

***The Monthly Newsletter Publication of Triune Lutheran Church  
“Set Free to Serve One Another”  
November 2022***

Address:

4810 West Mill Road  
Broadview Heights, OH 44147

Phone: 440-526-3676

Website: [triunelutheran.com](http://triunelutheran.com)

E-mail: [triune948@gmail.com](mailto:triune948@gmail.com)

Worship Schedule:

Saturdays 5PM (contemporary)

Sundays 11AM (traditional)

Ministers.....All People

Pastor.....Brad Ross

Administrative Assistant.....Jan Piskac

Organist.....Edith Schatt

Council President.....Dale Kirk

Council Vice-President...Bonnie Piskac

Council Secretary.....Heidi Bailey

Council Treasurer.....Jack Schwab

Siblings in Christ of Triune,

Greetings! On November 3, the wider church celebrates Martín de Porres, who may more so be lifted up by our Roman Catholic siblings in Christ, but nevertheless, he is a humbling figure that deserves our recognition. The closest connection I have with him is being at several conference centers and other event halls that bear his name. So, for a bit of background from the website of the Martín de Porres Center in Columbus ([martindeporrescenter.net](http://martindeporrescenter.net)):

*Meet St. Martin de Porres (1579-1639):*

- *born in Lima, Peru*
- *son of a Spanish nobleman and a freed black slave*
- *raised in poverty*
- *at the age of 12, he learned barbering and the medical arts of the day*
- *at 15, he began working with the Dominicans as a lay helper and, eventually became a professed Lay Brother*
- *tended the sick in the monastery infirmary*
- *cared for the needy in the town*
- *spent hours each day in prayer*

As we also celebrate All Saints Sunday in November, we recognize not all the saints, past and us still living, are quite on the same level of charity and spending however many hours each day in prayer as Martín de Porres. But All Saints Sunday isn't about somehow trying to prove to God about our loved ones no longer with us being this good because they did this and that to qualify for sainthood. The special day isn't meant for us to read about a beloved Martín de Porres, making us wonder and even feeling guilty about not doing this and that enough.



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Triune Lutheran Church



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Perhaps there's something about celebrating all the saints at places of fellowship around random tables, some of those places bearing the Martín de Porres name. For around such simple tables, siblings in Christ share meals and conversations and laughter. They offer compassion and love and hope for each other. They are reminded that they didn't have to do a thing to earn a spot at that table, or at Christ's table for the Lord's Supper, not to mention anything at all to achieve being a saint in the eyes of God. We are made saints from the beginning with God's steadfast presence, God's wonderfully dwelling within us, and God's joyous calling for us to serve as disciples of Christ for the sake of the world that God still loves.

It isn't about us making sure we do all of this and that before we die to somehow prove to God we are worthy of an eternal embrace, or so that we can hear "Well done, good and faithful servant." It's about giving thanks to God for what God has already done for us in Jesus Christ. It's about the Holy Spirit churning within us, insisting we take part in bringing the Gospel to life. It's about being so overwhelmed with God's grace that we cannot help but be part of God's work through all the saints, those past and present. We may not reach the point of having a day on the calendar when we're recognized like Martín de Porres, but we still do our essential part in helping others know they are cherished by this ever-lasting and ever-loving God. Sometimes it happens around simple, and yet, beautiful tables. And time and time, again, from the Lord's table of Communion, we'll be empowered to be the living saints with all the grace and love and hope that took on death itself and rose victorious for us all to enjoy, not just in some heavenly banquet hall, but here around earthly tables, too. Thanks be to God, indeed!

In Christ,  
Pastor Brad



On the weekend of November 5/6, we celebrate All Saints Sunday, giving thanks to God for Jan Halishak and Dave Wilcox, and all the saints who have gone before us, and still among us!



We ask you to keep the following siblings in Christ in your prayers:

Niki Grigsby  
Charlotte Jackson  
Richard Jakubcin  
John Kurtz  
Dan Maldovan

Jill Maldovan  
Gloria Roderick  
Annie Slaughter  
Mardell Weiss  
Clara Wilcox



If you wish to send any cards, please send them, or drop them off, to the church office, and we will be sure to deliver them.



- 5 Carole Weiss
- 9 Linda Kirk
- 22 Cody Schwab
- 23 Sterling Schatt

- 2 Richard & Heidi Bailey
- 24 Jack & Tina Schwab
- 24 Robert & Irene Jakubcin



***The Monday Discussion Group*** continues Mondays at 1pm in the fellowship hall. You are always welcome to join us!

# *A True Thanksgiving*

## *Martin Luther on Giving Thanks*

“For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him.” With these words in his Small Catechism, Martin Luther concludes his paraphrase of the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed. The point is clear: We owe God thanks for all God gives to us.

But there is a trap here that we can easily fall into. Just because we ought to do something for God doesn’t mean we can do it—or, in Luther’s succinct language: “An ‘ought’ never implies a ‘can.’”

The problem with thanksgiving (let alone praise, service and obedience) is twofold. On the one hand, we try to turn it into a “must,” and we put on our smiley face and say thank you. Every time my Aunt Gladys gave me wool socks for Christmas, I was faced with the same dilemma: I had to write a thank-you note, but I wasn’t really thankful at all. Hypocritical thanksgiving is the very opposite of true thanks.

