



c/o Zion Lutheran Church
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Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2021

TIME SENSITIVE

PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

*Our lives are formed by Word and
Sacrament, and we gather as the beloved
children of God around the means of grace
where our lives are in Christ.*

Pastor's Column

A BROADER THANKS-GIVING

I am grateful most of the time for so many things. It stems from my mom and her ever-joyful, positive, upbeat, God-loving nature and inspiration that showered my sister and I with blessings, constantly.

Except maybe when my sister or I messed up and got into trouble...yet haven't we all been there 😊

Even when in trouble though, we were still loved and looked after. So, you get an idea for my formation and why this grateful orientation is at core.

November is the opportunity for observing a collective point in being grateful. Whether we are steeped in the lore of Plymouth Colonists enjoying a meal with Wampanoag Native Americans, or simply grateful for an opportunity of synchronicity with so-many on one day in participation with positive energies, Thanksgiving is a wonderful point in which to take a breath, reflect and turn our hearts towards heaven from which all blessings flow!

Our canon of scripture, and the extra-canonical (the texts outside of the "official" bible), as in the apocrypha and many from the trove of texts discovered in earthen-ware from caves at Nag Hamadi, others still being "found" and released from the archives of the Vatican, point towards our source of blessedness, our Creator, God!

Before becoming Lutheran, in both the Methodist and Congregational traditions (in which I also served long-ago as organist and choir-master in various places), we would sing the doxology (to OLD HUNDREDTH, from the Genevan Psalter of the Reformed Tradition), a hymn of praise and thanks-giving, at each service:

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;*

*Praise him above ye heavenly host: Praise
Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Worship has a purpose in not only helping us connect, feel the presence of God, and hear the Word with which to be nurtured, but ALSO in providing space for giving thanks to God regarding the blessings in our lives AND the opportunity we have for sharing of this gift of blessedness with the world! And then we leave worship, fed by the Eucharistic meal, refueled and filled inspiration with which to engage the world.

Grateful, giving-thanks, genuinely sharing.

My hope is for us all to be able and slow-down to sit in the day, bask in the moments of Grace from above and enjoy company, food, reflection, any and all of these things!

We have the opportunity for gathering ecumenically the Sunday before Thanksgiving at our Zion campus for 3 PM with like-minded, grateful sisters and brothers in the faith to express our joy to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

Perhaps you'd like to join us, extending the Thanksgiving celebration beyond it's named day a little bit ahead of time, listening to some awesome live-choirs and instrumental music, joining in unity with prayer, and basking in the Grace from above! Plus, since we've moved the service time forward an hour, in won't interrupt your revelry with that day's Bruin's/Flames 7 PM game 😊

In ✝ Christ's name,

Pastor Andrew



MEAL LINES

We had a GREAT time with Pr. Matt Martin and running three lines, building meal kits through ENDHUNGERNE on Sunday, October 24th!

Participants from kindergarten through octogenarians cheerfully, dutifully staffed our work, so that in about 2 hours we completed enough kits to feed 12,000 people!

The 37 cases of meals, 20 of fortified Spanish rice, 17 of fortified tomato-basil dinner, will stock shelves at Carty Food Cupboard at Wesley United Methodist in Worcester, and the Loaves and Fishes Pantry at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester; the type of meals these pantries have told us their clients are pleased to receive. With the uptick in clients needing assistance, our work helps keep up with need.

THANK YOU to everyone who donated to offset the \$3,600 of product and supplies, and staff the intergenerational project!





Dear Pastor,

I hope you are doing well. I am currently enjoying college at UMass Amherst. Thank you so much for the opportunity to apply to the Bethel Scholarship. I am honored to be chosen and very much appreciate the award. I plan to use this towards books for my upcoming semesters. Thank you again and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Wright

LOOKING FOR A GROUP OF LUTHERANS TO MEET WITH AND SHARE SOME EXPERIENCES AND HAVE FUN?

AS A SHARED MINISTRY WITH BETHEL/ZION, WHY NOT GIVE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING A TRY?

MEN'S GROUP

Tuesday, November 9th. These dinners are open to anyone who would like to get together and socialize for an hour or 2. We have some excellent cooks amongst our members, and a tasty meal is always available. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6 pm in Voosen hall, but you can stop by any time after 5:30. Dinners are \$12.00, and all the profits go into the Calumet scholarship fund.

