



November
2017

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**OUR MISSION
TOGETHER**

Led by Christ,
and transformed by his
love and grace,
we welcome all to join
us as shepherds,
in praise, worship and
compassionate service
to others.

From Pastor Aleese

On Sunday, November 5, we'll gather together for our annual Harvest Festival to support Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach (LCO). That day, we'll be blessed with the gifts of Pastor Cindy Breed, LCO chaplain, who will preach that morning in worship and gather with us that evening to share the story of LCO. But the first Sunday in November is important to the church for another reason as well, as we commemorate All Saints Day. "But wait, Pastor Aleese!" some might say. "Isn't that a 'Catholic' thing? We don't have 'saints' in the Lutheran church!"

Though it's true that we differ from the Catholic church in our understanding of a "saint," even as Lutherans we remember the saints who have gone before us. Historically, All Saints Day lands on November 1. In strict practice, the evening of October 31 begins the celebration of "All Hallows Eve" (or, All Saint's Eve). Right away, can you see the connection between All Hallows Eve and Halloween? Though Halloween is largely an adopted pagan ritual, it is connected to this Christian practice to remember saints who have died. (Which, as one can imagine, is one of the reasons for some of the ghoulish Halloween traditions of "the dead"!) Regardless, All Hallows Eve is followed then by All Saints Day. Today, in Christian practice, it is either celebrated on November 1 or is transferred to the upcoming Sunday.

Some people might call "All Saints Day" the "Day of the Dead." But as followers of Christ, we know that death is not the final answer. Though we recognize the reality of death, condemnation, sorrow, and suffering, we also uplift the reality of life, redemption, joy, and peace in Christ. We see and experience these contrasts each day. Such is the life as baptized children of God – people who are both saint and sinner. But at the end of the day, we believe that God's promise of life reigns over all.

So why celebrate "All Saints Day"? Are we celebrating the dead? Are we interceding on their behalf? No. Rather, All Saints Day is a day to give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, for the saints still among us, and for the saints still to come. It's for that reason that in worship, we'll remember not only those who have died, but we'll also remember those who have been baptized.

So why does all this matter? It matters because as people who are both "saint" and "sinner," we trust that when we gather around the Word, at the font, and at the communion table, that we gather with the whole body of Christ. Regardless of time, space or denomination. And in the midst of the broken reality of our lives and the world around us, we claim with confidence that though we are "sinners," God has recreated us to be something set apart with a unique purpose – as saints - even in this kingdom of God.

So as you gather in worship on Sunday, November 5, know that we aren't trying to be more "Catholic" than we are Lutheran. Instead, we are joining with the entire "catholic" church – with a small "c" – to remember the whole body of Christ as saints before God's throne. And as you gather with family and friends around Thanksgiving tables this year, I encourage you to give thanks for the people in your lives who have been examples of faithful living. Give thanks to God for them, and give thanks for Christ's gift of life, claiming you as a saint. Because the Holy Spirit isn't done moving yet. And you are a saint that God is still at work in.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st Becky Timewell
7th Becky DeBlaey
13th Stephanie Bartling
16th Pastors Dan and Aleese Baldwin
20th Allan Oestemann
22nd Joanne Drinkall
23rd Roger Luft
Autumn Wagner
27th Bryan Walton and Cate Brown



Board Meetings

- Lay Ministers
November 7 @ 5:30
- Education
November 7 @ 6:30
- Evangelism
November 9 @ 6:00
- Stewardship
November 9 @ 6:30
- Property
November 14 @ 5:30
- PPC
November 28 @ 6:30

Upcoming Events

SOTC Monthly Faith Formation and Worship Schedule

Worship and Music

Worship - Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
The Way - Wednesday, 5:00 p.m.

