

NOVEMBER 2014

P A S T O R A N T H O N Y ' S R I P P L E S

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

In last month's article, I talked about how generous the early Christians were with what God had blessed them with. Their generosity was not done out of obligation, but rather out of joy. God has given us property and resources not only for our own use but also for our neighbor's benefit. With glad and generous hearts, we share with others what we have been blessed with.

Now sharing has two sides to it, those who give to their neighbors and those who receive from their neighbors. Hopefully throughout your lifetime you will experience both sides of sharing in Christ's name. If we, the church, only teach about sharing with others, then we won't be very good receivers. And likewise, if we only teach about receiving, then we won't be very good at sharing.

"All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need." – Acts 2:44-45

The text says that these early Christians had "all things in common" and they would "distribute the proceeds to all." They fully shared with one another, sometimes being on the receiving end, sometimes being on the giving end. The underlying message here then is simple: they took care of each other.

How are you and your family taking care of others? How are others taking care of you and your family? I encourage you to talk about this with your family in the coming weeks. This can be a good topic of conversation at the supper table or as you are driving to/from sports/dance practices.



And how about our churches, how are they sharing with others? On Wednesday, October 1st, a group of women from St. Peter stood at various bus stops in Ceylon to hand out little snack bags to the students as they got off the bus in the afternoon. Our guests from South Africa, Pastor Duma and his wife Balungile helped us hand out these bags. This is one example of sharing. Where else do you see your congregation sharing with others?

One way in which all three of our congregations are sharing with others is the Food Shelf Challenge that we have accepted.

We have been challenged to collect at least 1 pound of food for each baptized member of our congregations. If we meet the challenge, then as a parish we will have collected at least 850 lbs. of food to be shared with families who are in need of food in Martin County. We are collecting now through our Thanksgiving Eve worship service. Let the sharing begin!

In Christ,
Pastor Anthony

P A S T O R E R I C ' S R I P P L E S

Sharing...

At it's very beginning the Church was about sharing. That's because Jesus emphasised it. And Jesus was reasserting the value that God always emphasised which was that people were to look after one another and especially the strangers or foreigners that somehow ended up living with them because they were strangers and foreigners themselves at one time. And, they were to take care of the orphans and widows which is sort of the same thing.

Isn't it great that this value is still at the core of who we are as St. Peter and Trinity and Waverly and as the Circle of Faith parish and as individual disciples. It shows that God's Word has been proclaimed and heard and followed, through the years, in our lives and communities. So we see people sharing their time and abilities to teach and learn and sing and clean and fix and think and plan and organize and read and play and prepare food and pray and help. And we see people sharing their money to be used for heating and seating and hearing and witnessing and feeding and worshipping and healing and helping.

This is light for the darkness that is in the world and in us and this is salt that gives life to what is lifeless around us.

Thanks for being that much needed salt and light,

Eric Midthun
Associate pastor, Circle of Faith Parish



Wednesday, November 5th
5:30 – 7:30 pm
Host is Pastor Eric, at Kathryn Detert's in Ceylon
Kathryn's address is: 411 W Grant St

November Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship Services

| Date | St. Peter – 8:30 am | Trinity – 10:30 am | Waverly – 10:30 am |
|---|---------------------|--|--|
| November 2 – Communion <i>All Saints Sunday</i> <i>Altar Color: White</i> | Pr. Anthony | Pr. Anthony | Pr. Eric |
| November 9 <i>Altar Color: Green</i> | Pr. Anthony | Pr. Eric | Pr. Anthony Special Congregation Meeting after Worship |
| November 16 <i>Altar Color: Green</i> | Pr. Eric | Pr. Eric | Pr. Anthony |
| November 23 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> <i>Altar Color: White</i> | Pr. Eric | Pr. Anthony Special Congregation Meeting after Worship | Pr. Eric Special Congregation Meeting after Worship |
| November 30 – Communion <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Altar Color: Blue</i> | Pr. Anthony | Pr. Eric | Pr. Anthony |

Special Joint Worship Service

| Date | St. Peter | Trinity | Waverly – 7:00 pm |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, November 26 <i>Thanksgiving Eve Service</i> <i>Altar Color: Green</i> | <i>Joint Service @ Waverly</i> | <i>Joint Service @ Waverly</i> | Joint Service – Pr. Eric Preaching |

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday, November 1st.



