we might have eternal life (God's mercy).

We have so very much to be thankful for...AMEN!

God's Blessings to all of you,

Linda Miller



THANKSGIVING'S PATH TO CONTENTMENT



"Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content." –Hebrews 13:5

What would it take to make you happy? Really. In our culture, advertisements sell us on the idea that true happiness is always just one more purchase away. When we believe this, we put ourselves on the hamster wheel of want. No matter how hard we run, we will never get to happiness.

More often than happiness, the Bible speaks of contentment. The two concepts are often confused, but the distinction is important. Whereas happiness is a pleasurable sensation that rises and falls like the tide, contentment is a state of satisfaction that remains calm, like the surface of a pond.

God calls us to live contentedly, finding sufficiency in our lives, our relationships, and all we possess. We are enough. We have enough. When our essential needs are met, incessant wants do not infest our soul like itchy fleas.

How do we find contentment? Thankfulness provides a way. We give thanks for all we are and all we have, appreciating every blessing. Since this is the month of Thanksgiving, make a pledge to yourself this November to find contentment through giving thanks. Make a "Gratitude List" of everything for which you are thankful. Review it daily, praying over each blessing, "I thank God for …." Add to it as you think of new things.

May you finish November as someone who is not only thankful, but also content with all you are and all you have.

--Rob Blezard



Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for <u>www.stewardshipoflife.org</u>. He blogs at <u>www.thestewardshipguy.com</u>.



Shawn Bristle



As always, the Community Lutheran Church choir welcomes new members at any time. Previous musical experience is not necessary. Two types of participation are available. Folks who are interested in singing in the Christmas cantata may simply show up to rehearsals in the sanctuary on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Cantata singers depart after an hour or so of rehearsal. Those who also wish to sing during services stay several minutes longer to prepare upcoming anthems.

The choir will present two performances of the Christmas cantata, One Silent Night: A Christmas Ballad of Love & Joy.

Sunday, Dec. 12 at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Please join us for the short but meaningful program celebrating the birth of our Lord. The Christmas scriptures are beautiful and reassuring, and they connect us with memories of the past. We'll sing some traditional hymns, enjoy a few special musical performances, and depart feeling love, joy, and hope.



A heartfelt "Welcome" again to our new members who were received into our CLC Family on Sept 26, 2021

From Left to Right:

Gary & Kathy Cochran, Joann Guzik, Carolyne Lorenz, Marie Anderson, Don & Chris Dueker.



Here is what's happening this month...

NOVEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Office Closed					
			6 pm Choir Rehearsal	2:00 pm Bible Study		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
ALL SAINTS DAY	Office Closed			2:00 pm Bible Study		1 pm Council Meeting on
9:00 AM & 11:00AM Worship Service			6 pm Choir Rehearsal	6 pm Council Meeting		Budget Planning
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship Service	Office Closed					
			6 pm Choir Rehearsal	2:00 pm Bible Study		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship Service	Office Closed			THANKSGIVING DAY		
				Office Closed	No office hours	
			6 pm Choir Rehearsal			Christmas Decorating 10:00 am
28	29	30				
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship Service	Office Closed					



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1—Marie Anderson 3—Sally Hiltbold 9—Vicky Dyrdahl 10—Ethan Dunkle 16—Susan Wickersham 26—Cathie McCollum 28—Noni Robnett 29—Steve Larson 29—Joann Owens 29—Mary Weyant 29—Sharyl Vanerstrom 30—Barb Buchholz

<u>Birthdays & Anniversaries</u>





Please continue to pray for all the persons whose names have been offered up by members and friends of the congregation.

We pray for healing, comfort, guidance, strength, recovery, safe travel, and unrevealed needs, as well as for those with thankful hearts and for those who grieve.

Let us remember the ones God called home out of our midst, and keep their families and friends in our prayers:



Al Swanson, Jan 8, 2021 Joann Shober, Jan 14, 2021 Lew Beasimer, April 3, 2021 Ed Ecker, May 15, 2021 Ethel Harrison, May 31, 2021 Vada Mercer, July 13, 2021 Kenneth Rye, July 15, 2021 Nick Sessions (BHC Police Lieutenant), Aug 6, 2021 Don Andrews, Aug 12, 2021 Dar Vanderpool, Sept 13, 2021 Billie Locke, Oct 20, 2021

If you know someone who would like to be included in the ongoing monthly prayer list, be it for prayer or thanksgiving, please let the office know!

Community Lutheran Church 2275 Ricca Rd Bullhead City, AZ 86442

