



The SPIRIT

November 2025

Happy Thanksgiving

God Is Bigger!

I was leading chapel with the young kids from daycare when I started playing a song that I learned as a young child. The song is from VeggieTales, and its chorus goes “God is bigger than the boogieman, God’s bigger than Godzilla or monsters on TV. Oh, God is bigger than the boogieman and God’s watching out for you and me.”

As Halloween approaches and we have events like Trunk-or-Treat other Halloween fun, we, also remember the ghosts, goblins, and other scary monsters that come out at night, especially on the night of All Hallows Eve. But we also remember that God is so much larger than our fears and that God remains with us through them.

So, enjoy this Halloween season of scares and fears. Have fun with Halloween parties, carving pumpkins, and dressing up. But as you hand out candy, remember that nothing can separate us from the love of God. God remains close by us, through our scariest moments and deep anxieties. God’s power is so much greater than the monsters that we are battling and God will always reign victorious.

God’s Blessings,

Vicar Abbey

This Month’s Highlights

- Bell Choir pg. 5
- Parish Life pg. 5
- Piecemakers pg. 8
- Sing the Season pg. 8
- WELCA pg. 13
- Trunk or Treat pg. 13-14
- New Members pg. 15

NOVEMBER THANKFUL CHALLENGE

Everyday you should be thankful for the things you have and the people you love. For the month of November take the thankful challenge and write a status everyday for something you are thankful for, leading up to Thanksgiving (28 days) Through the 28 days you will learn to appreciate life and the things you have more & more. Can you handle the Challenge?

Table of Contents

God Is Bigger!	Page 1
From the Desk of Pastor Orin Cummings	Page 3
Lutheran World Relief Report	Page 4
Annual Congregation Meeting	Page 4
Save the Date!	Page 4
Lunch & Scripture	Page 4
Parish Life	Page 4
Announcements	Page 5
Altar Flower Committee	Page 5
Blood Pressure Readings	Page 5
Crosslines	Page 5
Crosslines Toy Store	Page 5
Bell Choir	Page 5
Messiah Book Club	Page 6
Piecemakers	Page 6
Thank You	Page 6
Sing the Season-Alleluia Singers	Page 6
Wine, Wit, Wisdom	Page 6
Me, an Evangelist?	Page 7
Midweek Bible Study	Page 7
Sunday School	Page 7
WELCA	Page 7
Congregational Care	Page 8-9
November Altar Flowers	Page 9
Fireflies Young Girls Group	Page 10
Message from Outgoing Council Member Martha Morris	Page 10
Trunk or Treat	Page 11-12
Thank You	Page 12
Welcome New Members	Page 13
November Scripture Readings	Page 14
Mark Your Calendars	Page 14

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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Saints,

Greetings in the name of our crucified, risen, and ascended Lord and coming Savior, Jesus Christ!

WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR? There are so many things to be thankful for that I hardly know where to begin, but I do know where to end.

I am thankful for family, the place where I receive my identity, experience relationships, and first learn to give and receive love. In particular, I am grateful for two families. This is nothing new since you have probably heard me mention it before.

First, I give thanks to my biological family, who gave me life, care, and belonging. Let us not forget that Martin Luther was not always favorable toward marriage. This had little to do with his status as a monk or his vow of celibacy. Rather, his life was in constant danger, and he saw little value in bringing a family into such uncertainty.

Later, no longer a monk, Luther was encouraged by his parents to marry. He did so not only out of personal affection, but also to set an example. Since he had urged former priests and monks to marry, he believed it right to do the same. On his sick bed he remarked: *"Oh, how passionately I yearned for my family as I lay at death's door in Smalkald. I thought that I would never see my wife and little children again. How much pain that distance and separation caused me! I believe that dying people must know the greatest natural love and affection of all, as when a man remembers his wife and a parent thinks of his children"* (WA, Table Talk 4: 4786).

