**The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Lindy, Nebraska**

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**The Rod and Staff**



**November 2018**

**Thanksgiving and Stewardship**

**Uncle Sam Says, “I Want You!”**

Most of us are familiar with the old army recruiting poster featuring “Uncle Sam,” a personification of the United States government. “Uncle Sam,” decked out in his stars and stripes outfit, complete with top hat, looks out from the poster, pointing at the reader. The caption says, “I want you for the US Army!” This poster was used during both World War I and World War II as a way of reminding young men as well as women of their patriotic duty to serve their country it its time of need.

Coming up this month is the one hundredth anniversary of the ending of World War I, which many thought would be “the war to end all wars.” It was on November 11, 1918 at 11:00 AM that the armistice was signed between the Allies and the Central Powers. In our country, we remember this day as Veteran’s Day.

It was because of this upcoming anniversary that I got to thinking about that Uncle Sam poster and how it pertains to our lives as Christians. The autumn of the year is often a time when churches focus on the theme of stewardship. Perhaps this is because our Thanksgiving Day holiday falls in this month as well. God calls us to recognize Him as the source of all things and all good gifts. God desires to open our eyes so that we can recognize all that has been given to us. In turn, God calls us to a spirit of thanksgiving and stewardship. Everything we have, even if we have earned it, can be traced back to God’s provision for the world.

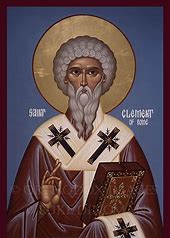
Therefore, stewardship has to do with recognizing that everything we have and are is a gracious gift from God, and because of that, God calls us to handle our possessions and lives responsibly. We express proper stewardship through how we handle our time, our talents, and our possessions. A lot of times when people hear the word “stewardship,” they think simply about money. Money is certainly a part of our personal stewardship, but more than that, stewardship impacts everything about our lives. When we are stewards, we know the importance of hearing God’s Word in church, of living Christian lives the rest of the week, and yes, of contributing out of our abundance to the life of the church, both locally and globally.

When we were baptized, God said to us, “I want you.” He gave us the precious gift of his Son so that we can stand before Him spotless, freed, and forgiven. God has lavished much upon us and still has much to give us as he continues to lead us like a shepherd throughout our lives. My prayer is that God would stir up among us a strong spirit of stewardship for the rest of this year, into the coming one, and well into the future!

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Commemoration of the Saints**

Lutherans do not pray to special people called “saints.” Our Lutheran confessional documents speak against that practice. However, those same documents that prohibit the veneration of saints encourage Christian people to look to the lives of significant Christians of the past as a source of encouragement for our lives in the present.



This month, we look at the life of **Clement of Rome**. He is commemorated on November 23.

There is little that is known about the life of Clement. In Paul’s letter to the Philippians in the New Testament, there is a reference to a Clement (Philippians 4:3), who may be the same Clement referred to in this article.

What we do know is that Clement was an early Christian leader, often called a “bishop,” in the city of Rome. For this reason, the Roman Catholic Church considers Clement to be the fourth pope, with the Apostle Peter being the first, even though the modern office of the pope in Rome with all of its present authority would not emerge for another several centuries.

As the Christian bishop of the city of Rome, Clement authored a letter from the congregation in Rome to the congregation in the Greek city of Corinth. In the Bible, Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth who were dealing with lots of problems. From what we can tell from Clement’s letter, the old conflicts in Corinth continued. It is thought that this letter, known as 1 Clement, was written in the year 95 A.D. and is therefore the oldest surviving Christian document that was not included in the New Testament of our Bible. Indeed, some early Christian communities considered the letter of 1 Clement to be a part of their Bibles, but 1 Clement didn’t make the final cut of the twenty-seven books of our New Testament.

Clement’s letter to the church in Corinth encouraged them to be unified in faith and not let disputes divide them. He drew on many examples from the Old Testament as he called them to repentance and faith. The city of San Clemente, California is named for him, but more than that, Clement of Rome serves as an example of an early Christian pastor concerned for the well-being of God’s people.

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Note: The Fall annual meeting will be held on Sunday, November 18 immediately after worship, with lunch following.**

**Featured Hymn for November 2018**

***In Heaven Above***

*Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, 172*

In heav'n above, in heav'n above,

where God our Father dwells:

how boundless there the blessedness!

No tongue its greatness tells.

There face to face, and full and free,

the ever living God we see,

our God, the Lord of hosts!

In heav'n above, in heav'n above,

what glory deep and bright!

The splendor of the noonday sun

grows pale before its light.

The mighty sun that goes not down,

before whose face clouds never frown,

is God, the Lord of hosts!

In heav'n above, in heav'n above,

no tears of pain are shed,

for nothing there can fade or die;

life’s fullness round is spread,

and like an ocean, joy o’erflows,

and with immortal mercy glows

our God, the Lord of hosts!

In heav'n above, in heav'n above,

God has a joy prepared,

which mortal ear has never heard,

nor mortal vision shared,

which never entered mortal thought,

in mortal dreams was never sought,

O God, the Lord of hosts!

