



Faith Chronicle
November 2023

Let Our Lives Be Full of Both Thanks & Giving



Faith Lutheran Church
6142 State Rt. 31
Cicero, NY 13039



Sisters and Brothers of Faith Church,

November is coming upon us, the month that calls us to give thanks from the first day to the last.

We start with All Saints, a day to remember friends, family and all who shared their faith in Jesus to help us build our faith. I think of Sunday School teachers and pastors first. My list of saints includes seminary professors, colleagues, mentors, and members of the churches I have served. Each of my saints would consider themselves unlikely to be called a saint but for the fact St. Paul called every person who trusted Jesus and followed him a “saint.” Each of my saints left a mark that shapes my faith for years to come. I thank God for all my saints.

The fourth Thursday of November is our national Thanksgiving holiday. I remember years ago when a few members of a community’s churches gathered in one sanctuary or another to hold a service the evening before the feast of turkey and fixings. Attendance at the community worship was usually poor. If one church sent its choir to sing, the choir made the service look much better attended. That was the past. I believe the churches in my home area gave up holding a Thanksgiving service by the time I retired from full time ministry fourteen years ago. I guess we turned America’s way of giving God thanks into a day for overeating and watching a full card of football games.

Finally, the last day of November is the commemoration of Andrew, disciple and apostle of Jesus, and patron saint of Scotland. Rest assured this bagpiper notices Andrew’s day is marked in our Lutheran worship calendars (even though there are few Lutherans in Scotland).

Between the beginning of November and its end is a month not just of days, but thirty days filled with opportunities to give God thanks. Many churches do their annual stewardship campaign in November as a way to stress we give God thanks for food, shelter, family, life and forgiveness through our financial commitment to our church. Most stewardship campaigns come with charts showing church members how to calculate their giving to God and the church. The often stated goal is for people to see their offerings in terms of a percentage rather than dollar amounts. The ultimate goal is to encourage members to give 10% of their income to God’s work.

Few people in the churches I served saw tithing (giving 10%) as their personal goal. A few people over the years learned their offerings were more generous than they realized because they gave a greater percentage of their income than they thought. Conversely, an online source (nonprofitsource.com) reported: “Christians are giving at 2.5% of income; during the Great Depression it was 3.3%.” The sources I read say 2.5% is a high estimate for Lutherans, Methodists, and even Presbyterians.

Should I feel discouraged with such statistics? Perhaps, but I still thank God all November in all the ways I can: my financial gifts, my time, abilities like playing bagpipes and guitar, spending time with people I love, trying to help my community . . . I pray you will see November in a like manner.

In Christ’s love and grace,

Pastor Allan



A Word from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Life Together

The situation of the one who is reading the Scripture would probably come closest to that in which I read to another person a letter from a friend. I would not read the letter as though I had written it myself. The distance between us would be clearly noticeable as it was read. And yet I would also not be able to read my friend's letter as if it were of no concern to me. On the contrary, because of our close relationship, I would read it with personal interest. Proper reading of Scripture is not a technical exercise that can be learned; it is something that grows or diminishes according to my own spiritual condition. The ponderous, laborious reading of the Bible by many a Christian who has become seasoned through experience often far surpasses a minister's reading, no matter how perfect the latter in form.

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?" —Psalm 22:1

Dear church,

As Lutherans, we are accustomed to holding tension between two truths. Thus the ELCA denounces the egregious acts of Hamas, acts that have led to unspeakable loss of life and hope. At the same time the ELCA denounces the indiscriminate retaliation of Israel against the Palestinian people, both Christian and Muslim.

For the past week we have borne witness to the horrors of the escalating crisis between Israel and Hamas. We also watch a growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza as Israel blocks food, water, fuel and medical supplies and as airstrikes continue to cause unbearable civilian casualties ahead of a just-announced ground assault. We see Israelis and families around the world in the agonizing wait for word about the fate of loved ones killed or taken hostage by Hamas. We are in anguish, grieving and praying for all people who are living in trauma, fear and uncertainty.

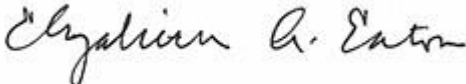
Among us are Palestinian Lutherans who are fearful for their families, their communities and their homeland. In our communities we have Jewish and Muslim neighbors, who are also facing the horrors of this crisis and its impact on their loved ones.

It is difficult to find words that suffice in the complexity of this moment, and in the web of relationships that bind us together, as church, with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and our interreligious partners. Yet God has called us to be a people who stand with others amid suffering.

We must also call a thing a thing. The power exerted against all Palestinian people — through the occupation, the expansion of settlements and the escalating violence — must be called out as a root cause of what we are witnessing. We are committed to our long-standing accompaniment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

The God who liberates us calls us to be a liberating witness. May it be so.

