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# ❖ NewsNotes ❖

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November 2017

Vol. 119 Issue 11

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## *On All Saints Day we pause, reflect on life in community*

By Rev Jeff Zell

*"I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints..."*

November 5 is All Saints Sunday. On that day we will remember the saints of our congregation who have entered the church triumphant since All Saints Sunday 2016.

This is a somber time of remembrance.

We ring a bell after each name is read. While we wait for the bell to go quiet, we silently give thanks for that person and their gifts within the Body of Christ.

We are well to recall that the Holy Spirit is the one who creates the communion of saints. Communion is community. Communion is not an assemblage of individuals, but a people who are brought together through the working of the Holy Spirit.

Together we have an identity: we are



the Church. Said another way, we are the communion of saints. Said yet another way, we are the Body of Christ.

In Pastor Joseph Stump's explanation of the third article, he says, "*The Church may also be called the Holy Spirit's Workshop, because He abides and works in it through the Means of Grace: The Word of God and the Sacraments.*" (1935)

I find the image of workshop to be true to my own experience. I am very much aware that I am blessed to be a child of God. I know that I am loved and cherished. Yet, at the same time, I am also very much aware that I do not live up to God's expectations most of the time.

I am, as all of you who are reading this are, a work in progress. The good and positive work that happens to all of us happens in God's workshop, the communion of saints.

God's tools are the Holy Word of Law and Gospel, the Water of Baptism, Christ's presence in the bread and wine, the love and forgiveness of God and God's people.

## God's Work project earns thanks and 'wows!'

On Oct. 12, Pastor and Marie Zell delivered the Lutheran World Relief Sunday School project from God's Work/Our Hands to St. John, Fort Wayne,

We, along with all the other donors, received the following note from Jaime Robbins, parish secretary.

*"Thank you so much to all who came and donated items for Lutheran World Relief. Thought maybe those of you who donated would be interested in seeing*

*what the totals are that we show received from everyone!*

*Quilts: 1,907. Blankets: 177. Soap: 638 pounds. Health Kits Or Personal Care Kits: 790.*

*Also, Sewing Kits: 36. Layette's or Baby Care Kits: 665. School Kits: 1579*

*As you can see that was a great amount of items received! Bless all who worked on making the quilts and collected items needed for the various kits! ...."*

## Hoosiers make time switch, and so do we

November is a month of change. For most Hoosiers it brings the end of Daylight Saving Time and the return to Eastern Standard Time.

For Gloria Dei members and friends, it means a modest 15-minute adjustment in the Sunday worship schedule.

Remember to set all timepieces one hour back before retiring Saturday, Nov. 4, and remember also that, effective Nov. 5, the liturgy will begin at 10:45 a.m., as per a joint agreement of the congregation councils of Gloria Dei and First English.

Sunday School will resume at 9:45 a.m. that day, and coffee hour will take



## *N.D. joins Reformation observance with Nov. 5 Sacred Heart service*

The University of Notre Dame is participating in the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by presenting a Common Prayer of Reconciliation and Remembrance at 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5 in Sacred Heart Basilica on the campus.

Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, will be the homilist. Other participants are Rev. Denis Madden, Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore; Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas Sparks, Episcopal diocese of Northern Indiana, and Rev. Dr. Charles Wiley III, Church (USA).

Area ELCA pastors are invited to vest and join in the procession. The service is open to the public.

## Open your Bibles to Romans 16 and read along with Bishop Bill

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Rev. Bill Gafkjen, I-K Synod bishop, writes a monthly message in the Synod newsletter. The following is his November contribution.**

**By Rev. Bill Gafkjen**

Greet Prisca and Aquila, who work with me in Christ Jesus, and who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. [Romans 16:3]

Before reading any further, I encourage you to open a Bible to Romans 16 and slowly, mindfully read the first sixteen verses. Go ahead; I'll wait.

This passage is not included in the three-year lectionary rotation of readings for Sunday worship. It's not appointed for any holidays or commemorations. This is a bit of an obscure passage that might evoke the mind-numbing lists of people in places like Genesis 5 and 11, genealogies that begin with the exciting introduction, "These are the

generations of..." But these sixteen verses are different; I find them to be inspiring and emotionally moving.

