



ANCHOR NEWS

Springfield Lutheran Church, ELCA, Newsletter

November 2017

Post Scripts

“Come, You Thankful People, Come” is one of my all-time favorite hymns, and it’s just not November/Thanksgiving unless we sing it this month—maybe more than once! It is an English harvest festival hymn written by Thomas Alford in 1844, to the tune of an English folk song.

Partly based on Jesus’ parable of the wheat and the tares (Matthew 13:24-30), it carries a sense of urgency, along with that sense of thankfulness. My approach here is to also tie it to a passage of scripture, Hebrews 10:25: “Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

I bring here the “giving thanks,” the sense of urgency, and the encouragement to not neglect meeting together for the following reasons. First, and foremost, we will have had a month of purposeful giving thanks here at Springfield. It started in mid-October, with the thanks that was given to us by the folks at Hamlin school for our generosity first given to them—remember, I held up the big yellow “thank you” poster signed by students and staff? We followed that with our Lutheran World Relief quilt and baby care kit Sunday, followed by our Gratitude Dinner on Oct. 28. In quick succession after that we will, this month, give thanks for our Faithful Departed on All Saints Sunday, the free breakfast honoring veterans that same day, the slips of paper that ask “What I am Thankful For,” our annual pledge appeal for church ministry operations. It’s all of one piece, with different parts. And all in the context of giving thanks to God!

Next, the sense of urgency here is not for a panic or scolding; I remember a bumper sticker from decades ago that said “Read the Bible: It’ll Scare the Hell Out of You.” Nope, I want us to end the year confidently, strong, and start well for 2018 with regards to ministry finances, and to appeal for increased participation at worship on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evening services. Congregations of all sizes, generally, do well with rallying around physical ministry needs, like we did with our roof a few years ago, and this summer with the beautiful and functional fencing and gates that were installed. “Come You Thankful People”—we sure did!—in those ways. And now we need *the same kind of response* from all of us to meet current and expected weekly/monthly expenses into 2018, and replace our depleted reserves.

So, here is the final encouragement “pitch”: “Come, You Thankful People, Come”, not out of fear but with faith, not with guilt but with gladness. Because of God with us (“Emmanuel”) our lives are changed, and those we touch in His name have a positive difference appear in ways that can really only happen, because we make it a priority to meet together, all the more as “the Day” approaches (which many of us figure is already here in some ways, and yet to come in its completion...).

Come. Give thanks, people. Why wait?

Peace. Pastor Erik

Quote of the Month

“Gratitude can transform

common days into

thanksgivings, turn routine

jobs into joy, and change

ordinary opportunities into

blessings.”

—William Arthur Ward

In This Issue

- Prayers for Thanksgiving p. 2
- Food for Thought, p. 3
- The Advent of Advent, p. 4
- Bits & Pieces, p. 5
- Calendar of Events, p. 6
- Our Church—Our Community—Our World, p. 7-8
- The Narthex Table, p. 4



Prayers for Thanksgiving

By Pastor Erik—Here are a few Thanksgiving Prayers from perhaps new sources (have you heard of the “Sacred Hoop”, a Native American concept about the universal circle of life in the second prayer...?) for you to ponder, or even use at your Thanksgiving celebration on November 23.

“Blessed are You, loving Father, for all your gifts to us.
Blessed are You for giving us family and friends to be with us in times of joy and sorrow, to help us in days of need, and to rejoice with us in moments of celebration.

Father, we praise You for Your Son Jesus, Who knew the happiness of family and friends, and in the love of Your Holy Spirit. Blessed are you forever and ever.” — *Catholic Doors Ministry*

Prayer of Thanks for Creation

“Great and Eternal Mystery of Life, Creator of All Things,
I give thanks for the beauty You put in every single one of Your creations.
I am grateful that You did not fail in making every stone, plant, creature, and human being a perfect and whole part of the Sacred Hoop.
I am grateful that You have allowed me to see the strength and beauty of all my relations.