STEWARDSHIP

A way of living

The word “STEWARDSHIP” is not just about money. Stewardship is a way of living for us as Christians. Starting on Sunday, November 9th, we will explore how we can be good stewards of all the gifts that God has given us. God has blessed us with fruits of his creation and has entrusted us to care for them. How do we care for God’s creation, God’s church, and God’s people? Come and join us as we explore together how to be better Stewards.

DEER HUNTERS!!

Deer hunting is a sport, a family activity, and a favorite past time for many. Go and enjoy the crisp morning air as you hunt. We also would like to invite you to come and worship your God and creator who has given you this beautiful creation to enjoy. God doesn't care how you are dressed! So come, worship God in your camo and blaze orange. Worship begins at St. Peter at 8:30 am. At Trinity and Waverly, worship begins at 10:30 am. Come and join us as we praise God for his many blessings.

FOOD SHELF CHALLENGE

Circle of Faith Parish has been challenged to collect 1 pound of food for each one of our baptized members. The food collected will be then donated to Heaven's Table and the Salvation Army in Fairmont. If we meet the challenge, Circle of Faith will be donating over 850 lbs. of food to those in need. Here is the breakdown of the challenge for each church:



St. Peter – 185 lbs.
Trinity – 450 lbs.
Waverly – 215 lbs.

Please bring your non-perishable food items to your respective church before Thanksgiving!

WINE, WOMEN & the WORD

Tuesday, November 18th
At Karen Koeder's

6:00 – 8:00 pm
Address: 530 Ash St E. Trimont

ST. NICHOLAS PARTY!



On December 6th each year, churches throughout the world celebrate the life and work of St. Nicholas. This year Circle of Faith will be learning and celebrating the work that St. Nicholas did for Christ's church. You are invited to join us on Sunday, December 7th as we learn about St. Nicholas and REJOICE in the Lord at all of our regular worship services.



Circle of Faith

Parish Council Meeting Minutes — September 16, 2014

Meeting was called to order at Trinity Lutheran in Welcome at 8:02 pm by President Steve Williamson. Other members present: Merle Burmeister, Jody Franck, Jon Helvig, Joel Rabbe, Kirsten Rabbe, Jon, Saxen, Liz Stahl. Staff present: Pastor Anthony Christoffels, Pastor Eric Midthun.

Motion by Jon Saxen, seconded by Jody Franck, to approve agenda. Motion passed.

Pr. Anthony led devotions - "What We Do", based on Acts 2:41-47.

Kirsten Rabbe presented the Secretary's report for the July 8, 2014 Parish Council meeting. Motion by Jon Helvig, seconded by Merle Burmeister, to approve the Secretary's report with one change – adding Jon Helvig to the list of attendees at the meeting. Motion passed.

Joel Rabbe presented the July and August 2014 Operating Statements. Motion by Jon Saxen, seconded by Jon Helvig, to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion passed.

PASTORS' REPORTS

Pastor Anthony Christoffels

- . Our Circle of Faith signs are in and completed. Jack Potter delivered them to all three congregations. It's up to each congregation to mount or display as they each decide, so they are visible from the street.
- . The Pew Bibles are all in. This Sunday will be the first week where the bible texts will not be in the bulletins. Worshipers will need to find them in the bibles. The bulletins will list the passages (and page numbers), and pastors will allow time for them to do so. The responsive Psalm will be printed in its entirety in the bulletin.
- . We will be starting a new liturgy setting this week, written by Marty Haugen, composer of Holden Evening Prayer. We will use this setting from now until Advent.
- . Our theme for this season is "Share". Our pastors will issue a challenge to each of our congregations, to collect one pound of food for each baptized member in their congregations, to be contributed to Heaven's Table and Salvation Army equally. This is a project for all three congregations to do together.
- . Posters for calling for congregational reps for Parish Council will be posted in each congregation.
- . Pr. Duma, the South African pastor who visited today, told Circle of Faith about building a new church, which they hope to build in a year. Will cost \$15,000 to build. The congregation has been meeting in a school, and have been told they will have to find another place to worship soon. They would welcome any help from Circle of Faith, financial and/or in person (a crew to help build it). Pr. Anthony will talk more to us about this in future months.

NEW BUSINESS

Circle of Faith Parish Wedding Policy Rate Review

The council discussed Pr. Anthony's recommendations on fees for weddings at Circle of Faith. After discussing the proposed changes, the council made recommendations for Pr. Anthony to take to the committee, who will recommend overall changes to our Wedding Policy Manual. The final policy will be brought to the Parish Council for approval.

