



St. Paul's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church



## The Disciple's Connection

November 2021

### Worship Services

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:30am

### Sunday Bible Study

Adult 8:30am & 10:45am

Children 10:45am

### Staff

Paul D. Sundbom, Pastor

Marlyss Sekki, Director of Music

Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

### Church Office

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(440)354-3000

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[office@splcpainesville.org](mailto:office@splcpainesville.org)

### St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director

[preschool@splcpainesville.org](mailto:preschool@splcpainesville.org)

[www.stpaulspainesville.com](http://www.stpaulspainesville.com)

## Giving Thanks for Daily Bread

<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread, [Matthew 6:11] <sup>3</sup> Give us each our daily bread [Luke 11:3]

In the fall of 1621, the new settlers to our country gathered with some native Indians for a three-day thanksgiving feast to celebrate a good harvest. This is probably why pilgrims and turkeys have become so attached to Thanksgiving Day. This event in 1621 was not a holiday, but simply a gathering to express thankfulness and share in the Lord's bounty. Thanksgiving Day, as a national holiday, dates to 1863 when President Lincoln proclaimed a national holiday on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of November as an encouragement for Americans to give thanks to God for His provision. Since then Thanksgiving Day has remained a national holiday.

As Christians we rejoice that our nation observes a national day of thanksgiving. However, Christian stewards may very well question whether our modern Thanksgiving Day celebration is a technical change or an adaptive change. What's the difference between a technical and an adaptive change you ask? Actually, there is a big difference! If the celebration of Thanksgiving Day is simply one day to pause from the busyness of life and work, give thanks in whatever way people wish to express thanks, and then get back to the regular swing of things, it becomes little more than a momentary technical change, a pause in our normal routine. We do it for one day and then it's business as usual. If, however, Thanksgiving Day provides us with the opportunity to express our thankfulness to God for all His blessings, and then continue to express our thankfulness on an ongoing basis it is more of an adaptive change, a truly meaningful change to our normal routine. Simply put, a technical change is a once a year event, but an adaptive change is a change in behavior that continues throughout the year.

In the Lord's Prayer Jesus taught us to pray "give us this day our daily bread." Luther in his explanation of this petition teaches that "daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body" and that we as God's people "receive our daily bread with thanksgiving."



### **GIVING THANKS FOR DAILY BREAD continued**

It is a very good practice to be regular and consistent in our prayers at mealtimes. Truly God is good [all the time; and all the time, God is good!] and His mercy endures forever. Saying prayers of thanksgiving before meals help us remember that giving thanks is a daily activity of God's people. Praying daily also helps us practice giving thanks in an adaptive way. This encourages us to remember that giving thanks is a daily way of life, not just a once a year holiday.

Christian stewards are people with grateful hearts and giving hands. All good gifts come from God and He intends for us to receive them with thankfulness and use them in ways that honor Him and bless others. God's good gifts include healthy relationships, special talents, time, the privilege of sharing the good news of Jesus, financial resources and so much more. Jesus frees us from the selfish use of all these gifts and the Holy Spirit helps us live like the children of God who freely, joyfully and daily use all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.

Happy Thanksgiving Day and may your celebration be another reminder that giving thanks is meant to be a daily response for all that God so richly provides.

In Christ

*Pastor Sundbom*

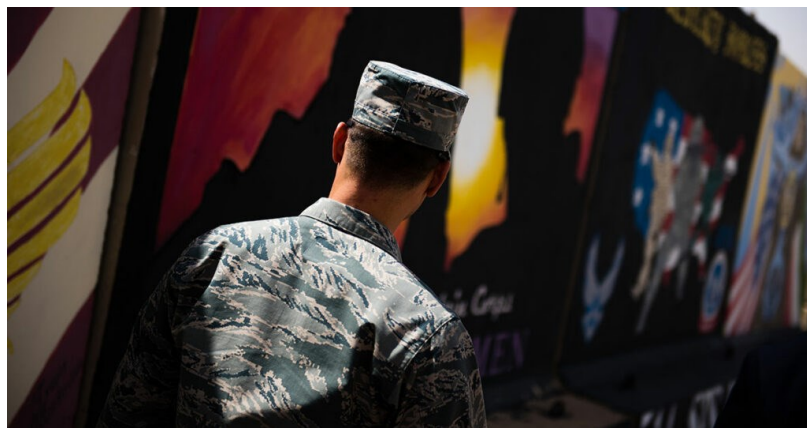




## Called to Serve

by Gregory N. Todd

Martin was a career military officer, as his father before him. That's the way it was in the 4th century in the Roman Imperial Army. If your father was an army officer, you were too. You had to be. No choice. As has happened to many deployed soldiers, Martin had a life-changing experience during one such deployment.