My humble request is that all of the Children of Earth will learn to see the same perfection in themselves. May none of Your human children doubt or question Your wisdom, grace, and sense of wholeness in giving all of Creation a right to be living extensions of Your perfect love.” —*Author Unknown*

Prayer for Thanksgiving Surprises

For a friend's unexpected call,
for a letter unforeseen,
for the sunlight bursting through thick clouds,
for a porpoise frolicking in the water,
for seals basking in the sun,
for an invitation to dinner on a lonely eve,
for a request to “come along”;
for all the wonderful surprises of life
we give you thanks, O God of joy. Amen. —by *Vienna Cobb Anderson*



And finally, this favorite of mine: short, simple, profound, put to music in Moravian hymnal and two Canadian ones; I think it has Presbyterian “roots”, -- this particular source, spoken by actor Robert Duvall's character as grace before a meal in the movie *Seven Days in Utopia*).

“For food in a world where many walk in hunger,
For faith in a world where many walk in fear,
For friends in a world where many walk alone,
We give You thanks, O Lord.”



Health Kit Collection

We continue to collect small tubes of toothpaste for health kits to be given out at the next community breakfast. The deadline for this collection is September 3. Please leave them on the Narthex Table or talk to Susan Squire for more information.

Book Group

The book to be reading is Unlocked by Karen Kingsbury. The book discussion and Christmas Party is scheduled for **December 15**, 11:30 am ,at Intrigue at Gateway Mall. Darlene Wood is your contact.

Giving Tree

The Christmas Giving Tree will be up at the end of November. Once again, it will be decorated with the names of 30 students from Centennial School. Susan Squire is your contact.

Christmas Parade

SLC's Hospitality Tent will be set up December 2 to distribute hot drinks and cookies to parade goers. Your cookies should be delivered to the church on Friday, December 1

Christmas Concert

The Festival Singers will entertain us again on December 12 at 7 p.m. Stay tuned for more information!

Food for Thought...

Here's an article by someone, in his 20's, who is from a different-yet-close faith tradition than many of us, following up on a question that I've been asking since my own ordination in 1986. Have a good read, then call me up and let's have a conversation! -- Pastor Erik

Why Do I Go to Church?

by Rev. Mike Strand, Evangelical Free Church

Everyone's heard the statistics, a majority of the students in our churches will end up abandoning the church once they leave the home (18-20) and then somehow stumble back into the church in their 30s, seemingly without missing anything the church has done. I know many people who view church as not much more than a club for them to be members at, and it looks good to the people around you to go to church. Unfortunately, this is a profound misunderstanding of the church! So why do I, as a 24 year old single male, go to church—besides the fact that it's my job?



- I really enjoy going to church. I don't know of any other place where I can interact with people ranging in age from infants to late 80s. Most of these people aren't those I would generally choose to spend a great deal of time with but, because of Christ in both of our lives, we have Him in common! It's a joy to get down on a knee and hear about a 2 year old's new bike helmet and then turn the corner and get a hug from an 80 year old woman who told me she was praying for me this week.
- We, as a congregation, reflect God's purpose for his people. I'm reading '[Doxology & Theology](#)' which says, "Through the work of worship we "become something corporate." We become the body of Christ, we become the bride of the King" (125). This flies in stark contrast to our individualistic American society where we are so focused on ourselves that we have trouble seeing anyone else around us.
- I'm going to be spending eternity with Christ's bride, the church. I need to learn how to love the people in my church who are different from me because, as was just said, we together make up the body of Christ. I need to spend time with those I don't always see eye to eye with in order to grow in my areas of weakness.
- Last, but most certainly not least, is because the Bible commands me to go to church. Hebrews 10:25 says, "do not neglect meeting together, as is the habit of some." This verse could have been written to many people today! We are commanded to meet together because together we make of the body of Christ.

