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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #6
DELPHOS, OHIO 45833

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Thankoffering, November 22, 2020

December Newsletter Deadline: Friday, November 20, 2020

THE MESSENGER



The office will be closed November 26 and 27 for Thanksgiving.



The Messenger

St. Peter Lutheran Church – November 2020

A Little Bit of This and That for November 2020.....

Well, last month I used the analogy that I felt like we were learning to be flexible like one of those big exercise bands. As we navigate this pandemic, we have all had to make changes in how we go about our lives.

Some of the biggest changes that have occurred are that there seems to be more anxiety and fear circulating around us. There is unrest in politics and in race relations, and there is anxiety about this virus that we so wish would just go away.

But, our Lord tells us not to be anxious, but by prayer and supplication to let our requests be made known to God. Can you imagine the millions and millions of prayers that have gone forth to God as we pray for our family, friends and communities to be safe? Prayer is powerful in that it allows us to take our focus off of ourselves and to place it on God. We are also told to praise God in all circumstances, for God is magnificent and powerful with the ability to move in our midst. The lie that is easy for us to believe is that we are alone, but nothing could be farther from the truth for God is with us. God will never leave us or forsake us.

On October 11, I prayed our Philippians passage as my husband had taken it and made it into a prayer. I am enclosing a copy of this prayer for I think that it provides a great way for us to begin to praise God and to turn our attention to those things that will bring life and goodness in our midst. I invite you to pray this prayer every day over the next month and to see God at work to bring more peace and calm into your lives. Won't you pray it with me?

November is also the month that we try to count our blessings. Wouldn't it be great if we found 1-5 things each day for which we are grateful as we try to follow the Philippians prayer... Whatever is good, whatever is kind, whatever is pure....think on these things..... In light of this, I want to tell you again that I am thankful for all of you. May joy well up in you during this month in which we give thanks. Happy Thanksgiving!

Blessings,
Vicar Carol

Prayer based on Philippians 4:

Lord Jesus, you are transforming all of humanity into your image and likeness.

Our minds are becoming just like yours,

as we are learning to do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,

but in humility we regard others as better than ourselves.

You are teaching us to look not to your own interests,

but to the interests of others.

But it is hard.

Too often we are like Euodia and Syntyche,

who were one in Christ but divided by disagreement.

We need to be encouraged to be of the same mind in the Lord.

We therefore pray for the grace, that by the power of your spirit at work within us,

we might rejoice in you always;

again, we say it, we rejoice in you.

Let our gentleness be known to everyone,

for you, O Lord, are always near.

We do not worry about anything,

but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving we let our requests be

made known to you, O God, who knows what we need even before we ask.

Trusting in you, we rest in your peace

—it is beyond our understanding! —

for, Christ Jesus, you guard our hearts and minds in you.

Finally, beloved Father, whatever is true,

whatever is honorable,

whatever is just,

whatever is pure,

whatever is pleasing,

whatever is commendable,

if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,

these are the things that we think about and we meditate on.

We keep on doing the things that we have learned and received and heard and seen in you,

and so, we know that you, God of peace, will be with us. Amen.

On another note...

On October 25, we were able to confirm Lauren French, James Hasting, Noelle Prine, and Matthew Weitzel. What a wonderful experience it has been to work alongside Jacquie Fritz to get them ready for this special time in their lives. It is our prayer that they will see this step of faith as a powerful moment in their lives to not only affirm their baptism, but to say "yes" to Jesus in developing healthy faith practices in which they read the scriptures on a daily basis, fellowship with others, and continue to gain the insight and knowledge that God is with them on their journeys in life. God is very much alive and longs to be in active, daily relationship not only with them but with all of us. So as they have renewed their baptism.

Pork Loin Dinner...

Wow, wow, wow is all I can say! So many of you came to volunteer. It was truly a special day to serve the community and work together. Thank you to everyone who ordered the food, prepared it, and served it.

Sunday School Update.....

With the recent surge in Covid-19 cases in Delphos, we have decided to err on the side of caution and not aim to start Sunday school until January. This will also give us more time to plan for the start of new classes for our 6th-8th graders and our 9th-12th graders.

I have been inviting people to consider coming alongside our older youth to teach and I am excited that some of you are considering this, as it is very important that we provide a place for them to continue their journeys of faith, and to gather together in fellowship.

Also, we have ordered a new program for catechism that is so rich an abundance of content and ideas for teaching that it can be also used with our older students. One of the foundational pieces of this program is developing not only the knowledge of God in the stories of faith that we find in the Bible and to understand that basic foundations of what we believe as Lutherans, but to nurture our faith and learning in a way that impacts our hearts.

You see, it is not enough to just have knowledge. God wants our hearts and minds and next month I will be introducing the **Faith5** daily practices that are a part of this new program so that all of us may be impacted in our faith journeys. This will be for our youngest to our oldest and I am excited about it.

