

Schedule of Events at a Glance

Thursday, November 10

Church Council 7:00 pm

Sunday, November 13

Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Sunday, November 20

Christ the King Sunday

Mentoring & Celebration Sunday

Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Community Thanksgiving Service@
Holy Trinity 7:00 pm

Sunday, November 27

Prayers for Healing

Worship 8:00 & 10:45 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Pastor's Words

Dear Friends in Christ,

November has arrived, with all of its changes. The growing plants of summer and early fall have come to the end of their life cycles, and the harvest has been gathered. The cold wind and rains of November will soon strip the last of the fall leaves from the trees. Snow has already blanketed the ground in the final days of October, and a heavy frost covered the ground this morning. We are hopeful for a few more dry and sunny days, but we know that as the month progresses, cold and gloomy days and muddy yards and fields will soon be the standard fare. As chill and darkness become more dominant, we withdraw into the warmth of our homes, and begin

to focus on preparations for the holidays.

In our churches, November is also a time of transition. The month begins with the festive celebration of All Saints, observed this year on November 6. As we gather on that Sunday, our worship celebration focuses on the gift of Baptism that joins us to the death and resurrection of Christ, so that as we remember loved ones who have been called from this earthly life during the past year, we can do so with thanksgiving, and "...in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ." Then, we have one more "green" Sunday, on November 13, when we will hear Jesus tell a parable of the second coming in the Gospel for the day. Sunday, November 20 is the final Sunday of the church year, the Festival of Christ the King. On the last Sunday of the November, we celebrate the First Sunday in Advent, beginning a new church year and our journey toward Christmas.

In the midst of this month of change comes our national day of Thanksgiving. Soon we will gather with family and friends to enjoy this holiday of harvest and home, thanking God for the bounty of field and forest, and sharing the company of loved ones. It is a time to reflect on the goodness of God, and all that we have been blessed with – the fruitful land, a free and prosperous nation,

safe and warm homes, good health, and people with whom we share loving and supportive relationships. That reflection prompts us to words and deeds of thanksgiving. As we give thanks to God for all our material blessings, it is also fitting that we express our thanks to those around us who are created in God's image, and in whom we find the gracious love of the Almighty extended to us. Sisters and brothers in Christ are truly one of God's greatest gifts. Please make an effort to join with our neighbors in Christ as the churches of the Ligonier Valley join together in worship. As you will also read elsewhere in this newsletter, the Association of Churches' Community Thanksgiving Service will return to a more traditional service format, and will be held at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church at 7:00 pm on Sunday, November 20.

In my pastor's page of our September – October edition of this newsletter, I wrote about the efforts of our Evangelism and Stewardship Committee to provide a "planning worksheet" to assist members of the congregation in providing information and guidance to family members at the time their death. A copy of that document is enclosed in this newsletter. Please accept it in the spirit in which it is shared. As I wrote last time, *"Taking time to create something that will help provide guidance"*
(continued on next page)

through a very dark and difficult time is a great gift that you can give to those who love you." I am available to answer questions and consult with you on this matter. If you would like, we will make copies of the document for you, and, at your option, will keep a copy of the completed form in a confidential file in the church office.

Finally, I urge you to read the page in this newsletter titled, "Why We Give." This is the first of a series of stewardship messages written especially for our congregation by a member of our own Evangelism and Stewardship Committee who has been attending a series of stewardship training events offered by the synod. Keep in mind that this is not some "canned" message, but heartfelt words written for the members of St. James by one of our own members!

Happy Thanksgiving, and may you be blessed by the presence of Christ in all that you do! *Pastor Paul*

St. James Mentoring To Begin

St. James mentoring program will begin this season with a brunch Sunday, November 20 at 9:30 am in fellowship hall. This will be an informal gathering with no program. Mentoring members may indicate their intention to participate by signing the sheet on the desk in the church. Please plan to bring food to share.

Budget And Elections Meeting

As set forth in the constitution and by-laws, the congregation will meet Sunday, November 20, to elect Church Council members and approve the 2011 budget. The meeting will be held following the 10:45 am service.



The Ligonier Community Thanksgiving Service

Will be held Sunday, November 20, at 7:00 pm at Holy Trinity Church. For the past 3 years the community Thanksgiving gathering has been held in the less formal setting of the Valley Youth Network facility at the Millcreek Barn. This year marks a return to a more traditional worship format of hymns, scripture, and prayer. The offering for the evening will enable the Association of Churches' ministry of caring for those who are less fortunate passing through our community.



Pork Chop Dinner

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday celebration, our next pork chop dinner will be held on Thursday, December 1. Reservations are required. If you can help with the dinner in any way, sign up at the information desk or call the church office.



Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner

The members of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 331 Weldon Street, Latrobe, invite you to their 31st Annual Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner. Devotions begin at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. A full course meal will then served at noon. There is no charge for the meal, but a ticket must be obtained from the Trinity church office by November 21. Join them in the blessings of food, fellowship and community this Thanksgiving.



