November 2026 News & Updates





From the Pastor's Pen:

November: Remembering the Saints, Looking for Our King

November brings the Church Year to a close, and it invites us to look in two directions: back with thanksgiving for those who have gone before us in the faith, and forward with hope to the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns.

On **All Saints' Day**, we remember those who have died in the faith and now rest from their labors. We give thanks for their lives, their witness, and the love they shared with us. For many of us, this day brings memories of parents, spouses, friends, and fellow Christians who are no longer sitting beside us in the pew. We miss them, but we do not grieve as those who have no hope. Our hope rests in Jesus Christ, who conquered sin and death through His cross and resurrection. Because He lives, all who belong to Him have the promise of everlasting life.

As we approach the **Last Sunday of the Church Year**, our eyes turn toward the future. Christ, who came to save us, has promised to come again. A world filled with uncertainty may leave us wondering what tomorrow holds, but we know Who holds tomorrow. Our risen Lord will return, raise the dead, and bring His people into the fullness of His eternal kingdom.

Until that day, He continues to meet us through His Word and Sacraments, forgiving our sins, strengthening our faith, and sustaining us in every season of life.

November reminds us that our story does not end at the grave, nor does our hope rest in the passing things of this world. We belong to Jesus—the One who died for us, rose for us, and promises to come again for us.

The saints have gone before us, our Savior walks with us, and our King is coming again. What a wonderful promise to carry with us as we enter another season of thanksgiving and prepare for the coming of our Lord at Christmas!

"Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."
— Revelation 2:10b

--Pastor Harris



From the Elders

Billy Graham said this about hell: If man goes to hell, he goes by his own free choice.

Hell was created for the devil and his angels, not for man. God never meant that man should go there and God has done everything within His power to keep you out. He even gave His Son to die on that cross to keep you out, because you see when God made you, He made you a premoral agent. You can live any kind of life you want, you can live a good life, you can live a bad life, you can break God's laws, you can obey them. You can shake your fist in God's face and there's nothing God can do because when He created you, He gave you a gift of free choice. You're not a robot where He is pushing a button and you jump in a bed. You've got a right to resist God which means to reject God, but the Bible says in spite of our rebellion and rejection God loves you. He loves you so much that He gave His only Son to die for your sins and when Christ died on that cross, we don't understand all that happened. But we know one thing that He took, the hell and the judgment that you and I deserve. Because of our sins, He took them on that cross and that's why that terrible expression came from His lips, "My God My God why hast Thou forsaken Me."

For the very meaning of hell is separation from God and in that terrible moment a shadow passed between God the Father and God the Son for the first time since eternity began. Christ died for you and He suffered the pangs of hell, He became guilty of lying, He became guilty of slander, He became guilty of jealousy, He became guilty of the most filthy dirty sins. When those sins came into His soul, it was your sins and my sins that came into His soul. God could not look upon iniquity. God is so holy and He sent Christ to the hell that you and I deserve. On that cross God said, "receive it, believe it, put your trust & your confidence in Him & I will forgive your sins and I will guarantee you eternity in a place called Heaven."

So God does not send you to hell, He wants you in Heaven. Easy to do. You have a choice to believe, pray and trust Him. Give your life to Him now.



Outreach Committee

Our Thanksgiving grocery store gift card drive continues through November 8th. As of October 25th, we have collected about 35 cards toward our goal of 100 with 2 weeks to go. Emmanuel's House and aCORE Solution have both said the cards would be very helpful.

Starting November 8th and continuing through November 29th, we will be collecting toys for our 3rd annual Christmas toy drive for the fire department's Spark of Love project. A Christmas tree will be in the Narthex for your donations. We also have some additional money through a Thrivent Action Team grant to buy extra toys.

We are grateful for all the help from the congregation, Cyndy Todd, Sue Brooks, Diane Short, Jan Blanton, Sheryl Truslow, Karen Roeber and Kathy Benzow

Parish Nurse Ministry

From the Mouth of t he Parish Nurse:

HOLIDAYS



As I sit here writing this I am shaking my head at how fast the year is going. The holidays are coming already. Seems like I just sent out cards and gifts and here it is again.