Education

Sunday School and Adult Education - Sunday, 10:20-11:30 a.m.
FINK (more information below) Wednesday, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Bible at the Brew (BATB): 1st Thurs. of the month, 5:30 p.m. at
Missipi Brewing Company
Women's Group: 2nd Sat. of the month, 8:30 a.m. at SOTC



FINK Schedule

November 1, 6:00-8:00 p.m.	Theme Night @ Grace
November 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m.	Service Night-United Way
November 15, 6:00-8:00 p.m.	Theme Night @ SOTC
November 29, 6:00-8:00 p.m.	Social/Fellowship

Harvest Fest — Sun., Nov. 5

Warm up with a bowl of hot soup, homemade bread and pie! Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to share their time and talents with this event as we plan an evening of fellowship. There are still cards and flyers available to share, and be sure to share our event information on Facebook. If you have questions, see Delene McConnaha or Melanie Wachtel. We look forward to seeing you there, and bring a friend!

Loaves and Fishes - Sat., Nov. 11

Looking for a place to serve this month? Join us as we help prepare, serve and clean up a lunch meal for those in the downtown Muscatine area! Volunteers are needed throughout the morning, and we are in need of some milk and desserts to bring along. Sign up sheet in the narthex.

Luther Movie – Sat., Nov. 11, 4 p.m.

Earlier this fall, we were invited to join Our Saviors Lutheran at The Palms movie theater to watch a film/documentary about the Reformation. Because the showing was cancelled and then re-scheduled, some were not able to see the film. And, others have continued to show an interest in seeing more about Luther's life. So why not cap off our commemoration of the Reformation and put all our learning together by watching the movie Luther? This movie is a true drama of the events of the Reformation and does not contain commentary. Some snacks will be provided; feel free to bring your own. We'll view the movie in the sanctuary and then have discussion as time allows.

Upcoming Events

Congregational Budget Meeting and Report

A congregational meeting for the purpose of voting on the 2018 budget will be held on Sun., Nov. 19 immediately after worship. A copy of the budget will be available by Sun., Nov. 5. Boards are to submit their budget proposals to the Stewardship Board by Oct. 19.

There Have Been Some Things Moving Around Lately!

By now, you've probably noticed that the coatracks have moved! In order to create more bulletin board space, and in order to create a corner for Products of the Flock to display their wares, the coatrack has been moved into the education hallway. And as long as you're down that hallway, take a peak into the two Sunday School rooms! Slowly but surely, we've been aiming to create more space for various groups to meet and learn. With Sunday School, Adult Education, FINK and various other faith formation groups, we were finding the need to create workable meeting and working spaces. We hope that these changes will benefit the whole of the congregation, and continue to provide the space needed to continue the various ministries that happen in our building!

Witness to Peace – A Time of Prayer and Hope

Following the shooting in Las Vegas in September, the Muscatine Ministerial Association (MMA) hosted a peace vigil at the Riverfront. But those who attended agreed that the need for peace will not somehow be "met" after one vigil. Though we may not experience gun violence on a daily basis, the reality of violence is present in our communities as well. In response, area churches will host a monthly gathering at the **Discovery Park Environmental Center on the second Sunday of the month beginning at 3pm.** We hope that this is a safe place for all people – regardless of religion, race or background – to gather in witness to peace and to the common good. In a time of seemingly unending stories of violence and chaos, we hope to create a place for people to witness to hope rather than fear. Interested? Join us as you are. All are welcome.



Roof Fund Update

In response to the generous insurance check that will be used toward a new roof, the Stewardship Board was tasked with determining how the excess funds remaining in the Roof Fund would be used. Having gathered input from the congregation, the Stewardship Board decided that 10% of the excess funds will be sent directly to Salem Lutheran in Houston, TX, and the remainder (90%) will be re-designated to a general Capital Campaign savings. This Capital Campaign money can then be used for future repairs/improvements, such as HVAC or A/C units. The congregation is encouraged to continue giving to the Roof Fund with the hopes of raising the \$20,000 needed to receive the \$10,000 matching gift. Though we do not need as much money as was anticipated to replace the roof, we hope to raise this money now to avoid another capital appeal in the near future. If you have any questions, please talk to Al Oestmann, Roger Luft or Kim Bartling.

