



The Voice

of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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November 2018



The accompanying picture is from the late 19th century illustrator, Watson Heston, pointing out what he called, the Inequalities of Thanksgiving. It points to the truth that while America is a land of opportunity, it is also a land of inequality. We have reason to call this reality to mind again this year, as we prepare to give thanks to God for blessings received, and to celebrate with whatever kind of meal we can afford to have.

I think first to the victims of the ongoing natural disasters that have struck our land, all the way from the struggling inhabitants of Puerto Rico, many of whom spent the better part of the year without power or other necessary services, to the most recent victims of Hurricane Florence and Michael in the continental US. Their devastation and urgent need tempers our festivities.

We're sitting in the midst of a difficult time in America. Our country is divided and our leaders seem to prefer exacerbating our division rather than seeking common ground and healing. There is an attitude of fear and suspicion about immigrants, a rising nationalism which suggests that many people believe that America is for whites only, there are still growing populations of children being separated from their parents at our borders. The safety nets that were developed in the 20th century to take care of the neediest among us are being eroded.

Developing an attitude of Thanksgiving is certainly appropriate for Christians. We live every day a life of thanksgiving for the wonders that God has done. Our thanksgiving is motivated by the death and resurrection of Christ, who took our sins away on the cross, and gave us back access to Almighty God. But the Day of Thanksgiving is an American Feast. Perhaps we ought to embrace it soberly, this year, realizing how many people will have little reason to celebrate. Re-commit yourselves to works of mercy and charity. Donate to agencies and organizations that work among the poor and disadvantaged people in our country. Help to insure the success of our Thrivent Food Challenge, which will send food and needed financial support to the Family Justice Center. Make sure you vote in the mid-term election for candidates you feel best represent the values you espouse as followers of Jesus. Most of all, as you gather for Thanksgiving Day, remember, as you count your blessings, that the Bible insists we are blessed to be a blessing to others. Take that seriously, and resolve to be that blessing as we move into 2019.

Pastors Wendy and Tim

MISSION SUPPORT 101

As congregation finance people put together a budget for 2019, it is a good time to talk about Mission Support. What is it? It is the lifeblood of our interdependent denomination: congregations share Mission Support dollars with their synods, and the synods then share it with the church-wide organization. These funds flow back to ELCA members, congregations, institutions and global companions through churchwide and synodical ministries. If you've been reading these mission messages for all or part of the last 6 years, you are aware of the wide variety of ministries that mission dollars support: hunger, disaster relief, advocacy, seminaries, chaplains, missionaries, candidacy, call processes, malaria eradication, campus ministry, immigration services, racial justice, new congregation starts, outdoor ministry, youth ministry. And that is not even an exhaustive list!

So, how does it work? Most congregations have a line in their budget that they intend to send to the synod, while some congregations depend on dedicated donations. The tithe (10%) is the benchmark for faithful giving, of individuals to their congregation, and of congregations to their synod. The synod passes 50% of what it receives from congregation on to the church-wide ELCA. So a portion of your personal offering ends up in Syracuse and Chicago, allowing you to make a difference way beyond just your own congregations.

If you think of Mission Support as a verb, that this is what we do, then you can see it as a continuation of the work we do, sharing our first-fruits to expand beyond our local communities to other places to follow the Gospel.

So, when you are at your congregational meeting and are presented with the 2019 budget to approve, look for a line that says "Mission Support." If you don't see it, ask about it. If it seems miniscule compared to your congregation's income, suggest increasing it, even just by 1%. This is definitely one instance where we are literally church together for the sake of the world!

God's Work. Our Hands.



Remember Daylight Saving ends at 2:00 a.m. on November 4th.

Don't forget to turn your clocks back before you go to bed Saturday night.

UPCOMING NOVEMBER EVENTS-

CRAFT BEER AND WINE TASTING

The Familial Cancer Foundation is having a Craft Beer and Wine Tasting event on Friday, November 9th from 7:00 to 10:00 at Tewksbury Lodge, 249 Ohio Street, Buffalo. They will have tastings from local breweries and select wines, live music, raffles and more! Tickets are \$45. For more info, please see Andrea Whitmarsh or go to their website: www.fcfwny.org



TURKEYS NEEDED

You will certainly enjoy your Thanksgiving Dinner more when you know you have helped someone else be able to be fed.

Once again we will be collecting turkeys for Friends of The Night People.

We are in need of people to buy turkeys and also people to cook them. See Faith White and watch the bulletin for details.



Celebrate Veterans Day

On **November 11th**

We will honor our **veterans** with a display in the Social Hall.

If you have items that relate to the service such as photos, ribbons, etc please plan to include them in the display.

