

Covenant News



November 2021

Pastor's Spin



Siblings in Christ of Covenant,

In the next few months, many college basketball fans will be following a head coach who calls Durham, North Carolina, home. As he enters his final season at the helm, Mike Krzyzewski (also known as Coach K) has led Duke University to over one thousand victories (a record for a coach at a single school), five national championships, not to mention playing a role in six gold medals with the USA basketball team, among many other accolades. Such mind-boggling achievement leads many to consider

him the greatest collegiate basketball coach of all time (to the chagrin of Buckeye and other non-Blue Devil fans). And yet, another amazing success story is emerging just over 70 miles west in Winston-Salem, but it will never gain the same national attention.

Outside of Wake Forest's campus is Augsburg Lutheran Church, and one of its ministries is a homeless shelter. Emily Norris had been helping with this pivotal outreach to the community for a few years while hearing pleas from guests for a safe space to worship, where they would not be judged (because, as much as we may think most church buildings are judgement-free zones...it isn't often the case). The stories from the residents inspired Norris to go to seminary and become a pastor. She returned to North Carolina, and helped shape the "Dwelling, an ELCA faith community designed for, but not exclusive to, people in Winston-Salem who are or have been homeless."

Except, it was 2020. The global pandemic was still raging, affecting Norris' plans to begin in-person worship for the just-as-precious-children-of-God, who happened to not have permanent housing. So, she had to call an audible, and instead came up with providing free mobile showers

for the people in need, including clean clothes. “‘It was really a profound way to start,’ Norris said. ‘Showers provide a sense of dignity and are therapeutic. I don’t know a better way to remind people of their baptism.’” Soon enough, the in-person worship commenced. A living room became a sanctuary with couches and chairs. It may not be what many desire on a weekend when they worship God, but it is their sanctuary, their safe-haven, their holy place to connect with the same God who loves them just as much as anyone else.

This is one of many stories from the ELCA’s recently published *Stories of Faith in Action*, an absolutely wonderful resource to help us all see how we as a wider church continue to make an impact on our local communities, on new centers for worship across the country, as well as making transformational effects on people all over the world. We do not often know how our offerings can play such a role in the life-altering work of the body of Christ. We know about how some monies need to go a pastor’s salary or paying for a parish administrator or ensuring the church building has lights and heat, but a pivotal portion is about humbling, but powerful ministry, inside and outside our own walls, sometimes well, well beyond those walls.

Great work is done by individual congregations in Maple Heights and Winston-Salem, North Carolina, but even greater work is done when we pass on some of our gifts to share with other precious gifts to pull off incredible ministry in the form of homeless shelters, food pantries, not to mention ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, and Lutheran World Relief. The *Stories of Faith in Action* (the PDF version is provided as an attachment if you are receiving this as an email, or if you would like a paper copy, please contact our church office) helps you see just how much of an impact we have and continue to pull off in our amazing part of the body of Christ.

So, in this month of Thanksgiving, we want to take this opportunity to say, “Thank you!” from the bottom of our collective hearts for being part of our Covenant family, and our wider family of the ELCA, and most important family, our siblings in Christ. We want to extend our appreciation for your continued support of our congregation during these topsy-turvy (to put it rather mildly) last two years, and we look forward to still be working together with whatever you have to offer in the years to come. As has been our spoken-blessing these last several weeks in concluding our in-person worship for that particular day, and sending us out as disciples of Christ: “People of God, you are Christ’s body, bringing new life to the world. The holy Trinity, † one God, bless you now and forever!” Yes, may you be blessed so that you, and all of us together, may serve as a blessing for others, because, evidently, we’re no where near done yet. Thanks be to God, indeed!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad





11/1 Don Rusher Jr

11/12 Dave Gaglione

11/2 Matt Marik

11/14 Lois Williams

11/3 Donna Franz

11/26 Vince Besednjak

11/3 Steve Senderak

11/29 Emily Garberich

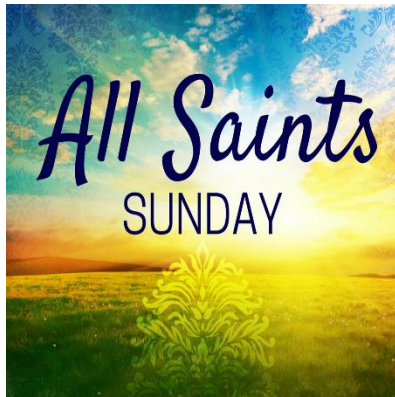
11/7 Donna Kobella

11/30 Dylan King



*11/17 Elaine & Keary Knerem
Happy 47th Anniversary!*

Remember to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday evening, November 6!



