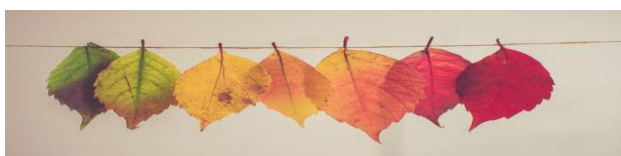


CORNERSTONE

“THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU AT ST. PAUL’S November 2023 Volume 32, Issue 8 St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

Pastor’s Article November 2023



Season of Changes

*I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares
the LORD;
they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you
a future filled with hope.*

Jeremiah 29:11 Common English Bible (CEB)

There is so much to reflect on this month...from the simple to the profound. I invite us to reflect together. Around us we see the leaves changing or have changed colors depending on where you live. We will change our liturgical calendar, with Christ the King Sunday (November 26th) marking the end of the church year and start of another. We will enter into Advent, Christmas and all the joys these seasons highlight of our faith traditions.

In the early hours of Sunday, November 5 we change our clocks back. **Remember to make that change.** And at worship we honor the memories of our loved ones on All Saints’

Sunday. This day reminds us not only of our loved ones, it also brings to mind the day our lives were forever changed, the moment our beloved family member, friend, mentor or colleague was no longer with us. It is both a day of lament and joy as we hold the tension of missing them and knowing that they have entered the church triumphant. For me this day is also a wonderful reminder of my ordination. Four years ago on All Saints Sunday I stood before you accepting the call to serve as one of your pastors.

Our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is also experiencing changes. We are revisiting who we are as church through the [Commission on Renewed Lutheran Church](#) and we are striving to be the [Future Church: God’s Love Made Real](#). We have committed to becoming a more diverse denomination. This commitment has had a tangible impact on my faith journey. In the past five years I have been blessed to attend two historical bishop installation services. Last month, on October 22nd, I had the opportunity to attend the installation of the new bishop of the Virginia Synod, The Rev. Phyllis Blair Milton, the third African Descent female to be elected and installed as a Bishop in the ELCA. She is also the first female and first African Descent person to be elected bishop of the Virginia Synod. In September 2018, I was also honored to attend the bishop installation of the Rev. Patricia Ann

Curtis Davenport, the first African Descent female elected bishop in the ELCA. Bishop Davenport serves the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod. I experienced these two installations as beautiful affirmation of my own journey. In 2018, I was a candidate for word and sacrament ministry serving as an intern here in PLUM. Five years later I attended as a called an ordained minister of word and sacrament serving at PLUM. The joy of sitting first as an intern and then as an ordained minister of word and sacrament is truly a testament to God's abiding love and presence. These installations were amazing historic moments in the life of our church and they also affirm how God is calling us to move forward as a beloved community. The services reflected the beauty and diversity of how we can worship and praise God. (The services are available for viewing: [Bishop Davenport](#), [Bishop Milton](#)) And, the installation services lift up how we can be beloved community together at a time when our diversity is often a divider rather than a reflection of the expansive God we serve.

There have also been many changes in our ministry and the world around us. We will say farewell and Godspeed to one of our partner congregations, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Canonsburg at the end of the year as they respond to God's call. And, we welcome Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Pleasant Hills as they join us for a year of discernment beginning in January 2024. We experience these changes of lament and joy in the midst of our world's continued pain and struggles such as the armed conflicts in the middle east (Hamas-Israel), in Europe (Ukraine-Russia), in Africa (Sudan) and

our own struggle continues in the presidential campaign that is fraught with tension. PLUM continues to grow as we seek to be responsive to the changes in our world and in our communities. Next year will mark our **20th anniversary** as partners in this amazing ministry God has called us to.

Yes, everywhere we look so much is changing around us. It is not always easy to move forward with so many changes. And yet, the constant that we can hold to is God's presence among us. The prophet Jeremiah told the Israelites that God had a plan for them. And I know that God also has a plan for us, individually, congregationally and as a cooperative. The amazing thing about change is that it brings about something new. What is the new thing that God is calling us to? I pray that you are as excited (even with a little nervousness 😊) to see the unfolding of all that God has in store for us. Let us step forth boldly with kindness, compassion and a willingness to forgive each other as Christ has forgiven us.