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex so that a general head count can be obtained. If you have any questions, please contact Preston Sturdevant.

WOMEN'S: DOLs (Dine Out Ladies)

The Dine Out Ladies are going to lunch at 1:00 pm on Tuesday November 9th, at Jimmy's Tavern & Grill, White City Plaza Shrewsbury. Anyone who would like to carpool will meet at Bethel and we'll leave at 12:00. A sign-up sheet is in the Bethel narthex or call Leanne Carraher at 508-335-6421 no later than Sunday, November 7th.

"BOOKIES" Book Club

Next book "The Giver of Stars" by Jojo Moys. Historical fiction account of the Kentucky Pack Horse librarians who between 1935-1943 delivered books to some of the most remote regions in the Appalachian mountains. Bookies will meet in the Chapel on Monday November 29th @ 2:00. All are welcome.



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Bethel

Stephen & Glenna Van Dyke - 11/05
Katherine & Bradley Lehman - 11/11
David & Kathleen Legg - 11/11
Gary & Kathy Townsend - 11/11
Jill & Doug Ducat - 11/18

Zion

Lisa & Mark Fountaine – 11/10
Horace & Ruth Ames – 11/19
Leo & Joyce – 11/22

PRAYER LIST

*John Berube – Karen Carlson - Liesl Voosen
Fields – Paul Josephson - Bill Lewis - Eric Lewis –
Jim Mooney – David Naugle - Bob Venning - Bob
Ekstrand – Karleen Habin –Marilyn Caramielo -
Tim Munyon - Greg & Sandy Linberg - the elder
Vallelis – David Toombs – Jane Johnston - Gary &
Kay Lemerise - Arnold Ariansen –Helen & Steve
Trilligan – Howie Evers – Bob MacMillion – Dottie
Hultin – Peter DiPierri - Randy May*



Dismas: Our regular last Friday of the month falls on the day after Thanksgiving. This is a day that most residents go home to family for the weekend. However, there are other evenings in November when a meal would be welcome. Please consider dropping off a home-cooked meal for the folks at Dismas. Call Jackie Walsh if you can help 508-407-8876



Doris Brick

c/o Oakdale Nursing & Rehab.
76 No. Main St., W. Boylston, MA 01583

Ingrid Lawrence

c/o Evergreen at Briarwood
67R Briarwood Circle, Worcester, MA 01606



Each Wednesday noon we serve a meal through Elder Services of Worcester at Zion!

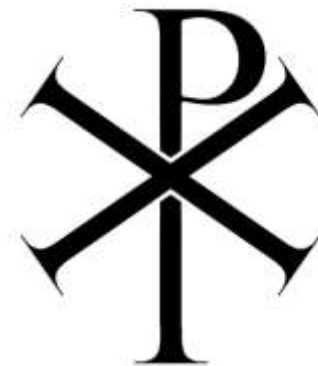
Call the main office each week by 11 AM Mondays to register for a tasty/nutritious meal and some great social time!

Meals are FREE to anyone 50+, with a suggested donation of \$2.50/person.