In Christ,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Those Who Serve – November, 2023

TIDBITS & DATES

ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Chervinsky, Linda Keller

USHERS

TELLERS:

Week 1

Linda Keller, Rose McCarthy

Week 2

Joan and Lamont Hahn

Week 3

Ralph and Cassie Richmond

Week 4

Barb Stevenson Maria Scheuer

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR November

11/05 Service of Holy Communion

Worship Assistant Bill Stevenson

Reader Barb Snyder

Cantor Barb Snyder

Greeter Bill Azzoto

11/12 Service of the Word

Worship Assistant Lorrie Monthie

Reader Rose McCarthy

Cantor Lauri Hoover

Greeter Barb & John Snyder

11/19 Service of Holy Communion

Worship Assistant Arnold Hansen

Reader Sharon Mirizio

Cantor Cassie & Ralph Richmond

Greeter Linda Keller

11/26 Service of the Word

Worship Assistant Bill Stevenson

Reader Lorrie Monthie

Cantor Barb Snyder

Greeter Lorrie Monthie

FOLLOW FAITH! Follow us on Social Media:

Facebook: @FaithLutheranChurchCiceroNY

Twitter: @FLC_Cicero

Instagram: flc_cicero

Website: faithlutherancny.org

If you're interested in volunteering as a worship assistant, reader, cantor, or greeter please let the office know via phone or e-mail. If you're scheduled and won't be able to make it, please let the office know as soon as you're able so other arrangements can be made.

Financial Report for September 2023

	September 2023	2023YTD
Income	\$ 10,468.82	\$ 83,504.14
Expense:	\$ 15,682.24	\$ 93,302.78
Totals:	(\$ 5,213.42)	(\$ 9,798.64)

A copy of the monthly financial report to the Church

News and Notes



In our prayers –

OUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES:

Ayden, Bruce, Toni, Ray, Patricia Fosdick, Courtney, Mary Swanson, Pat Green, Mahl Wagner, Rich LaMonte, Dennis Krukowski, Gary Schumacher, Arnold Hogan (Dawn Spink's father), Philomena Bronner (Chuck Bronner's mother), Patti Smith, Betty Craner, Carol Jean, Del and Ann Grim (Patty Carter's parents), Nick, Clara Long, Pamela Strohl (friend of Kathy Newcomb), Pr. Dave Roppel, John Snyder, Diane Senzarino, Gary Winther, Jean Kelley, Ricky (Betty Gay's great-grandson)

MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES: Leah Bratt (Sarah Bratt's sister), Sam (Leah's husband), Zachary & Daniel Rosney (Pat Green's great nephews), Jackie, Kenny and Isaac Bowne (Betty Gay's grandchildren), Eric Currier (Dan Currier's son) Jared Lonergan (family friend of Patty Carter).



FLOWER CHART: The Altar Guild has placed this year's Flower Chart on the bulletin board in the narthex. We all love having live flowers on the altar for Sunday morning worship. Please consider providing flowers for a memorial or special occasion. Sign up on the chart, then bring the flowers to church on Sunday morning or call Linda Keller or Diane Monthie for information or to make special arrangements. Also, you can request live flowers by placing a donation in an envelope with your name and information in the collection plate at least 2 weeks before your selected date. And, of course, we will be most grateful for any donation to the general flower fund.



The Christmas Poinsettia plants look beautiful on the Altar for the Christmas Eve service. As well as in your home afterwards. If you are interested in purchasing a plant the cost this year is \$8.00. Orders must be placed by November 12th. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex if you are interested.



“The Men’s Breakfast Group” will meet November 11th. Look for a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.



Food Pantry distribution in November will be on Nov 12th 11:30am – 1:00pm and again on Monday Nov 20th from 4:30-5:30pm. If you can volunteer, please let Tracy know. Also, Tracy will be leaving the Food Pantry as of the end of December. If you might be interested in taking over this role, please let Tracy know. She is willing to go over all that is involved with the Food Pantry.

Winter Wish List for the Food Pantry - With winter coming the Food Pantry is in need of some comfort foods. Please help us supply the clients with breakfast cereal, cans of corn, tuna fish, tomato and chicken soup and juices. Thank you everyone for helping to support the Food Pantry.



The Quilters group has started up again. They are meeting in the Oak Room on Tuesday’s mornings from 10-12. No experience necessary, come and enjoy the fellowship and learn as we quilt along.

Note from the Office

As most of you have heard I have chosen to resign my position working in the office at Faith. I just wanted to express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity and trust you placed in me during my time here. I will never forget your support and kindness you all showed me. Rose



Do you have any news or notes you would like for the members of the Congregation to see in the November issue of the Faith Chronicle? Please have your submission into the office by November 23rd. If you would like to see other things in the newsletter please let the office know and we will see what we can do to get it in. Thank you.

Faith Lutheran Church is always in need of additional Worship Assistants, Readers, Cantors and Tellers. **No Experience necessary. On-site training is available. Please volunteer!!!**

Please call or email the office when you or a member of your family is sick or in the hospital. If you have given up your land line telephone and would like your cell phone indicated in the church records. Please notify the office. A

Please call or email the office if your telephone # or email address has or is changed.