Weather Cancellation policy.

Motion by Jon Saxen, seconded by Joel Rabbe, to approve the weather cancellation policy from last year for 2014-2015, with the addition that if one congregation needs to cancel because of adverse weather, all three will cancel. This will ensure the safety of the pastors who have to travel between locations, and of parishioners who travel a distance to get to church. Motion passed. Communications Team will determine how best to share this policy with our members.

DISCUSSION

- . Finance Committee – needs to bring budget to November 14th meeting. Pastor will gather worship attendance, based on October 1, 2013 - September 30, 2014, for use in the assessment calculation.
- . The Exec Board will conduct the annual reviews with Circle of Faith's pastors in late October, early November. President Williamson will set the date, and the process to be used for review.

. Insurance – Jon Helvig will take the lead in ensuring that all three congregations' polices are reviewed, with an eye toward adequate and equal coverage amongst all our congregations, covering both congregational and Circle of Faith duties and activities. Jon's goal is to get the results to the Council by the first of the year.

. President Steve Williamson asked that Parish Council delegations from each congregation let him know who will stay on Parish Council for 2015, and who will go off after our 2015 congregational annual meetings.

The next Circle of Faith Parish Council regular meeting will be November 11, 2014, 6:00 pm, at Trinity in Welcome. Motion by Jody Franck, seconded by Jon Saxen, to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Kirsten Rabbe
Secretary

A Seminarian's Letters Home

November 2014

To the membership of Circle of Faith Parish:

Greetings to you all from Evanston, IL! This month, as Circle of Faith, we will be focusing again on the word SHARE, drawing on the image of what the first Christians did in their early days, from the book of Acts. I just finished a book called *Tattoos on the Heart*, by Greg Boyle, a Jesuit priest from Los Angeles. He tells a lot of great stories in that book from twenty-five years of working with gangs, but one of them really stood out to me.

In one chapter where he is on a sabbatical, he talks about working in a Mexican island prison camp, where the food was very poor, and the work miserable. He would spend all day with the prisoners making bricks and other construction materials in the hot sun. One night, the inmates invited him to a feast, and he thought they were insane. All they did was start a fire and set some water to boiling. A prisoner then said, "Don't worry, Father Greg. They'll come, and plenty of food will come with them. I don't know what this will turn into, but it will be good." Within an hour, people were bringing smuggled vegetables and meat that they had been hoarding in their cells, or managed to gather somehow. Somebody brought a piece of paper with a small bit of coarse salt wrapped in it. Someone else brought a small dried hot pepper, and another a little can of tomato paste. Mix it all together, and sure enough, they had a feast. It all started with just plain water, fire, and hunger, with a prayer that God would take it from there.

That's what the early Christians of the book of Acts, and the saints whom we remember this month, all knew. They had nothing to begin with but hunger, water, fire, some food and prayer. Yet they shared it, and by the grace of God, amazing things happened, and continue to happen. We never know what the Church will turn into from one age to another, but with God in there, we're in pretty good hands. Saints, those splashed with water and the name of the Triune God, will be raised up through it all, and will even be brought back from death one day. For that, as we say in the Communion liturgy, let us indeed give thanks to the Lord our God.

Sharing our harvest bounty and feasting with the saints of old, let us pray for God's blessing, using these words:

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. [ELW, All Saints Day]

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Your fellow member and pilgrim, Carl P. Rabbe, M.Div.



S T. P E T E R R I P P L E S

No Council meeting was held in October.



The St. Peter WELCA will meet Wednesday, Nov. 5th at the church with Bernice and Marge as hostesses. Pastor Eric will lead the Bible Study from the Gather magazine; 'Transformation Takes Time Transforming Life and Faith'. There will be a special Thankoffering collection taken to help with programs etc. for the ELCA.

Group 2 deserves a BIG BIG THANK YOU for all they did to see that the Fall Gathering went well. The tables were beautifully decorated and the food was delicious. We had many good comments. Thanks Bernice and Sherry and all who furnished and worked. The attendance was only 48 which includes us. We thank Kirsten Rabbe for directing the hymn sing and Kathy Eiden for showing slides about her trip to the Holy Land. It was interesting and informative.

Muriel said the balance in the treasurer is \$2,584.93 as of Oct. 13th.

Nov. is Food Shelf month for Salvation Army and Heaven's Table . Pastor Anthony announced St. Peter's goal is to raise 180 # of food. There is a great need in the area and all over the world. There is a box in the narthex and a list on the bulletin board for goods most needed.

