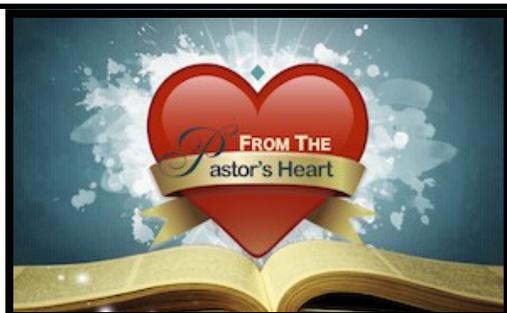




October
2020

a publication of Fellowship Lutheran Church, Rev. Robin Wargowsky, Pastor
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"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 ESV

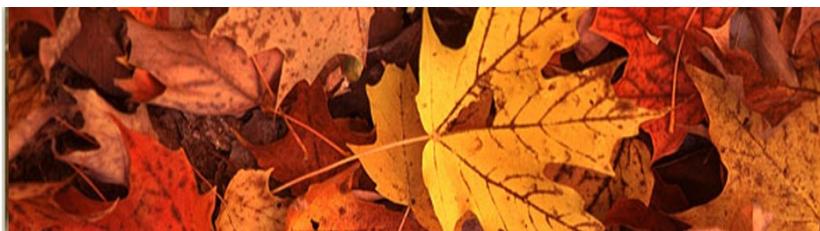
Dear Fellowship members and friends,

Last week, I spent some vacation days at Burr Oak State Park, enjoying God's creation and the natural beauty that fall brings, and getting caught up on my reading. One of the articles I read involved stewardship, which we often focus on in the church during this time of year. The author asked her readers, "Do you live with a mindset of scarcity or abundance?" Current research reveals that \$10,000 is the magical number that people say would be the amount of money they would need to have "enough." However, after many of those whose said that \$10,000 would be enough actually received raises, and they were asked the question again, they said that \$10,000 **more** would be enough. (Bonita Shields, *Ministry*, September 2020) Are we ever satisfied? Do we ever feel that we have enough? Do we live with a mindset of scarcity or abundance?

The coronavirus pandemic has affected many people in the pocketbook. So many people have lost their savings, their financial security, or their livelihoods. But pandemic or not, we often focus on what we do not have rather than on what we do have, regardless of our circumstances. Rather than believing God has blessed us immensely, and continues to do so through crisis after crisis, we do not express gratitude for those blessings, no matter how big. We talk and live as though we never have enough. What a difference it would make in our personal lives if we were to look through a lens of abundance and focus on what we have, rather on what we do not have! What a difference it would make if we lived our lives with the knowledge that God can meet all of our needs - physical and emotional.

If our mindset is one of abundance, we believe that we have enough and that we are enough. This mindset does not deny our legitimate needs but it operates from a stance of gratitude for those things that we do have. With a mindset of abundance, we are willing to share our abundance with others and live generously. This reflects on the character of God because our generosity reflects the type of God we serve. It impacts how others view us as believers and reflects whether or not we *believe* God's word. Being generous not only with our finances but also with our time, talents, grace, praise, forgiveness and acceptance, reflects the generosity of our God. God is more than sufficient to meet our needs...and others!

Hope to see you at the outdoor service Sunday! Take care and be safe!



Pastor Robin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Activities

Women's Dinner - TBD

Women's Bible Study - Date TBD

When Will We Return to Our Regular Schedule? We continue to watch the number of new COVID-19 cases closely and will let you know when we are able to safely resume in-person worship services. Our weekly online services continue.

Meals on Wheels

Friday, October 16	Engen	Friday, November 20	Farel
Saturday, October 17	Himmel-McDaniel	Saturday, November 21	Goleb

Save the Date! Weather permitting, our next outdoor service will be Sunday, October 4th at 10:00 a.m., at Murphy Park in Powell. This will be worship with communion only; no food will be provided.

