



Business Meeting

Joint Council Reminder: The Joint Council meets on Tuesday, November 3rd @Messiah at 7pm. **!!Treasurers – don't forget to bring your 2009 proposed budgets for review!!**



ANNUAL MEETING – REMINDER

The annual meeting of our congregations will be in

December (date to be announced) following regular worship at each of our congregations. Also, in mid-November, be looking in the mail for the annual notification letter which will include our 2010 proposed budgets (church and parish) as well as any matters pertaining to the election of new officers.



Your Pastor's Ponderings

Tis the time to be thankful. As we look at our pantries filled with canned goods, at our window sills brimming with pumpkin pies, at our tables filled with turkey and trimmings, we are reminded that God provides, generously, for God's people. Because of these many blessings and more, we are called to give thanks. Taking a break from my Bible characters series, here's my list of what I am thankful for:

Turkeys, golden brown – not only on my plate but also the ones the Somerset Food Pantry gives out each year.

Holiday parades – not only Macy's but all the local ones that celebrate community, service, and togetherness.

Abundance – God's goodness in the harvest, not only on my table but also in the agencies who put food on the tables of the hungry.

corNucopia – a symbol of plenty, overflowing endlessly with fruit it reminds us not only of the many blessings of our land but also of God's eternalness.

pumpKin -- pie, seeds, or soup – a tasty and colorful example of God's variety in food and life.

prayeS – words of grace said around the table for the blessings we've

been giving, not only for ourselves but for all God's people.
pilGrims – people who persevere through great hardship, not only the ones on the Mayflower but all who suffer & endure and find themselves blessed by God.

Indian Corn – a colorful display that not only adds to the beauty of the season but also reminds us of the value of making friends with our neighbors like the pilgrims did with the local Indians

leftoVers – nothing's better than a next day sandwich of turkey, stuffing, and lettuce on toast with mayo, not only as a taste treat but also as a reminder of God's continuous blessings.

pies – pumpkin, apple, sweet potato which reminds us not only of the sweetness of fruit but also of God's mercy.

reuNions – get-togethers with family not only grandparents, parents, siblings, aunts & uncles, cousins, and good friends but also remembering those no longer with us & the promise to be together in God's kingdom.

Gathered around the table – not only with my family, but with Christ and my church gathered around his holy supper.

That's what I'm thankful for.

Happy Thanksgiving – may God give you plenty to be thankful for this month and the whole year through.

Pastor Will



Pastor Will's Chinese Napa Salad

Salad:

½ cup slivered almonds

¼ cup sesame seeds

1 (3 oz.) pkg of Raman Noodles (broken into small pieces)

1 Lg. head chopped Napa cabbage (or may use Romaine Lettuce)

6 green onions (sliced ¼ in.)

Dressing:

½ cup sugar

½ cup white vinegar

¼ cup vegetable oil

2 Tbl. Soy sauce

Heat oven 350 degrees. Combine almonds, sesame seeds, & Raman noodles in an 8in square baking pan. Bake 15-20 mins, stirring every five minutes until noodles are browned and almonds are toasted. Cool.

In a lg. bowl, combine all salad ingredients. In jar with tight-fitting lid, combine all dressing ingredients; shake well. Pour dressing over salad, toss to coat. Serve. Enjoy!

Tip: Best to add noodle/nut mixture to salad right before dressing and serving, otherwise noodles get too soggy.



TEXAS BAR-B-Q DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

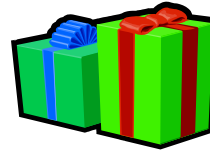
Coming up in two weeks on November 7th, the Laurel Mountain Mission team will be hosting a Texas style BBQ, featuring a pulled Pork Sandwich, Ranch Style Baked Beans, Cole Slaw & Texas Sheet Cake. The meal will cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (12 & under).

We will also be hosting a Silent Auction of Goodie Baskets. If you'd like to donate a basket or help with the event – contact a team member. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex of all 3 churches. If you have any questions you may contact Marie Waltermire @ 926-2408 or Gloria Pritts.



Mark Your Calendars – Worship Planning Meeting

Advent and Christmas are coming up fast. So the Worship Planning Team will be having a meeting on Tuesday November 17th at 7pm @Messiah. We want to schedule our worship themes, ideas, and pick hymns for the coming seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. All are welcome to come help us with this planning.



Operation Christmas Child – Time to Wrap It Up

Thank you for all of your donations for Operation Christmas Child. We will be packing the boxes downstairs in Messiah Lutheran Church Friday afternoon, November 6, 2009 from 3:pm-6pm and on Saturday at 9am until we are finished. We welcome all volunteers for the project. Just come and join in the fun of packing Christmas gifts for children in need.



Brother or Sister, Can You Spare a Dime? – To Change the World

Our Sr. High Youth group plus youth groups across the ELCA are taking part in an effort to raise \$1 million for ELCA World Hunger as part of the Change the World: **2009 Lutheran Youth Challenge**. Bottles are now placed in each narthex and will be there through December for you to share your spare change.



