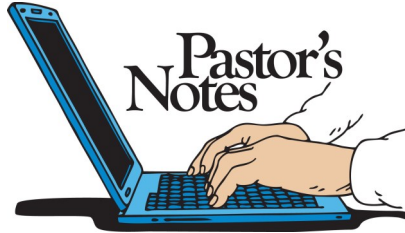




St. John's News

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Beloved,

2024



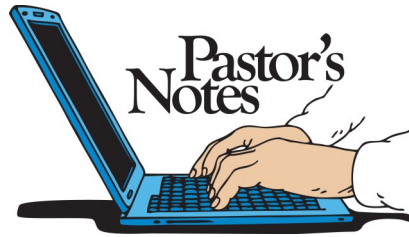
November

I'm writing this in the days before the election and by the time you read this we may or may not know who won. I do know that once we find out who will win the presidency many people, some of whom we know and love, will be disappointed, angry, or maybe even convinced that the world will end because of the results of the election.

It should have felt strange and just a little too much to end the previous paragraph by connecting the results of a presidential election to the end times, but in this election cycle it has become common to do just that. So let me be clear, this election and all elections matter. The results will have consequential effects on the lives of all of us. So you should allow yourself to be guided by the Holy Spirit to allow your christian faith to guide you in how you vote each and every election. While all of that is true, it is also true that no matter who wins this election or any future election it will have no impact on the divine timetable for Christ's return.

It is appropriate that as we enter November we will engage in some of the apocalyptic texts from Scripture. The word apocalyptic has come to be understood to be about the end of the world, perhaps accompanied by great destruction and suffering. But the word itself originally just meant to unveil or reveal something, it literally refers to the action of pulling back a curtain. In this way an apocalypse can be a genre of literature, from zombie horror to disaster movies. But the apocalyptic texts from scripture are not quite the same.

In Mark 13:1-8 we will hear Jesus warn us not to be led astray by the many who will come in his name. They will point to terrible events, war, famine, earthquakes, and say they are the one who can save you but they cannot. But in Daniel 12 we are given a vision of a time when a just ruler will arise and lead us in righteousness. The hard part is there is nothing we can do to make that happen, speed up its arrival, or slow it down. These texts are not intended to scare us into conformity to God's standards. All the scary stuff that Jesus mentions was already happening when he was teaching and has continued over and over again throughout history. The world is scary enough as it is, the apologetic texts aren't meant to add to that fear, instead they are written to comfort it.



continued

In a world where things seem out of control. One nation rises against another and commits the horrendous acts that accompany war and we feel powerless to stop it. Natural disasters just keep happening and destroying the lives of the innocent people who just happen to live there. Leader after leader will offer themselves as the only who can save you from the world, or from their rival leaders. In the midst of this Jesus says stop, be still, and know that I am God.

Jesus tells us that while we may want to think we know, no one can know the timing of God's plans. He even says in another Gospel that not even the Son knows the Father's plans. But the Father does have a plan and that is the good news. God is with us, we don't need to elect a savior, because Jesus is already here. We don't need to do anything or anyone to prevent or bring about the end times because God is in control. In fact in its most literal interpretation the apocalypse has already happened.

When Jesus died were told that the curtain in the temple, the veil that was understood to be divided between the human realm and the divine. A grand tapestry decorated with scenes of the cosmos that separated the human and divine realms wasn't just pulled back it was torn in two. Meaning there is no longer a separation, our realm is God's realm and God is with us, God will come to us, and God will dwell with us forever. It is already decided. When God comes it will not be with wrath and destruction, but with mercy and reconciliation - whether we like it or not.

Our task isn't to vote, or worship, or believe in any particular way to influence God's actions, as if we could. Instead we can take the advice from Hebrews 10, that tells us that because Jesus has brought us through the curtain, and we know that in the end we will be with God, "let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24- 25, NRSV)

All Saints Day was recognized Sunday, November 3



We lit a candle to remember each of our congregation's saints who passed away during this past year.

During our prayers of intercession we remembered Charlotte Goedde-Ulrich, Patricia Miller, Kate O'Donnell, Sandra L. McAvoy, and Norma Holt.



Council and Committees Update (October)

Reminders and news:

Thank you for all the candy donations. I am looking forward to greeting trick or treaters and their parents on Halloween. (tomorrow night at the time of this writing!)

Our next community event is December 8th, The Winter Festival. We will have a bake sale to support our youth and local vendors. Mrs. Red Shoes will again be with us. We are planning a Christmas carol sing along with Aggie on the organ to close out the day. Stay tuned for more details.

Our last committee meeting following church will be November 10th. Please mark your calendars. Details to follow.

The Village Carpenter has completed work on our building. Look at the great job they did. Thank you to the Village Carpenter for helping us trim the tree that was encroaching on our neighbor. It was so helpful to have the right equipment here to accomplish that task.