Legend has it that while riding into Amiens in what is now France, Martin came upon a poor man, shivering in the cold. Martin took his wool cloak, pulled out his sword, cut the cloak in two and gave half to the beggar. That night, Martin had a vision of Christ wrapped in the half of the cloak he had given to the beggar and Christ was quoting Matthew 25:40: "As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

This incident impacted Martin profoundly. He left the army, studied for the ministry, served as a faithful pastor and eventually became the Bishop of Tours in France. He died on November 11 and was fondly remembered by citizens of the area as a faithful shepherd.

But what about that other half of Martin's cloak? It became a treasured remembrance of Martin's ministry and was kept by the French Army. Martin's cloak or "*cappa*" was cared for by a priest referred to as a "*cappellani*" from which we get the title "chaplain." So, in a sense, Martin and his interaction with that beggar gave birth to military chaplains. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) honors the service of military chaplains with the St. Martin of Tours medal.

Every year on November 11, Christendom remembers, not only a beloved priest and bishop, but a soldier, a veteran whose life was defined by the calling: "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Over 100 years ago, November 11 assumed additional weight and significance with the end of World War I, the "War to End All Wars" (or so people thought). This war — where technology added to the brutality of war — required an even deeper sense of calling.

Who would listen to the call to fight the "War to End All Wars"? This would be a fight for humanity. There were those who listened to this call. My own Marine Corps "flock" is proud of its legacy responding to the call and fighting with such commitment to earn the German title *Teufel Hunden* — Devil Dogs.

All this remembrance of calling — St. Martin of Tours, Armistice Day, Veterans Day — happens the day after my own flock of warriors, the U.S. Marine Corps, celebrates its "birthday" on November 10, 1775, in Tun Tavern, Philadelphia. Disconnected coincidence? Probably. But certainly an opportunity for us to emphasize a key element of what it means to serve.



**CALLED TO SERVE** continued

## Called by our nation

Our nation calls warriors to defend the Constitution of the United States against “all enemies foreign or domestic.”

A few years ago, I participated in a friend’s promotion in which he reaffirmed his oath at the National Archives in front of the U.S. Constitution. The words took on new weight, new significance, in front of this old, faded document. It reminded me of the fragility of the American experiment in representative democracy and the critical importance of each citizen to keep it alive. If you have served in the military, if you have taken that oath, you have contributed to the miracle that is the American experiment. You have responded to our nation’s call.

This vocation to care for our nation is not limited to those who wear the uniform. The Christian is called to serve in every aspect of our society. This is part of God’s calling to love our neighbor. We love our neighbor and contribute to their well-being by ensuring a well-ordered and peaceful society. We are called to be good citizens.

Those of us serving in the military are painfully aware that some of our ranks have given all by laying their lives on the altar of liberty. Our nation calls us to remember and honor them. We remember Marines like Corporal Ronald Payne, the first Marine killed in ground combat operations in Afghanistan on May 8, 2004, while serving with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, the unit I was attached to.

At 6 foot 7 inches and a muscular 270 pounds, Corporal Payne was a giant of a man who had trouble fitting through the rear hatch of a light-armored vehicle, but had a big heart to match his love for his fellow Marines. Corporal Payne was killed as he led his scout section on a combat patrol in the south-central Afghan province of Oruzgan. Two other Marines and a sailor were wounded in the intense fight, and at least four Taliban insurgents were killed.

As Corporal Payne exemplified, our nation calls its warriors to be of high character, someone to look up to, a goal to aspire to. When our nation looks to Marines, sailors, soldiers, airmen and Coastguardsmen, it sees a group of dedicated men and women who will emulate the lofty aspirations of our republic. Our nation calls chaplains to help build these warriors of character.