Contact Us

If you need the church, the Pastor, the Secretary, prayer, comfort, or guidance; please contact us at:

Springfield Lutheran Church, ELCA
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Springfield, OR 97477
(541) 746-2403

Office Hours: Closed Mondays & National Holidays. Open Tuesday-Friday, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

SLCAchor@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at www.springfieldlutheran.org

THANKSGIVING SCHEDULE:

The office is closed November 23 and 24 for the Thanksgiving weekend.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S:

Sunday, 12/24,
Christmas Eve—10:00 pm Worship

Monday, 12/25,
Christmas Day—
10:00 am Worship

The office will be **CLOSED** the week between Christmas and New Year's.

The Advent of Advent

Even though we are at Thanksgiving, it seems helpful to provide some thoughts about Advent, which begins this year on Sunday, December 3; starting us off is a reflection by Edward Hays:

“Fire of Advent” by Edward Hays, *A Pilgrim’s Almanac*, p. 187: “Advent, like its cousin Lent, is a season for prayer and reformation of our hearts. Since it comes at winter time, fire is a fitting sign to help us celebrate Advent...If Christ is to come more fully into our lives this Christmas, if God is to become really incarnate for us, then fire will have to be present in our prayer. Our worship and devotion will have to stoke the kind of fire in our souls that can truly change our hearts. Ours is a great responsibility not to waste this Advent time.”

We use the color blue at worship, with purple/violet adornments, to signify the hope/royalty of expecting Jesus; our Advent wreath continues a German tradition of an evergreen circle (symbolizing eternal life), lit with one candle for each Sunday in Advent, culminating at Christmas with lighting the white Christ/Paschal candle. At Springfield we also introduce an evergreen tree for both the season of Advent, decorated with progressively more lights and ornaments leading up to Christmas and Epiphany (January 6). More about that next month!



From a fine article in Wikipedia, here are some Advent practices from around the world that may be new to you (bagpipes in Rome--new to me!):

In England, especially in the northern counties, there was a custom (now extinct) for poor women to carry around the “Advent images”, two dolls dressed to represent Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary. A halfpenny coin was expected from every one to whom these were exhibited and bad luck was thought to menace the household not visited by the doll-bearers before Christmas Eve at the latest. In Normandy, farmers employed children under twelve to run through the fields and orchards armed with torches, setting fire to bundles of straw, and thus it was believed driving out such vermin as were likely to damage the crops.

In Italy, among other Advent celebrations, is the entry into Rome in the last days of Advent of the Calabrian *pifferari*, or bagpipe players, who play before the shrines of Mary, the mother of Jesus: in Italian tradition, the shepherds played these pipes when they came to the manger at Bethlehem to pay homage to the infant Jesus. In recent times the most common observance of Advent outside church circles has been the keeping of an advent calendar or advent candle, with one door being opened in the calendar, or one section of the candle being burned, on each day in December leading up to Christmas Eve...And, Since 2011, an Advent labyrinth consisting of 2500 tea lights has been formed for the third Saturday of Advent in Frankfurt-Bornheim.

We will provide again our own Advent devotions and practices at Springfield, as it is our hope and prayer to provide a firm alternative to simply jumping into Christmas from Thanksgiving, “Black Friday” and all that commotion! I close with another quote by Mr. Hays to move us that way

“An Advent Examination” by Edward Hays, *A Pilgrim’s Almanac*, p. 196: “Advent is the perfect time to clear and prepare the Way. Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace. By reflection and prayer, by reading and meditation, we can make our hearts a place where a blessing of peace would desire to abide and where the birth of the Prince of Peace might take place. Daily we can make an Advent examination. Are there any feelings of discrimination toward race, sex, or religion? Is there a lingering resentment, an unforgiven injury living in our hearts? Do we look down upon others of lesser social standing or educational achievement? Are we generous with the gifts that have been given to us, seeing ourselves as their stewards and not their owners? Are we reverent of others, their ideas and needs, and of creation? These and other questions become Advent lights by which we may search the deep, dark corners of our hearts.”