Looking forward to our blessed church year and the new year ahead of us.

In service together,
Pastor Brenda and Your PLUM pastoral team

PLUM Pastors:

The Reverend John Gropp/412-680-7867
The Reverend Brenda Henry/412-390-8005
The Reverend Susan Devine/412-496-4889
The Reverend Dr. Alexander Sumo/614-218-6730

Visit the PLUM website at www.plumofpa.com for all news and event updates

The call-in line for PLUM Worship Services and Bible Studies: Zoom online: <https://zoom.us/j/401596541>

Telephone: (646) 876 9923

Meeting ID: 401 596 541

PLUM website now has CLOSED OPTIONS available for people with hearing disabilities.



- **PLUM Taize service**, November 1, 2023, 7PM, zoom, and will continue every month, first Wednesday of each month, 7PM, zoom.
- **St. Paul's Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting**, October 15, 2023, was held after 11:15 church service. St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council presented three items to be voted on and be approved by the congregation. #1 - "It is the recommendation of the Church Council to approve dissolvent our membership from Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries effective December 31, 2023." #2 - "It is the recommendation of the Church Council to approve the sale of the property and buildings of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 210 N. Jefferson Avenue, Canonsburg, PA 15317." #3 - "It is the recommendation of the Church Council, to approve the power for said Council to carry out this procedure of sale. All three items were voted on and unanimously approved by the congregation. Pastor John

Gropp was the attending pastor for this meeting.

- **PLUM Bible Study**, will continue beginning November 2, 2023, 7PM, zoom. This Bible Study will be shared by all pastors.
November 2: LGBTQIA+ Justice
November 9 and 16: Justice for Immigrants
- **St. Paul's** constitution is in the process of being updated.
- **Fall Back Time**, November 5, 2023, before going to bed turn your clocks back 1 hour!
- **Resurrection Lutheran Church**, 7600 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale, PA, 412-788-4513, 3:30-6:30 PM, Carryout only, November 7, 2023, Election Day Spaghetti Dinner/meatballs, salad, roll, cold drink, dessert, \$11/Adults, \$6/Children under 10.
- **PLUM Worship Meeting**, November 8, 2023, 7PM, zoom.
- **Resurrection Lutheran, Hanky Farms**, will celebrate their 60th Anniversary on November 12, 2023. Pastor Sue Devine will attend and Bishop Kussero will preach at their 11:15 AM service.
- **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, November 12, 2023, Pastor Peter Asplin, Synod Representative, will attend and discuss the ways that the Synod will be able to support and guide this congregation as they become an independent of PLUM, effective January 1, 2024. Pastor John Gropp will be the attending pastor that Sunday.

- St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Meeting, November 20th, 2023, 7pm, zoom.
- **PLUM Board Meeting**, Monday, November 27, 2023, 7PM, zoom. Elections of officers will take place at this meeting.
- **PLUM Admin Worship/Leaders Luncheon**, December 8, 2023, St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Carnegie, PA, 15106, 11:15 AM. RSVP to Deann George, by November 15, 2023
- **Payne Chapel AME Church and Historic Cemetery of Canonsburg Food Ministry**, November 13, 2023, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM. Homemade Meatloaf Dinner (mashed potatoes, green beans, container of homemade gravy); Homemade soups \$2 a pint (chili, chicken corn, broccoli, ham & cabbage, Kathy's wedding soup, ravioli soup. Spaghetti Lunch, \$1 (2 meatballs, salad, roll). Orders must be placed by November 13th at 724-797-8030 (leave message or text), or email revfisherofmen@yahoo.com.
Abridged meditation, on Sunday mornings, 7AM, zoom (Meeting ID: 652 564 1386; Passcode 624369; 1-312-626-6799. **"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."**
Psalm 9:1.
- **Advent: December 3, 2023.** PLUM **Advent Study** will be using the ELCA World Hunger Bible Study, December 6, 13, 20, 2023, 7PM, zoom. Books are available at St. Paul's.