Hey There Turkey!

I can see your feathers.
Don't you know its turkey eating weather?



Look What's Happened!

In October, we commemorated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in many ways. Throughout the month, we remembered the story of Luther, and challenged ourselves to continue sharing the one thing that Luther was committed to the most: God's Word.



On Sun., Oct. 22, our Sunday School kids loaded up with children's books to deliver to local Little Free Libraries. Thanks to your help, and thanks to the kids who used a portion of their Sunday School offering money to purchase books, over 4 boxes of books were distributed! Still have some you'd like to contribute? Bring 'em in! The FINK youth will offer the remainder of books to United Way when they volunteer there in November.

Our FINK youth continued in their monthly service to the community by volunteering at the Musser Public Library, sanitizing toys and chairs in the children's play areas. (We may have had a little fun with the toys too!!) Then, on the last Wed. of the month, FINK families and others from the congregation gathered for a night learning about Luther's central teaching: that we are "justified by grace through faith." Unfortunately, we didn't get a picture of the crazy "snowball" fight game that helped us think about what is "sin" and what is "grace," and we didn't get a picture of Jake or Brynn all "tied up in sin," but we did get this picture of the after effects of our families talking about what "faith" is! Still curious about those activities? Ask our youth for the full story!



Back by popular demand, families from SOTC, Grace Lutheran and Wonder Years Preschool gathered for a night of Trunk-or-Treat! Families engaged in various games, painted some pumpkins, enjoyed some hot apple cider and cocoa on this chilly afternoon! Martin and Katie Luther joined in on the fun by "Brewin' up some trouble" and handing out well over 94 Reese's! To finish off the night, coordinators warmed up with a hot bowl of chili and hotdogs. Despite the cooler temperatures attendance was more than doubled from last year!



Because of your help, SOTC raised \$1,285.85. \$200 will go directly to support Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston, TX, and \$1,085.85 will be deposited into the Roof Fund. In addition to the bake sale, the Products of the Flock raised \$236, got an invite to a craft show the next day, and helped spread the word about our upcoming Harvest Festival! Way to go everyone!

Thank you for your involvement and support of Shepherd of the Cross as we learn more and more about God's Word of grace for our lives! Freed from sin, you all have certainly lived into what it means to be freed for service!



LSI Newsletter Article and Story

National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, and LSI is proud to announce our newest service, LSI Foster Care and Adoption. Through this new service, LSI recruits, supports, and empowers foster and adoptive families across western Iowa.

Nationally, there are more than 101,000 youth waiting to be adopted from foster care, and thousands of teens age out of foster care every year without a permanent family. We know there are no unwanted children, only unbound families! To learn how you or someone you know can make a difference, visit LSIowa.org/Foster, or contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Opening Your Heart and Home

Phillip and Ruth remember the day they decided they wanted to adopt.

It was the late 1950s, and the couple was shocked to learn abandoned babies in a local hospital were being neglected, didn't receive the attention or care they needed, and were not developing properly because of it. Phil and Ruth knew they wanted to do something.

"We decided we would adopt as soon as we could," Ruth says.

Phil and Ruth became adoptive parents through what was then called Lutheran Social Services of Iowa (LSS). The couple already had three biological children, Carol, Eric, and Peter, but they had more room in their home and in their hearts. They were ready for a fourth child. That's when baby Rachel entered their lives.

A few years later, the couple adopted 4-year old girl, Paula, and their family was complete. The seven traveled the country for work and vacations, went camping everywhere, and remained a close-knit family even as each child left home for college.

Now, all of Phil and Ruth's children have lives of their own, and Phil and Ruth have added grandchildren and great-grandchildren to their legacy.

Paula graduated from the Naval Academy, received her Ph.D. in Computer Science, and now works for the IRS. Rachel, a graduate of Luther College and the University of Wisconsin Medical School, became a doctor and practices in New Orleans, Louisiana. She has a weekly syndicated health tips show on her local ABC television station, and has been awarded two regional Emmys.