* Laurentius Laurentii, 1573-1655

*Note: Written for the funeral of his wife in 1623, this hymn has become an important choice for All Saints’ Day and funerals.*

**Monthly Watchword for November 2018**

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

* Revelation 21:2 ESV

**Ushers for November:**

* Head Ushers:
  + Randy and Karen Hanson
* Ushers:
  + Les and Amy Johnson
  + Jamie and Mica Olson
  + Jim and Sarah Petersen
  + David and Diane Kumm
  + Ashley Guenther

**For Further Information on LCMC and the NALC:** You can download and read the newsletters of both organizations at the following addresses:

* **http://www.lcmc.net/newsletters**
* **http://thenalc.org/newsletter/**

**Website:** The web address is as follows:

* **www.gselclindy.weebly.com**

**From Martin Luther’s Small Catechism:**

**The Lord’s Prayer: The First Petition**

*Hallowed be thy name*

*What does this mean?*

*God’s name is indeed holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy also among us.*

*How is this done?*

*God’s name is hallowed when his Word is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as God’s children, lead holy lives in accordance with it. Grant this to us, dear Father in heaven. But whoever teaches and lives in ways other than what God’s Word teaches dishonors the name of God among us. Prevent us from doing this, heavenly Father.*

**Birthdays for November**

*Note: This list of birthdays is a work in progress, as we are currently trying to gather membership information from the old congregational record into an electronic form. If your name is not listed in the appropriate month, please let pastor know your birthday so that it can be added in the future. If you would not like your name to be listed, simply let pastor know. The birthdays are provided here as a way of giving thanks for the lives of members of the congregation. Happy birthday to all!*

* November 5: Richard Beckmann
* November 5: Jesse Eisenhauer
* November 15: Teri Edwards
* November 26: Natalie Peetz
* November 27: Tony Petersen

**Baptismal Anniversaries for November**

*Note: Just as it is important to acknowledge the beginning of our earthly lives with our birthdays, it is even more important for us as Christians to remember the day when God has given us a new birthday, a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3). Lutherans confess that baptism is the means by which God gives us as a part of sinful humanity a new relationship with him, a promise that our faith can look to all our lives. In turn, we are called to a life of repentance and faith that trusts in Christ as our salvation. As with the birthdays, this list is a work in progress. Blessed baptismal anniversaries to everyone!*

* November 1: Tim Jessen
* November 11: Perry Kolterman
* November 13: Beverly Kumm
* November 14: Marlin Kumm
* November 15: Jeff Barger
* November 18: Connie McDonald
* November 28: Jake Eckmann
* November 29: Sarah Arens

**Worship Schedule**

November 4: All Saints’ Sunday with Holy Communion at altar rail (White) (No Sunday school)

November 11: The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

November 18: The Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost with Holy Communion, continuous line (Green)

November 21: Thanksgiving Eve (White)

November 25: Christ the King Sunday, Last Sunday of the church year (White)

**Important Announcements**

* A continued “thank you” from Pr. Tom: I have not yet gotten around to sending individual “thank yous” to everyone, but for now please accept this as my and my family’s appreciation for all of the cards and gifts on the occasion of our daughter Antonia’s birth!
* No Sunday school on November 4 due to daylight savings time.
* The Sunday school Christmas program will be held during worship on December 9.
* We will continue, once a month on the fourth Sunday of the month, having a time of adult education during the Sunday school hour, starting at 9:30. There will be coffee and some goodies available.
* We have now concluded the clothing drive and have a massive pile to give to the Native American Heritage Association. These clothing items will go to reservations across South Dakota. Thanks to everyone for your contributions! Later this month, I will take at least a large amount of the pile to the headquarters near Rapid City, SD, and help is welcome whenever it would work for you. Just contact Pr. Tom for information about location and delivery.
* The fall annual meeting is on Sunday November 18 after worship with lunch to follow.
* Thanksgiving Eve worship will be held on Wednesday November 21 at 7:00 PM. No confirmation class that evening.

**Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. – Psalm 136:1**

**November 2018**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|  |  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4  No Sunday School, daylight savings time  Worship, 10:30 with Holy Communion (altar rail)  White | 5 | 6 | 7  Pr. Tom in Lindy  Confirmation class, 5:15-6:45 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11  Sunday School, 9:30  Worship, 10:30  Green | 12 | 13 | 14  Pr. Tom in Lindy  Confirmation  class, 5:15-6:45  Church council, 7:00  Youth meeting? | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18  Sunday School, 9:30  Worship, 10:30; Holy Communion (continuous); annual meeting and lunch after worship  Green | 19 | 20 | 21  Pr. Tom in Lindy  WOW/WNALC, 10:00  No confirmation class  Thanksgiving Eve worship, 7:00 | 22  Thanksgiving Day | 23 | 24 |
| 25  Sunday School, 9:30  Adult education, 9:30  Worship, 10:30  Christ the King Sunday (White) | 26 | 27 | 28 29 30  Pr. Tom in Lindy  Confirmation  Class, 5:15-6:45 | | | |
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Good Shepherd Evangelical

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