## Called by our warriors

Sociologists tell us we live in times marked by increased loneliness. A growing body of literature notes that loneliness is a public health threat. Those serving in the military can be particularly vulnerable to this threat of loneliness. Away from home for perhaps the first time, maybe even in a foreign country, service members are susceptible to loneliness and find themselves making poor decisions. Added to the vulnerability is how disconnected many of this generation are from what traditionally provided strength to meet life’s challenges: church, family and community values.



## **CALLED TO SERVE** continued

While they may not articulate it verbally, these young warriors' need calls to us, the church, to reach out to help them. Military training emphasizes the importance of being part of a team; we fight against the "vertical pronoun" (I) and strive for the team (we). The church can be part of this team through chaplains who proclaim the life-changing cross of Christ and mentor these isolated warriors trying to fight life's challenges alone. In an age where suicide is becoming an acceptable solution in many corners of our society and is a growing concern among our warriors, the church has an opportunity to fight the culture of death through our chaplains.

## **Called by the divine**

These callings are actually wrapped in God's calling. God calls with both a divine mandate to "wield the sword" in righteousness and the divine assurance of God's love and presence through Christ.

God's call is rooted in the sacrificial nature of God in Jesus Christ. God demonstrated His kindness and compassion by sacrificing His Son to redeem me, a lost sinner. This assurance, this confidence in God's favor shown by Christ's sacrifice on the cross carries with it the other callings.

I mentioned Corporal Ron Payne earlier. For those left to grieve his death, his devout Christian faith has been a great comfort. Consider one of the last entries in his journal while in combat operations:

"The fear is starting to turn into excitement. Besides what do I have to be afraid of really. I have God on my side, and He said He will never leave us nor forsake us. Having Him is better than any type of support or weapon that man can give."

This is not an assurance for the fight in front of him but for eternity. Corporal Payne was a combat veteran having done a tour in Iraq, but when we were going to Afghanistan, he confided that he wasn't sure he'd be coming back from Afghanistan. But he said he was okay, confident that he would be with God for eternity.

The divine calling calls us to serve others with the assurance that God will be with us. As St. Martin learned, "as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." When God calls us to Himself, He calls us to serve our nation, our society, our neighbor, that the Gospel may be proclaimed to our needy world.

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Chaplain (Rear Admiral) Gregory N. Todd is a United States Navy Chaplain Corps officer serving as the 20th Chaplain of the Marine Corps and Deputy Chief of Navy Chaplains.



## Life Quotes for November

**November 7** "Abortion isn't somebody else's issue. It's your business, it's my business, and it's our business. It's our issue as Christians, it's our issue as citizens, and it's our issue as human beings. Abortion and the sanctity of every human life matter very much for elections—more so than anything else. And it matters for much more than elections. It's a whole life issue!" *Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Mission and Ministry, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**November 14** "God says you are vital. You are crucial. His Body is incomplete without you. He says that to each of us, and I believe God wants us to see and say that about each other—despite our perceptions of one another." *Mona Fuerstenau – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**November 21** "We pray for God's light to shine on all of our decisions and that every aspect of our lives would be fulfilled within the boundaries of His Law and Gospel. We do not want our worry to guide our search for daily bread (Matthew 6:25-34). Rather, we rely on God's Promise and receive what He has provided with thanksgiving. For we know that with Jesus we have daily bread that endures, even to everlasting life (John 6:28-29)." *Rev. Justin A. Herman, University Lutheran Church, West Lafayette, Indiana – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**November 28** "Creation is preaching a message about its Creator. He is wise. Kind. Brilliant. Powerful. Limitless. Combine those qualities with His reckless love for us found on the cross, and you have a God who can strengthen trembling hearts and weak knees. You have a Creator worth worshiping." *Rev. Mike Novotny, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*





## Announcements

### Remembering All the Saints

Remembering all of St. Paul's Disciples who have gone before us:

Russ Tuttle, Jr. (12/7/2020)

Susan Geyer (7/16/2021)

John R. Doeing, Jr. (2/24/2021)