Frebis Food Pantry They are open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Healthy volunteers are needed at Frebis to fill orders, drive the truck, and work with the computer. If you are interested, call 614-300-3263 and ask for Joel, Paul, or David. You may also call 877-LSS-MEAL or Bill Lude at 614-707-3275 or 614-764-1084.

Blessing Box We have a blessing box on our property, thanks to HelpColumbus, a group that supports individuals and families recently impacted by the events of COVID-19. A blessing box houses non-perishable items like food, baby supplies, etc. If you or someone you know are in need of these items, feel free to stop by the church.

Thrivent Members - For those of you with choice dollars don't forget that Fellowship can be a recipient of those dollars. Thank you to all who have donated this way in the past!

Kroger Plus Fundraising Information: If you would like to register your Kroger card for the Community Rewards Program, please contact Pastor Robin or the church office. Thank you so much for participating in this fundraiser!

Do You Order From Amazon? If so, then try Amazon Smile to support Fellowship Lutheran Church! First, go to Amazon Smile and choose Fellowship Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH as your charity. Then, shop as usual and Fellowship will receive a percentage of your purchase. It's that easy!

Give to Fellowship with Your Smartphone with GivePlus+ - Our EFT provider, Vanco, provides a smartphone app, Give+, to enable anyone to donate at anytime to Fellowship. It makes it easy to give instantaneously for a regular gift, a recurring gift, or a special occasion gift.

Annual Congregation Meeting will be on **Sunday, November 15th** after morning worship.

Worship Servers Needed! If you are able to help out at our 10:00 a.m. worship service when we resume in-person worship services, please let either Tracy Farel or Pastor Robin know. Assisting ministers, counters, greeters and ushers are needed.

Attendance Information

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
8/2	154 views	9/6	107 views
8/9	264 views	9/13	112 views
8/9	44 - Murphy Park	9/20	93 views
8/16	115 views	9/27	72 views
8/23	117 views		
8/30	106 views		



“But the one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.” **Romans 5:1-5 NRSV**

We will be having the 2020 annual congregational meeting on November 15. We have several important topics to cover in the meeting. First, are to elect new leadership for the term starting in January of 2021 and approve a budget for 2021. In addition, we will also be reviewing the Vision statement that was started early this year. If you remember my “Rate a Vision Statement” exercise, that was the vision statement. We will also be voting to accept changes to our constitution that incorporates the most recent changes to the ELCA model constitution. Those changes are mostly wording changes – changing “Synodical” to “Synod” and “the congregation” to “this congregation”. And, one more change for the times, to allow electronic meetings.

There is one more item on the agenda that merits some additional background at this time. We have been blessed with opportunities to add some non-regular income to help us through these crazy times. First, was the Paycheck Protection Program, PPP, that was part of the CARES act. We applied for, and received a forgivable loan for \$18,000. That has enabled us to keep our employees through this pandemic period and keep our mission going as effectively as we can during the pandemic. We have all the information to apply and receive forgiveness of the loan when the SBA starts taking the applications. The second blessing that has come up has been an inquiry about siting a cellphone tower on our property.

About 5 years ago, we were approached about siting a cellphone tower on our property. The council at that time decided to investigate the term sheet that was presented by the cell tower’s agent. However, the cell tower company did not pursue it with us at that time. We have been approached again this spring, just before the COVID closings. This time, the cell tower company has come back with a specific offer that we are evaluating. The terms that have been discussed so far consist of 2 parts:

1. a lease option period where the cell tower company has the option to begin construction of a tower on our property
2. when the tower is complete, they will begin paying us monthly rent for the use of our property. They will be needing approximately 3,000 square feet of space for the tower.

The option to lease continues for 5 years. They will pay Fellowship the following for each year of the option.

- Year 1 – \$1,000
- Year 2 – \$2,000
- Year 3 – \$3,000
- Year 4 – \$4,000
- Year 5 – \$5,000

The option terminates after 5 years, or when the tower is built and then converts into a lease that will pay \$1,500 monthly (\$18,000 per year) and increase at a rate that is under negotiation for the duration of the lease. The lease begins for 5 years. After 5 years, they can extend the lease for an additional 5 year period and continue to renew each 5 years, up to a total of 100 years. When the

tower is complete, the cell tower company will make aesthetic improvements to their equipment to blend with our building and property. At the end of the cell tower lease, the cell tower company will remove all the equipment installed and restore the grounds. That probably will be long after most of us are gone.