Because we are not meeting in the building for Sunday school we are trying to think of some new ways to still provide learning and fellowship. Right now, we are flexing that band back in to be cautious, but we hope to develop some other creative ways to reach our Sunday school children.

Catechism....

Catechism will also not begin for this year's seventh and eighth graders at least until January. The new material we have ordered is so rich and abundant that Jacquie Fritz and I need some time to organize what we will use for catechism and what the Sunday school can use. We want to create a scope and sequence using this material along with some of the material that Jacquie has used through the years.

One of the important things that our catechism students can be doing in the meantime is to read

the stories of the Bible. I highly recommend that families purchase **The Book of God by Walt Wangerin Jr.** He is a Lutheran Professor at Valparaiso University and his writing is rich. I read the Old Testament section while on vacation during a week in August and found that the stories are retold in child friendly language and the illustrations are also a nice addition. In fact, if you have been intimidated to read the Bible, this book may help you to grasp basic stories of the Old and New Testaments. It provides a base and resource to help us in our basic understanding of how God moved in the people's lives.

Please note though, that nothing can replace the Bible in its richness of the Holy Spirit's ability to speak to us as we read and ponder the passages.

Weddings:

Congratulations to Stephanie Koenig and Michael Harman who were married in Indiana on October 3rd. May God bless them in their life together.

Prayer Group.....

The prayer group has moved to Mondays from 1:00-3:00pm, but through the winter will be meeting one to two times a month. Our next meeting will be November 9th in the parish hall. All are welcome. We will social distance.

Guidelines for Inside Worship:

We have adapted the guidelines again in light of the spike in cases in Delphos. The assigned altar guild member will light the candles at the beginning of the service and snuff them out when the service end. We will not use ushers or acolytes at this time.

We will try to use our radio transmitter to allow you to still attend via the parking lot if you feel safer that way. The altar guild member will bring you a bulletin and the communion elements (if it is a communion Sunday-1st and 3rd).

Guidelines for Return to Inside Worship

It is our goal to keep everyone safe as we worship together.

1. **Do not come to church if you are feeling ill or exhibiting any signs of illness such as:** fever, cough, headache, shortness of breath, fatigue, congestion not caused by allergies, sore throat runny nose, nausea, or vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell.
2. **Masks are strongly recommended to be worn during the entire service for everyone's safety.**
 - Must be worn while singing or within 6 feet of a non-family member.
3. **If you have underlying conditions that put you at risk, consider listening to the service on the radio or watch it being live streamed once we have this up and running.**
4. **Procedures for entering the sanctuary:**
 - a. If able, enter through the sanctuary doors.

- b. Use the hand sanitizer provided and then sign in on the stand provided.
- c. *(This is in case we need to do contact tracing.)*
- d. Pick up your bulletin *(and communion elements on communion Sundays)* from the tables at the back of the sanctuary.
- e. Use the center isle to go to your seat
- f. *(Please not to congregate at the back of the sanctuary.)*

5. You are able to sit in undesignated pews, but keep 6 feet between persons that do not regularly gather together.

6. We will sing the Hymn of the Day while seated and with our masks on. *(Sing Lightly.)*

7. At the end of the service:

- a. Exit from the outside isles as you leave.
- b. Exit from the back of the church first.
- c. Vicar Carol will not be standing at the back of the sanctuary.

- *(If the weather is nice and not too cold, she will greet you outside.)*

8. We will not be having fellowship time after church in the parish hall at this time.

9. Offering plates will be at the back of the sanctuary on the tables.

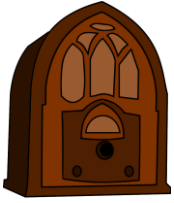
10. An Altar Guild member will light the candles and put them out and take bulletins (and communion elements) to those who wish to stay in the parking lot for the service to listen on the FM transmitter (95.5). We will not use ushers or acolytes at this time.

Also, due to safety concerns, Alida will not be with us on Sunday mornings when we have inside worship, but she and I will be recording the radio broadcast on Wednesdays. This will give us some flexibility to shorten the service on Sunday and not worry about the timing for the radio recordings. Alida will also record music to use on the Sundays in which we have no organist, although Emily Dienstberger will be with us on many of the Sundays to use her gifts in playing and singing. Since we will usually only be singing one hymn, I would like to invite our members who are musically inclined to consider playing special music for us.

Vicar Carol to be away...

Vicar Carol will be gone October 27-November 3 to see her mother. Pastor Steve will be filling in for Vicar Carol on Sunday, November 1. He will also be available during the week should any emergencies arise (419-236-9233).