Second, I am grateful for my spiritual family, which I entered through the waters of baptism as an infant. I am sustained in this family by the Word and the Spirit of God, and you play no small role in caring for me as I continue in this family of faith.

I give thanks for daily provision that nourishes and sustains my body. I am not a farmer, and I do not grow my own food. So, I am especially grateful for those who do. Therefore, join me in thanking the farmers and agricultural workers whose labor fills the shelves of the grocery stores we visit.

Each day is a gift, though we do not always appreciate it. In good health, life is easier to enjoy, and for every healthy day, I am truly grateful. It is something we should never take for granted because it is never guaranteed.

The horrifying things we see in the news, such as wars in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, remind me to be thankful for family, abundant food, good health, and a stable and free society. But above all, I give thanks for life in Jesus Christ. He is the ultimate gift and the source of all blessings.

We endure the discomforts of life, pain, suffering, and loss because of the hope we have in him. *"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us"* (Romans 8:18).

So, this Thanksgiving holiday, I encourage you to pause, reflect, and give serious thought to what you are thankful for. You may find the list is longer than you expected.

A Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving to you and your family!

In Christ,

Pastor Orin

Lutheran World Relief

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR) ... the Quilt and Kit Ministry has, since its birth in 1945, been a ministry of FAITH IN ACTION. In 2024, LWR *expanded warehouses* to reach neighbors in need in the United States, in addition to sending gifts of love to our neighbors in other parts of our World. This means that quilts and kits comfort more families here in the U.S. - and abroad. If you are interested in learning more about LWR, you can visit LWR.ORG where much information can be found.

On Saturday, October 18, 2025, 104 warm Quilts [17 boxes], 2 blankets [1 box], 134 Baby Care Kits [31 boxes], 100 School Kits [10 boxes], 152 Personal Care Kits [13 boxes], and 6 Fabric Kits [1 box] for a total of 73 boxes were driven in a U-Haul trailer to the regional LWR IN-GATHERING at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Jefferson City, MO. All donations brought there were driven to an LWR Warehouse, to be distributed to our neighbors in Christ. Neighbors we have never met, ...a part of those God has called us to "love as ourselves".

None of this would have been possible without the many, many volunteers and individual donations, Thrivent Action Teams, and the support of the Messiah Endowment Fund of \$2500 for supplies and \$1000 to help with shipping costs! All this and more....Helping fulfill Messiah's Mission Statement of "offering healing and care to all in need".

ITEMS INCLUDED IN EACH KIT:

Baby Care Kit - 2 t-shirts, 2 long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers or a t-shirt/long pant combination, 2 blankets (cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted; minimum 36" square/maximum 52" square), 4 cloth diapers (our volunteers make diapers out of t-shirts), 1 jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or a baby cap, 2 pairs of socks, 1 cotton or cotton blend hand towel, bars of gentle soap equaling 8-9 oz. and 2 safety pins. {All items are then wrapped in one of the blankets and secured with the safety pins}. **School Kit** - 4 70-80 sheet spiral notebooks, 1 ruler (must have centimeters), 1 pencil sharpener, 1 pair blunt scissors, 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, 5 black or blue ballpoint pens, 1 box either 16 or 24 crayons, 1 2 1/2 " eraser, with all items packed in a cloth drawstring backpack (made by a volunteer, cut and sewn out of donated used hospital gowns). **Personal Care Kit** -1 Cotton or Cotton-blend bath size towel (20 x 40 to 52 x 27 inches), two or three bars of soap totaling 8-9 oz, 1 adult-size toothbrush, 1 wide-tooth comb, and 1 metal nail clipper. **Fabric Kit** - two pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester) each piece being 2 1/2 yds of 58-62" wide, or 3 yds of 42-45" wide fabric, or 4 yds of 34-37" wide fabric; two spools of matching or neutral thread, totaling a minimum of 500 yds to a maximum of 800 yds.

