**NOVEMBER 2017**

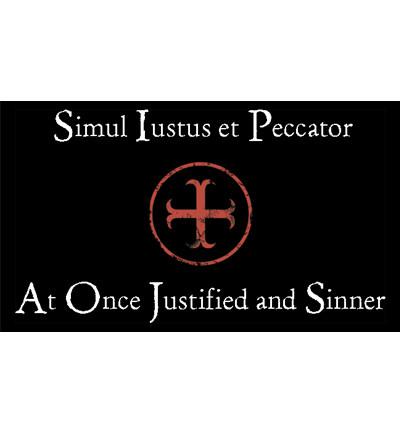
ST. PAUL’S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**SAINTS AND SINNERS | Justification and Sanctification**

Each year we celebrate All Saints Sunday. And we celebrate it the right way. We don’t remember just the people we think were really good. We don’t remember just the people we liked. We don’t remember only some in the faith and not others. It’s called **All** Saints for a reason. We remember all God’s saints.

If you want to say this is as dorky as a participation ribbon or trophy in today’s youth sports, I suppose you could make that argument. Like many others, I think it’s ridiculous, to ignore reality, to not hurt anyone’s feelings, and to make everyone feel like they’re winners in a game. But, that’s not what All Saints is.

In VBS this year there was a song called “Winners.” But unlike the participation trophy in sports, the Christian celebration of All Saints begins with the blunt knowledge of how much you’re a sinful loser. In the Divine Service every Sunday we begin by admitting how each and every one of us is fully deserving of eternal punishment in hell. God isn’t afraid to hurt your feelings or make everyone feel good no matter how hard they tried. Instead, he tells it like it is. **All have fallen short of the glory of God** (Rom. 3:23).

Luther tried to beat himself silly to eradicate this sinful reality, but he never could. Eventually, along with Christians before him and after him, Luther confessed along with St. Paul (Rom. 7) that he is both sinner and justified as a Christian on earth. He can’t stop sinning; but in faith he can’t stop God’s mercy and forgiveness to him justifying him for the sake of Christ Jesus. Lutheran’s call this simultaneously saint and sinner.

This doesn’t mean we’re free to just keep on sinning. Rather the entire Christian life is one of repentance, where we’re always being sanctified by God. We can’t make ourselves holy or a saint. We can’t make ourselves justified or innocent before God. Only Christ does that. And He delivers this free grace by his Word. And we receive this free grace and forgiveness through faith.

What is it that sanctifies? Or what is it that makes us holy saints? God’s Word. I have family that keep holy water on-hand in their house. Ridiculous. Trust in the Word, not plain water. It is the Holy Word of God that makes it Holy Baptism. It is the Holy Word of God that makes it Holy Communion. It is the Holy Word of God that makes you His holy people. So if you’re feeling ‘not so holy,’ what should you do? A few good works? A few extra dollars to a charity? A few extra prayers? NO. You need God’s Word. You need to receive God’s holiness, not earn it or get it yourself. So first receive God’s holiness, in His Holy church, through His holy office, where the Pastor speaks God’s holy Word. Then, read and pray at home to sanctify your days.

Not by your work, by God’s grace. Not through your effort, through faith. Not in what you think, but in what God truly says in His Word.

All Christians are saints, that is, believers receive the grace of God through Jesus Christ. That’s as holy as it gets—Jesus Christ. His holiness is yours. All saints are sinful losers, but **thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ** (1 Cor. 15:57). **All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus** (Rom. 3:23-24). On All Saints we remember everyone who God has saved through faith. Through November we live drawing closer to the end of the year, the end of our lives, and the end of the world. So we see a greater need in ourselves to read God’s Word, because through it God sanctifies us.

**GOAL**:

* Once a day: pray with your family (See, Luther’s Daily Prayers in the Small Catechism).
* Once a week: read the Small Catechism and receive God’s Word and Sacrament in church.
* Once a month: pick a hymn and learn it together. [In November, we’re singing For All the Saints (LSB 677)].

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS**

Don’t forget to set your clocks back an hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 4.



**ALL SAINTS**

Join us All Saints Sunday, Nov. 5 for recognition of the faithfully departed in this last year: Michael Berens, Delores Mohr, Ervin Kiepe, Craig Lynn, Gladys Thompson.

**FAITHFUL GIVING**

Please consider your church at the end of the year in your giving.  And looking ahead to 2018, along with supporting the gospel in your congregation, please consider supporting the District Missions and our congregational goal of $5,000 toward Zion School in Denison.

