

❖NewsNotes❖

November 2024

Vol. 126 Issue 11

Voting 'Christian first': What does that mean at the ballot box?

"For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all" -1 Corinthians 9:19

By Rev. Patrick Ballard

I love this country. Every day I am thankful to have been born in a time and place where I have the freedom to say the things that are on my mind, to worship God in the tradition that I choose, and to peacefully protest injustices that exist. My father served in the Army reserves, my grandfather was a Naval officer, and but for a call to ministry I probably would have served as well. I have an American flag hanging at home and to me it represents hope, possibility, and opportunity.

And as someone who was born just outside of Washington, D.C., and served my pastoral internship and first call in the metro area of our nation's capital, I have always enjoyed the political process. I often watch CSPAN in my free time and like watching the pundits talk about



various candidates and issues. And on Tuesday night November 5th, my eyes will be glued to the television which will be splashed with numbers and colors as the election returns come in.

Because in the coming days, If you have not done so already, we each will have an opportunity to vote for the leaders of our country. And, as it is for me each year, this is an act I participate in firstly as a Christian, and secondarily as an American citizen. It seems trite, but the old phrase "what would Jesus do" is a good place to start

(Continued on page 3)



THREE GENERATIONS: Papa (Pr. Patrick) and grandmother (Nancy Ballard) are all smiles following the Oct. 27 baptism of Lydia Ruth at First English. Beth Wood photo

Consider the 'all' in All Saints Day

When November 1 arrives on any day other than Sunday, the observance of All Saints Day is transferred to the nearest Sunday and appropriately renamed All Saints Sunday.

On November 3, Gloria Dei will mark All Saints Sunday with two special occasions: celebrating the recently confirmed and recalling the faithful departed.

In an essay recently reprinted in *Living Lutheran*, Benjamin M. Stewart, a professor at Lutheran School of theology Chicago, notes that All Saints Day "originally honored those who were considered especially holy: heroic figures from the Scriptures and martyrs who had given their lives nonviolently in witness to the faith."

Through the centuries it has become a way to remember the lives of all saints. He cautions, "There is a lot of meaning packed into the word all in All Saints, which can refer both to those "most beloved by us" and to those" beloved by others."

For Lutherans, Stewart writes, "All Saints resonates with the conviction that in Christ every saint is a sinner and every sinner a saint, *simul justus et peccator*. Lutherans especially remember on this feast that it is God's grace, apart from our works, that makes us saints. We find lasting rest only in the mercy of God."

(Continued on page 3)

Extra hour of rest: Curse or blessing?

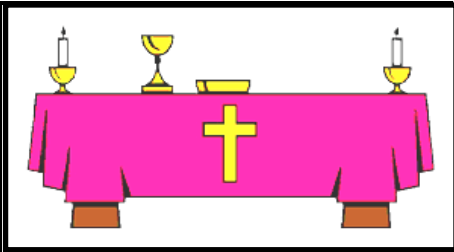
Sleep deprived, are we? Out of sorts? Perhaps a bit cranky?

Someone has heard you and is prescribing a surefire fix: more time. A whole extra hour of shuteye on the first weekend of November.

The semi-annual charade known collectively as "spring forward/fall back marks the end of Daylight Saving Time for most of the nation and the return to Eastern Standard Time at 2 a.m. Sunday, November 3.

It also means that a few of use will likely forget to set the clocks back on Saturday night and will arrive at church just in time for the postlude.



**ALTAR GUILD**

Nov. 3: (All Saints Sunday) Patty Carr, Peggy Niedbalski
Nov. 10: (Pentecost XXV) Gloria Buysse, Jill Seifer, Jaime Owen.
Nov. 17: (Pentecost XXVI) Gloria Buysse, Jill Seifer, Jaime Owen
Nov. 24: (Christ the King) Dolores Miller, Mary Ann Sorocco, Sheryl Taghon.