Annual Congregation Meeting

Annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 9 following worship. This meeting will be to elect Church Council and Synod delegates.

SAVE THE DATE!

Messiah Women - Please save the date for our annual Christmas Gathering on **Saturday, December 6th at 9:30 a.m.** More details to come later.

Lunch & Scripture

Everyone is welcome to join us at MaMa Jean's on the corner of South Campbell and Sunshine for Lunch and Scripture on November 11 at 12 noon. If you have any questions please reach out to Ileen Kendall.

Parish Life

Cookie Decorating and Potluck

Please join us November 23 after worship for a potluck followed by Christmas cookie decorating. Cookies and decorating supplies will be provided but bring a dish to share. There will be a sign-up poster in Mission Hall, so be sure to sign up so that we have plenty of supplies. Please note that this date was changed from the original. Also, if you have your own special Christmas cookies to bring, feel free to do so.

Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social

We will have our annual pie social following the Thanksgiving Eve worship service. Please bring your **precut** dessert to share and join us for this fellowship opportunity.

Christmas Congregational Dinner

Mark your calendars for December 14 following the Sunday School Christmas Program to join us for the Christmas Congregational Dinner. Chicken will be provided. There will be a sign-up poster in Mission Hall, so make sure to sign up so that we know how many to prepare for.

Fellowship Coffee Hour

Join us in the fellowship hall every Sunday following worship for refreshments. It's a great opportunity to get better acquainted with your church family.

Announcements

Nov. 02	All Saints/Baptismal Anniversary
Nov. 09	Commitment Sunday
Nov. 09	Annual Congregational Meeting
Nov. 11	Lunch & Scripture
Nov. 16	Church Council Meeting
Nov. 23	Parish Life Potluck/Cookie Decorating
Nov. 23	New Member Class
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Eve Service
Nov. 29	Hanging of the Greens
Nov. 30	Receive New Members
Nov. 30	Advent/Healing Service

Altar Flower Committee



If you are interested in contributing to the altar flowers, we still have openings in the book throughout the year. Please check with the church office by calling 417-881-2192, stopping by or emailing officemanager@messiahmo.org. The cost per vase is \$20.00. If you pay by check please put "for altar flowers" in the memo section.

Blood Pressure Readings

Screenings will be PAUSED for the foreseeable future. Anytime someone requests to have a reading done on Saturday evening before service or on Sunday morning after service, we will try to accommodate. Thank you for your understanding.

Crosslines

On October 2nd, we served 126 families/280 people at Crosslines.

Our dedicated volunteers included Martha Morris, Becky Roark, Carol and John Flanders, Annetta Svagera, Lisa Melgren, Sandra Carlson, Sheila Schaefer, and Susan Lane along with our partners from Grace Methodist.

Thank you to everyone who donates dry goods, canned goods, and hygiene items. As always, check expiration dates before donating.

We are also collecting barcodes from Best Choice products. This is an easy way for Crosslines to make some money.

Just a quick reminder that **we DO NOT collect egg cartons!** Please don't place these in the wagon.

Crosslines Toy Store

Believe it or not it's almost time for the Crosslines Toy Store. Messiah will participate again this year to help make Christmas a wonderful holiday for the kids in Springfield. They are predicting that Crosslines will help over 1,000 families this year!

We have chosen "Teen" age group again, because it is a difficult group to get enough presents to fulfill the need. Of course, any toy for any age group will be gratefully accepted! Also, wrapping paper, gift bags, ribbon and bows, tape and tissue paper, all are needed for families to wrap the gifts.

IMPORTANT INFO:

- Wednesday, November 26, 2025- Collection box will be in Narthex ready for toys.
- Sunday, December 14, 2025- Toy Drive @ Messiah ends.
- Tuesday, December 16, 2025- Toys and check for donated funds taken to Crosslines Toy store.