It's Still Good to be the Church

The Northern and Southern Somerset Clergy Conference invite you to attend a worship celebration of the gifts of the church on Sunday, November 22nd (Christ the King Sunday) at 3pm at Friedens Lutheran Church. While this summer has been a time of differences in the church, it's still good to be the church because we are united by one Lord, Jesus Christ, one Spirit, and one God who loves us, calls us, and strengthens us for ministry. Come celebrate our shared ministries and what it means to continue as disciples of Christ. Please join us for an inspirational time of worship at 3:00 pm at Friedens Lutheran Church – a dessert reception will follow.



Where Did You See God this week!

Please share your stories with Pastor Will about where you saw God this week by email, bulletin insert, writing a letter, leaving a message on the voice mail, or in person. **Please continue share with me where you see God in your lives.**

Example: I saw God in

I saw God _____

Susan Barclay, Brent Betz, Kevin Fondelier and others yet to be named. Craft Projects include candle making, soap making and one Christmas craft. Crafts will start Friday Evening at 7:00pm and will resume Saturday morning at 9:00am

Registration for Fall Craft Day 2009:

Fee schedule for Fall Craft Day 2009

Craft Sessions

- _____ \$10.00 Friday evening
- _____ \$10.00 Saturday morning
- _____ \$10.00 Saturday afternoon

Children Craft Sessions

- _____ \$5.00 Friday evening
- _____ \$5.00 Saturday morning
- _____ \$5.00 Saturday afternoon

Lodging Friday night

- _____ \$28.00 per person (single or double)
- _____ \$14.00 for children staying in parent's room

Meals

- _____ \$7.00 Friday Dinner
- _____ \$4.00 Saturday Breakfast
- _____ \$5.00 Saturday Lunch

Meals (ages 3 to 10)

- _____ \$3.50 Friday Dinner
- _____ \$2.00 Saturday Breakfast
- _____ \$2.50 Saturday Lunch

Name _____

Address _____

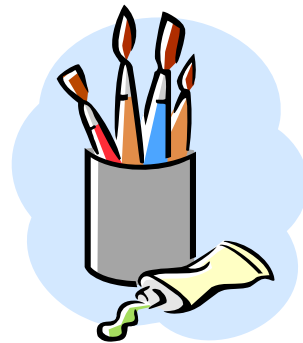
Fall Craft Day

November 13-14, 2009



There will be one craft project Friday evening and two on Saturday. There will be crafts for the kids who register. Come

Friday night or Saturday, commute both days or spend the night for an additional fee. Craft



leaders will include

Amanda Illar Schmidt,



Phone _____ Email _____

Send this with check for total amount made out to Sequanota, to PO Box 245, Jennerstown, PA 15547.



Blanket Sunday – Totals

Parish Quilts –79 total with the efforts of the whole Parish.

This includes Lutheran World Relief, Graduation and Sequanota.

Health Kits – 10 @S

School Kits – 12 @S

9 Layettes - 9@S

Health Kits – 80 @M

School Kits – 82 @M

Sewing Kits – 15@M

Offerings: SP—\$105.00

S— \$206.00

M—\$222.00



Fireproof’ Your Marriage –

Local dynamic speaker Mike Dunlap (from the North Star area) has offered to come to our area in late October and early November to host a six week Bible study and time of conversation for couples who would like to strengthen their marriage. The study will be held at Mt. Calvary Lutheran but any who are interested are welcome.

Your marriage does not need to be in trouble – think of it as a “tune up”! This is open to parish members and community members alike – dates will be set if we find that there is interest. If you would like to attend this workshop, please put your name on the sign-up sheet



ANNUAL FOOD BAG PROJECT

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans of New Centerville Lutheran Parish is sponsoring their Annual Food Bag Project. The organization will prepare food bags for people of the community in need or shut in.

Please submit names for those who may benefit:

-
1. _____
 2. _____

Name of person who submitted:

(anonymous requests may not be honored)

PLEASE PLACE IN OFFERING PLATE BY DEC. 13, 2009.

PS – If you would like to make a donation to help with this Food Bag Project, you may do so. Please make your check out to Messiah Lutheran and indicate that the donation is for Food Bags for Families. **(Also, please place in offering plate by Dec. 13th.)**



Confirmation- Schedule for November

November 1 – 5pm: Class @M

November 8 – 5pm: Class @M

November 13-15 – Jr. High Retreat in Johnstown (No Class)

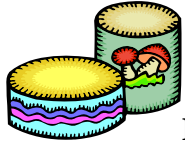
November 22 – 5pm: Class @M

November 29 – THANKSGIVING BREAK: No Class

Jr. High Retreat – Departure Info

We will meet on Friday, November 13th in the parking lot of Messiah at 5:30pm to carpool up to the Holiday Inn in Johnstown.

Please eat dinner ahead of time since we are only going a short distance. Worship on Sunday will be from 10am to 11:30am. We will return after worship on Sunday between 12:30pm and 1pm.