We estimate that it will probably take 18 months to 2 years to get all of the government approvals required to build the tower and then probably 2 or 3 months for construction. So, the tower operation and monthly lease payments will not begin for at least 2 years from now.

We will provide more detailed information for, and at the congregational meeting and answer any questions. Following that, we will be asking the congregation's approval or disapproval to enter into the lease option and lease.

The advantage of this lease is that it will help us to further supplement and stabilize our income stream. Along with all of our giving, it will help us continue and increase our mission to share God's love and grace. We are not counting our chickens before they hatch, however. The downside is that there will be a relatively small footprint taken up on our property by the tower and its equipment. There will be a tower sprouting from our property. We are working to site it where the aesthetic and practical impacts will be minimized as best as possible.

What are your thoughts on this cellphone tower proposal? Please feel free to send any questions or comments to me and I will do my best to answer them.

God has provided us any blessings. As the verse above says, he expects us to put it to good use. As always, we try to use our resources and blessings in the best way to do our mission and support our community.

Yours in Christ,

Todd Engen – President



Isaiah 43:18,19 *“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”*

What are you holding on to this fall that is preventing you from growth in the seasons ahead? Are they feelings that you could let go? During these times, we should take time to reflect on God’s Word and find ways to strengthen our kind and compassionate hearts. Maybe it’s calling a loved one more, calling a congregational member that you haven’t seen or helping our Outreach programs like the Little Library or our Blessing Box.

Fall is a beautiful time of year and with all that has changed this year hopefully we can all take more time to reflect and enjoy the changing of the seasons.

Chad Laucher

*A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. **Proverbs 22:1***

Sunday School News

This year's Sunday School is home-based. We have provided Pre-K through 6th graders books that they can move through at their own pace. High schoolers can subscribe to the ELCA's Faith Lens for a weekly lesson <https://blogs.elca.org/faithlens/>. The Indiana/Kentucky Synod of the ELCA also puts out a weekly Sunday School on <https://iksynod.org/sunday-school-home>. For adults, Pastor Robin has free materials in her office - if you would like a packet, please let her know. If someone would like to offer an adult study on zoom, we can help make that happen too!

A big thank you to our teachers during the 2019-2020 Sunday School year: Bruce Johnson, Todd Engen, Pastor Robin, Pete Cardimen, Cathy Votino, Claire Haase, and Bill Lude!



¹⁴ Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.¹⁵ When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. ¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation. Psalm 91:14-16 NRSV

This is a simple request, "...call to Me." During the COVID-19 pandemic, when we are quarantined in our home, or limiting our experiences out-of-home, we are challenged by fear, feeling alone, making short-term or long-term decisions, and staying connected in a meaningful way. These are natural sensations during difficult times. However, as believers we have the comfort, love, and safety of our Lord. God asks us to call on him, He will be with us, and show us His salvation.

I trust that you are finding ways to enrich yourself, and those of others, during this time. What books are you reading? What meaningful messages are you recording in your personal journal? Who are you contacting to share comfort and a positive spirit? Do you greet neighbors with cheer when you walk in your neighborhood? Are you accomplishing projects you have not had time for in your previous busy "normal" life? Are you planning a drive outside of the city to enjoy the changing colors of the foliage? How are you helping others? Have you found items you do not need that you can share with others? Are you able to contribute to the food pantries or blessing box?

Your efforts to support our outreach efforts are greatly appreciated. We continue to ask for the following items for the food pantries:

- Non-perishable food staples, such as beans, corn, rice, pasta, holiday meal items
- Diapers and wipes for infants, toddlers, and adults
- Toiletries, such as shampoo/conditioner, soap, toilet paper
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes

**Please bring your donations to the church during the published office hours.

Thank you for your generosity in delivering Meals on Wheels, books for the Little Library, and items to allow our community neighbors to engage in playing basketball. You provide valued support for those in need.

