

St. Margaret's Bulletin

Raffle for Harvest Fundraise—We are still collecting prizes for the Harvest Raffle. Reminder to be sell tickets. The funds from the tickets will go toward putting in the elevator/lift in our church.

Sign up to donate and work for the Harvest Dinner—There is a sign-up sheet in the church entryway for everyone to designate what they would like to donate for the dinner, where they would like work and to be the lead for the Country Store, Silent Auction, or Kitchen.

Reflection by Trish—Autumn

The weather was warm last Friday, yet on Saturday it began to snow. We had 2 days of snow and freezing temps at night. Today the sun is shining, and the yellow and gold leaves are falling from the trees. The season of autumn is all around us.

Autumn is called fall because the Earth slowly falls away from the sun and light rays decrease. Autumn is a season of transformation and change. The leaves turn colors; some trees are standing tall without leaves revealing abandoned birds' nests. Birds migrate south, animal coats thicken in preparation for winter, and our harvest is complete. We have gathered the fruits that the Earth provides from vines and plants above the soil as well as the root crops that grow below in the soil.

The leaves that fall and plants that die become compost for the soil. There is transformation in the dying process. We are witness to so much change around us. We are reminded that all of life is transitory. When leaves fall from the trees we can view the night sky through the branches. We see spaces where something beautiful once thrived. This space will rest and be nurtured by the snow of winter. Few things remain the same. When something leaves or shifts, a space is left for something new.

Autumn is a good time to reflect on our own life. As things change, we can give gratitude for what might be opening up to us. We don't know how the Spirit will move and the gifts that may come. As we watch the natural world transform and change, we know that we will also change, we transform. We need to rest in God's loving care as we wait for something wonderful and new to happen in our lives.

Have you lost someone meaningful to you? Or do you need to let go of an unhealthy relationship and give the heart more room to grow? With this empty space we can welcome new people with new ideas and energy. Our lives can be enriched. We can give thanks for the possibilities.

Perhaps our physical abilities have changed over time. This allows us to see all that we have taken for granted. We can spend time being grateful for all we were able to do and open ourselves to say yes to whatever is to come. Gratitude and worry can't share the same space in our hearts.

It may be time to surrender some of our possessions. Too many possessions can get in our way. They can become a burden - finding room for them, storing them, taking time to care for them. At the same time, it can be difficult to give them away or find them a new home. Reflect. Does this possession serve a purpose in our spiritual life? Letting something go can give us space to feel lighter with a unique freedom and know that someone else find joy with the item.

Gratitude is a powerful practice. As the natural landscape changes instead of looking at all that is lost, look to see the beauty in the different colors, the different shape nature is taking. As we face new challenges and changes in our lives, we can give thanks. We can give thanks for a new day, open our hearts and mind to the new possibilities that may come our way. We can't rush the work of the Holy Spirit, but we can give thanks for God's Spirit that surrounds us and lives in us. Trusting with gratitude can transform us.

Wonderful God of all seasons,
May we trust and rest in your loving care
As we appreciate the changes and welcome something new this season.