Every Day is a Chance to Give Thanks

And every can is a way to give thanks. During the month of November, there will be a cupboard placed in the narthex at Messiah and boxes at Samuel's and St. Paul's. All month long or any time during the month, you are invited to bring canned goods to help fill our cupboard or boxes so that we can fill the cupboards of needy families throughout Somerset County. At the end of the month, we will take those cans to the Somerset Food Pantry.

We shouldn't have to wait for one day to give thanks to God. Jesus says – *“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”* (Luke 6:38). Share the plenty, give thanks, and praise God by bringing a can to church.



Now Thank We All Our God -- Thanksgiving Service – TUESDAY 11/24

Gather with us to give thanks to our creator and the giver of all good gifts. Through the suggestion of some parish members, this year our Thanksgiving service will be on **Tuesday evening**, November 24th at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Calvary in Lavansville. Please bring along gifts of canned/dry goods for food pantries throughout the county as part of our offering that night.



Advent/Christmas Play – In Development

Plans are underway to choose and cast an Advent play. Pastor Will will be announcing the choice shortly and contacting individuals to participate. If you would like to be part of our Advent/Christmas program this year, please let him know.



Special Music Coming – During Sunday School on

November 15th Cords of Praise will be playing. They play the Dulcimers. The program will be 45 minutes. We would like to have a good turn out so invite a family or friend.



CHRISTMAS EVE PRE-SERVICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are planning to have 10-15 minutes of pre-service music/poems before the 7:30pm Christmas Eve service at Messiah. If you are interested in participating, please sign below and list what you will be doing. We encourage people from all 3 congregations to participate in this event. Please place the form in the offering plate. Last day to sign up is **November 30th, 2009.**

Thank you, Ann Sechler, Music Coordinator Messiah

NAME _____

MUSIC/POEM _____



The Faces of Our Saints – Invitation to Worshippers

Next month, on November 1st, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday, a remembrance of all God's saints, past and present. In the spirit of that remembrance, we invite anyone who would like to bring a photograph (framed or loose) of a loved one or photo of someone special who revealed Christ to them.

These pictures will be tastefully displayed in the narthex and around our worship space so that we might remember the Faces of our Saints. This display will last through Christ the King Sunday (November 22). Please be sure to leave some way for us to identify your photo so that it may be returned to you at the end conclusion of our remembrance.



There's Wisdom in the Word

We continue our Book of Faith exploration of People of Faith. This month we examine the life of a king: King David – a young man chosen by God to rise from obscurity to power. Yet, David is no model of perfection and as such, we learn how even a divinely favored person can make mistakes and experience consequence for his actions.

Due to the Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, Nov. 24th (our regularly scheduled evening), we will hold our Bible study this month on **Monday, Nov. 23rd** at 7pm @Messiah.



On the Horizon: Worship Happenings in November

November 1 – All Saints Sunday

All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. This day celebrates the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of Isaiah's feast to come.

Today during worship we remember the faithful who have died during the past year through the lighting of candles, the ringing of bells, and the remembering of names.

November 8 – Harvest Home Sunday/Sunday of the Widow's Mite

Today, after engaging in a series of public arguments with religious leaders in the temple, Jesus contrasts the proud and oppressive ways of those leaders with the sacrificial humility and poverty of the widow. He commends the poor widow who in his view gave far more than the major donors. She, like the widow of Zarephath who shares her last bit of food with Elijah, does something of great importance.

In the spirit of the widow who shares her coin, today we join in the celebration of Harvest Home – the sharing of our bounty with those who need the help of ministries like ALSM and the Lutheran Home in Johnstown. As a special treat and an example of Christ's service in action, we hope to have representative from ALSM share with us some updates about Harvest Home during worship this day.

November 15th – Church Music Sunday/Share the Good News Sunday

Because we have received forgiveness through Christ's death, we live with sincere hearts by trusting in God's promises and encouraging love and good works from each other and sharing this good news with all. Today we share the good news through God's gift of music – we will sing favorite hymns that speak messages of God's love, hope, and forgiveness. And we will show our appreciation for all those who share their gifts of music with us – our music director, our organists, our pianists, our choir director, our choirs, our soloists and instrumentalists.

November 22nd – Christ the King Sunday

Israel longed for a true king to set things right. He would have

the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

November 29th – First Sunday in Advent

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation. The ancients anticipated a "righteous

Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Our Lord's contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.



Joint Parish Midweek Advent Opportunities:

Life too hectic? Come for some time away from it all to reflect on God's peace and promises. Once again, we will be combining our worship services with the Lavansville-Bakersville Parish. We will be starting off our evening with an informal/conversational Bible Study around covered-dish supper at 6:00, and then will begin worship at 7:00 pm. We will be using Holden Evening Prayer for our liturgy again this year. Hope you will be part of this time to be in awe of God and in fellowship with one another.

Services will be held on Wednesdays,

- Dec. 2nd (at **Mt. Zion in Bakersville**),
- Dec. 9th (at **Messiah in New Centerville**),
- Dec. 16th (at **Mt. Calvary , Lavansville**).