I am sitting here contemplating how holidays are not "fun" for everyone. Some folks have a lot of grief at this time of year. There is an empty chair at the table, missing gifts under the tree and less laughter. There are even folks who don't talk about the loved one any more because they feel it will hurt someone's feelings.

I have learned over my "long life" that folks tend to not talk about grief and to just tell others "I am fine". But, truly this is the hardest time of the year for folks. There are more suicides at this time of the year. Some folks, throughout the year, hibernate and start to withdraw. Some may even withdraw in a "silent public way", meaning they show up for events but inside they are withdrawing.

The holiday season often adds additional tasks to people's to-do lists that can be overwhelming at the best of times. When you're grieving, holiday tasks such as shopping for presents or decorating may feel like too much. If the task is one that is important to you but that you don't have the energy to complete, ask a friend or family member for help.

I am sharing a few things for you to remember during this time.

1. As best as you can, allow yourself to feel your feelings as they come up. Grief often brings up varied and sometimes conflicting emotions. You may feel inexpressibly sad in one moment, and full of holiday cheer the next. All of your feelings are valid, and there is space for them all. Give yourself permission to feel without judgment.

2. It is especially important to allow yourself to feel any challenging emotions, such as sadness, rage, or disappointment. Feelings that go unacknowledged and unexpressed often build up. The stress of the holiday season may exacerbate this until those feelings explode.

3. Try to give yourself the space and time to acknowledge and express whatever feelings are coming up for you as they come up. It can be helpful to start a grief journal to work through some of the emotions that may feel more difficult to express.

4. Resistance to grief increases suffering and can even go as far as to expand it to the point of distorting what the holidays can offer us in the here and now. Resistance reveals our fear of grief, loss, and change and can leave us feeling victimized so that the holidays take on a focus of avoidance, losing the light that they may still offer us.

5. Acknowledge that it's going to be hard to get through these holidays and that's ok. If you feel up to going to a friend's or family member's home, go—but if you don't, give yourself a pass to stay home and not celebrate.

Grief is real and I am asking all of you to please reach out to someone whom you know has lost a loved one this past year or even a few years ago. Send them a card, give a hug, invite for coffee or just sit with them for a short time.

Remember; Ecclesiastes 5 states there is a time for everything. Sometimes your season lasts for a few years and sometimes it waxes and wanes so please give yourself time.

Life's Cycles: The passage acknowledges the natural and social rhythms of life, including joy and sorrow, work and rest, emphasizing that each has its proper place (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

Believers are called to trust God's timing, accept each season as a gift, and align their actions with His purposes rather than attempting to control outcomes (Ecclesiastes 3:12-14)

SO TO YOU MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST I SAY, MAY YOUR HOLIDAY BE FILLED WITH LOVE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT AND PEACE FROM OUR LORD.





From the Trustee's Bench:

The trustees would like to thank the congregation for their continuing support for repair projects that are definitely needed.

We are still looking for people to join the Board of Trustees. We have a total of three and could certainly use 2 or 3 more. We have a few volunteers but need help on a regular basis.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

God bless!

The Trustees,
Dennis Coburn



Kitchen News:

A big thank you for all the generous donations for coffee hour. It helps keep our expenses down. Please keep them coming. Very much appreciated.

Also, we have two 6 packs of drinks in the refrigerator by the stove. We would like to know who put them there and what they are for. Please let us know.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
JEAN AND DIANE

Stewardship News:

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

Elders by Last Name:

A—DeRose::	Rick Ferrell	760-694-3309
Drinkwine—Murphy::	Joe Yancho	760-617-1580
N—Z:	Ken Porter	760-792-1069

November Birthdays:

Cindy Holtgrefe	2
Ruben Lopez III	2
Ray Coburn	3
Fritz Durfee	7
John Holtgrefe	9
Nikki Amaro	14
Sue Anton	16
Linda Davis	24



November Anniversaries:

Mark & Vendy Amer	11/23/1985
Ruben & Autumn Lopez	11/12/2022

