

# St. Paul Lutheran

## November 2023 NEWSLETTER



### From the Pastor:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

People are normally astonished when I remind them that Thanksgiving isn't a church holiday. It doesn't originate, at least, within church practice. Thanksgiving was the day when the European settlers sat down for a meal with the natives. It was a celebration of our nation in remembering the blessings given to our nation to make it what it is today. Thanksgiving was first recognized as an annual holiday by President Lincoln in 1863.

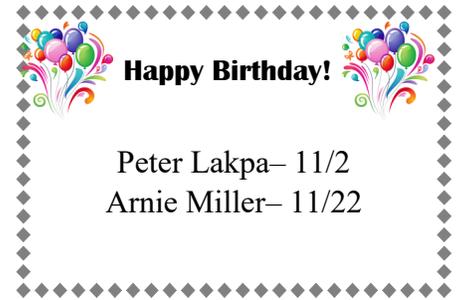
That doesn't mean that the church can't celebrate Thanksgiving. In reality, Thanksgiving only makes sense within the church. We don't utter a "thanks" into the empty air or offer up our gratitude to the cosmos. When we say thanks, we're thanking *someone*, a person, a being. We're saying thanks to God who has given us the blessings for which we're thankful.

Thanksgiving must be *redeemed*. It must be made useful to us by the Word of God. Indeed, we're told repeatedly in Scripture to give thanks to God. As Paul writes, **"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with *thanksgiving* let your requests be made known to God,"** **Philippians 4:6**. When we give thanks to God, we utter it to the very one whom deserves our thanks and praise.

So, we also celebrate in November a different church holiday for which we should give thanks. On November 1, the Church commemorates All Saints' Day. It's the day that we give thanks to God for *redeeming* those who have died and granting to them the greatest blessings of all: paradise eternal. Just like Thanksgiving, it's through God's word that we find our redemption. It's God's word spoken to us that redeems our life from death and grants to us life eternal.

It's not just us that God redeems. It's all of creation. It's our time, our thoughts, our lives. When God brings to us his Word, even the Word made flesh, he redeems us from death and hell that we may return to him our thanks. Jesus hung on the cross, shedding his blood for us that we may be redeemed in him. All creation may be redeemed by Jesus' blood so that we may rightly utter our thanks and praise, not to the earth, or to the air, or some false deity, but to God almighty through Jesus Christ our Lord! All thanks and praise be to God forever and ever!

Pastor Sorenson



### Serving in November

#### Altar Guild

Luanne Rommel & Berta Nelson

#### Tellers

John and Linda Willamson

#### Ushers

**November 5-**

Richard Beal, Randy Buss, Tom Niemczyk

**November 12-**

Rick Van Dusen, Ray Hellmer, Leo Lakpa

**November 19-**

Jerry Meise, Jamie Meise, Dan Dierks

**November 26-**

Richard Beal, Randy Buss, Tom Niemczyk

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**November 19**– Leadership Meeting

**November 22**– No Service (Thanksgiving Eve)

**November 26**– Deck the Halls! (After Service)

**November 28**– Vets Connect

### Poinsettia Sign up!



Christmas already? It's that time again to sign up for poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas! A sign-up sheet has been posted on the narthex bulletin board.

Poinsettias come in **Red, White, Pink, or Jingle Bell**. **Flowers are \$17 a piece**. Checks may be made out to St Paul Lutheran Church with "Poinsettia" in the memo line. Orders need to be in by **Sunday, November 12**.

You may pick up your flowers following service on Christmas Day.

### Deck the Halls!

The time has come to put up our Christmas decorations as we prepare for the Christmas season.

Help us get into the Christmas spirit with some decorating. Decorations will be put up on Sunday, November 26th after service. Pizza will be provided after service for all those who help!



### Madison Marathon

The Madison Marathon will be taking place this year on Sunday, November 12. **The route has been altered this year** so that Sherman Ave will be OPEN in both directions by church. However, if you are coming from the south of Church, be aware that some routes may be closed or face delays. Allow extra time in your travels.

A map of the marathon can be found at <https://madisonmarathon.org/races/>.



Please send any items you'd like mentioned in our monthly newsletter to the office at [office@stpaulmadison.org](mailto:office@stpaulmadison.org), or please call the office at 608-244-8077.

**ALL NEWSLETTER ITEMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE LAST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

Thank you for your help!

## St Paul Financial Update

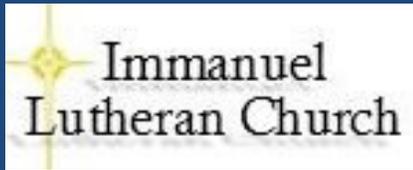
### GENERAL FUND INCOME AND EXPENSES

September 2023 Actual Income	\$10,947.48
September 2023 Actual Expenses	\$15,924.64
September 2023 Net	<b>-\$4,977.16</b>
October 2023 Actual Income	\$18,974.00
October 2023 Actual Expenses	\$17,898.33
October 2023 Net	\$1,075.67

### DEBT

Unpaid Balance on Mortgage Loan (10/31/2023) \$165,230.84

# LCMS Madison Church Partnership



## Joint Bible Study

Immanuel has long held a Wednesday morning Bible study. In light of our budding partnership with St Paul, Monona, and Our Savior Deaf, we would like to invite members from our sister churches to join us.

We start at 9:00am with treats and chit-chat. The Bible study proper starts around 9:30am and goes for an hour. We typically work through a book of the Bible, with occasional detours to discuss the theological implications of current events or questions from the group. The group is currently working through the book of Job.

The group meets at Immanuel (1021 Spaight St, Madison, WI 53703) downstairs in the lakeview room. Enter the church from Immanuel's side door (look for a mailbox) head down the stairs and hang a right.

## Upcoming Dates:

**November 12 (1:30pm)**- Partnership Council  
(Immanuel)

**November 22 (6pm)**- Thanksgiving Eve Service  
(Monona)

**December 6 (6pm)**- Advent Services begin  
(St. Paul)

**December 10 (1:30pm)**- Partnership Council  
(St. Paul)

## Thanksgiving Service

While we won't be having service at St. Paul before Thanksgiving, that doesn't mean there won't be church!

Monona Lutheran is hosting a Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 22 at 6pm. Consider attending with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ as we give thanks to God for his many blessings upon our churches.

## Joint Advent

Come and join us at St. Paul for our Midweek Advent services hosted **each week at 6pm**. This Advent, we will prepare to greet the coming King! Each week, we will have the opportunity to hear from a different pastor from our partnership churches as they share the word with us. Communion will be celebrated each week. Mark your calendars and be sure to join us each week!

**December 6**

**December 13**

**December 20**



Come early and enjoy a fresh made meal and some wonderful fellowship. Dinner will be served beforehand at 5pm, downstairs in the Fellowship hall. If you are interested in bringing a dish, side, or treat to share, a sign up sheet will be provided. Meal plans are still in the works and will be communicated at least a week in advance.

We look forward to having you join us!