Group 3 will have the next work detail. Marge Schley has Altar Care. We need to decide what to do the December meeting as Trinity will no longer take turns of sharing potluck and fellowship.

Happy 50th Anniversary to Nancy and Bill Steele on Oct0ber 30.

Does anyone have a birthday in November?

May God bless us all with a great Thanksgiving with family and friends. Blessings– Janice

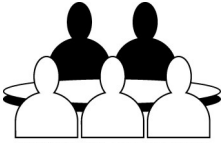
| SUNDAY NOVEMBER | <i>USHERS</i> |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 | Roger and Joan Rezac |
| 9 | Bernice Lehman and Lorrene Knuth |
| 16 | Noah and Jamie Leiding |
| 23 | Don and Marge Schley |
| 30 | Gene and Annette Yackle |
| DECEMBER 7 | Dale and Jeanne Leiding |

St. Peter: **Hand out afterschool bag to students at the Ceylon Bus Stop on November 5.**



TRINITY RIPPLES

Trinity Lutheran Church - September 9 2014



COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Henry Borchardt.
Opening devotions were by Pastor Anthony.

Members present: President Henry Borchardt, Pastor Anthony, Jean Schock, Eileen Morrow, Bocky Borchardt, Becky Detert, Brian Burmeister, Jon Saxen, and Liz Stahl.

Pastor's Report: Trinity had two transfers out: Mackenzie Burgess to Immanuel Lutheran in Dunnell and George and Gerry Hendricks to St. John's in Sherburn.

We are having a "Food Shelf Drive" within the Circle of Faith. We are attempting to collect 1 pound of food per every baptized member. Trinity's share is to gather 450 pounds of food. Please start bringing in non-perishable food for the deadline of Thanksgiving. A list of most requested items is posted on the table in the entry way.

We need one of the existing trustees to volunteer to go off the council early to allow us to be down to the required members for the new constitution requirement.

Secretary's Report: Bocky Borchardt moved to accept the report. Jon Saxen seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jon Saxen moved to accept the report. Liz Stahl seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary Report: Jon Saxen moved to accept the report. Bocky Borchardt seconded. Motion carried.

Youth: Working on a youth program recharge weekend.

Board of Ed: WOW is going great. There are 17 students, and 10 confirmation students attending. Volunteers are serving a meal once a month. A letter will be sent to the congregation asking for help by donating funds and serve the meals. Please help support our youth education classes.

Deacon's Report: They will need someone to help cover during Lonnie's absence.

Trustee's report: The boiler has been updated and fixed. We will have it looked over again in the fall of 2016.

The budget from the Circle of Faith will be ready by the end of November. Pastor Anthony will meet with the trustees and Becky to work on our budget after receiving the COF budget.

Old Business:

North lot: was seeded last week

Town Sign: The UCC Church and Trinity are working on designing a new sign to put under the new Welcome sign on the north end of town. Lisa Wohlhuter and Jean Schock will be on the committee.

Special Constitution Meeting: Becky Detert moved to hold the Special Congregational Meeting on the Constitution on November 23rd. Jean Seconded. Motion carried.

Circle of Faith Sign: Jon moved to have the sign installed on the redwood siding in the front of the church. Liz Stahl seconded. Motion carried.

Keyless lock: Eileen moved to have a keypad entry lock put on the back door. Jean seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's window: The window is manufactured and waiting for installation.

Temporary Janitor pay for Jean: Eileen moved and Jon seconded to pay the same salary to Jean as was paid to Bev as long as she continues to do it. 7 yes votes, 1 no vote. Motion carried.

New Business:

Phil Burgess resignation: Eileen moved to accept Phil's resignation, Jean seconded. Motion carried.

Nomination Committee: We will need a President, Treasurer and Faith Formation member. Henry will be on the ballot for President, Becky for Treasurer and Liz Stahl for Faith Formation. Jon moved to accept the nominations, Bocky seconded. Motion carried.

Council Quorum: Becky moved to change the required quorum to be 1/3 of council members for voting at a council meeting. Liz seconded. Motion carried.

Janitorial Candidates: We will send out applications to the candidates that have showed an interest in the janitor position and Jean, Henry and Pastor Anthony will interview. A special meeting will be called to confirm the hiring of the applicant with a probable start date of November 1st.

The next meeting will be November 11th at 7:30.