Ways you can help with our mission:

Our little food pantry is helping families in need in the area. Food and dollar donations are welcome. Popular items are peanut butter, cereal, macaroni, and cheese mixes. The cost to keep it filled is between \$50 and \$100. If you want to contribute money, please put it in a pew envelope marked little food pantry.

We have been supporting the Synder children since both their parents died. Their birthdays are coming up, if you want to contribute money or gift cards, please put in a pew envelope marked Synder family.

Pick up a green bag and label, found in the basement to the left as you go in the side door, to contribute your bottles to our Klink account. Klink is a program with Hanaford. Bottles donated will go towards our youth program.

It was with deep sadness that we faced the death of long-time member and many time Council President Kate O'Donnell. Kate loved our church, and we loved her back. We have been forever blessed with the time, talent and love she shared with us.

Blessings, Linda Zell, Council President



LCW happenings

LCW will meet in November 21 at 5:30.

We will help each other get our Baskets together for our sale and plan our menu for our Christmas gathering on December 18 at 5:30 pm.

Updates and upcoming

This coming Sunday, November 10, we have our committee meetings during coffee hour after church.

Come and share ideas!



We had 807
Trick or Treaters
on Halloween!

A blue and white graphic with snowflakes and a white brushstroke background. The text is centered within the white brushstroke area.

We are preparing for Winterfest!

Winterfest is Sunday, December 8.
If you are interested in baking for our bake sale or helping the day of please let us know!

LCW has a tree this year decorated with recipes. Courtney has pretty, seasonal cards for the recipes.

Please contribute your favorite holiday recipes and stop by the Masonic lodge on December 8 to vote for the LCW tree.

This year Winterfest will conclude with a carol sing at St. John's at 4 pm.

1 David Boettner
 1 Kevin Orcutt
 2 Amber Reedy
 3 Linda Devenpeck
 3 Anne Patnode
 5 Rebecca Choiniere
 5 Susan Patterson
 5 Alex Olsen
 6 Barbara Kossman
 8 Rick Seppa
 10 Courtney Reimer
 10 C.J. Johnson
 10 Tayla Baldauf
 12 Marilyn Armstrong
 12 Cole Cowan
 15 Michael Hitt
 15 Gabriel Ableman



16 Kaitlin Jewell
 17 Maxine Crane
 17 Nickolas Kossman
 17 Amanda Schanz
 18 Debbie Jewell
 18 Nicholas Tymchyn
 18 Evan Williams
 19 Evan Perlee
 21 Andrea Zimmerman
 22 Yvonne Berschwinger
 22 Ismay Hudson
 22 Laurel Snyder

23 Dan Hitt
 23 Sara Stock
 24 Denise Koskey
 27 Pastor Gregory Zajac
 29 Pastor Eric Reimer
 30 Linda Zell

1 Ron Clough
 2 Kyle Williams
 3 Mark Dean
 3 Evan Alban
 6 Dean Johnson
 8 Ethan Connolly
 8 Faith McCoy
 9 Violet Armstrong
 13 Daniel Choiniere
 13 Sarah Jones
 13 Debby Romano
 16 Matthew Hudson
 16 Natalie Grant

17 Greg Peck
 19 Camilla Armstrong
 19 Carla Stefan
 20 Laura Caruso
 21 Jim Lemmerman
 24 Brian Gibbs
 27 Kristen Teuscher
 27 Barbara Armstrong
 30 Olivia G. DiBartolomeo
 30 Zachary Connolly
 30 Barbara White
 30 Iris Chevalier





October

10/25/1985- Brian & Linda Zell

November

11/2/1957 Guy & Barbara Armstrong

11/10/1979- Steve & Nancy Caruso

11/16/1974- Allan & Valerie Gaige

If you have a change of phone number/address/email address or would like to be added to the birthday or anniversary list(s), please call 518-861-8862.



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Guilderland Food Pantry

- spaghetti sauce (cans preferred)
- baked beans
- scalloped potatoes
- tuna
- any canned fruit (except applesauce)

Altamont Food Pantry

- Broth (any kind: beef, chicken, vegetable)
- Mac and Cheese
- Pasta
- Salad Dressing
- Soup (especially hearty soup like Progresso and Chunky, Cream of Chicken, Ramen Noodles)
- Coffee and Tea
- Peanut Butter
- Tuna
- Crackers
- Gluten-free items such as pasta
- Dog and Cat Food
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Sanitary Napkins and Tampons
- Laundry Detergent
- Tall Kitchen Garbage Bags
- Household Cleaners

St. John's Little Food Pantry

- snack foods
- individual mac/cheese
- basic canned goods (veggies, chili & soup)
- breakfast cereal
- razors
- soap
- shampoo
- toothpaste
- floss
- deodorant
- menstruation products

WELCOME

Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church, a faith community united in love, filled with hope, and open to the power and gentleness of a holy spirit within us. We invite you to be part of the St. John's faith community. You are welcome at worship, in Sunday church school, at Fellowship events, at Bible Study and prayer gatherings. Together we can share our faith stories and continue on our spiritual journeys.



Thank you, Lord for:

Return Service requested

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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