Prepare the Way of the Lord! Advent is fast approaching! -- Pastor Erik

Suggested Food Pantry Items to Donate:

Fats, Oils, Sweets

- Jelly & Jam
- Honey & Sugar & Syrup
- Mayonnaise
- Vegetable Oil
- Salad Dressing

Milk Yogurt, Cheese

- Infant Formula
- Powdered Milk
- Instant Breakfast Drinks
- Canned & Boxed Pudding

Meat, Poultry, Fish, Dry Beans, Nuts

- Canned Tuna & Chicken
- Canned Beef Stew & Bean Soups & Chili
- Canned or Dried Beans
- Baked Beans
- Canned Nuts

Vegetables

- Canned Vegetables & Tomato Products
- Vegetable Soup
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Baby Food Vegetables
- V-8 Juice

Fruits

- Canned Fruit
- Raisins & Dried Fruits
- Applesauce
- Baby Food Fruit
- Fruit Leather (100% Fruit)

Bread, Cereal, Rice, Pasta

- Rice & Rice Mixes
- Canned Pastas
- Noodle Mixes
- Dry Noodles & Pastas
- Macaroni & Cheese Mix
- Cold Cereals
- Bran Cereal & Shredded Wheat
- Infant Cereal
- Hot Cereal Mixes & Oatmeal
- Bread & Muffin Mixes
- Pancake Mix
- Granola Bars & Graham Crackers

Bits & Pieces...

By Rita Grimes—As there are always “bits & pieces” scattered about our lives like Post-It Notes, here’s a few more...and a few updated items...

* Hurricane Relief Efforts

- ⇒ **Medical Teams International**—For a family who has lost everything, a \$7 Hygiene Kit will provide dignity and comfort with essentials. Please consider a gift of \$35 to provide for 5 families. More information can be found at: www.medicalteams.org
- ⇒ **ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response**—Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, designated for “Hurricane Response – United States” will be used entirely (100 percent) for this disaster until the response is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support. Check the ELCA website for more information.
- ⇒ **Red Cross**—They are working around the clock to provide support and could use our help. The Red Cross website has a page dedicated to donations.
- ⇒ **Other**—Go to your internet page and search Hurricane “Relief Efforts” and see what other agencies are doing.

* Food Collection Drives—UPDATED!

- ◇ We are in need of protein items in the Food for Lane County barrels and hearty meals for the Dexter drive. Thank you.
- ◇ We need small tubes of toothpaste for the health kits given out at the Free Community Breakfasts...just travel size tubes only. Thank you.
- ◇ Please note we cannot give foods that are in previously opened packages (or simply without packaging) or items with expired “best by” or “sell by” dates. Thank you.
- ◇ Please make sure that you give what you would be willing to eat. Thank you.
- ◇ And lastly, please remember that we are often times giving to poor people without can openers, so if it’s an affordable option, please give easy open cans with “pull tabs” or “pop tops”. For all you do, thank you.

Every Week

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:30 am Worship with Communion	Office Closed 12 noon AA	9:00 LWR Quilting 12 noon AA	9:00 SLSS Quilting 9:30 HS Cooking 12 noon AA 12:30 Nar Anon	9:30 HS Cooking 12 noon AA	12 noon AA 12:30 Nar-Anon	10:00 Women's AA 12:00 noon AA
9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship with Communion	6:30 Al-Anon	5:30 NA	2:00 Sr. Mat Yoga 3:30 Sr. Chair Yoga 5:30 AA 6:45 Mid-week Service			

NOVEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:45 pm Midweek Worship	2	3	4
5 Pentecost 22 All Saints Day	6	7	8 9:30 HS Cooking 6:45 pm Midweek Worship	9 9:30 HS Cooking	10 Veterans Day Observed Church Office CLOSED	11 Veterans Day
12 Pentecost 23	13 1 pm Women's Circle	14	15 9:30 HS Cooking 6:45 pm Midweek Worship	16 9:30 HS Cooking No Fringe Benefits until January	17	18
19 Pentecost 24 11:15 COUNCIL	20	21	22 9:30 HS Cooking 6:45 pm Midweek Worship	23 Thanksgiving Church Office CLOSED	24 Church Office CLOSED	25
26 Pentecost 25	27	28 1:15 Wise Guys @ Hole in the Wall	29 9:30 HS Cooking 6:45 pm Midweek Worship	30 9:30 HS Cooking	1	2 1 pm Springfield Christmas Parade Hospitality Booth

Bulletin Board

In the main hall by the church office, is a bulletin board that is for everyone. It's been titled Our Church—Our Community—Our World.