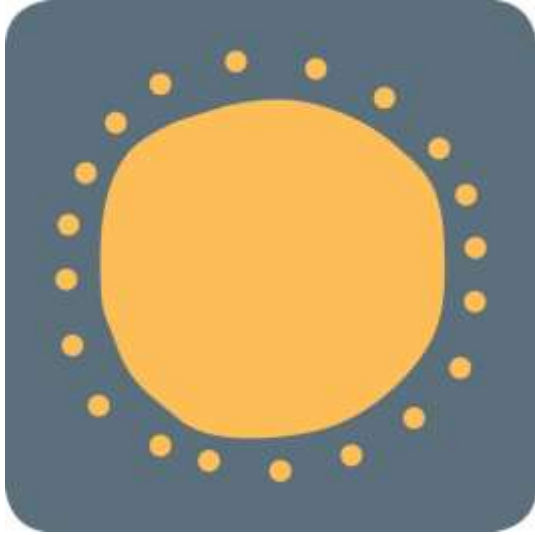
November 7th

All Saints



November 21st

Christ the King



Divine Spark: Gifts Found through the Enneagram

Each of us carries a divine spark (or sparks) capable of increasing the light of the world. Jesus is described as “the light of the world” Jn. 8:12. But Jesus then describes us as having that same light. “You are the light of the world” Mt. 5:14. Light is not something you necessarily see; it is something that allows you to see other things. The Enneagram is an ancient tool. It has been refined through the gifts of psychology and theology to better illuminate the gifts within ourselves and others. Kris Nilson Portinga is a Nurse Practitioner and Spiritual Director who has utilized the Enneagram for her own growth and shared it with hundreds of others seeking spiritual renewal and understanding. Mark Nilson is Pastor of Salem Covenant Church in Worcester, MA. Join Kris and Mark as they help uncover the unique light within each of us, equipping us to more fully engage and repair the world in which we live.”

Friday, November 5, 2021, 7:00 pm (includes dessert) Salem Covenant Church

Saturday, November 6, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (includes lunch) Salem Covenant Church

***Workshop is dependent upon COVID conditions and is subject to postponement if required**



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Zion

Pamela McGovern – 11/02
Ginger Carlson – 11/10
Erin Ames – 11/11
Ann Spinner – 11/12
Carolyn Nelson – 11/14
Olivia Berglund – 11/15
Ingrid Lawrence 11/16
Kenneth Henderson – 11/18
Amy Costello – 11/29

Bethel

Lisa Ferreira - 11/04
Jennifer Rapoza - 11/04
Judy Hodgerney - 11/07
Gary Townsend - 11/07
John Rapoza - 11/07
Marie Sturdevant - 11/09
Miriam Bove - 11/09
Katherine Lehman - 11/09
Jane Jakusik Hurd - 11/12
Mary Nelson - 11/12
Daniel Stolberg - 11/18
Alyssa Wright - 11/20
Naomi Bylund - 11/26
Garret Peters - 11/26
Bethann Valentine - 11/27
Dot Hultin - 11/28
Joan Parker - 11/28



*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*
Ephesians 2:10

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me, ...Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." - Matthew 25:35-36, 40

This passage of scripture is often used to convey the message of how we are to treat others in need. The truth in this passage is this; what we do for our neighbor in need out of love, compassion, and mercy, we are doing for our Lord, Jesus. We find Jesus in the lowly places, where the poor, marginalized and suffering dwell, and it is in our serving those in need, that we become agents of God's love. This past summer, as our military operations in Afghanistan came to a close, we watched in horror as Americans and Afghans were evacuated from their posts and homeland. This is not the end of the story, and the next chapter is being written on our hearts with opportunities to help welcome many of the displaced families and individuals into our country. Through Ascentria, several families and individuals are being vetted and settled in our area. Because of lack of funding, Ascentria is overseeing the operations but are looking more to the community for setting up Neighborhood Support Teams (NST), who will work towards meeting the needs of those being resettled. Coincidentally, the parsonage at Zion will be available beginning in December, possibly to receive a family. A member of Bethlehem Lutheran in Sturbridge has pledged to manage an NST. Please prayerfully consider offering your time in support of meeting their needs which may include setting up living space, donating food and household items, driving to appointments, and providing other means of support. As we learn more from Ascentria, we will pass along that new information.

We wish to thank all who donated to the Walk to End Alzheimer's. This year our team raised \$444 which will help in support of the fight against Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

A special thank you to Henry Lewis for donating bags of apples which were available for a free will offering to help raise money for our Social Ministry fund.

The end of our growing season is drawing near, and we wish to thank all who volunteered to tend our community garden. Our first year was a success as we were able to offer our members tomatoes and peppers and bring some of our harvest to Veterans Inc. and Auburn Youth and Family Services. We're making plans of expanding the garden next year and welcome any ideas from our members.

Please note our next host week for Interfaith Hospitality Network on June Street will be November 14th to 20th. There will be a sign up for early evening and overnight shifts. We are also asking for donations of grocery gift cards.

November is a month we reach out with gratitude to our veterans through donations to Veterans Inc. in Worcester. We will be collecting frozen turkeys, and produce (bags of potatoes, squash, onions, carrots), stuffing, canned gravy, and cranberry sauce on the Sunday before Thanksgiving which will be delivered to Veterans Inc. for veterans and their families.

As always, if anyone is aware of someone in need in our congregations of Grace or in the local community, please bring your concerns to the attention of Pastor Andrew or a member of our Social Ministry team.