**PASTOR CALL ANNOUNCEMENT**

On. Sun. Oct. 22.  Pastor Manley reported that a dual parish in Altamont, IL had extended a divine call to him.  Pastor asks that you please pray to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His harvest field (Matt. 9:38).  Pastor will announce the decision of this other call on Sun. Nov. 12.



St. Paul’s will celebrate Thanksgiving Eve on Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 7pm.

**MINISTRY EXCELLENCE FUND**

Thank you to everyone who gave to the Ministry in Excellence Fund. We have exceeded the $1,500 goal set to reduce Pastor’s student debt.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday, Nov. 5 all are invited to help the Sunday School students with a service project. After church they will go to the Ute cemetery and clean off the stones, then back to the church for a pizza party. Sponsored by Thrivent Financial.

**LCW NEWS**

LCW Meeting is November 8th at 1:00 p.m.



Thank you to all that donated flowers in 2017 for the altar.

[Orphan Grain Train](http://www.ogt.org/)

Thank you for the donations for Orphan Grain Train. The next month we will be taking clothes is April.

**HURRICANE OFFERING**

Thank you to all that give to Hurricane Irma through St. Paul’s. 100% of the funds will be sent to the Texas, Southern Districts, and LCMS disaster relief efforts.

**“THY STRONG WORD”**

**‘**Thy Strong Word’ is a daily devotion airing at 6:25 a.m. Monday through Saturday on KDSN 107.1FM).

**Nov. 6-11 Rev. Marcus Manley**

**St. Paul’s, Ute**

Nov. 13-18 Rev. Mark Kluzek

Faith, Deloit

Nov. 20-25 Rev. Kurt Kaiser

Zion, Denison

Nov. 27-Dec. 2 Rev. Merill (vacancy)

Triple Parish, Charter Oak

**RECIPES**

Maple Heights will be celebrating their 50th Birthday in 2018. They are making a cookbook and are asking for your favorite family recipes. Make sure your name or in memory of, is on the recipes.

You may drop them off at the Maple Heights front deck, give them to Jo Thies or put them in the “orange” box on the table in back of the church.

Submit before the end of the year.

**NEWSLETTER SPONSORS**

The newsletter this month is sponsored in honor of cancer patients & their families. Please contact the office if you’d like to sponsor the newsletter. The cost is $37.

**BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS FOR NOVEMBER**

We are listing Baptismal birthdays to remember and celebrate the day we were adopted into the family of God through the washing of the Holy Spirit. Those having Baptismal birthdays in November are:

Ethan Winsor 1

Tory Greder 2

Sierra Sorensen 4

Jenna Hanson 6

Nick Goslar-Jeremy Creese-Gavin Purcell 7

Judi Krohn 10

Todd Teut 11

Michael Sorensen 14

John Dorale 15

Brian Vinke 17

Deanna Sorensen 18

Payton Thies, Preston Thies 23

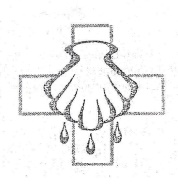
Dylan Meadows, Katy Krohn 24

Kevin Vogt 25

Bruce Mohr, Ronnie Kroll 26

Lauryn Bernholtz 27

Ray Dorale 29

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**SUGGESTIONS FOR A SAFE WINTER**

As we head into the winter months, realize that snow and cold awaits us. At times, services may be held in less than ideal conditions. We encourage those with special concerns for dangerous conditions to use suitable caution. Reasonable effort will be made to have sidewalks clear, and ice melt placed where needed. Be cautious of the north parking lot, especially on mornings after a thaw and refreezing. We understand that for some it may be wiser to listen to services at home and not take chances. Please call the church office and ask if you have any questions about weather concerns or interest in listening at home.

If the weatheris so severe that services are cancelled, it will be announced on KDSN radio: 107.1 FM and 1530 AM, hopefully by 7:30. Services will be held if some can attend safely.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONS FROM LHM**

Every year Lutheran Hour Ministries makes available Advent devotions. Copies of this devotion can be picked up at church in mid-November. You can also read the devotion each day at [www.lhm.org/advent](http://www.lhm.org/advent).

In *Love Came Down* we see how the Heavenly Father spared nothing—not even His own Son—to work out our salvation. Though we had rebelled in our sins and spurned God and His Commandments, He chose us—not for exclusion, but redemption. The Father’s love sought us out in our perilous condition and, in His infinite mercy, bridged the divide to our isolation through Jesus—the one Mediator between God and Man.

“Jesus came to be in our lives, a part of our lives, one of us. He came to be our Savior, and that is not a job someone can do by standing safely at a distance. Instead, He embraced our human nature—He was born, He grew, He lived, worked, and suffered, He died. And then He rose from the dead,” writes author Dr. Kari Vo.