Marty Nowak is in charge of the display so let him know what you are bringing to insure that enough space can be set aside. With such a large interest in this event please limit your mementoes to 4 or 5 items.

You may call Marty at 688-7945.

We've invited the members of Calvary Episcopal Church to join us here at St. Paul's on Monday, November 19th at **7:00pm** for a celebration of Thanksgiving. We'll gather together at the Lord's Table on Monday, before settling in at our own Tables on Thursday. All are welcome!



UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS – Before we know it, these projects and events will be here. Please mark them on your calendars now and start thinking about how we can make the holiday brighter for those less fortunate.



Our Annual *Angel Tree* Project

Again it's that time to join in bringing some cheer to children with our angel tree project. Join us in providing gifts for children in pre-K—grade 4 at School 74 in Buffalo.

Please purchase an outfit and toy for each child's name you receive, wrap the gifts, put them inside the large box provided, and attach the label provided to the end of the box.

All gifts must be returned to church by **December 9th**



Our annual congregation Tree Trimming Party will
be

Sunday, December 9

from 3:00 – 6:00 pm

Join us to help trim the social hall tree, frost cookies for our shut-ins, enjoy a yummy pot luck dinner, let the kids shop in our fabulous elf shop AND a visit with a special guest from the North Pole!

Fun Activities at St. Paul's--



Jessica Mason, Erin, and Chris Jankowski took some of our older kids Apple-Picking on October 14th.



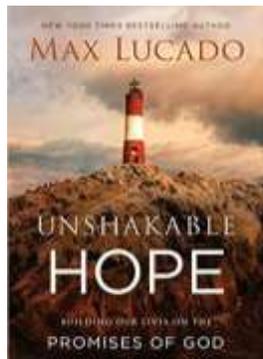
And then there was our first-ever PAINT NIGHT led by Dan Meyer: Go Buffalo!



In September, Ropes in the steeple were replaced. John Doerfler & George Roeser were the crew. The new rope is covered in TYVEC a form of Teflon. John worked from the balcony by a rope in order to replace them.



Worship on Wednesday focuses on Hope



What is shaking in your world? Possibly your future, your faith, your family, your health? It's a shaky world out there. Our Wednesday Worship Service is focusing on hope, using Max Lucado's new book: "Unshakable Hope." As Max says: We are building our lives on the promises of God. Because his word is unbreakable, our hope is unshakable. We do not stand on the problems of life or the pain in life, We stand on the great and precious promises of God.

Meets on Wednesdays at 7:30pm- All are welcome!

Please remember to save your DASH register tapes. Dash's super market gives the congregation \$2.50 for each \$100 of purchases. These "rebates" are used for Youth group and incidental expenses such as the women's retreat. St Paul's began participating in the program in 2005. We have received over \$12,000 in rebates. This is an important program for the youth and the women's retreat. Please save your register tapes. They can be deposited in the cigar box on the table outside of the narthex or in the large manila envelope on the bulletin board in the Social Hall.



Thrivent Challenge met by generous outpouring of food

Thrivent Financial Services issued a challenge. Let the congregation bring in 500 non-perishable food items in the month of October and they would send a check for \$500 to the helping agency of our choice. Since we are a supporting congregation for the Family Justice Center, we designated them as the recipient of the \$500 dollars. Their facilities downtown, in the Southtowns, and most recently on Forest Road right here in Amherst helps many vulnerable adults and children be freed from situations of domestic abuse and violence. We were hoping you would respond.

Wow, did you respond! Many thanks to Faith White for providing good leadership and support for the Challenge. You brought in food, you donated money so Faith could shop for you. Week after week we watched the piles of food mount up. Thanks to all of you for making the Challenge such a great success!



Let us pray for the following:



Our Members: Dick Atkins Diane Busdiecker Les Busdiecker Dick Edwards Susan Gibbons Ursula Grau Beverly Heinricher Pearl Kibler Holly Kolb	Marge Kolb – Harris Hill Judy Kristoff Zoe Malchow Jim Murray Eva Paulson Family of Glenn Pfisterer Art Plant Kim Retallack Tony Rizzo Pat Valentine
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Consider an online option for receiving The Voice

The Church Council is considering offering the St. Paul’s newsletter online.

If you would like to receive The Voice electronically, please provide us with your email address on the form below — or indicate that you would prefer to receive it by regular mail. **Please let us know your preference as soon as possible so we can determine how to proceed.**

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Please check (✓) box below and return to the church office:

I/We would like to receive the newsletter by email.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email address (please print): _____

I/We would like to receive The Voice by regular mail.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

The deadline for our December edition of the voice is Monday, November 12, 2018
Note earlier deadline do to Thanksgiving holiday
Please send your articles to stpaulsvoice@yahoo.com or in our box in the office.