On the other hand, we imagine that we can manufacture true thanksgiving on our own, and we take credit for being thankful (or feel guilty when we aren’t). But this isn’t true thanksgiving either.

Like all Christian good works, thanksgiving comes spontaneously. We’ve experienced this with children or grandchildren. When they are truly thankful, it’s written all over their faces and they come running up to us with hugs and kisses. Otherwise, their parents whisper in their ears, “Come on, say thank you!” To which they moan, “Thanks for the socks.” So, too, with God.

What creates thanksgiving is not our attitude but God’s gifts. That is why, in his explanation of “I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth” from the First Article, Luther lists all the things he can think of that God has specifically given him: body and soul with their physical and mental capacities, shoes, clothing, food, drink, house, farm (by this time his wife, Katie, was beginning to purchase land to grow food for the expanding household and their many guests), wife, children, fields, livestock, property and all necessities for life.

Though our lists may vary, true thanksgiving arises not from our work at “being thankful” but out of God’s gifts, which include protection from “all danger . . . and evil,” as Luther goes on to say in the Small Catechism. Luther doesn’t mean to suggest that nothing bad will ever befall us, only that, when we are shielded from harm, danger and evil, this protection comes from God.

If you want to be thankful but you can’t do it, make a list of God’s gifts of creation. Or use Luther’s—you’ll run out of ink and paper before you get to the bottom, and like him, you may suddenly realize that “all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all” (First Article).

Some people concentrate on the word “Father” when explaining this article. Luther instead concentrates on the word “creator” and turns “Father” into an adjective: “fatherly.” In 1531, when Luther added an explanation to the words “Our Father in heaven,” his oldest child was 5 and he had discovered his own fatherly heart. “With these words God wants to attract us,” he writes (introduction to the Lord’s Prayer).

In the Bible, we deal with loving children and a loving, divine parent. Thanksgiving will come spontaneously as we discover this “pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy.”

But still we fail. We take so much for granted, or we fake it, or we break our arms patting ourselves on the back. That’s when a second aspect of Luther’s explanation comes to our rescue in the form of the Second Article of the creed: there Luther repeats the word “ought” or “owe” but in ways that are nearly impossible to capture in English. Jesus Christ “has purchased and freed me ... not with gold or silver but ... with his innocent (in German, *unschuld*, meaning “non-owed”) suffering and death.”

We owe everything to God. Jesus, truly human and divine, owed God nothing but gave up everything for us. The result, according to Luther? “He has done all this in order that I may ... serve him in eternal ... innocence.” There’s that word again. We belong to Jesus, we live in his kingdom, and he frees us from debt.

Thanksgiving arises not because we owe it to God—even though we do—but spontaneously, because Jesus made us his own and frees us to “thank and praise, serve and obey.” Amen! Or, as Luther paraphrased that word in this same explanation, “This is most certainly true.”

*Originally published November 24, 2021, on LivingLutheran.org, where you will find many resources for the journey of faith.*

*Timothy Wengert, an ELCA pastor, is professor emeritus of Reformation history at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Author and editor of more than 20 books, including Martin Luther's Catechisms: Forming the Faith (Fortress, 2009), his translation of the Small Catechism is used extensively throughout the ELCA.*

## CONGREGATIONAL Meeting

Our next congregational meeting will be immediately following the worship on Sunday, November 13, in our fellowship hall, where snacks will be provided. We hope you can join us as we hear the latest updates about our ministry at Triune, including hearing results from our focus group survey, as well as looking at the budget for 2023. We hope to see you there!

**Adopt  
a Family**

**AS IN RECENT YEARS, WE WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN BRECKSVILLE-  
BROADVIEW HEIGHTS HUMAN SERVICES' ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM.  
PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION IN EMAILS AND IN  
OUR WEEKEND BULLETINS. WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MOVED BY YOUR  
HUMBLING GENEROSITY IN HELPING LOCAL PARENTS PURCHASE  
CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THEIR CHILDREN, WHEN THEY MAY NOT BE ABLE  
TO DO SO OTHERWISE. WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED!**

# November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 WORSHIP @ 5 PM  TIM MIZE
6 WORSHIP @11AM  All Saints Sunday	7 Bible Study @ 1PM	8 COUNCIL MEETING AT COVENANT @6PM  AA @ 7pm	9	10   AA @ 8 pm	11  Veterans Day	12 WORSHIP @ 5 PM  PASTOR BRAD
13  WORSHIP @11AM  CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	14 Bible Study @ 1PM	15   AA @ 7pm	16	17   AA @ 8 pm	18	19  WORSHIP @ 5 PM  TIM MIZE
20 WORSHIP @11 AM  DAY OF THANKSGIVING	21 Bible Study @ 1PM	22   AA @ 7pm	23	24 Thanksgiving  AA @ 8 pm	25	26 WORSHIP @ 5 PM  PASTOR BRAD
27 WORSHIP @11AM  FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	28 Bible Study @ 1PM	29   AA @ 7pm	30			

