

Pastor's Column

For All the Saints

When we hear the word "Saints" in the Lutheran Church, usually "Sinners" is not far behind. This is certainly not without reason; Martin Luther was very clear that *all* of us qualify as both. But what good is being a saint if you are not the saint of *something*. When the people who we love pass, we don't designate them the saint of navigation or baking or remembering the right password and pray to them when we find ourselves in a bind.

So, do we call people saints just to be polite or out of some duty to Martin Luther? I think there's more to it than that. While Luther was adamant that all people could pray directly to Jesus and did not need the Saints to go to Jesus on their behalf, he found value in learning from the lives of the saints. Writings about and by saints have been sources of Christian instruction for centuries as well as sources of comfort for God's people.

Where does this leave *our saints* the ones we mourn in our families and communities, the ones we remember on All Saints Sunday. We tell their stories. The stories of their faithfulness that have inspired us in our time together on earth. The stories they told us in their words, their works, their tears, their joys, and anger, and their love. When other people ask us about God, when we ask ourselves about God, or even when we ask God about God.

The lives of those who have gone before us have so much to teach us. What would it look like if you could draw from the lives of the people you have known in the same way you might draw from a book of reflections or a large collection of tales of church patriarchs? How would it feel to try writing down one of these stories as if you were writing about a renowned spiritual authority or creating a piece of art that symbolizes one of their God-given gifts? We may not share the traditional Catholic understanding of saints, but that certainly does not mean we cannot keep them with us all year long.

Peace

Rev Sarah Moore

Rev. Sarah Moore



Memorial Fund Contributions

Dorene & Russ Jepson in memory of Corey Heiser

**December Messenger
Copy Deadline
November 25
12 Noon**

November Altar Flowers

Nov. 2--- First Vase--- Herb Watts in memory of Bruce Watts.

November Vigil Candle

Linda Crawford to the glory of God and in memory of Fred Crawford

Church Mouse Heard:

If you want to know about the troubles the Church is having, ask someone who hasn't been there for months.



Advent Giving Opportunities

By: Candy Rodgers, Church Treasurer

Once again, we come to this very special time of the year in which we celebrate and appreciate the birth of Jesus Christ. In this season, we do our best to reach out and be a blessing to our families, as well as others who mean a lot to us and especially those in need. Below is a few of the special offerings available for this Advent season. Thank you to all our members for your offerings that making our church a beacon for outreach in our community.

ADVENT CHALLENGE - As is our custom, we have the annual Advent Challenge. This is a way to help give us a boost at the end of the year to cover any decline in the current fund giving. The current fund covers all the budget expenses and at the time of this article we are running pretty close to our income projection. However, our income projection doesn't take into account the amount that we had planned to use of the carry forward. So far this year we have gone from a current fund balance of \$97,030 at the beginning of the year to a current balance of \$53,003. Each month a chart is posted on the bulletin board to show our progress through the year. You can find an Advent Challenge giving envelope included in this month's newsletter.

STAFF GIFT - Our staff of dedicated individuals work hard to keep our church operating and maintained. For those of you who wish to contribute to the Staff Christmas Gift just mark "Staff Gift" on a blank line on your giving envelope with any amount you wish. These funds are totaled and split evenly among the staff at the beginning of January.

GIVING TREE - For many years our congregation has brought much joy to many families during the Christmas holiday. For those of you who don't wish to take a tag and go shopping, you can mark "Giving Tree" and the dollar amount you wish to contribute on a blank line on your giving envelope. The committee will then use those funds to fill any gift tags still left on the tree or pick up additional gifts for those families.

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND - As the name implies this fund is used at the Pastor's discretion to help people in need with utilities, rent or other various assistance. Just mark a blank line your giving envelope with "Pastor's Fund" and the amount you wish to give.

Worship & Music Report

By: Joanna Pretz-Anderson, Chair

All Saints Sunday is November 2. During the prayers we will be naming those saints who have died in the past 12 months, lighting a votive candle on the altar for each. We will also include some silence for you to name others for whom you give thanks. If you brought in photos for the display, we will have them ready for you to pick up at the beginning of December.