At this time, we offer ourselves to God—our physical resources and our whole life—recognizing that all we are and all we have are God's given to us and for which we are stewards. If you have a monetary offering for our congregation, please place it in the designated area either before or after the worship service or mail to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 210 North Jefferson Avenue, Canonsburg, PA 15317-3828.



Eternal Candle

November – Mike, Carol, Corey Ferens
December – Ann Morrocco

If you would like to sponsor the eternal candle in 2024, please notify Ann Morrocco, amorrocco1@gmail.com. Donation is \$25.00. Please put your name on the envelope, month, along with your check/money, place in the collection plate or mail to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 210 N. Jefferson Ave., Canonsburg, PA 15317.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Scott Cregut	November 3
Shawn Randolph	November 13
Donna Filby	November 25



WORSHIP SCHEDULE 11:15 A.M. -- St Paul's

November 5 – Pastor Alexander Sumo
 November 12 – Pastor John Gropp
 November 19 – Pastor John Gropp
 November 26 – Pastor Martin Rafanan

PLUM zoom service, every Sunday, 3PM,
<https://zoon.us/j/401596541> or go to
Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries on
internet and hit the click button for the
service.

HOW MISSION SUPPORT WORKS



Council will approve the following list of missions to be submitted for 2024 at their November Meeting.

If you have any recommendations, please notify Ann Morrocco, 724-746-5897 or amorrocco1@gmail.com before November 15th.

JANUARY – World Hunger

FEBRUARY – Canonsburg-Houston Ministerial Association Chaplaincy Program

MARCH – Mission Support (5 Sunday Month)

APRIL – ELCA Disaster Relief

MAY – Meals on Wheels

JUNE – Mission Support (5 Sunday Month)

JULY – Washington City Mission

AUGUST – World Hunger

SEPTEMBER – Mission Support (5 Sunday Month)

OCTOBER – Lutheran Senior Life

NOVEMBER –

DECEMBER – Mission Support (5 Sunday Month)

Lenten Folders – Money is split between Meals on Wheels and Chaplaincy.

Advent Folders - Money is split between Meals on Wheels and Chaplaincy.



Will you please consider saving your prescription bottles? These bottles can help people in third world countries. Remove all labels and rinse/dry inside of bottles. Box is inside front door of St. Paul's Lutheran Church on table.



Will you please consider saving your pop can rings? These rings are given to Bethany Evangelical Lutheran, Dormont, to help someone with cancer treatments.



Assistants

November 5 – Shawndel Kelley
November 12 – Karen Billingham
November 19 – Martha Randolph
November 26 – Lee Jones

Lectors

November 5 – Marcy Wright
November 12 – Logan Billingham
November 19 – Laurie Nickles
November 26 – Rebecca Harvison

Usher: Scott Latta

If you are interested in serving as an assistant/lector/usher, please notify Ann Morrocco; 724-746-5897; email:

amorrocco1@gmail.com.

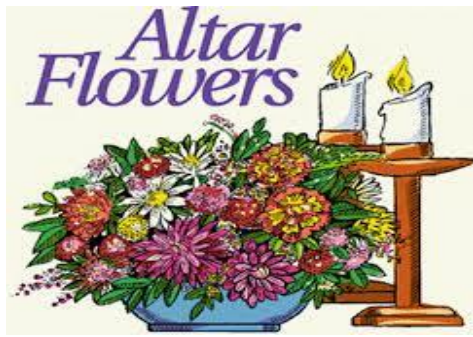
Notify Ann is you cannot serve on above assigned dates.



November 5 – Mark & Nancy Pollo
November 12 – Marcy Wright
November 19 – Greg & Deann McGrail
November 26 – St. Paul's Family Thanksgiving
Dinner – Signup sheet in Eberle Hall

If you are interested in sponsoring Fellowship for one of the Sundays in November, please sign the signup sheets on the bulletin board in Eberle Hall or notify Ann Morrocco; 724-746-5897; email:

amorrocco1@gmail.com



FLOWER CHART

November 5 –
November 12 –
November 19 –
November 26 -

If you are interested in placing flowers on the altar for a special occasion during the months of November, December, 2023, please notify Ann Morrocco; 724-746-5897; email: amorocco1@gmail.com.

