

Pastor's Page - November 2017

Dear Saints,

The autumn beauty has come, inviting us to reflect on life's changing seasons. The 3rd chapter of Ecclesiastes keeps coming to mind, pondering God's purposes in the cycles and rhythms of life and faith. We start November with All Saints Sunday, remembering those who died in this past year, and years past, as well as honoring the memorials given. WELCA is going to Fort Atkinson's Fireside Christmas event on November 4th. Our Council meets with New Member prospects on Monday, November 6th, and we'll host their reception on Sunday, November 12th, along with the Confirmation celebration for Brianna Christensen & James Mildner.

Our Stewardship Dinner is at Leisure Village on Saturday, November 11th, and we look forward to the fellowship, meal, and musical presentation by Dueling Pianos. OWLS shift to Friday, November 17th. "Reveal the Beauty Within" church cleaning day is Saturday November 18th and we appreciate any of you who can help! We have Baptisms scheduled for the 19th & 26th.

Our Thanksgiving Eve Service & Pie Fest is on Wednesday, November 22nd at 7 p.m. We appreciate those who are able to bring a pie to share, and there has always been more than enough ... thank you! Our Helping Hands Food Pantry welcomes canned goods to feed local families in need. Saturday, November 25th is when our Worship & Music committee invites those who would enjoy decorating for the Advent & Christmas season, starting at 9 a.m. Friday night, December 1st, Pastor Nathan and carolers are asked to sing at Richmond's Tree Lighting, so please volunteer!

Our Advent Midweek Services actually begin on Wednesday, November 29th at 7 p.m., introducing "Joseph's Dreams of Christmas." Perhaps your holiday visions will be touched in angelic ways as these brief dramas unfold us each week. Refreshments are served after worship.

WELCA has their PONCA House Christmas luncheon on 12/2. We have our Congregational Annual Meeting & combined 9 a.m. Service & Potluck on 12/3. As we are in great need of additional Council members, as well as committee leadership, I ask for your prayers and personal consideration. "All hands on deck!"

A special "thank you" to our volunteers and congregational response for our month-long celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Nancy Romej, Phill Donner, Mary Beth Siddons, Pastor Sue Ellen Grudt, and Roxanne Hopkins gave weekly Reformation Moments, and rumor has it how Martin Luther himself put in an appearance on Reformation Sunday! Not bad for someone who is 534 years-old. The new banners are beautiful, and will be a great addition for future Reformation Sundays! We hope you enjoyed the Luther display case, which included a 365 year-old German Martin Luther Bible, an 1813 Catechism, and more. Our Sunday School had Luther craft projects for their classes!

Another "thank you" to our WELCA ladies in hosting the pastors of our North Conference at a luncheon on 10/17 here at All Saints. Pastor Sue Ellen and Phill Donner assisted me in leading worship for these colleagues in ministry from Lake County and our Metropolitan Chicago Synod.

Nineteen people came to our "Luther" movie night on Saturday, October 14th at 7 p.m., featuring the 2003 film with Joseph Fiennes and Peter Ustinov. Popcorn & refreshments were included, as well as an outdoor lightning storm. Somehow it was most appropriate, as the movie began with a scene of Luther in the midst of thunder and lightning!

While I make the effort to e-mail sermons to missing members in worship, and we post these on our website ... in truth, it's not the same as coming to worship. Let the power of God's Word, the shared prayers in our worship, the witness and fellowship of others who desire to serve in building up the Body of Christ ... become a part of your own response of Thanksgiving and stewardship. Become the kind of person you wish everybody else could be in your home church! And live gratefully ...

In Christ's Service, Pastor Nathan