The Church number is 315-699-5224 - email address is flchurch31@gmail.com

Pictures from around Faith

A collection was put together for the Canteen this month. Look at all the snacks, water, plates, napkins, and cutlery which were donated.

Many enjoyable items

Kairen McShane & Wesley Sweetman picking up and loading into car. They wanted to let you all know of their gratitude for Your generosity.



Join us for Luther Memorial Church's Annual Fall

CRAFT FAIR

HOME DÉCOR ♦ HANDMADE CRAFTS ♦ GIFTS
JEWELRY ♦ ARTWORK ♦ AND MORE!

CONCESSIONS ♦ BAKE SALE ♦ RAFFLES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

9 - 2 PM

FREE ADMISSION

At Luther Memorial Church
435 South Main Street, North Syracuse

INTERESTED CRAFTERS AND VENDORS
CONTACT DARLENE BROWN AT lemelu@gmail.com



Nursery School Notes November 2023

It is always amazing how quickly the months pass and here we are already beginning the month of November! October was busy in the Nursery School learning about Fall, pumpkins and celebrating Halloween.

In November we continue to focus on all we are thankful for in our lives. We'll celebrate in our classes with our Thanksgiving Feast on November 20. We are very grateful and happy for the great school year we are having so far. We enjoy each day that we are able to come to school to learn and be with our friends, and for the wonderful families that have chosen our school for their children's first learning experience.

We completed our first fundraisers of the year, the SaveAround Coupon Books and our Boo Baskets. Both were a huge success. We are so grateful to our families who contributed, and we look forward to participating again next year. An extra special thank you goes out to our Faith Lutheran Church families who participated in these fundraisers to help our school this year.

We will hold our FUN'd Walk this month as our next fundraiser on November 15. This is always a fun time for the children as they navigate an obstacle course we set up inside the school after collecting donations from family and friends. This fundraiser will continue to help with the costs of our school's special days, supplies and field trips.

Happy Thanksgiving to you, our Church Family!



November Birthday's

Mary Schug	11/02
Kristine Heitman	11/02
Emily Giamartino	11/04
Cassie Richmond	11/04
Dina MacCammon	11/04
Bruce Hahn	11/11
Pastor Allan Ferguson	11/12
Alexis MacCammon	11/22
Lynn Werner	11/25
Betty Craner	11/28
William Azzoto	11/29
Linda Ferguson	11/30

Faith Lutheran Church Council Directory 2023-2024

CHURCH PHONE:

315-699-5224
315-698-0394 (fax)

flchurch31@gmail.com

Church Secretary:

OFFICERS:

<i>President</i>	Patty Carter
<i>Vice President</i>	Bill Stevenson
<i>Council Secretary</i>	Barb Snyder
<i>Treasurer</i>	Kathy Newcomb

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL VOTING MEMBERS:

<i>Pastor</i>	Allan Ferguson
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Barb Stevenson
<i>Christian Education</i>	
<i>Mutual Ministry, Co-Chair</i>	
<i>Mutual Ministry, Co-Chair</i>	Cassie Richmond
<i>Mutual Ministry, Co-Chair</i>	Chuck Bronner
<i>Property Committee, Co-Chair</i>	
<i>Property Committee, Co-Chair</i>	John Snyder
<i>Property Committee, Co-Chair</i>	Jim Kelley
<i>Property Committee, Co-Chair</i>	Gary Winther
<i>Congregational Life</i>	
<i>Congregational Life</i>	Diane Monthie (with the help of Lynn Werner & others)
<i>Community Outreach/Evangelism</i>	Jeanne Bronner

STEWARDSHIP, COUNCIL NON-VOTING POSITIONS:

<i>Superintendent of Sunday School</i>	
<i>Co-Chair</i>	Diane Monthie
<i>Co-Chair</i>	Lorrie Monthie
<i>Bookkeeper</i>	Maria Scheuer

**If you need to reach any of the Council members, please contact
the church office for the person's contact information**

November 2023 Calendar of Events

November

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Lakeshore Heights Mtg 6:30-7:30 pm	3 Ladies Night 7pm	4 Saturday Groups 11-3 & 7 to 8
5 Service of Holy Communion 10am	6 M&M meeting 7pm	7	8	9 Lakeshore Heights Mtg 6:30-7:30 pm	10	11 Saturday Groups 11-3 & 7-8pm
12 Service of the Word -10am Food Pantry 11-30 – 1 pm	13 Council Meeting 7pm	14	15	16 Lakeshore Heights Mtg 6:30-7:30 pm	17	18 Saturday Groups 11-3 & 7-8pm
19 Service of Holy Communion 10am	20 Food Pantry 4:30-5:30	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Lakeshore Heights Mtg 6:30-7:30 pm	24	25 Saturday Groups 11-3& 7-8pm
26 Service of the Word - 10am	27	28	29	30		