TO DONATE FUNDS: Make checks to Messiah Lutheran Church, **memo line: Toy Store**

OR

If using a giving envelope under **OTHER write: Toy Store and the amount.**

TO VOLUNTEER: If you are interested in volunteering (they have lots of opportunities)

Please sign up online @ CCOzarks.org/Holiday

GIFT IDEAS: We will be handing out gift ideas for all ages in the upcoming weeks!

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!!!!

ANY QUESTIONS? Please call Terry Dunham 417-631-9795

Bell Choir

Christmas Eve instrumental groups

We would like to put together instrumental groups of students and adults to take part in our Christmas Eve services. We have flexible and accessible collections of Christmas carols that can accommodate any group of instruments. Whether you are a student that has been studying for 3 years or an adult that would like to have an opportunity to play again, we would love to have you join us. We would hand out music and then practice a couple of times before Christmas Eve. Just let us know which service you would prefer to attend. Please contact Lucy Stillwell by text or phone. Our Christmas Eve services are at 5:00pm and 10:00pm

Messiah Book Club

Messiah Book Club will meet the second Thursday of November 2025. James, published in 2024, by Percival Everett, reimagines Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn from the perspective of Jim, the enslaved Black man who accompanies Huck Finn. Taking place in 1861, Jim learns he's to be sold to a New Orleans owner which separates him from his family.

Piecemakers

The Piecemakers will hold a fundraiser on November 8th and 9th.

We will have **Christmas stockings, table runners and aprons** available for donations.



The money raised will go towards the new air conditioner for the church.



Thank You

Craig and I would like to thank all the members of Messiah for including us in the October 12th Pastor's Celebration. We were unable to participate as I was away spending time with my step-daughters and grandchildren. We appreciated receiving all the cards with such meaningful and supportive messages. It is a privilege to worship with and serve God alongside the faithful members of Messiah. May God continue to empower our ministry and fill our hearts with love for God, for one another and for all our neighbors.

God's peace,

Pastor Linda

Sing the Season

Alleluia Singers is in preparation for the upcoming Advent/Christmas season with a new Christmas Cantata! "Glory to the Newborn King" is a brand new Cantata full of familiar melodies and texts of the Christmas story as well as new pieces that will be inspiring and uplifting to share with the Messiah family.

If you have ever thought about singing in our choir, this is a great way to give it a try. We rehearse on Wednesday nights from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. in the sanctuary and always welcome new voices. If you are interested in joining us, please speak to me or any choir member, or just show up Wednesday night and we will get you singing!

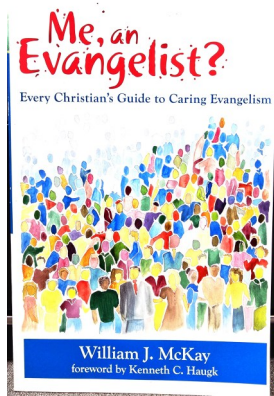
What better way to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ than to sing of His coming!

In His Name,
Sheryl Hansen



Wine, Wit and Wisdom **will not meet** in November because of Thanksgiving. However, watch the Midweek Messenger for the date of our next gathering.

Let me know if you'd like to attend or if you have questions. Email debbiecorlett@sbcglobal.net or text me at 417-848-9426.



**It's not too late to join the discussion of
Me, an Evangelist?
Every Christian's Guide to Caring Evangelism
By William J. McKay**

Sunday Morning 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary **November Lessons**

Nov 2	Chapter 13 Chapter 14	Guidelines for Effective Witnessing How to be an Assertive Witness
Nov 9	Chapter 15	How to Use the Bible in Evangelizing
Nov 16	Chapter 16	The Power of Prayer in Evangelizing
Nov 23	Chapter 17 Chapter 18	The Basics of Process-Oriented Inviting Saying Yes to God
Nov 30	Chapter 19 Chapter 20	How to Invite Someone to Church How Will You Be a Caring Evangelist?
<i>"...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..." Ephesians 4:12</i>		

Midweek Bible Study

Meeting on **Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.** in the sanctuary. The only requirement to join us is a belief that the Bible is worth studying. Your spiritual background or current level of Bible knowledge does not matter. Each time we gather, our focus will be to engage with Scripture, guided by the Lectionary (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition), allowing God's Word to speak to us through the rhythms of the church year.