Jon moved to adjourn, Bocky seconded. Motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Eileen Morrow, Secretary

Communion Servers:

| | | |
|----------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Nov. 2: | S-Bob Moffitt | H-Lonnie Moffitt |
| Nov. 30: | S-Brian Burmeister | H-Velma Schaal |
| Dec. 7: | S-Velma Schaal | H-Bocky Borchardt |



Good News. Great JOY.

Partnering with churches around the world to reach children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' Name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child.

We will once again be packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Boxes and labels will be available, or talk to Marilyn Oelke. The deadline to return your filled box is Sunday, Nov. 16.

W A V E R L Y R I P P L E S



Waverly Lutheran Church Council October 14, 2014

Members present: Rosemary Atzenhoefer, Cliff Armbrust, Don & Nancy Nordstrom, Bob Olson, Tim Peterson, Jack Potter, Kirsten Rabbe, MarLeone Williamson, Deborah Schneider.

President Tim Peterson called the meeting of the Waverly Lutheran Church Council to order at 8:00 p.m., at Waverly, on October 14, 2014. President Peterson led the council with devotions from Psalm 25 followed by the Lord's Prayer. Of note, the inscription on the Waverly church bell reads: *To thee, O Lord, I lift up my soul, Psalm 25, verse 1.*

September Secretary's report was read by all.

Treasurer's report was given by Cliff. Year-to-date income minus expense -\$4, 319.16. Motion by Rosie, seconded by Bob to accept the report. Motion carried.

Old Business

A copy of the new constitution will be sent to members.

Jon Bentz has resigned as Trustee. Motion by Jack, seconded by MarLeone to accept. Motion carried.

How to expand the number of givers was discussed, as there is a discrepancy between the number of families in our parish, and the number of families that tithe.

The sound system continues to be tweaked.

Vemo Internet services from October 13, 2014 through October 13, 2015 have been paid by Kirsten with credit card. Motion by Kirsten that Waverly reimburse for this service, second by Bob, motion carried.

New Business

Transfer of membership for Jacob Melson from Waverly to Mount Olive in Minneapolis was acknowledged.

Waverly has accepted the Food Shelf Challenge of donating 215 pounds total to Fairmont Food Shelves.

Parish Agreement changes will be available to the congregations after November council approval.

Please pray and advocate for children being filtered through Texas with no financial resources to get their needs met. More information is available at www.sss/org.

Motion by Nancy, second by Kristen for Service Master to clean portion of the Church to be determined by the custodian. Motion carried.

Some of the pews are in tough shape. No action taken.

With no further business, motion by Bob, second by Don to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Schneider Council Secretary

WAVERLY SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Sunday November 9, 2014
Sunday November 23, 2014

Both meetings will be held after church with a light lunch being served. The purpose? Consider a revision of our current Waverly Constitution/By-Laws. The first meeting will be a review by the Waverly Constitution Committee about major changes and things to look for in the document. The second meeting will be a full discussion with the goal to finalize our collective thinking into one document which will then come before the congregation at the Annual Meeting for ratification.

A draft copy of the proposed revision is being mailed to all voting members. Please take time to review it, consider it and come prepared with questions and thoughts. If you would like to compare it to our current Constitution/By-Laws and if you cannot find your copy, copies will be available at Waverly after the middle of October.



Quilting days went really well. Tues. we had 8 workers and 13 Quilts done, and Wed. we had 6 workers and got 7 quilts done for a total of 20 quilts. Good job to all who helped and thank you too.

The second Tues. and Wed. we will be quilting again. So put those dates on your calendar. Everyone is welcome, even for a part of the time. Still can use used sheets (double works best) for backing.

Thank you.....Rosemary Atzenhoefer

Waverly Sunday school: We will begin practicing for the Christmas program during Sunday school beginning on November 2nd, during regular Sunday school times.



Simon Ray Gaalswyk, son of Greg and Kala Gaalswyk, was born on 10/6/14 weighing 7'12" and 21" long.

He lives in New Ulm with his sister Lucy and brother Emmett.

Grandparents are Paul & Deanne Gaalswyk of Trimont and Melvin & Genny Neyers of Gibbon MN.
Great-grandparents are Lola Hagen, and Henry & Rachel Gaalswyk all of Sherburn.