Through it all, Phil and Ruth have been advocates and supporters of adoption in Iowa. For them, it was a way to make a difference in the world, one child at a time. Today, Phil and Ruth continue to support vulnerable children in Iowa as faithful donors to LSI.

"Not everyone can adopt," Phil says, "but everyone can afford to support LSI. Even a small amount, given monthly and automatically, is remarkably helpful."

Community Events

Laundry Love

Trinity Episcopal Church sponsors a ministry to help fund the cost of laundry services to low income families. Some members of SOTC have helped with Laundry Love from time to time, and have indicated that they are always in need of extra hands to help at the laundromat and in need of donations to help offset the cost of services. Families may come in on prearranged dates, either during a morning or evening block of time, to do their laundry. Interested in helping? Contact Trinity Episcopal at [563-263-2177](tel:563-263-2177) or talk to Marlys Grete, volunteer.

Food Pantry Volunteers

Bill Dyar, organizer of the Muscatine Food Pantry, has indicated that he would welcome more volunteers to help distribute and stock food. Food pantry hours are Mon., Wed., and Fri. from 8-10:30am. If you're interested in helping distribute food, merely show up at the Muscatine County Community Services Building anytime between 7:30-8am. Not able to stick around the whole time? Not a problem. Bill will take whatever help he can get!

Food Pantry Donations

Every time you do your grocery shopping, please consider purchasing an item or two that can be donated. Bring it to church and add it to the collection box in the narthex. We will be sure that donated items are taken to the Food Pantry on a consistent basis.

For the month of November you are invited to bring Thanksgiving sides. (stuffing mix, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce...)

Prepare the Way! The King is Coming!

Each December, we prepare for Christmas. And each year, it seems as though the "to-do" list for Christmas gets longer and longer. If you've been in Wal-Mart recently, you've probably noticed that they've already started setting up their Christmas section! Here at Shepherd, we're going to take the season of Advent (beginning Sun., Dec 3) to intentionally prepare for our coming King and to consider what it is that we are still "waiting" for in our world and in our lives.

Beginning Sun., Nov. 26 we will be offering a special evening of "R(est) & R(enewal) with God." A light meal (soup, bread) will be served at 5:30pm, with a time of prayer, Scripture and discussion to follow at 6pm. Each Sunday during Advent, we'll continue to meet, in hopes that we can A) carve out some time to just "be" with God this season, B) become more comfortable with various practices of prayer, C) grow in our spirituality and relationship with God, and D) prepare the way for the King to come into our hearts, our minds, and our bodies.

As you give thanks this November, remember before God your blessings. And as you come before God in prayer, open your heart to what God is preparing for you, for the world, and for our congregation this Advent. The King is coming. How are you preparing with us?



Weekly Giving

September

September 3	\$2260.53
September 10	\$1950.00
September 17	\$1695.00
September 24	\$1356.00
Total	\$7261.53

October

October 1	\$2693.00
October 8	\$1562.00
October 15	\$1513.00
October 22	\$1950.00
October 29	\$1657.00
Total	\$9375.00

Thank you for your continued support of the mission of Shepherd of the Cross! Because of your generosity, we continue to share the Spirit and share the story of Jesus! Thank you!