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Nov. 3: Ken Peterson
Nov. 10: Leslie Miller
Nov. 17: Dan Lindborg
Nov. 24: John Miller

LECTORS

Nov. 3: Darlene Scherer
Nov. 10: Jill Seifer
Nov. 17: Ken Peterson
Nov. 24: Beth Wood

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Nov. 3: Peggy Niedbalski
Nov. 10: Leslie Miller
Nov. 17: Sheryl Taghon
Nov. 24: Melinda Foley

SERVERS

Nov. 3: Amelia Marek, Louis Ponder
Nov. 10: Garrett Miller, Mackenize
Nov. 17: Cora Kazimierz, Erik Miller
Nov. 24: Henry Ponder, Everett Ponder

FLOWERS

Nov. 3: Anniversary of Barb and Dave Ponder by Andrews/Ponder.
Nov. 10: Open
Nov. 17: Birthday of John Forslund by Aunt Dolores
Nov. 24: Open

**SANCTUARY LAMP**

November: Open

SIGNIFICANT DATES FOR NOVEMBER

3 - (All Saints Sunday) 9 a.m., Sung Eucharist, recognition of confirmands, Gloria Dei.
3 - 2 p.m. Vasa meets, Fellowship Hall. Matt Baumgartner.
6 - 10 a.m., Bible Study, Gloria Dei
10 - (Pentecost XXV) 9 a.m., Sung Eucharist, Gloria Dei.
17 - (Pentecost XXVI) 9 a.m., Sung

Eucharist, Gloria Dei.
20 - 10 a.m., Bible Study at Gloria Dei
20 - Council, 6:30 p.m. at Gloria Dei.
24 - (Christ the King) 9 a.m., Sung Eucharist, Gloria Dei
27 - 10 a.m., Bible Study at Gloria Dei
28 - 7 p.m. Thanksgiving Day. Office closed.

Stephen Saine: 'an inspiration' to all who met him

Stephen Saine is remembered by his family as "an inspiration," a sentiment that is echoed by anyone who knew him, whether through church, work, Special Olympics, Logan Center, or otherwise.



Stephen Saine

Stephen died October 10, with his family at his side in Bay Village, Ohio. A memorial service was to be at 10 a.m. November 2 at Gloria Dei, with Pastor Patrick presiding. A reception in the Fellowship Hall was followed by a private graveside service. He was 46.

Born November 7, 1977, to Carol and Brian Saine in South Bend, Stephen was baptized at Gloria Dei and was a lifelong member, attending Sunday School, participating in the

annual Santa Lucia festival, and ushering for many years. While no official records exist, it would be safe to say that he has the longest tenure greeting members and guests, taking attendance, and collecting and presenting our weekly offerings at the altar. His ardent devotion to Notre Dame and Chicago sports (Cubs and Blackhawks) is legendary, and his Sunday-morning mood fluctuated with the fortunes and misfortunes of his favorite teams.

Growing up in Mishawaka and a 1999 graduate of Penn High School, Stephen participated in many activities and "was especially proud "of his gold medal in powerlifting at the 1999 International Special Olympics Games.

Stephen was a "hard worker" at McDonald Physical Therapy and recently was recognized for 25 years of employment there.

Most recently, he lived in a group home in Mishawaka, and this past

(Continued on page 3)

*Those who
have asked
for our
prayers
include*

Robert, Evelyn. Adella,
 Laura, Josphe, Douglas,
 Mary, Jan, Gloria, Mary Lou
 Susan, Dorothy, Carol,
 Pastor Gary, Pastors Thelma
 and Mike, Dann, Judy, our shut-ins ...



'Christian first'

(Continued from page 1)

when thinking about whom to vote for. Because for Christians, freedom doesn't just mean being able to do whatever we want or whatever is best for our own self-interest. Christian Freedom means standing up in the face of injustice and lifting one another up when we are in need. Martin Luther summarized it this way, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all."