General Announcements



Radio ministry was given to the glory of God in October by:
The Himmeger Family in loving memory of Earl Himmeger
Sue and Ron Kloeppe in celebration their daughter, Paige's 18th birthday
Ed and Sandy Talboom
Norma Koenig in memory of Ted Koenig



Readers Needed for the first and second scripture lessons and the prayers during the worship service. Your readings can be emailed to you so you can look them over in advance. Please sign up in the red book at the back of church.



Thank you Dave Stemen for delivering 61 quilts and 50 school kits to Ft. Wayne for the Lutheran World Relief Program.



Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 1st. Now that we are in our "Fall Season, turn your clocks back one hour. (Enjoy that extra hour of sleep.



All Saints Day The first Sunday in November is designated as All Saints Sunday and it is a time to remember and give thanks for those who have come before us. They have in their own way passed on the faith to us and for this we give our thanks. We also remember those who have died in the past year and we remember them with gratitude. This past year at St. Peter Lutheran: Mary K. Werner.

Gracious God, thank you for those who have lived their lives in such a way that Jesus Christ was made known and glorified. Amen.

Thank You

Thank you for your Service! A special thank you to all those serving in active duty or in reserves. Also, a big thank you to all the Veterans. We appreciate all our service personnel and their sacrifice for our safety and freedom.



Our 10th annual pork loin dinner was held on October 11th. Thank you to everyone who supported the fundraiser in any way: donating time or needed items, buying or selling tickets and prayers. There were 821 tickets sold with a net profit of \$5,432.55. Thank you!



Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Michael (Stephanie Koenig) Harman. They were married on October 3rd by Vicar Carol in Indiana.

NEWS FOR WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



Thank offering service will be on November 22. Please bring your donations of food/non-perishable items for the Delphos Thrift store on this day.



Altar Guild

Altar Guild will not be offering poinsettias this year due to Covid. It does not seem possible to distribute the poinsettias after the worship service and keep everyone safe.

InReach/OutReach



Prayer Chain

Prayer Chain – If you would like your name added to the prayer chain, please contact Susan McGue at 419-234-6448. If you ever need a prayer chain started, please contact Susan on the cell phone number listed above. *Do NOT send her computer an email.* You may call or send her cell phone a text message. Susan is the primary start person and if she can't be reached by phone, then call the church office. Please have permission from the person or family before we publish any names.

Remember our Shut-ins

Carl Dienstberger
E. Fourth St.
Delphos OH 45833

Sharon Reel
Vancrest of Van Wert
10357 Van Wert-Decatur
Van Wert OH 45891



Keep our Military Friends and Family in your Prayers:



Fred Hasting	Navy	Stateside
Dominic Munoz	Navy	Annapolis MD

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Kevin Theis | 12) Noah Cheney |
| 1) Gregory Sampson | 13) Lexie Cheney |
| 3) Hannah Lieurance | 14) Garrett Trentman |
| 3) Emily Dienstberger | 16) Billy Stemen |
| 4) Amy Hoehn | 20) Connie Stemen |
| 4) Brooke Apple | 20) Jacob Trentman |
| 5) Shirley Parsons | 21) Leonard (Butch) Prine |
| 5) Teresa Luke | 26) Britney Calvelage |
| 6) Janice Kloepfel | 27) Samuel Hasting |
| 8) Kara Webster | 28) Alyssa Miller |
| 10) Joslynn James | 29) Brad Berger |
| 11) Collin Swick | 29) Denise Kloepfel |
| 12) Bonnie Marlow | |



COMMUNITY



Delphos Kiwanis Pancake & Sausage Day- Saturday, November 7, 2020 from 7:00 am – 1:30 pm at Delphos Jefferson High School, 901 Wildcat Lane, Delphos, Ohio. Tickets are \$8.00 each, children under 10 \$4.00. Drive through only.



American Red Cross Blood Drive at Delphos Eagles, 1600 E 5th St, Delphos, Ohio on Thursday, November 5, 2020 from 10:30AM-4:30 PM.

Servants of the Lord

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
November 1	10:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Yvonne Koenig, Rick Dienstberger
ALTAR GUILD: Donna Berger, Susan McGue

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
November 8	10:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Yvonne Koenig, Rick Dienstberger
ALTAR GUILD: Donna Berger, Susan McGue

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
November 15	10:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Lois Ewing, Alan Trentman
ALTAR GUILD: Donna Berger, Susan McGue

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
November 22	10:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Lois Ewing, Alan Trentman
ALTAR GUILD: Donna Berger, Susan McGue

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
November 29	10:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Deb Trentman, Sue Kloeppe
ALTAR GUILD: Donna Berger, Susan McGue

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
December 6	10:00 AM			

MONEY COUNTERS: Deb Trentman, Sue Kloeppe
ALTAR GUILD: Linda Mayer, Angie Miller, Sarah Miller, Jane Gonyea