The story of our salvation is a hard-fought victory. What began in a humble manger stall in Bethlehem on Christmas morn reached its zenith when Jesus—child of Mary, Son of God—was crucified, died, and rose from the dead three days later. This is what God did for us; this is what happened when *love came down*.

**SERVING THE LORD IN GHANA NEWS FROM THE SCHUMACHERS**

Sunday, October 15th, was a joyful day for the many Deaf children and young adults, who came to worship at House of Grace. Dressed in their finest attire, the students came to be received into God’s family. Equally proud was Evangelist Akorful, who has spent much time instructing the students ages 11 to 25 for their baptism. The young ladies and gentlemen quickly and eagerly responded to the question “Do you renounce the devil and all his works?” They signed with the same enthusiasm when asked, in Ghanaian Sign Language, if they believed in the Triune God as stated in the Apostle’s Creed. In the above photo, you can observe in the serious faces, the attitude the students had as they approached the simple altar table to receive the cleansing waters of Baptism. Following worship each was presented with a

formal Baptismal Certificate, and in the photos a joyful smile was displayed on each and every face. Cynthia and I were so blessed to be part of this special day in the faith life of these individual students. Yet, it was a very sad day, as not one parent or family member came to witness this new birth. The stark absence of family, reminds us of the reality the Ghanaian Deaf face each day! The Ghanaian culture does not view the Deaf, or any person with a handicap, of having worth. This was evident in the actions of the parents, who had given their permission for the children to be baptized; but did not see the need to accompany their own children to worship, to receive this sacrament. Please remember these thirteen students in your daily prayers, that God will strengthen and grow their childlike faith.

The second term of this 2017-2018 school year has begun. We enjoy welcoming the students back to the seminary campus. They come with smiling faces, and joyful singing voices. During the break, I was able to repurpose some of the unused tables and make two desks for our faculty and principal offices. With a little more effort I was able to build a workstation in the sacristy for the students to use, when preparing the altar for worship, or the elements of bread and wine for the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. The students and Principal Boateng were pleased with the results. Students received another simple joy of new dishes and mugs brought by Rev. Boateng. Our cook, Comfort, does a great job of preparing meals and the students enjoy her efforts. Some northern students have planted tomatoes and okra to help with the food supplies. While they were on break, Cynthia had the task of harvesting. She picked many buckets of okra. One of the students’ favorite dishes is okra stew, it is not a taste we have acquired. Cynthia pickled six jars of okra for us to enjoy. The rest were prepared and frozen to be used in their favorite stew, now that they have returned. The tomatoes are ripening, and students will harvest them for Comfort to use in meal preparation. Plantains and bananas are also grown to help provide food for the seminary family.

To support the LCMS through the work of *Rev. and Mrs. Steven Schumacher*, you may send a tax-deductible gift to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 OR Mission Central, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034 Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks, “Support of Schumacher/Ghana.”

**STEWARDSHIP**

**AUTOMATIC DEBIT -** Several people have approached me with the question of how they can give to the church on a regular basis even though they may not be in the Ute area during part of the year, or they just want to simplify their giving without writing a check each week or month. An automatic debit from your checking account to St. Paul’s account may be an option. You can specify an amount and how often this amount should be transferred from your checking account to St. Paul’s account at Community Bank, and it will automatically be done for you. Your bank can help you fill out a short form. This debit can be stopped or changed at any time by contacting your bank. You will want to let the Treasurer know who is making this donation so she can credit you for income tax purposes.

**GRAIN -** As the harvest approaches, St. Paul’s Stewardship committee would like to remind the farmers that one option for giving is the gift of grain. A form is included in the newsletter if you want to do this. This gift is not tax deductible, but you will not declare the amount of the grain as income.

**St Paul Lutheran Church**

**Ute, Iowa**

**-Gift of Grain-**

from

(Donor name)

(Donor address)

(City, State, Zip)

Amount of Grain: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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I wish to transfer above quantity of grain to:

**St Paul Lutheran Church**

**303 E 4th Street**

**P.O. Box 139**

**Ute, Iowa, 51060-8061**

(Signature)

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Attention Grain Elevator operator(s):*

*Please deposit said grain quantities listed above into an account at your elevator entitled St Paul Lutheran Church (listed above) and contact their representative at 712-885-2221 office for instructions as to grain disposition.*

*Please send this form along with the payment/appropriate documentation of sale to address listed above.*

*If you have any further questions, or need for additional instructions, please call St Paul Lutheran Church at 712-885-2221 for further instructions.*