I love this country, but I do not love this country more than I love Jesus. I do not love this country more than I love my neighbor. And so when I vote, and when I learn about the results of the vote, I keep Jesus' twin commands front and center: "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Surely each one of us will have issues decided or candidates elected that we are excited about, and candidates and issues that cause us great concern or discomfort. In a diverse democracy, this is always the case. But these issues and candidates are temporary; God's love and justice is forever.

So, as we participate in the election with our hearts and minds set on Godly things, let us also continue to pray for all the candidates, to pray for those whom we disagree with, and to pray for peace. And most importantly, may we always remember that Jesus Christ is Lord yesterday, today, and tomorrow, and nothing can separate us from the love, grace, and blessings we have through him.

Inspiration

(Continued from page 2)

summer moved to a similar group home in Bay Village, and finally to a home with family, where he died.

Stephen was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by brothers, Christian (Andrea Wilson) of Bay Village; Peter (J. Alex Sanger) of Chicago, and Jonathan of Barrington, R.I. Other survivors include seven nieces and nephews.

St. Nick, Lucia redux; other December dates

Looking ahead to the season of Advent, Christmas, and the end of the calendar year, here is the schedule, as of the end of October, of Sunday services and special events at Gloria Dei.

Nov. 24, Christ the King Sunday, marks the end of the liturgical year, and the following Sunday, December 1, is the First Sunday of Advent. On each of the Wednesdays in Advent, December 4, 11, and 18, there will be a spoken service, with communion, at noon, in our sanctuary.

"Ere he drove out of sight" last December, Saint Nicholas exclaimed, "Merry Christmas to all, and I'll see you next year!" This Bishop of Myra has made a reservation for the 9 a.m. service on Dec. 8 and promises "gold coins for all!"

The following Sunday, December 15, we will honor Sankta Lucia, whose feast day, December 13, recalls the witness of Lucia of Syracuse. Martyred at age 20 for refusing to deny her faith, legend has it that her appearance to the people of Sweden



Two familiar icons of Advent: Lucia and the Bishop of Myra, aka St. Nicholas

centuries later, clad in a white gown, bearing light and food in the darkness of winter and famine, was seen as a promise of hope and deliverance. It will be a Vespers service.

The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve, will be celebrated at Gloria Dei at 4 p.m. and at First English at 7 p.m. The choir will sing at both services.

Gloria Dei also will have a 10 a.m. service on December 25, with plans for special music. The two congregations will worship together at 10 a.m. December 29, according to the fifth-Sunday service rotation.

Consider the 'all'

(Continued from page 1)

At Gloria Dei, we will give thanks for the newest adult members: Henry Ponder, Mackenzie Miller, and Garret Miller, through the rite of confirmation via affirmation of baptism. Henry and Mackenzie completed their instruction earlier this year, and Garrett was "graduated" in 2022 but not recognized then because of Covid restrictions on corporate worship.

During the intercessions, we will name those members and friends who have joined the Church Triumphant since the last All Saints Day: to wit, John Brummitt, Barb Henry, Jean Petersburg, Neil Miller, and Stephen Saine.

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Stewart, Benjamin M. "All Saints Day: Deeper Understandings." *Living Lutheran*, Nov. 2022, www.livinglutheran.org/2022/11/all-saints-day/. Accessed 30 Oct. 2024.

'The Chosen' dates set for season two

The successful 'premiere' season of communal viewing of the mega-popular video series "The Chosen" has mandated an encore.

Season two will begin unspooling at 6:30 p.m. January 7 and will continue for the next several weeks. There are nine episodes in season two, and they include Jesus meeting with John the Baptist and preparations for the Sermon the Mount, among other topics.

Viewing may move to the Fellowship Hall for greater comfort.

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Friday
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Office is closed on Tuesday.

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**The deadline for submissions for the
December NewsNotes is November 22**

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
Max Johnson
David Lute

Nov. 7
Nov. 15
Nov. 19

Sara Ann McCormick Nov. 21
Russell Buysse Nov. 29

November Anniversaries

Gloria and Russell Buysse

Nov. 23