



Happy Thanksgiving

Giving thanks today and always for the blessings in our lives. Happy Thanksgiving.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA
631 Grand Street, Allegan, MI 49010



November Anniversaries:

Steve and Cathy Monroe - November 26



November Birthdays

Susan Ward - November 3

Denny Gorr - November 11

Kelly Pryor - November 13

**THANK YOU for the wonderful gift for
Pastor Appreciation Sunday! I feel very
appreciated and Mugshots is great!!**

Pastor Chris

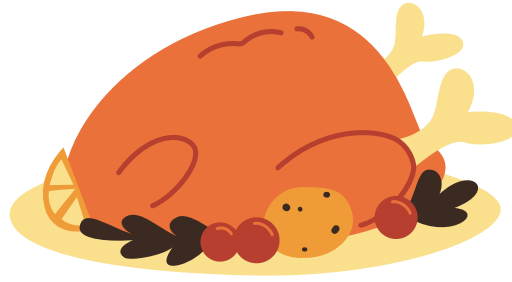
Upcoming Events in November and December

November 4 - Grand Ravine Bazaar - 9am-3pm

November 11 - Veterans Luncheon at Noon

December 2 - Hanging of the Greens

December 10 - Annual Cong. Meeting



Hearts and Hands will meet on Monday, November 13th at 1pm at the church.

Bible and Brew will also meet on Monday, November 13th at 6pm at The Trestle Stop

The Youth Sunday School meets every Sunday morning between 9:15-9:45am.

The Adult Sunday School begins meeting again every Sunday following the worship service, beginning November 5th unless Pastor Chris is out of town.

Bible Study meets every Wednesday morning at 10am.

The Mandala Coloring Group will not be meeting in November due to Veterans Luncheon being held that day.

The Book Group will meet on Monday, November 20th at 1:00pm. The book selection for the month is “Parable of the Sower” by Octavia E. Butler.

Our annual Veterans Dinner will be held again this year on Saturday, November 11th, beginning at 12:00Noon. Reservations are not necessary and all veterans and their spouses/significant other are welcome to attend.

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of our sister Lyn Kingsbury on Saturday, October 21st at 12:01am. Lyn’s Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday afternoon, November 5th at 2pm here at Immanuel, with Pastor Chris officiating. A fellowship reception will follow the service. Members are asked to provide a finger food for the refreshment table. A sign-up sheet is on the round table. Thanks in advance!

November 5

Assistant - Jim Horwath
Reader - Linda Havens
Counters - Laura Compton and Linda Scott
Greeters - Jim and Marie Combs

November 12

Assistant - Donna Preisler
Reader - Pam Hopkins
Greeters - Jim and Marie Combs
Counters- Joyce Davis and Pam Hopkins

November 19

Assistant - Joyce Davis
Reader - Michele Radke
Counters - Laura Compton and Jim Combs
Greeters - Jim and Marie Combs

November 26

Assistant - Mike Fusillo
Reader - Donna Preisler
Greeters - Jim and Marie Combs
Counters - Joyce Davis and Linda Scott



Pastor's Page, November 2023 : On Gratitude

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

I like Thanksgiving.

It's not a liturgical (church) celebration - it's a harvest festival. It's associated with too much eating, and it's oversentimentalized. It often gets skipped in retail stores (except grocery stores) and it's associated with folks who wiped out native tribes.

I don't like most holidays.

But I like Thanksgiving.

Because, at its core, it's the one time that we set aside to remember that what we have isn't of our own making - it comes from God. It feels to me like we're trying to take seriously the words of Deuteronomy 8:

Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God... When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God ... Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth...

When Paul tells us to "give thanks," he's echoing what Jesus himself does - twice (Matthew 15:36 & Matthew 26:27):

Your paragraph text

... he took the seven loaves and the fish; and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you..."

In the story of the ten leprous men (Luke 17), who is our example? The Samaritan! Why?

He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan.

Pastor's Page Two for November 2023

Paul repeatedly practices what he preaches, as he begins most of his letters the same way:

***I give thanks to my God always for you...* (this example is from
1 Corinthians 1:4)**

The same Greek word appears each time: which is where we get one of the other names for Holy Communion: The Eucharist. It is literally a part of who we are as People of Faith - we give thanks.

As I write this, I don't feel much like giving thanks - I'm still getting over COVID, and I'm going to miss worship on the 15th when I won't return until All Saints Day (05 November).

Still, I have much for which to be thankful: my case was relatively mild-to-moderate, I have excellent health insurance, I'm young and in decent shape, and my job won't fire me if I get sick. Besides, Paul also tells us to give thanks in all circumstances, not just when times are good.

**I hope you enjoy your Thanksgiving celebration this year.
Remember actually to give thanks.**

**SDG,
Pastor Chris**