NOVEMBER



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | 1 John Schmidtke Jason Bakke Harper Armbrust |
| 2 Tami Rasmussen Melanie Koehler | 3 <i>Don & Marilyn Schlager</i> | 4 Stephanie Sherman | 5 Kristie Gaalswyk | 6 Daniel Helvig Kathy Anderson | 7 Russell Rosenberg <i>Dick & Marlys Traetow Barb & Larry Schmidt</i> | 8 Delano Bergemann Gracie Mulso Philip Bettin Carmyne Hecht |
| 9 Betty Stine Curt Anderson | 10 Sandra Ehlert | 11 Joan Ellis Robert Olson Cory Cheever Marilyn Oelke | 12 Carl Rabbe Sandy McKean Carl Hughes <i>Dale & Jeanne Leiding</i> | 13 Pauline Gibson | 14 Marlys Traetow Jocelyn Schmidtke <i>Steve & Eileen Morrow-45</i> | 15 Kelsey Binner Kyle Binner Elaine Johnson |
| 16 Travis Winter Carol Theisse | 17 Nancy Nordstrom Nathan Nordstrom Camryn Clow | 18 Lynette Shaw Adriana Leiding Gary Roberts | 19 Lon Oelke | 20 John Borchardt MiKayla Gibson | 21 Annette Yackle Gene Yackle Sibyl Anderson | 22 Gavin Hand |
| 23 Cheryl Schwieger <i>Tim & Liz Stahl</i> | 24 Harold Juhl <i>Lacey & Troy Schmidtke</i> | 25 <i>Aldean & Barbara Speckman</i> | 26 <i>Eldor & De Elda Rose</i> | 27 Jill Schwanz James Armbrust <i>Bruce & Kathy Johnson</i> | 28 Mariah Rasmussen | 29 James Sherman <i>Jeff & Chelsey Armbrust</i> |
| 30 Kathy Bremer <i>John & Rita Garbers</i> | | | | | | |

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|---|---|---|-----|---|
| | | | REMEMBER THE FOOD SHELF CHALLENGE | | | 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends FALL BACK |
| 2 Worship Communion SS-WLC | 3 | 4 7 pm Mary Circle | 5 1:30 pm WELCA 1:30 pm Dorcas Circle 6:30 pm WOW-TLC 6:30 Confirmation 5:30 Men's Garage @ Kathryn Detert's | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 Worship WLC- Congregational mtg SS-WLC | 10 | 11 WLC Quilting 6 pm Parish Council Mtg 7:30 pm TLC Council Mtg WLC-? | 12 WLC Quilting 6:00 pm Supper 6:30 pm WOW-TLC 6:30 pm Confirmation | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 Worship | 17 | 18 6-8 pm Wine, Women and the Word @ Karen Koeder | 19 6:30 pm WOW-TLC 6:30 Confirmation | 20 Ripples articles are due | 21 | 22 |
| 23 Worship WLC & TLC Congregational meetings | 24 | 25 | 26 9:30 Assemble Ripples  Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7 pm @ Waverly | 27  Thanksgiving Day | 28 | 29 |
| 30 Worship Communion 1st Sunday in Advent | | | | | | |



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HYMN OF THE MONTH

Thanksgiving. Doesn't it boggle the mind when you start to list all the things you have to be thankful for? One of the popular thanksgiving hymns is "We Gather Together". It is known in some hymnals as "We Praise You, O God" but the sentiment is the same. A true hymn of praise, thanksgiving and adoration. It was actually written in Holland, to celebrate their freedom from Spain. It seems that the Low Country in Holland had been given to King Philip II of Spain by Emperor Charles V of Germany (his father), in 1555. Since the Calvinistic Reformation had already reached into Holland there was great resistance against Catholicism. The population resisted the authority of Spain. In 1557 King Philip began to try and bring them back under the Pope's control. A reign of terror included executing ten thousand people and exiling another forty thousand. It was known in history as the "Blood Council". They did not hesitate to wipe out whole cities. An attack on Leiden was stopped by the resistance cutting the dikes and flooding the countryside. In 1579 the southern regions of Holland declared their allegiance to Philip but the northern part of the country refused. This is what is now modern Holland. In 1581 they declared their independence, encouraged by William of Orange. In 1597 this hymn was written by an anonymous Dutchman and set to a Dutch folk tune. It was full of thanksgiving that his people were finally free from Spanish tyranny and free to worship as they wanted. He expressed it beautifully: "...so from the beginning the fight we were winning; Thou, Lord, was at our side, all glory be Thine! We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant, and pray that Thou still our Defender will be. Let Thy congregation escape tribulation: Thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!" When we list all that we are grateful for, our freedom to worship as we choose should be at the top.