

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
235 Jefferson  
Hanover, IL 61041



## St. Paul's EPISTLE

**Dateline: November, 2018**

**NOTES FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

### **"One Lump and One Loaf"**

As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas I watch as Facebook posts and magazine articles and restaurant specials turn to harvest foods and of course the ever present pumpkin spice. Thanksgiving and Christmas turn our focus towards food and family which always seem to go together.

As Jesus met with his disciples around a table for a final meal he prayed for them. One of the things that he prayed for was that his disciples might be one as he and his Father are one. Luther in commenting on this stressed that this oneness was not just a unity of similarity of mind or purpose. We are not similar as two coats but are one as a single piece of fabric. Instead Luther says that we are "one substance or one body and one loaf."

I like the idea that God is baking us together as one big loaf of bread that as Luther says "no part can be without the other, and if one part is torn off, it can be no longer be called 'one' or 'one substance.'" It reminds me of John Donne's classic comment that each person's death diminishes each of us so that a funeral bell is really tolling for all of us when one dies.

But Luther takes this idea of "one loaf" even further by saying, "and so we have the privilege that everything that affects one member affects the whole body...on account of this unity [the church] is called the communion of saints—since all saints or Christians are one lump and one loaf." For us as Christians, what affects one affects us all. This has two results. We share our suffering and our joys, lessening our pain by distributing it among us and multiplying our joy by spreading it. And it also means that when we hurt others we hurt ourselves and when we benefit others we benefit ourselves. When disaster comes to one it comes to all, and when we have disagreements and conflict it spreads through the whole loaf.

Further, that what happens to us happens to the head, Christ, and not only Christ, but all the angels in heaven and earth suffer and bear our sufferings with the promise that God will protect and defend "the apple of his eye," the one lump and loaf of the Christian family. So this is our promise and our sobering thought as meals and baking for holidays commence. God has made us one lump and loaf, and we live and share our life in God together, not only with our brothers and sisters as fellow "crumbs," but with all the heavenly host and with God. One lump and one loaf with Jesus. And there's nothing I like better than the smell of bread baking, especially when God is the baker.

**Blessings to all the bread of Christ,**

*Pastor Bruce*

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### **Faith Works! Bible Study on James**

Pastor Lisa continues our Bible study dealing with the relationship between faith and how our life is supposed to produce good works as fruit of the Spirit. Does it matter how much we do so long as we believe in Jesus? James is a very practical book that has useful advice about everyday matters of how to live our lives as Christians in families and churches.

Night sessions will be offered mostly on Mondays at Trinity at 7:00 p.m. and day sessions mostly on Thursday mornings at 10:30 at St. John. Please check the calendar and come join us!

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### **Holy Communion in November**

**Sunday, Nov. 4 - St. John at 9 am**

**and St. Paul at 10:30 am**

**Sunday, Nov. 11 - Trinity - 9 am**

**Sunday, Nov. 18 - St. John at 9 am**

**and St. Paul at 10:30 am**

**Sunday, Nov. 25 - Trinity - 9 am**

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### **Upcoming Meetings**

#### **Church Council Meetings**

Sunday, Nov. 11 - 11:30 am – St. Paul

Wednesday, Nov. 14 - 7 pm - Trinity

Tuesday, Nov. 20 - 7:30 pm - St. John

#### **Mutual Ministry Meeting**

Tuesday, December 4 - 7:30 pm - Trinity

#### **Men's Group Ministry**

Breakfast Prayer Meeting on  
Saturday, Nov. 17, at 8:30 am at  
the Welcome Inn, Elizabeth.

#### **Women's Group Ministry**

Monday, Nov., 26 - 2 pm - at St. John's .

**Faith & Vitality Meeting**

The next Faith & Vitality Meeting will be on Saturday; Nov. 10, 10 am-Noon, at St. John..

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**All Church Bazaar**

The ladies of all three churches in our parish are participating at the All Church Bazaar in Hanover on Saturday, November 17, 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., at the Park District (old School) in Hanover. Many other are churches will also be there, offering crafts, baked goods and other items for sale.

St. Paul will provide a lunch stand. Proceeds go toward the ministries of the churches. This is a great place to find unique Christmas gifts and goodies.

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**Hanover Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service**

The churches of Hanover are once again getting together to present the annual Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, Nov. 18 at 3:00 p.m. at the Park District (old School) in Hanover. Pastor Lisa will be preaching the sermon, and there will be other musical groups including special music by Ray and Jane Kumor. Refreshments will be served during fellowship time following the service. Everyone is invited.

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**Parish Thanksgiving Eve Service**

And you'll have one more opportunity to give thanks if you come to our parish Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. at St. John. We've been so blessed, and this is a great time for us to come together as a parish to say thank you to God.

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**All Saints Day**

Once again, our churches will be celebrating All Saints Sunday on Nov. 4 by reading the names of those who have died since last year, as well as collecting and displaying photos of any loved ones who have died at any time. If you have already supplied a photograph, we still have them from previous years. But if you have photos of anyone else you'd like to display in church, please leave them in the designated boxes that will go out at the back of each church.