It is for news and events happening around our church, around Springfield, around Lane County, and around Oregon, and around the US, and around the World.

Not everything is applicable, but most things are. The grandson doing well in sports (our church), another church bazaar (our community), various volunteer opportunities (our community/our world), the latest newsletters from a variety of organizations (our community/our world).

Our goal is to share happenings, not to indoctrinate or recruit for something that is unrelated to the church. The big 'no' is secular politics and activism. There can be news of a meeting, but no views or opinions. We understand that politics and activism impact our church, our community, and our world; but this board is too small a forum for such a task.

Should you like something to go up, contact the church office and we will put it up if applicable.



Our Church—Our Community —Our World

- **Monday Bible Study**—Monday evenings at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.
- **Midweek Worship**—Wednesdays at 6:45 pm.
- **Women's Circle**—While it generally meets the second Monday of each month at 1 pm, the next meeting will be the Christmas Party potluck and gift exchange (\$10 maximum) on December 2 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you haven't already, please sign up to bring a main dish, salad or dessert in the Narthex today. Miriam Jones is the group contact..
- **Council**—The next meeting will be held on Sunday, **November 19**, after the second service. Please mark your calendar accordingly.
- **Wise Guys**—Meets at the Hole in the Wall BBQ off Mohawk on Tuesday, **November 28**, at 1:15 pm.
- **Springfield Christmas Parade**—Volunteers are needed for the hospitality booth at the Christmas Parade on December 2. A sign up sheet is in the Narthex.
- **Christmas Concert**—The Festival Carolers will make their third appearance at Springfield Lutheran Church on **December 12**, at 7 p.m. Canned food will be accepted at the door to support area food pantries and while the concert is free, we do ask for a free will offering to cover the group's travel costs.
- **Book Group**—The book group is currently reading *Unlocked* by Karen Kingsbury. They will meet to discuss on **December 15**, 11:30 a.m., at Indulge in the Gateway Mall. This will also be a Christmas party. Darlene Wood is the contact.
- **Newsletters**—Don't forget to check our bulletin board near the Church Office for a wide variety of newsletters with more information than our little newsletter can handle and still stay little.

The Narthex Table

- **What I am Thankful For**—Small forms are available to list the things you are thankful for this year. Please fill out and leave in the box on the table. If you can't make it to a service, please call the church office and we'll input for you. Pastor will use them in services on November 19 and 26.
- **Pledge Forms**—It's that time of year again to think and pray about your contribution to keeping our church running. Please pick up a pledge card on the Narthex table and return it either to the church office or the box near the Narthex table. This is what Council uses to set next year's budget.

- **Christ In Our Homes**—These are quarterly devotionals that cost \$5 for an annual subscription. The money goes to the SLCW who pays the bill.
- This **newsletter** (including the monthly calendar) can be found there, as well. We provide printed copies for folks who do not have internet access. If you do have access to the internet, please feel free to peruse, but leave the paper copies for those who don't. Thank you.
- On the easel near the entry to the Narthex, you'll find **signup sheets** for bringing flowers on Sundays and for reading the Scriptures during the services...you can pick which service to read during. This bulletin board also has the selected readings so those who choose to read may have time to practice.

Periodically check there to see if there's something new with your name on it in the basket on the table with the alphabetical tabs...it won't necessarily be another giving statement, but perhaps something that needed to be passed on to you. Thank you.