On Sunday, November 7, we give thanks for the lives of saints who have gone before us, who continue to shape us to this day. We also hear God's precious reminder that we too are saints, called out from baptismal waters to serve as the living disciples of our Risen Lord!

On the weekend of November 20/21, we will celebrate a Day of Thanksgiving during worship, as we remember to give thanks to God for all the blessings in our life, as well as to provide a time and space for us to calm our hearts before the hustle and bustle of the holiday season.



With the help of neighboring congregations, we continue to offer FREE community meals the 4th Thursday of every month (except with Thanksgiving this month, it will be the 3rd Thursday, Nov. 18). For the time being, the meal is provided in a drive-thru format from the back of the church. Whether you need a night off from cooking or know of someone who needs it, help us spread the word!



*From all of us at the Lutheran Church of the
Covenant,
we wish you and yours a happy Thanksgiving!*

**Adopt-A-Turkey
Southeast Clergy Hunger Center Thanksgiving Food Drive**



The Southeast Clergy Hunger Center continues to feed families and individuals in increasing numbers. Because the U.S. Department of Agriculture is giving less food to the Cleveland Foodbank, the Hunger Center's funds do not go as far. As a result, the Center is asking member congregations to consider an "Adopt-a-Turkey" drive to provide turkeys for the families at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

To that end, Covenant has established an "Adopt-a-Turkey" fund. On average, turkeys run from \$12 to \$14 dollars each. If you feel so moved, please make a contribution to the Southeast Clergy Hunger Center, either directly or through the Lutheran Church of the Covenant. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



CALLED TO BE SAINTS



Bernice Novak (May 19, 1928 – August 16, 2021)

Bernice (Bea) was a member of the Covenant Family for over 50 years!

She lived her life through Christ's eyes, caring and putting family and friends always first.

She was also a caregiver for many years.

An abundant wife to Frank (Fritz), proud mother of two (Debbie and Kim) and a faithful relative and friend to so many because of her rich soul!

Donald Schirmer (May 23, 1927 – December 27, 2020)

Age 93, beloved husband of the late Frances (nee DiFulvio); loving father of Daniel Schirmer (Karen), Ronald Schirmer (Nanette); cherished grandfather and great-grandfather; dear brother of the late Arlene Bohning and the late Elmer "Dutch" Schirmer; close friend of many. Don is a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame as well as the Cleveland Softball Hall of Fame. He was a basketball official for 53 years, a referee of high school and college football and an umpire of baseball, including 17 Cleveland Indians games. Don knew all the rules. Don founded fire prevention services in Maple Heights where he was known as Captain Schirmer and served for 30 years. Don proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during both World War II and Korea and was a member of The Lutheran Church of the Covenant. Don loved fishing and hunting: "Anyone want to go fishing?"



The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

November 2021

Server Schedule	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30-8:00 pm Girl Scout troop meeting in Nursery	2 1:30 Worship & Music Meeting	3 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Parlor	4	5 6:30-8:30pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	6 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall 5:00 Worship in Sanctuary
11/6/2020 AG: Sheila Werner, Annie Copeland, Paula Hohenstein	7 All Saints Sunday 9:00 Eucharist 10:00 Adult Class in Parlor	8	9 7:00 Congregational Council	10 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Parlor	11	12 6:30-8:30pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	13 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall
11/13/2020 AG: Sheila Werner, Annie Copeland, Paula Hohenstein	14 Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Eucharist 10:00 Adult Class in Parlor	15 6:30-8:00 pm Girl Scout troop meeting in Nursery	16	17 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Parlor	18 4:30-6:00 pm Community Meal Drive Thru in Parking lot	19 6:30-8:30pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	20 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall 5:00 Worship in Sanctuary
11/20/2020 AG: Joan Garvin, Marie Zahn, Jen Garberich	21 Thanksgiving Service 9:00 Eucharist 10:00 Adult Class in Parlor	22	23	24 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Parlor	25 Office closed for Thanksgiving Weekend	26 Office closed Thanksgiving Weekend 6:30-8:30pm GOD AA meeting in Hall	27 3:00 pm Women's AA meeting in Hall
11/27/2020 AG: Joan Garvin, Marie Zahn, Jen Garberich	28 First Sunday of Advent 9:00 Eucharist 10:00 Adult Class in Parlor	29	30				

Covenant News

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137