If you have a Bible at home, please bring it with you.

Sunday School

Why do mountains always win at Hide and Seek? Because they always *peak*!

We're having fun exploring this year's Sunday School theme with our kids: "Faith Can Move Mountains". Each week we get to sing, talk about our Bible Story, play games or do crafts, and have snacks. Special thanks to Vicar Abbey for helping us out our first week! We loved having her there!

Sunday School classes are open to all children age 2 through 6th grade. We meet upstairs from 10:45-11:30am on Sunday mornings. If you have any questions or would like to join us, please reach out to Tara Melgren, Beth Melgren, Susie Rucker, Rachel Bergin, or Katie Dogwiler.

There will be no Sunday School class on Nov. 23 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Class will resume on Nov. 30.

WELCA

Are you Salty?

Each year the women of Messiah collect a thank offering to be sent to the churchwide Women of the ELCA (WELCA). All the money collected is sent and is used for a variety of ministries:

- ♦ **Publications** both paper and digital such as the Gather magazine, Bold Connections, Bold Cafe, and Daily Grace.
- ♦ **Scholarships** for ordained and lay ministers.
- ♦ **Justice** for human trafficking, missing and murdered Indigenous women, racial advocacy, and domestic violence.
- ♦ **Program** resources for women's gatherings for both local churches and synodical events.

Funds are also used for the Triennial Gathering which will be held in 2026 in Des Moines, Iowa.

You will find special envelopes in the pews marked Women of the ELCA or you may mark your checks for Thankoffering.

In Matthew 5:12 Jesus says, "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything..."

So, are you salty?

Share Abundance, Love, and Thanks

SALT

Congregational Care

Psalm 100 is a psalm for giving thanks. *Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

According to researcher Dr. Jonathan R.H. Tudge, in defining gratitude there are two schools of thought:

- Gratitude as a positive emotion; being grateful for the nice things that happen.
- Gratitude as a virtue—being grateful to those who have helped us. Ideally, reciprocity is part of the process too.

Robert A. Emmons, PhD, arguably the world's leading scientific expert on gratitude, contends that gratitude has two components.

- The first is an affirmation of goodness. Gratitude reinforces the notion that the world is a good place, and that we've been the recipients of its gifts and benefits.
- The second component of Dr. Emmons' definition is figuring out for yourself where gratitude originates. Where does it come from? Does it originate in a higher power?

Researchers Emmons and Michael McCullogh define gratitude as the perception of a positive outcome that is not necessarily deserved or earned, thanks to another person. This seems clear during Lutheran worship as we confess our sins and give thanks to God.

Researchers believe that gratitude is deeply rooted in our DNA (the molecule that contains our genetic code) and our exposure to modeling during early childhood development. In their studies, they observed that the desire to repay generosity can be expressed as gratitude. Such reciprocity creates social bonds, such as friendship, and a community of allies and helpful people. Those social bonds that gratitude create are a form of love. That love is the feeling of being cared for or supported by another person. Dr. Emmons states, "Gratitude is the truest approach to life." We did not create or fashion ourselves. We did not birth ourselves. Life is about giving, receiving, and repaying. We are receptive beings, dependent on the help of others, on their gifts and their kindness. In our study of the book, *Me, and Evangelist*, we learn that being an evangelist is about building relationships, listening, showing empathy and love.

Glenn Fox, PhD, USC neuroscience researcher, identified the medial prefrontal cortex as the region of the brain that is

stimulated during moments of gratitude. This area is also associated with feelings of empathy and relief, and where processing other people's perspective is thought to originate.