"...through love serve one another. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: Love your neighbor as yourself." - Galatians 5:13, 14



Minister Tom and his wife, Laurie, with Pastor Andrew brought nine chaffing dishes of shepherd's pie, close to ninety individually bagged sandwiches of various fillings, plus a few cases of bottled water to share with the homeless congregation in North Hampton on Sunday, October 7th.

The Rev. Stephanie Smith of our New England Synod leads Cathedral in the Night, meeting out front of the First Churches in North Hampton, MA. This ministry provides worship each Sunday by the sidewalk, a hot meal and take-away food, plus distributes donations of clothing according to seasonal needs. During the week Pr. Stephanie and her staff meet with the homeless at various times to assist with further need.

THANK YOU to all who created and supplied the food for our serving date!

Grace Ministries Council Highlights



The combined Bethel and Zion councils met on Sunday, October 17th, at 11:30 in Voosen Hall.

- First Meeting of the combined councils, led by Pastor Andrew
- Both council's September reports were reviewed
- Financial matters for both campuses were reviewed with Garret
- A first draft of the 2022 budget, prepared by Pastor Andrew, was briefly discussed.
- Worcester Campus property issues were discussed
 - New water heaters at point of use were discussed
 - The parsonage will soon be vacant, and using it for housing Afghanistan refugees was discussed
- Auburn Campus property issues were discussed next
 - Bell tower repairs to be started soon
 - Parsonage roof has a leak, apple tree was removed
 - Security cameras were discussed, will be installed very soon
 - Gutter issues were discussed
- Homeless family apartments at Zion were discussed
- Afghanistan Refugee resettlement in the Worcester area was discussed, and how Grace can help with volunteers, and possibly renting the Zion parsonage for a refugee family.
- Pastor Andrew gave us an update on the Greendale Ecumenical group
- Stewardship was discussed, and a letter will be sent to all members regarding the 2021 budget
- Zion is the oldest Lutheran church in the area, and the possibility of it being listed in the National Historic Register was discussed. Volunteers will be needed to move this forward, talk to Donna Hayes if interested in helping.
- We are looking for a few volunteers who would be willing and able to reach out to various Worcester County publications as a way of marketing some of the events and activities that we are doing at Grace Ministries



MISSION STATEMENT

"To boldly share God's Love and Grace universally in and through our communities."

VISION STATEMENT

Modeling the welcoming nature of God, we are humbly called and driven by the Spirit to witness, engage and walk with each other authentically, as Jesus' hands and feet, providing spiritual, emotional and physical nourishment.

Through evolving partnerships with ecumenical and other social service organizations we affirm justice and wholeness under the "agency of Grace" that feed the needs and hope of all.

The Rev. Andrew H. Borden, Pastor
pastor_andrew.b@verizon.net

Ann Spinner, Parish Administrator
bethelauburn@verizon.net
Main Office: 508-832-3427

Kate Velleli – Christian Education Coordinator

Shannon Papandrea, Sexton

Garret Peters - Treasurer

Tom Houston – Licensed Lay Minister

Louisa Klaven, AIM – Licensed Lay Minister

Brenda Salvi - Principal Organist/Choral Director

Karen Couturier – Organist

Lois Toepfner, Deacon - Associate Organist/Choral Director

Co-Council

Co-Presidents – **Donna Hayes (Z)**, **Preston Sturdevant (B)** Co-Vice-Presidents – **Jennifer Courtney (Z)**, **Dave Velleli (B)**

Council – **Cheyenne Courtney (Z)**, **Stephanie Harms (Z)**, **Joan Parker (B)**, **Ruth Thompson (B)**, **Theresa Toombs (Z)**,
Juliano Ruffo (Z), **Bev Sampson (B)**, **Roberta Briggs (B)**, **Don Leombruno (Z)**, **Leanne Carraher (B)**, **Marie Sturdevant (B)**

Worcester Campus - Zion Lutheran

41 Whitmarsh Avenue, 01606

The-Community-of-Zion-Lutheran-Worcester.org

Auburn Campus - Bethel Lutheran

90 Bryn Mawr Avenue, 01501

BethelAuburnELCA.org

Financial Secretaries – **Ann Spinner/Kate Velleli**

Bell Director – **Adam Hanks**
Financial Secretary – **Russell Harris**



RECONCILING IN CHRIST



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.



ENDHUNGERNE