

November 2016

The Staff

The Newsletter of Shepherd of the Glen Lutheran Church

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Sunday Worship & Sunday School 9:30 AM



*A community of
Christians, called
Together by the Holy
Spirit, where all people
Can come to know
God's grace and grow in
Faith, give and receive
The love of Jesus Christ
And of one another, and
Serve one another and
The community in which
We live."*

The eating season has begun.

It starts with the Halloween candy that appears on the store shelves by Labor Day. We all want to be prepared for the little trick-or-treaters, so we buy some bags to stash away for all the ghosts and superheroes that will come to our doors. Of course, since it's in the house, it's a great temptation to have "just one" of those marshmallow pumpkins or gummy spiders and before you know it, we find that we're back at the store buying a few more bags since we ate what was meant for the trick-or-treaters.

Then comes Thanksgiving and all the recipes that begin with "melt a stick of butter..." And of course, following quickly is Christmas with all the cakes, cookies, and rich traditional dishes that bring the holidays home in a delicious way. Just a handful of candy corn or a whiff of turkey roasting brings memories and reminds us that we're entering a busy and celebratory time of year.

I'm the Thanksgiving cook in my family and one of the things I love about that holiday is the simplicity—no need to wrack my brain for creative new dishes, just prepare the traditional foods and let the flavors of turkey, gravy, cranberries and pumpkin say "Thanksgiving." My family will come to my house anticipating the same food they've been eating for years at Thanksgiving, and probably also

anticipating that, as always, things take me longer than I planned, so that the 5:00 dinner time will probably be more like 6 or 6:30. But within a short time after sitting down, they'll be pushing back from the table too full to take another bite and getting up saying, "Oh I won't need to eat for *days*."

But the next morning, most of us wake up good and hungry for breakfast. The meal doesn't last (unless you count what's on the waistline)—but something else does. In between the green bean casserole and cranberry sauce, there's talk, there's marveling at how big the

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grandkids got and sadness at who's not at the table this year; there's memories created; there's healing and there's hurts, there's real life. It doesn't always look like a Norman Rockwell painting—but its real connection that shapes who we are and how we live.

That's what Jesus is offering—real connection to the God who loves us. We bring our needs, our hungers, our hopes and hurts to the table and he satisfies us with nourishment that lasts. He gives us more than a quick fix that will fill us up until we wake up hungry the next morning—he gives us himself, and the promise that he'll be with us, what he calls in John 6: 27 “the bread that endures.”

This is the gift God gives us through Jesus and like any true gift, it comes unearned, no strings attached and it often takes us by surprise. And, all we can really do in the face of such generosity is—say thank you.

And—the act of simply saying thank you —of *thanksgiving*—changes us as well. It opens us to receive God's blessings and releases our hearts and hands to bless others. So as we eagerly look forward to the “eating season,” let's always keep in mind that there are so many in our own community and across the world in need the very basics of life—food, shelter from the cold, basic medical care. This church supports the Rt 1 day center and fills the need for food as well as a caring presence. We raised money during the Good Shepherd Campaign last Spring and during our “Shepherd's Table” program this summer. The deacons are busy planning the Toys for Tots drive. I think that the truest prayers go beyond words to action, and this church has turned words into meaningful acts of helping others.

May our prayer this Thanksgiving Day be short and sweet—Thank you, God. We don't need a lot of words if our prayers take flesh in helping hands and generous hearts for those in need.

Blessings and happy Thanksgiving. Let the eating season begin!

Peace+
Pastor Susan

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Saints Sunday. It's long been the tradition of the Christian church to recognize those saints who have passed from this world into eternal life on the first Sunday of November. On November 6, we will honor those saints and their memory during worship. Please put the names of loved ones on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at church or contact Pastor Susan or Linda Krause so we can include the names in the service.

Healing Prayer during Advent. Our world, our nation, our communities and each of us are in need of healing, and as the days grow shorter, we are even more aware of that need. Sundays in Advent (beginning November 27) we will offer individual prayer for healing at the time of the “prayers of the congregation” during worship. Mariann Krueger has graciously agreed to be a prayer minister, so she and/or Pastor Susan will be available for prayer at that time.

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Come join us at The Bazaar of the Churches will be held on Saturday November 19th, 2016 from 9a.m.until 2p.m. at the Lisbon Fire Hall 1330 Woodbine Road (Rt 94). Participating churches are Shepherd of the Glen Lutheran, Lisbon United Methodist and St Paul's Episcopal. Shopping includes crafts, collectibles, homemade candy, gifts, baked goods, cheese balls, lots of books, ornaments, nearly new items, nuts, and "Gourmet to Go." A silent auction will also be held. Lunch will be provided by the Lisbon ladies Auxiliary. Parking at the Fire Hall.

Our Extended Christmas Project – Toys for Tots

This year, our Christmas giving project will not be limited to our congregation but also extended as a service to the community to increase our overall impact (more toys collected) and our church visibility. Shepherd of the Glen was approved to be a drop box for the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation which collects toys for underprivileged children in the greater Baltimore area. Last year, the Foundation collected 57,000 toys for our region, some of which had been donated by our congregation.

We will be accepting toys (unwrapped) from the congregation and the community every day for two weeks from Sunday 27 November through Sunday 11 December from 9 am to 5:30 pm. This schedule is already posted on the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation website. Our collection service will be advertised using Carole's media contacts for the Media Sale and on Shepherd of the Glen Face book site. We would greatly appreciate the congregation "liking" the Face book announcement of our collection service once it is posted. In addition, we are asking for volunteers to spend a couple of hours at church sometime during those hours to accept the donated toys during the first week of donations. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex. We appreciate you helping with this worthwhile project.

Thank you for your donations and helping to increase our service to our community!

Howard County has heart! Last July our neighbors near Main Street Ellicott City suffered a devastating flood. While many businesses have re-opened and some residents have moved back, there are people on the west end of Frederick Rd who still are struggling to feed themselves and do the repairs needed to make their homes habitable. Pastor Susan is working on the Ellicott City Holistic Recovery Team, and if you'd like to help out, donations of grocery or Home Depot gift cards would be appreciated. If you get the cards to Pastor Susan, she'll get them to the people who need them.

Stop by Dunkin Donuts at Rt 97 and 144 Friday mornings from 10-11 AM. Pastor Susan is "in" to chat, pray and connect with you or anyone who the Holy Spirit sends by.

Thank you to all who donated to the Route 1 Day Center Meal! With the weather getting colder and the nights getting longer, a hot, homemade meal is especially appreciated!