In the span of just a few verses the apostle Paul sends greetings to almost thirty people by name, plus a bunch of communities and families. In the naming, Paul signals how much each of them means to him and why Prisca and Aquila risked their necks for him. Epänetus was the first convert in Asia. Mary and Persis are hard workers. Andronicus and Junia were in prison with him. Ampliatius is Paul's beloved in Christ. Rufus's mother has also been a mother to Paul.

Person after person, community after community, Paul expresses deep gratitude and profound love for the long list of people who have impacted his life and have been partners with him in following and witnessing to Jesus. The tenderness and yearning with which he remembers each one is gathered up in his request that they all do for one another what he would do if he could be with them: Greet one



### BUILDING ON FAITH REPORT

To Sept.. 30 2017

#### YEAR TO DATE

Receipts for September	\$1.080
Mortgage paid for October	2,379
Loan principal on Oct 1	62,620
Mutual Bank balance on Oct. 1	15,660
Total paid from scrip sales	57500

At present, 88% of each payment reduces the principal. Current interest rate is 4.95 percent. Mortgage termination date is June 2020. Thirty-two payments remain. Pledges totaling \$150,543 were received in a 2014 fund drive. Congregation should continue making regular contributions and purchasing scrip.

Dan Lindborg  
Oct. 17, 2017

another with a holy kiss.

Is your Bible still open? Read through this passage again, slowly, mindfully. Let the names of people long ago and far away bring to mind the names and faces of people and communities who have been or are companions on your long baptismal journey to this point. Who has risked their neck for you? Who sat in some prison with you? Who has been a mother or father or sister or brother to you? Who has worked hard in the Lord and been a witness of God's deep and abiding love for you and for the world? What communities have nurtured, or are nurturing, your faith?

All Saints Day and All Saints Sunday (November 5 this year) often focus on "all the saints who from their labors rest." This is important and good, of course, as we give thanks for the lives and witness of those who have died and commend them to God's eternal care.

This November, I hope you and your community of faith will also find ways to slowly, mindfully, and tenderly remember and give thanks for the Priscas and Aquilas, the Marys and Junias, of your life and find ways to greet each of them and each other with a holy kiss of gratitude and love..

*Those who have asked for our prayers include ....*

Lorraina Doolittle, Al Saari

(Darlene Scherer's brother-in-law), Judithellen Larson,

Jordan Cone, Samantha Croymans, Ken, Thelma

Lemanski, Douglas Sorocco, Shirley Brunt, Cheryl Barker (Joan Forslund's sister), Gloria Sheneman, Gene Fortune,

Amy Fischettto (friend of Shenemans), Paula Sheneman (daughter), our shut-ins.





# November



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><u>Every Sunday at Gloria Dei:</u>                      9:45 a.m. Sunday School; 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour; 10:45 a.m., Sung Liturgy</p>			1 Bible Study, 10 a.m.	2	3	4
5 All Saints Sunday	6 First English Council, 6:30 p.m.	7 Mary Circle, 6:30 p.m.; Worship & Music, 6:30 p.m.	8 Bible Study, 10 a.m.	9	10	11
12 Pentecost XXIII Maj. Leslie Haines	13	14 Congregation Council, 6:30 p.m.	15 Bible Study, 10 a.m.	16	17	18
Pr. Zell on vacation to Nov. 20						
19 Pentecost XXIV Rev Ken Petersen Budget meeting Social Ministry	20	21 Ministerium at Gloria Dei	22 No. Bible Study	23 Thanksgiving Day, Office closed	24	25
26 Christ the King	27 Good Shepherd Council, 7 p.m.	28	29 Bible Study, 10 a.m. 1st English pre-school, 6:30 p.m.	30		

## News and notes about people, places and other things ...

New LA. albs have been purchased for Gloria Dei with a generous gift from Mark and Nancy Noffke. Nancy and Mark are the daughter and son-in-law of John and Gloria Sheneman. Thank you

for your generosity!