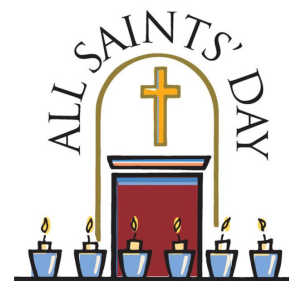
Anna Marie McVan (7/17/2021)

Kathleen C. Murphy (6/9/2021)

Louise Marie Klebe (9/15/2021)

Joseph John Doeing (6/28/2021)

James Matthew West (9/17/2021)



### Daylight Savings Time

Don't forget to set your clocks back Saturday night, November 6, and change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

### Order Your Poinsettias Now!!!

Poinsettias will again be used to decorate the altar for Christmas. As in the past you will be able take them home after Christmas. The cost for each is \$5.95 The colors available this year are: red, white, pink, marble (pink & white), and jingle bells (red & white). The order sheet has been posted on the double doors at the back of the church. Please place your check in the offering plate, marked "Poinsettias". The last day to order is Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.



### SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

The semi-annual Congregation meeting will be held Sunday, November 21, 2021. It will be held after the 9:30 worship service. As a result of the meeting, there will be no 10:45am Adult Bible Study or Sunday School that Sunday.



## Altar Flowers



Do you have a date or event you would like to celebrate or a special someone you would like to honor. Altar flowers is a great way to do that. All you have to do is sign up next to the appropriate weekend with the occasion or person being honored and who the flowers are from. Be sure to print clearly. The Altar Flower Chart is posted on the wall in between the double doors leading out of the sanctuary. Altar flowers are \$40.00. The cash or check can be placed in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" with the date of the weekend and place it in the collection plate.

## Outreach Greeting Cards

There are plenty of greeting cards available to help support Outreach's greeting card fundraiser. You can purchase a card for friends or family members having special events such as a Birthday, Anniversary, Get Well, and Sympathy. There are uplifting Christian cards for those in need of encouragement and prayers. There are also Thanksgiving and Christmas box sets available. Individual cards are only 50 cents a piece with box sets priced as marked. Just place your payment in an offering envelope supplied on the greeting card rack and add it in the Offering plate during church service. Proceeds will go toward building an Outreach budget for future Outreach event expenses.



## Prayer Quilt

Is there a friend, neighbor or family member that is in need of encouragement and prayers?. A prayer quilt can be sent to them with an encouraging card and an invitation to attend our church. In these troubled times, it's more important than ever to tell people God loves them and we are here for them





## October Meeting Notes

- 1) Pastor's Report: Pastor made 14 calls, 3 shut-in visits and performed 1 funeral. Also, he reported that confirmation class and youth group have begun. He said the Doxology Ministries Retreat was valuable, emphasizing ways to spend time well and being better able to read and respond better to others' emotions during interactions. Ohio District Pastors' Conference will be Oct. 11-13 in Columbus.
- 2) President's Report: Eric thought Pastor seemed more engaged and upbeat lately.
- 3) Vice President's Report: Aaron said he would meet with Morley Mowers to finalize snowplowing this winter.
- 4) Treasurer's Report: Russ reported income is down slightly from last year and expenses nearly the same. Overall, finances remain fairly good.
- 5) Education Report: Erin reported children's Sunday school attendance averages 3, High school 2, 8:15 Adult Bible Study 5, and 10:45 ABS7.
- 6) Preschool Report: Star reported Preschool - still looking for 1 assistant teacher, that 38 Bible Buddies were handed out, and that Popcorn fundraiser will be Oct, 11-27. Donations being accepted to send Christina, Johanna, and Amy to Lutherans Conference in Fort Wayne, IN in November. Donation Board to come down Oct. 10.
- 7) Elder's Report: Dale reported the Elders continue to review the membership rolls, hope to be completed end of Oct, letters will then be sent out who haven't been attending. Also, Elders are looking at COVID protocols with masking recommendations and communion remaining the same, and spacing the pews to return.
- 8) Stewardship Report: Matt reported that Facebook posts be sent to Kelly Hines and that he will update the website. Giving Tree will start Nov. 27/28 collecting gloves, hats, scarves, mittens, socks, and coats.
- 9) Financial Secty: Jenn reported still looking for a 3rd person to help count and deposit weekly contributions, will post in bulletin.
- 10) Outreach Report: Kristi reported that due to lack of enough volunteers, some events will be cut back. Hearts will be made and given to the West and Klebe families. 25 lunches were served during Love-thy-Neighbor Hot Dog lunch. Committee to decide on contents for Backpacks for Kids. Trunk-or-Treat close to filling needed cars, Oct. 30. scheduled for Sept 18, hoping for youth volunteers, Trunk-or-Treat planed for 10/30.
- 11) Building & Grounds Report: Craig reported batteries for AED have been replaced, emergency exit lights for classrooms 1/2 & 7/8 have been replaced, and no mice kills. Lights behind cross still to be done.
- 12) Contribution Secretary Report: Dennis reported that contributions are down \$12,972 (-10.2%) YTD and number of contributors down 3 from last year.