Most Gracious, generous, loving God; You have called us all as leaders of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. You have called and entrusted us with the task of rediscovering what your purpose is for this community of believers. Guide us in this important work for our congregation. Give us all courage to look back, to look ahead and to see where we are. Give us vision to see where you are working in and through us and this congregation. Open our eyes to the needs of this community of believers and to the needs of the community that we are called to serve. Reveal your Spirit to us. Guide us as we seek to do your will in our daily lives. We ask this in the name of Jesus who told us to ask in order to receive, to seek in order to find, and to knock for the door to be opened to us. Eternal God, **C: Hear our prayer.**

ST PAUL'S PRAYER LIST

Please notify **Ann Morrocco**, amorocco1@gmail.com if someone should be added or deleted from our prayer lists.



Enfold all who journey with injury, illness loneliness, or grief, our members, our friends, our shut-ins, and peoples affected by the Israel-Hamas war, into your healing arms, that they might know your presence with them is sure, (especially) **Mark** Kostelich, **Corey**, **Pastor John** Gropp, **Karen**, **Logan**, **Charlotte**, **Milt**, **Steve**, **Barbara**, **Lee**, **Christine** (Lee's Daughter), **Dom**, **Gabe**, **Marcy**, **Tracie**, **John**, **Barb**, **Ann**, **Carol** Cramer, **Zach** Layton (PTSD exacerbation), **the Porter Family**, **Pastor Paul**, **The Richmond Family**, **our Bishops**, **our Synod**, **our PLUM pastors**. ,
Eternal God, **C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

God of all good gifts, your Son gathered children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to understand our youth as they grow in years and in knowledge of your world. Teach us to encourage their search for truth and value in their lives. Protect and bless all of our young people, especially, **Hazel** Julia Mae Cregut, **Elleanor** Marie Cregut, **Joelle** Filby, **Clarke** Johnson, **Larry** Ryan Johnson, **Gregory** McGrail, **Makenna** Ann McGrail, **Josh** Porter, **Jaxon** Porter, **Jordyn** Porter, **Adalae** Carmichael, **Stephanie** Richmond, **Sydney** Richmond, **Sammie Jo** Richmond, and **Skylar** Richmond.
Eternal God, **C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

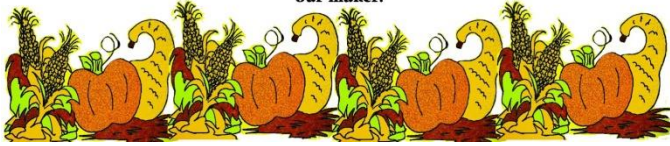
HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE

Psalms 95:1,2,6

O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the
rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a
joyful noise unto him with psalms.

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD
our maker.



ST PAUL'S Family FELLOWSHIP DAY **December 2, 2023** **10AM – 2PM**

Come and join us from 10AM – 12:30PM
when we do some required cleaning for
Christmas. At 12:30 PM we go to Eberle
Hall and have a Pot lunch.



IN MEMORY OF ALL SAINTS DAY **2023**

Samantha Lynn Mrvos
Bert & Emily Barks
Carol & Harry Lezorechak
John & Carmella Morrocco
Fonya & Bill Kelley
Michael & Dortha Herman
Deloras Billingham
Narcissus & Julia Gasparini
James Billingham
Karen Skinner
James D'Angelo
Ronald Baughman
Arlen Teets
Myrna Baughman
Margaret Ferens
Duane Raymond Wright
Elizabeth Hausele
Janet Sergus
The Rev Raymond Hausele
William Turoczy
Gloria Karmazin
Chris Thomas
Pete Karmazin
Ed Schwitters
Joyce Cregut
Edo Schwitters
Dan Cregut Sr.
Eleanora Schwitters
Gary Kennard
Marcel Leenknecht
Patricia Kennard
The Latta Family
John Jones
Sheri Jones



**POINSETTIAS ORDERS DUE NO LATER
THAN DECEMBER 10, 2023**

IN MEMORY OF
Quantity Color:

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NAME _____

Amount Enclosed _____

**COLORS AVAILABLE: Red; White; Pink;
Jingle Bells (Red with White Spikes). COST:
\$8.00 Each**