Pr. Terri Peterson, former pastor of Christ the King Lutheran, will be installed Nov. 4 as priest-in-charge at the Episcopal Church of St. John the

Evangelist in Elkhart. She is the first called Lutheran Pastor serving in a

*(Continued on page 4)*

### November Ministry Schedule

	<b>Nov. 5 All-Saints Sunday 10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Nov. 12 Pentecost XXIII 10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Nov. 19 Pentecost XXIV 10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Nov. 26 Christ the King 10:45 a.m.</b>
<b>Liturgical Assistant</b>	<b>Lisa Suter</b>	<b>Ginny Brummitt</b>	<b>Dan Lindborg</b>	<b>Karen Siderits</b>
<b>Servers and Acolytes</b>	<b>Liam Boyd Garrett Miller McKenzie Miller</b>	<b>Colin Dreher</b>	<b>Tyler Marek Dylan Marek Amelia Marek</b>	<b>Thomas Zell Cora Kazmierzak</b>
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Bob Suter</b>	<b>Jean Petersburg</b>	<b>Patty Carr</b>	<b>Ginny Brummitt</b>
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>Leslie Miller</b>		<b>John Miller</b>	
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Mary Ann Sorocco</b>	<b>Dolores Miller</b>	<b>Peggy Niedbalski</b>	<b>Michelle Megyesse</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Dorothy Anderson Jean Petersburg</b>	<b>Phyllis Thompson Lindy Dreher</b>	<b>Carol and Bob Larson</b>	<b>Mary Ann and Joe Sorocco</b>
<b>Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Lamp</b>	<b>F: Stephen Saine's birthday L: Open</b>	<b>F: Open L: Open</b>	<b>F: Gloria and Russ Buysse's anniversary L: Open</b>	<b>F: Marie Zell's birthday L: Open</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Phyllis Thompson, Lindy Dreher</b>	<b>Phyllis Thompson, Lindy Dreher</b>	<b>Patty Carr, Peggy Niedbalski</b>	<b>Patty Carr, Peggy Niedbalski</b>

**Ushers:** Harvey Holmes, Stephen Saine, Russ Buysse.

**Counters:** Nov. 5: Sorocco and B. Saine; Nov. 12: Lindborg and Fortson; Nov. 19: Forslund and Taylor; Nov. 26: Miller and C. Saine;

**Ushers scheduled by Russ Buysse, counters by finance committee; Altar Guild by Patty Carr, Sunday School teachers by Worship & Music; all others by Jack Seifer (jwseifer@mlkusa.com)**

## Notes

*(Continued from page 3)*

congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana.

Gloria Sheneman is expected to return home early in November to continue rehabbing from her ankle surgery. Gene Fortune suffered a setback after a hip replacement. He fell down some stairs in his Grand Rapids

home and fractured a femur. He remains in good spirits.

Sunday School begins Nov. 5. Singing, under the leadership of Jack Seifer, starts at 9:45, with lessons beginning at 10 a.m.

Teachers this year are Leslie Miller, John Miller, Kathy Marek, Jim Schleis, and Don Holmberg.

Thanks to Bob Suter and crew for an outstanding pancake breakfast Oct. 28 and an exceptional Beer & Brat reception that followed a truly

magnificent Reformation Vespers on Oct. 29.

Kudos to Dr. Vaughn and his assemblage of musicians.

**Looking ahead to December:** On the third will be our annual visit from Bishop Nicholas of Myra. The 10th we will celebrate Sankta Lucia at 4 p.m.

Christmas Eve services will be 7 p.m. at 1st English and 10 p.m. at Gloria Dei. There will be a 10 a.m. Christmas Day Eucharis at Gloria Dei.

Reformation: The day after

# After the hub-bub dies down, what next?

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, writes a monthly column for *Living Lutheran*, from which this is reprinted, with permission.** —

This is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. For the past year it has been “All Reformation All the Time!” Everything Martin Luther. The really observant have branched out to Philipp Melancthon and Johannes Bugenhagen. True believers will dress their children up as Martin and Katie for Halloween, or if they tend toward the fear factor, Johann Tetzl.



Bring in the extra brass. Fire up the choir. Sing the fight song (“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”). Dress in red. Binge-watch every Luther film and documentary. (I particularly liked Joseph Fiennes as the young, hot Luther.) This is our year!

Oct. 32. Now what?

When I am out and about the church, I like to ask people what it means to be Lutheran—what is distinctive about the Lutheran movement. Grace is almost always mentioned, along with justification. Some will say we are *ecclesia semper reformanda*—the church always being reformed. Others point to our work for disaster relief, ELCA\_World\_unger\_ advocacy and other work for justice. Most of this is part

of the Lutheran experience, but not unique to us. What then, did Luther uncover and what relevance does it have now?