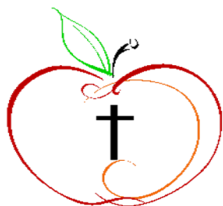
### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1) Pickup truck at parsonage to be resolved soon.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) District Convention will be in June 2022, no changes to our votes for nominations.
- 2) Semi-Annual Meeting to be Nov. 21 after 10:45 service. Reports and vote on By-Law changes.

**NEXT MEETING: November 3 @ 6:30pm.**



## From the Preschool

### Popcorn Fund Raiser

St. Paul's Preschool would like to thank all of you for your support of our popcorn fundraiser. Your continued support has helped this ministry continue to grow. Anyone that order popcorn will be notified of the delivery date with a flier in their church mailbox. We hope you enjoy this fun snack!



### Thank You For Supporting St. Paul's Preschool

We thank you for your support. It was a huge success. The preschool received all the supplies we needed to have a successful start to the year.



## November Birthdays

Matt Davis	1st	Nicholas Kerver	20th
Meridan Vosicky	8th	Kay Lucas	20th
Larry Sekki	9th	Margie Dennison	25th
Cooper Vosicky	12th	Jennifer Drake	27th
Harold Dennison	17th		

Happy  
Birthday



## November Anniversaries

Joe & Leigh Wojkowski

31 years on Nov 24



## Those Who Serve November 2021

### ELDERS:

6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell

### LECTORS:

11-06-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
11-07-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell
11-13-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
11-14-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Ken Chaffe
11-20-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
11-21-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Eric West
11-24-21	7:00 P	Wednesday	TBD
11-27-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
11-28-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Jack Lelle

### COUNTERS:

Jeff Troutman

### GREETERS:

6:00 P	Saturday
9:30 A	Sunday

SIGN UP IN NOVEMBER TO WAVE  
YOUR GREETING TO YOUR FELLOW  
DISCIPLES.

Sign-up sheet located on the double  
doors at the back of the Sanctuary.

# November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-2:00pm</div> <div>Nov Birthstone: Topaz and Citrine</div>	1 All Saints Day	2  Election Day 7 pm Choir Practice	3 6:30 pm Council Meeting	4 7 pm Virtual Bible Study 8 pm Confirmation Class	5 National Redhead Day	6
7  Day Light Savings Time Ends	8	9 7 pm Choir Practice	10 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Elder's Meeting	11  Veterans Day 7 pm Virtual Bible Study 8 pm Confirmation Class	12	13 
14  World Diabetes Day	15	16 7 pm Choir Practice	17 National Take a Hike Day	18 6pm Outreach Meeting 7 pm Virtual Bible Study	19	20
21 Annual Congrega- tional Meeting 10:45 am	22 Preschool Teacher Conference - No School	23 Preschool Teacher Conference - No School 7 pm Choir Practice	24 Preschool Thanks- giving Break—No School Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service 7 pm	25 Church Office Closed Preschool Thanks- giving Break—No School 	26 Church Office Closed Preschool Thanks- giving Break—No School Black Friday	27  Small Business Saturday
28 	29 Cyber Monday	30 7 pm Choir Practice	<div>             COMMUNION SERVICE         </div> <div>           WORSHIP SCHEDULE            Saturdays - 6:00pm            Sundays - 9:30am            Sunday School - 10:45am            Adult Bible Study—8:30am &amp; 10:45am         </div>			<div>           Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays         </div> <div>           November Flower: Chrysanthemum         </div>