Harvest Sundays are November 16 & 23. Please bring non-perishable food for the Lend-a-Hand food pantry and make your "offering" at the beginning of worship by bringing it into the chancel.

November 23rd is Christ the King Sunday. Worship will be at 11:00 am, followed by the Thanksgiving dinner. Sign up at church to help prepare tables and food, and to reserve your spot for the dinner.

The First Sunday in Advent is November 30. Look for announcements this month for when the Chancel will be decorated (likely on Monday afternoon, November 24th) Extra hands are always welcome to help!!

Daytimers Are At It Again

Daytimers are meeting again this fall. They start at 10:30 am on the first, third and fifth Wednesdays, play cards, have a pot luck lunch together, resume playing cards and adjourn at about 3:00 pm.



From Outreach/Stewardship

By: Dawn Grimm

Duffle bags filled with the tie blankets were delivered to Ashtabula County Children's Services on October 8. The intent is to provide a comforting blanket to a child entering foster care and to provide them with a way to transport their personal belongings. Thank you to all who are contributing to this effort.



Messiah will host the 3rd Trunk or Treat event for neighborhood families and children of Messiah on November 1 from 4 pm until 6 pm. You can come and pass out candy from the trunk of your vehicle which may be decorated or not. You can also come in costume, if you like. This year we are providing cold or hot cider, snack bars and hot dogs and could use help manning the food table.

As the harvest season is coming, we plan to give thanks and celebrate God. We hope you will bring in **non perishable food during November which will be donated specifically to "Lend A Hand"**, the food pantry hosted at Messiah. A list of recommended items will be provided. The recognition will be held two Sundays, November 16 and November 23.

The next project will be in anticipation of winter weather. Please look for sales on gloves, socks, wash cloths and toothbrushes/toothpaste.

The feminine hygiene project and the Blessing Box are a continuing need. You may contribute through your offering envelope by indicating the amount and which project you are directing the money.

School Supply Drive

By: Kathleen Nordquest, Coordinator

This year's school supply drive was very successful. We used our Thrivent grant of \$250.00 to purchase 200 boxes of Crayola crayons, 10 48-count packs of pencils, 10 packs of broad line markers, 10 packs of fine line markers, 10 packs of colored pencils, 10 packs of erasers, and 5 bottles of glue. About 8

Lend-A-Hand Food Pantry

By: Rick Ranta, Pantry Coordinator

We at the food pantry want, again, to thank everyone for their generous and continuous support. As you realize, inflation is hitting everyone, that includes the pantry's ability to give our clients the support they need with respect to food supply. Not only are we facing rising prices but also reduction in options from our primary source, Country Neighbor in Orwell.

In the last month we have experienced an increase in the number of clients as well as size of families. This resulted in our costs going up to over \$2000 for the month. We are currently not in financial straits but we are running into problems in getting food items. We do not get extravagant with our purchases, just try to give our clients 9 meals worth of the basics. It is the basics that we are having problems with.

This leads me to the reason for this article. November has been set as Harvest month at church, which is bringing in food stuffs to benefit the pantry. What we are constantly having problems getting from our supply source is:

- Bottled Juices
- Soups
- Cereal
- Canned Vegetables (other than spinach)
- Canned fruits (other than applesauce)

These are items that we have traditionally been able to provide our clients but are not always available. So if you are planning on bringing in items, I hope this helps. Again, Thank You for the tremendous support we receive for this very valuable and appreciated mission of Messiah.. Enjoy the upcoming Holidays!

members of our congregation donated approximately \$300.00 in cash to purchase additional supplies. Many others made direct donations of backpacks, black dry erase markers, spiral notebooks, crayons, and many other school supplies. The supplies were given to the teachers at Michigan Primary School which houses grades Kdgn. and First. The supplies were evenly divided among 16 bags, one per classroom. The remaining supplies were given to the school office to use as needed. Between shopping, sorting, and delivering the items about 25 hours were spent on the project.

Messiah Lutheran Church
615 West Prospect Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004



*Welcome
Home To
Messiah*



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November 2025

Worship:
Sunday 10:00 am

Sunday School
Sunday 10:00 am

For The Members and Friends of Messiah Lutheran Church,
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