Interestingly, Luther did not give his greatest emphasis to reform or to reforming the church. *Semper reformanda*—always reforming—was actually coined in 1947 by Karl Barth, a Reformed theologian. Liberation in Christ through faith was the freedom that transformed Luther. This freedom is what he wrote about most frequently and most passionately. The *Freedom of a Christian*, a short and accessible treatise, is probably most familiar. I commend it to you. In this brief work and in others, Luther makes the case that liberation in Christ is both a freedom **from** and a freedom **for**.

Freedom **from** is liberation from all spiritual bondage. We are set free from being trapped in ourselves, consumed by ourselves, from the belief or terror that we can and must save ourselves, that our **self** is the center of the universe. Life in Christ is not an inward-dwelling experience. We are free to get over ourselves. Freedom **from** is liberation from the law’s accusation and judgment. We are liberated from terror and despair, which are soul-crushing. We are liberated from the incessant and impossible task of measuring up. Freedom **from** liberates us from estrangement from God and God’s creatures. Caught in sin and standing before a God who demands righteousness, when we believe we are

## Budget meeting Nov. 19

Following the liturgy on Nov. 19, Council President Jack Seifer will call the assembly to order to conduct our annual budget meeting to discuss and adopt our income and expenses plan for 2018. All voting members are urged to be present and have input in this vital process.

responsible for our salvation, breeds resentment toward God and the objectification of others.

Freedom **for** means that in Christ we are set free for loving and serving others. Freedom is a relationship, not a new set of activities or the demands of a new law.

*Freedom for means that in Christ we are set free for loving and serving others. Freedom is a relationship, not a new set of activities or the demands of a new law.*

Luther put it this way: “Faith, however, is a divine work in us which changes us and makes us to be born anew of God. It kills the old Adam and makes us altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers; and it brings with it the Holy Spirit. O, it is a living, busy, active mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly. . . . And this is the work which the Holy Spirit performs in faith.

Because of it, without compulsion, a person is ready to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, out of love and praise to God who has shown them this grace” (*Luther’s Works*, 35:370-1).

No longer is God transactional and others a means to an end. This freedom is scandalous because it is based on unconditional grace. It is a gift. Think about it—do we feel the burden being lifted? Think about it—do we feel the complete love of God? Think about it—do we now see others through God’s eyes, free and beloved children?

On Reformation Sunday we will hear Jesus’ promise: “You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:32). On Oct. 32 and beyond let us live in that freedom.

## The return of the 5-and-10 scrip cards

Because you asked for it, we brought it back! The popular five-and-ten scrip sale is being repeated, but only until mid-December.

Small denomination gift cards from many popular retailers are available by special order. These \$5 and \$10 cards are perfect Christmas gifts for the newspaper delivery person, the babysitter, teachers, mail carriers, or just to treat yourself to a movie or a cup of gourmet coffee.

Available in \$5 gifts are Barnes and Noble, Panera Bread, and Starbucks. Ten dollar cards are available from Amazon, Applebee’s, Carrabba’s/Bonefish Grill/Outback, CVS, Home Depot. IHOP, Meijer, Olive Garden/ Cheddar’s/Longhorn, Red





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# NewsNotes

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Celebrating 137 years of faithful ministry of Word and Sacrament.*



**Rev. Jeff Zell, pastor**  
Hours by appointment  
[Jeff.Zell@yahoo.com](mailto:Jeff.Zell@yahoo.com)

**Dolores Miller, office administrator**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
8 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Friday  
1:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

Dolores is off on Wednesday.  
Office phone: (574) 288-5266

**[www.gloriadei-in.org](http://www.gloriadei-in.org)**

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Please submit information for the weekly bulletin in writing by noon each Wednesday.

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*Please notify the church office if a special occasion is missed*

*Those celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversaries in November include...*

### November Birthdays

Karen Siderits	Nov 7	David Lute	Nov. 19
Stephen Saine	Nov. 7	Sara Ann McCormick	Nov. 21
Earl Ulbricht	Nov. 11	Russell Buysse	Nov. 29
Max Johnson	Nov. 15	Ann Dean	Nov. 30

### November Anniversaries

Gloria and Russell Buysse	Nov. 23
Ann and Fred Dean	Nov. 24