Poinsettias To Decorate the Church

Will be available at a price of \$7.00 per plant. Please fill out the order form located in the newsletter and turn it in at the church no later than November 27. Please be sure to mark the number of poinsettias and the color(s) you wish to order. When you make your payment please indicate "Poinsettias" so that you will receive credit. If you have any questions please call the church office.

Care Packages For Students & Military Personnel

It's time to send our students and military personnel a surprise gift from their church family. We are collecting items to send them pre-holiday "care packages." It's a great way to say we are thinking of them at this stressful time. Here are some items we are requesting for our gift packs: microwave popcorn, granola bars, post-it note pads, pencils, pens, erasers, hot chocolate, tea bag, or instant coffee packets, candy, pretzels, gum, or something fun like Silly Putty, stickers, fake tattoos, rubber ball, etc. You may donate several of one item (up to 20), or one of each, or whatever you are able. Items are needed by mid November. A box will be placed under the information desk. Thanks from the Stewardship and Evangelism Committee.



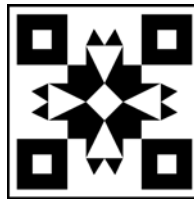
Salvation Army Bell Ringers Are Needed

Members of St. James will again be ringing the bell at the Giant Eagle store this year. Please sign up to help the Salvation Army's mission! The dates are Wednesday, December 7, and Thursday, December 8, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. A sign-up list is now available on the information desk.



Christmas Gifts For Children

The lists for the local Salvation Army are now available at the information desk. These gifts should be back to the church by **December 11**. The lists for Trinity Lutheran Church, in the North Side will be arriving soon. If you plan to participate in either program this year please see the sign-up sheets at the information desk or call the church office. Folks who have pledged a monetary gift are asked to turn those in as soon as possible so addition lists can be distributed. Please contact Lois Kappel if you have any questions.



Blanket Drive

In order to help our friends and neighbors in the community stay a little warmer this winter, Smith Oil holds an annual blanket drive. They are collecting new and gently used blankets (no holes or frays) for distribution through the Westmoreland County Food Bank. A basket for donations is in the side room of the church, and blankets will be collected until the end of March. Be sure to find it in your warm heart to help with this wonderful cause!

The Ligonier Food Pantry Collection

Has asked the people of St. James to collect noodles and pasta for the December distribution. There is a box in the side church for your donations. Please try to have your donations to the church by Sunday, December 11.



Christmas In Salem Crossroads

Come and see this annual event! Step back in time and experience the Spiritual Joy of Christmas by taking a walking journey through the past. December 3-4 and 10-11 from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm on Saturdays, and 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm on Sundays. A wonderful family Christmas Tradition in the little town of Delmont, PA. For ticket information or reservations, call 724-468-4003 between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm weekdays or visit the website at www.christmasinsalemcrossroads.org.

Relay For Life Update

The St. James Relay For Life Team members would like to thank the congregation for their donations this year. With the support of our church members our team was able to raise a total of **\$3,891.65** and achieved the Silver Level honor. Working together we made a difference! Thank you!



The Sacrament Of Holy Baptism

On September 18, we welcomed Brooke Avery Matson to God's family as she received this sacrament of grace. Brooke is the daughter of Laura Matson and granddaughter of Ernest & Karen Matson.

Thanks
for your
participation

Thank you

Dear St. James Friends,
Thank you very much for supporting the Polymath Park tour and the Yankee Candle® fundraiser that I organized for our St. James family and friends. I was impressed by the number of you that supported both projects. Thanks to your generous help, both fundraisers will help to defray the cost of the repairs to our "Luther" stained glass window.
--The Gangewere's

God's Glory Glass!

As we re-dedicate the restored Luther window on All Saints' Sunday, November 6, the "God's Glory Glass" items, made from pieces of the original stained glass, will be displayed for sale on that date and in the following weeks. All profit from this project will go to the window restoration fund.

Extra Strength Pane Relief Update

Finance Secretary J. Miller reports that as of 10/30/11 the uncollected balance on the stained glass window restoration is \$40,690.66

General Fund Update - Financial Support Is Needed

As of October 31, the General Fund is short of expenses by \$6,341.13. Year 2011 is growing short. With two months remaining better attendance and committed giving, the deficit can be overcome!



Holiday Greetings To Our Shut-Ins

Here is a current list of our St. James shut-ins members if you would like to take a moment to send a card during the upcoming holidays.

Please call the church office for addresses:

B. & S. Butler

F. Cooper

L. Hauger

T. Hauger

O. Kim

Dr. T. Matthews

H. & D. Muenchow

F. Oesterlin

R. Perry

E. Rossell

D. Schmidt

B. Springer

E. Swank

L. Thiel