Outreach has provided COVID-19 health information and signage for occupants of our building space. This serves as a reminder to help keep us safe. We welcome visitors to our church environment, and consequently, we expect all to comply with public health practices.

A Prayer for Hard Times by Anne Peterson, poet, speaker, and published author: Lord, help us when we face trials in this life. Help us to call on You, knowing You always hear us. Help us to lean on You instead of leaning on our own understanding. Give us the strength we need and remind us always that You are aware of what touches us. You see even one sparrow that falls, and we are worth more than sparrows. Thank you, Lord, for not leaving us comfortless. Thank You for Your great love. We pray this in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

"Our Church All Are welcome"

I Hope all is well for you and your families. As we head into the final quarter of 2020, we have all had to make major adjustments of some kind in our lives. We have learned to adjust to being home more, to wearing masks, to missing our kids and grand kids, to learning how to do face time and zoom family visits.

We have learned as a congregation to stay together thru phone calls, to also go to Church through social media with Facebook Sundays and You Tube Sunday services. Who would in our lifetimes ever thought that would happen? But we are all hanging in there and adapting and overcoming with our new life styles and hopefully getting close to being able to get back to church in the near future when things settle down with Covid. By now many of us have experienced someone we know that has struggled with the virus, we all still must stay and think safety first & continue our prayer chains for all causes.

Our church is set and ready to go with strong sanitation practices and social distancing seating arrangements when we can resume.

On to some project items -

The pumpkin patch has been cancelled for this year as we felt this was the best direction to go

Christmas - what a great time of the year to Celebrate Christ's birth. So I was thinking. Our Church has a most perfect Christmas Tree - I would like to raise some funds to light up our tree from thanksgiving until New Years Day. My personal feeling is it would be an awesome and enjoyable sight to see and it will also let people know that we are continuing our efforts to keep our church active. With this being said - we will need to raise appx. \$1500 to \$2000 dollars to get this professionally done, as it will be permanent so we can light it every year. If you feel this would be something you can contribute to, then please list in the memo section of any donations that you can make "Christmas Tree Light up Fund" - many thanks if we can get this done.

Special thanks to Bill & Bruce for their efforts to help keep the landscaping and plants in top form this summer - your commitment to donate your extra time is appreciated, (as you may know - Bruce & Jean have moved to Indiana to be close to the kids, (you will be missed and good luck) also shout outs to Mike and Todd for their help on special projects - painting and roofing.

On the stewardship side, with the new style of social media church services, please share when you can and also invite your friends to view our services. Once we get back together we will need to look at where we are as a congregation and how we can re group and grow. Also our budget is tight and we appreciate your continued weekly donations.

A verse from the daily devotion,

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace"

Thanks,
John
call if anyone needs anything

O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker. Psalm 95:6

A flexible approach to worship.

As the pandemic continues to require countless changes to our lives, one constant remains – Our need to maintain ongoing worship practices. We are blessed to have opportunities to continue our worship, even in forms that we never would have imagined eight short months ago.

Outdoor worship service

We plan to hold another outdoor worship service at Murphy Park on Sunday, October 4. We'll take advantage of autumn weather (God willing, with no rain!) as a way to worship together as we continue to assess the safety of in-person worship.

Bring your lawn chair to gather at safe distances on the lawn of the park for a Service of the Word.

Virtual worship services

Pastor Robin and our wonderful musicians, Michael Cherup and Amy Wargowsky will continue to record and stream a Service of the Word each week. I encourage you to take advantage of the calming effect of lovely music and God's Word in a safe, home environment.

Plans for our return to in-person worship

In preparation for our eventual return to worship in the church, we have instituted some new practices. These preparations include hand sanitizer stations, removal of hymnals from the sanctuary, a new seating arrangement with more distance between chairs, purchase of masks for worshipers who don't bring their own, a deep cleaning of the church, and many other measures.

We'll continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation to inform a decision about our eventual return in in-person worship services.