Psychotherapist and author Anne Wilson Schaef points out that in our fast-paced world we also tend to get distracted by social media. These distractions deflect our attention and keep us from noticing the struggles of others who are close by as well as others around the world. She describes those distractions and deflection as addictive behaviors that prevent us from being engaged with each other.

Clinical psychologist Paul Pruyser says the Latin word most associated with gratitude, also means grace, graciousness, and gratefulness. So, the root word for gratitude refers to kindness, generosity, gifts, and the act of giving and receiving. As Lutherans, we certainly know where grace originates and from whom it comes, Our Lord and Savior. According to Pruyser's definition of gratitude, there is an important aspect that is overlooked: the ability to be kind, to be gracious, and to be grateful. These are states of being. He suggests we set an intention to awaken our own awareness as to how we want to be present in the world and with others.

What better time than this, as we are entering a sacred season that according to a friend, Jeremy Schenk's Facebook post, reminds us of "Sukkot, a joyful Jewish festival celebrating 40 years of wandering in the desert and the faith that sustained a people on the move; Thanksgiving a harvest celebration born of immigrants and Indigenous people sharing food and kindness; and Advent, a season leading to the birth of a refugee child whose family fled to Egypt in search of safety."

What do you desire to be, with the help of the Holy Spirit, that will create a more well-rounded state of gratitude?

What is your intention for how you want to be in the world for the last weeks of the year 2025?

What actions do you need to take to be more kind, gracious, and grateful?

Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that

may hurt us, that whole and well in body & spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen

November Flowers

	1/2	8/9	15/16	22/23	29/30
Vase 1	Vic & Peggy Shelton	Rex & Mary Anne Johnson	Vic & Peggy Shelton	Vic & Peggy Shelton	Ileen Kendall
Vase 2	Vic & Peggy Shelton	Gene Chrisman	Harlan & Sheila Schaefer	Carolyn Gerdes	Dennis & Martha Morris



Flower Vase Costs

Cost per vase is \$20. Please make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church, and then in the memo line, write "Altar Flowers" and the date for which you are paying. If you are using an offering envelope, you will find a line for "Altar Flowers" and the amount.



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MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA



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MessiahMoELCA



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Fireflies



The Fireflies is a new group coming to Messiah Lutheran. It is for young girls who are in fourth grade through eighth grade. The group will meet once a month, with the first meeting on November 6 at 6:30 to 7:30 in the youth room. It will be led by Vicar Abbey and Lisa Melgren.



We are calling the group The Fireflies with the intention that we will be learning how to “let our lights shine” (Matthew 5:16). We will have Bible studies and fellowship that are specifically geared towards the issues facing young girls today and helping them understand their calling as Christians in a continually confusing world.



As Jesus said, “Let the children come to me” and we long to do that here at Messiah. In our mission statement, we pledge to nurture youth, and the Fireflies will be our newest way of ensuring we are living out our statement. Please reach out to Vicar Abbey with any questions.

Message from Martha Morris

We are fortunate in the Central States Synod to have a woman, the Rev. Dr. Donna Simon, as our bishop. Her counterpart in the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri is also a woman, the Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux. Closer to home, our vicar for this year is Abbey Knappman. We have had many female pastors associated with Messiah. Women who were baptized and confirmed at Messiah have gone to become ordained ministers of the ELCA, currently serving congregations.

This is a very recent development in the Church, however. This would not have existed sixty years ago. As a young girl at Memorial Drive Lutheran Church (now Christ the King west campus) in Houston, Texas, I was not asked to serve as an acolyte, only boys were. Even today, in some denominations, women are still not allowed to

serve as pastors, elders, or deacons. This is not to say that women’s involvement does not date to the time of our Lord. Among Jesus’ disciples were women; among the workers and supporters of the early church were women. Women have always been involved in the work of the Church, just denied official leadership roles until recently.