Please give us copies, not originals, and indicate the names of the deceased. We appreciate your help to make this a special day by adding these pictures of our saints as we gather with them in worship.

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**Tyler's Justice Center for Children Needs Your Help!**

Children who are victimized need advocates who will help them through the criminal justice system, and thank God Tyler's Justice Center is there to do just that! But they need our help to continue to do the vital work they do. Specifically, they need postage stamps, Walmart gift cards, Kleenex, toilet paper, paper towels, kid friendly snacks, cleaning products, copy paper, #10 envelopes, and of course, cash. The Parish Women's Group has spear-headed a campaign to collect items to support their mission. There are boxes set up in all three churches (the one at St. John that was dedicated in September has been delivered to the center, but the need is ongoing so the box will continue to be there). Please be as generous as you can. Thank you.

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**Veterans Day**

Veterans Day falls on Sunday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, and we will begin our services with a remembrance and blessing for those who serve and have served in our armed forces. Any current or former military members are invited to wear uniforms or veterans' association attire for the service.

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**Operation Christmas Box**

Area resident Carla Flynn is looking for folks to help her fill Operation Christmas Boxes to be sent to children in need, ages 2-14. Items needed include personal care items, clothing and accessories, crafts, toys and a personal note. For more information on what's needed, go to:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/>.

They also require \$9.00 per box for shipping. For more information on what Carla's doing, you can contact Pastor Lisa. Deadline for contributions is November 11.

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**Quilt Raffle for the Beyer Family**

The WELCA ladies at Trinity are raffling off two beautiful quilts to benefit future housing needs of the Ron and Peggy Beyer family, whose home was damaged in the storms last July. Tickets are \$5.00 for one chance or \$10.00 for three chances. Pictures of the quilts are on Facebook and on the flyers. If interested in purchasing a chance to win please call Marilyn Wurster at 815-598-3320 or check out our Facebook page: Scenic Hills Lutheran Parish. Drawing will be held in early December.

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**Community Meals**

Thank you to all the volunteers from each of our three churches who continue to keep our free community meals going in Elizabeth and Hanover. Attendance has remained strong and we have people who regularly come for the fellowship. If you haven't stopped by before, please consider dropping in and learning what these are all about.

The Elizabeth meals are the last Tuesday of each month from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Hanover meals are generally the second Sundays, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Check the calendar for exact dates.

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**Community of Christians  
Elizabeth Meal**

The Elizabeth Community Meal will be on Tuesday, November 27, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All volunteers are welcome to pitch in. Come to join the ministry, come for the food, check out the fellowship!

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**Community of Christians Meeting**

The entire Community of Christians will meet at St. Paul Lutheran in Elizabeth on Wed., Nov. 14, at 2:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. This is for ALL churches in the Elizabeth/Hanover area.

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**Contact Information**

**Pastor Lisa Burbank**

Cell phone: 608-201-1860

Email: [pastorlisaburbank@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisaburbank@gmail.com)

**Pastor Bruce Burbank**

Cell phone: 303-638-8716

Email: [pastorbruceb@outlook.com](mailto:pastorbruceb@outlook.com)

**Parsonage Phone: 815-591-9970**

**Church E-mail:**

[churchsecretary@sandprairie.net](mailto:churchsecretary@sandprairie.net)

Parish Website address:

[www.scenichillslutheran.com](http://www.scenichillslutheran.com)

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**Don't Forget Your Free Breast and Cervical Cancer and Heart Health Screenings!**

Ladies, give yourself an early Christmas present! The Stephenson County Health Department is still offering free breast and cervical cancer screenings and heart health screenings to women ages 35-64, uninsured or underinsured, who meet income guidelines. These screenings are available to women in Stephenson, Lee, Ogle, Jo Daviess and Carroll counties. Information cards are available at all three churches. For more information, contact the Well Woman of NW IL staff at 866-590-8499.

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**Prayer List**

Please continue to pray for: The ELCA Bishops Eaton and Clements, the Church and Synod Councils, those serving our country in the military or the diplomatic corps, those who have served and returned with wounds, scars and emotional effects of war; all medical, aid and relief workers here and around the world, firefighters, first responders, doctors and nurses; and to those grieving.

Also please continue to pray for those with special prayer. Also please continue to pray for those with special prayer needs: Buddy Johnson, Adrienne Seagraves, Daryl Steinhagen, Maureen Sheppard, Libby Tipton, Bonnie Peters, Rev. Ken Matthews, a former pastor for the Hanover Presbyterian Church, Kay Watson, Jackie Reusch, sister-in-law of Anna Appleby (Raymond's wife), Karl Croffoot, and Austin Nack.

Our shut-ins: Anna Appleby, Doris Schaible and Sue Vandervate.

If you would like to serve as a "prayer warrior" on the Prayer Chains and pray for special needs OR know of someone who needs prayer, please call Barbara Schaible (815-591-3306) at St. Paul. You may only get the name.

Thank you for helping to bring the healing grace of our Lord into the lives of so many people. Prayer touches and changes the lives of those we pray for as well as the life of the one who prays. Whether you are on the prayer teams or pray by yourself, please keep all those listed in your prayers. Many of those on the list have already received miracles and we must pray that God grants many more.

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