Prayers of the People

Please remember the following people in your prayers this month:

Concerns

Sara Guhn, following a stroke
Bernice Stalkfleet, dealing with health issues
Ruth Reist, dealing with health issues
Rose Howard, dealing with health issues
Thelma Pendleton, dealing with health issues
Judy Braun, dealing with health issues
Margaret Hildebrandt, dealing with health issues
Colby DeBlaney, sister-in-law of Becky DeBlaney, diagnosed with breast cancer
Those affected by natural disasters
Larry Hill, friend of the Bermels, health issues
Kenneth James, brother of Ruth Reist, recovering from hip surgery
Nathan Stalheim, recovering from a fall
Christy Hiltner and her family at the loss of her daughter Norah

Joys

For a fruitful bake sale and craft sale at the new Era-Ye Olde Country Store
In thanksgiving for the marriage of Brandon & Hannah Wachtel
In thanksgiving for those who donated and delivered books to the Little Free Libraries
In thanksgiving of fun and fellowship during "Trunk or Treat"



Sunday Fellowship Teams

November 5 ~ Team 5

Joanne Drinkall, Marlys Grete, Elizabeth Hill, & Sandy Hill

November 12 ~ Team 6

Amy & Dave Bakke, Margaret Hildebrandt, Glendola Reinier, and Ruth Reist

November 19 ~ Team 1

Betty Burch, Becky DeBlaey, Kaia Petesen, Melanie Wachtel

November 26 ~ Team 2

Heather Allen, Cathy Bermel, Leslie Eichelberger, & Patti Oestmann



Remember to set your clocks back Saturday night, Nov.4th

SOTC Hours

Pastor Aleese: Tues.: 8-10 a.m.

Wed.: 2-5 p.m.

Fri.: 3-5 p.m.

Office Hours: Mon.: 1-5 p.m.

Tues. 4-6 p.m.

Wed.: 4-6 p.m.

For clarification, we will be working throughout the week, these are the times that you can expect to find us in the office. Monday is Pastor Aleese's day off.

Worship Assistants

	Greeters	Ushers	Readers	Children's Sermon	Communion Assistants	Communion Set-Up	Fellowship	Acolyte
Sunday November 5 @ 9:00 a.m.		Drakes	Roger Luft	Pastor Cindy Breed	2 needed	Patti Oestmann	Team 5	
Sunday November 12 @ 9:00 a.m.	Marnee, Ava, & Raen Acker	Elyse & Leslie Eichelberger	Josh Allen	Roger Luft	2 needed Josh and Zach Allen	Daryl Eichelberger	Team 6	
Sunday November 19 @ 9:00 a.m.				Dave Bakke	2 needed Roger Luft &	Patti Oestmann	Team 1	
Sunday November 26 @ 9:00 a.m.			Marlys Grete	Leslie Eichelberger	2 needed Gary & Marlys Grete	Daryl Eichelberger	Team 2	

November 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 5:00 The Way 6-8 FINK @ Grace	2 5:00 Weight Watchers 5:30 Bible @ the Brew 6:30 Stitching Group	3 Pastor on vacation ← →	4 7:30 Weight Watchers
5 9:00 Worship Service 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Harvest Fest Set-up 4-7 Harvest Festival	6 5:00 Weight Watchers	7 5:30 Lay Ministers 6:30 Education	8 5:00 The Way 6-8 FINK Service Night	9 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:00 Evangelism 6:30 Stitching Group 6:30 Stewardship	10	11 7:30 Weight Watchers 8:30 Women's Group Loaves and Fishes 4:00 Luther Movie
12 9:00 Worship Service 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School Noon Mutual Ministry Meeting 3:00 Witness For Peace	13 5:00 Weight Watchers	14 5:30 Property	15 5:00 The Way 6-8 FINK @ SOTC	16 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:30 Stitching Group	17	18 7:30 Weight Watchers
19 9:00 Worship Service 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School Congregational Budget Meeting	20 5:00 Weight Watchers	21	22 5:00 The Way No FINK Pastor on vacation ← →	23 Office Closed	24	25 7:30 Weight Watchers
26 9:00 Worship Service 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 5:30 Light Meal 6:00 R & R with God	27 5:00 Weight Watchers <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	28 6:30 PPC	29 5:00 The Way 6-8 FINK @ Social night	30 5:00 Weight Watchers 6:30 Stitching Group		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><u>Upcoming Events</u></p> <p>Nov. 26 - Dec. 17 R and R with God</p> <p>December 24, 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service</p> </div>						