Next planned worship date

October 4

Outdoor service at Murphy Park



FOR OUR MEMBERS:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Fritzi Bear | Hazel Lambert |
| Major N Crispin | Frank & Leena LeMay |
| Bob Drake | Sonja Meighen |
| Barb Fisher | Joshua Mott |
| Margery Gress | Martha Sampson |
| Cheryl Hamilton | John W. Votino |
| Lillian Kachic | Ray & Carol Ward |
| | Bill Zahn |

FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

- Joan Albert**, Ruth Albert's mother
- Pastor Ron Botts**, Pastor Robin's colleague
- Rosemary Craig**, Cindy Frey's mother
- Donna Engen**, Todd Engen's mother
- Erin Jacobson**, Karen Harris' family friend
- Chris Johnson**, Bruce Johnson's sister-in-law
- Suzanne Kemperman**, Sonya Thelin's co-worker
- Kurt's father**, Barb Fisher's co-worker's father
- Roger Linley**, Barb Fisher's friend
- Roxanne Poe**, Barb Fisher's co-worker
- Jim Sams**, John Votino's co-worker
- Kim Short**, Bill Lude's niece
- Sharon Skaggs**, Jim Jaeger's friend
- Jenifer Takats**, Todd Engen's wife
- Hayden Valesky**, Votino's great nephew
- E.J. Wendt**, Stacy Niedecker's daughter

DEATHS:

- Myrtice Bradley**, Jim Jaeger's brother's mother-in-law
- Toni Carroll**, Rev. Ron Botts' wife

October Birthdays

Megan Cardimen	10/07
Abby DeVantier	10/11
Sarah Almeida	10/18
Mike Defibaugh	10/18
Sarah Oliver	10/18
Kathy Farel	10/23
Don Johnson	10/25
Pam Crispin	10/28
Tom Mott	10/29
John McDaniel	10/30
Charlotte Tonn	10/30
Pam Lude	10/31



Happy Birthday to those celebrating birthdays this month! This list reflects the information we have in our computer at this time. We welcome your corrections and additions!

October Anniversaries

Paul & Vanessa France	10/05
Pat & Cindy Frey	10/06
Dan & Megan Howard	10/19
Artem & Kate Terentyev	10/20
Dave & Debbie Bear	10/24
Zak & Kathleen Wolkan	10/25



Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Robin Wargowsky
Treasurers	Heather & Chris Tonn
Financial Secretary	Tracy Farel
Office Secretary	Tracy Farel
Organist	Michael Cherup
Sub. Organist	David Fleisher
Sunday evening pianist	Amy Wargowsky
Choir Director	George Biemel
Custodian	Kenneth Hunt

Executive Committee

President	Todd Engen
Vice-President	Mike Rankin
Secretary	Ruth Albert Pastor Robin

Congregational Life

Director	Chad Laucher
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Education & Youth

Director	Bill Lude
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Outreach

Director	Carol Jaeger
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Stewardship & Support

Director	John Votino
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Worship

Director	Sonya Thelin
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Thank you for your leadership!!!

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4 10 am - Worship at Murphy Park (will have a streamed service also) 3:00 pm - Executive	5	6	7	8	9 5 pm - Smith/Tucker rehearsal	10 3:30 pm - Smith/ Tucker wedding
11 10 am - Worship (streamed)	12	13 7:00 pm Worship (Zoom)	14	15	16	17
18 10 am - Worship (streamed) 1 pm - Fellowship Time (Zoom)	19	20 7:00 pm - Council (Zoom)	21	22	23	24
25 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> 10 am - Worship (streamed)	26	27	28	29	30	31
1 <i>All Saints Day</i> 10 am - Worship (streamed)	2	3	4	5	6	7

Fellowship Lutheran Church
7350 Sawmill Road
Columbus, OH 43235

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Our Purpose: To share God's love and grace through our words and actions.

Our Vision: To be a "called and gathered" family of faith whose members so fully experience the undeserved love of God that we are moved to express that same love of God, in our relationships with one another and our whole community . . .

October 2020 Newsletter