New Testament and early church history scholar Bart D. Ehrman reminds us that women had an important role in early churches. This can be seen in the New Testament. But, later, the women workers and supporters were relieved of power and prestige, and their voices silenced. This can be seen in early manuscripts that became a part of the New Testament. Here are four examples:

In Acts 17:4 an original text mentions “prominent women” with Paul. This was changed to read “wives of prominent men.” Now men are given priority. Subtle, but powerful editing.

In Acts 18 we meet Priscilla, a woman, and Aquila, a man. They are active in the Church at Corinth. Often scribes would reverse the names to give Aquila pride of place, or they omitted Priscilla altogether.

In Colossians 4:15 we read of a house church, the home of Nympha, a woman. Another changes her name to Nymphas. This is a man’s name and his house.

Finally, in Romans 16:7, Paul greets Andronicus, a man, and Junia, a woman. Paul writes that they are important among apostles in the church. Some later writers made a change from “leading apostle” to “his kin.” Now poor Junia is stripped of being an apostle!

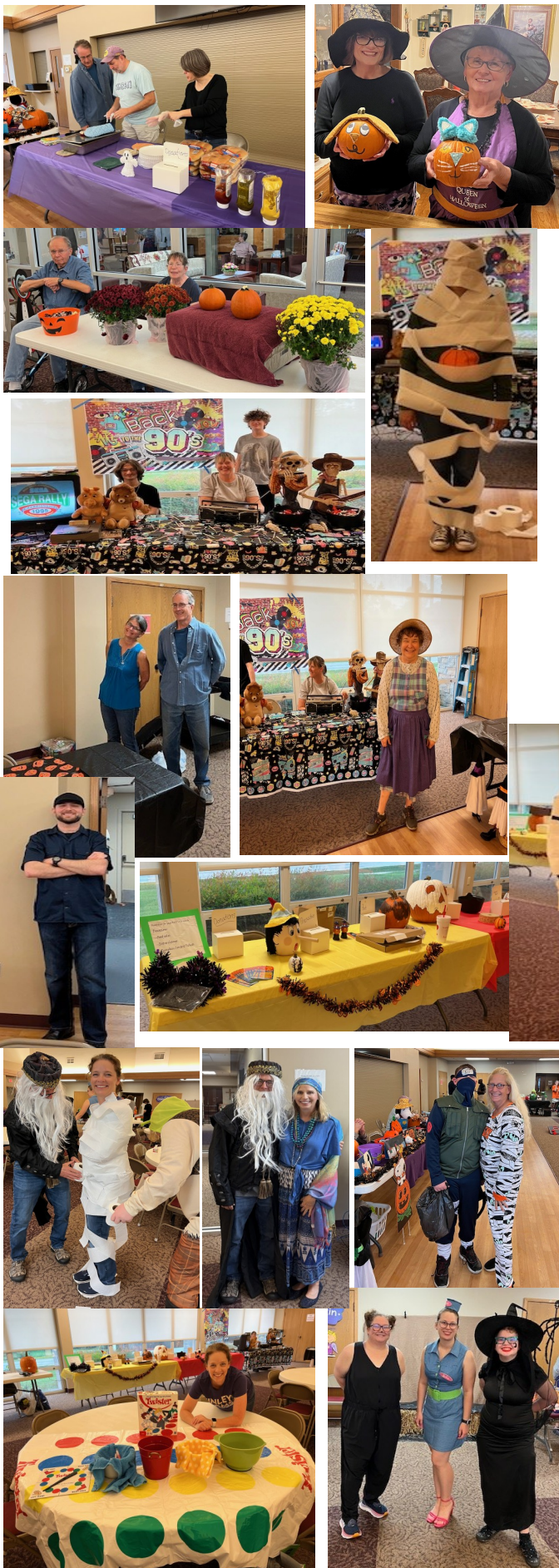
How many other examples exist subjugating women? Let us give thanks that women are accepted in leadership positions in our churches. It has been a privilege to serve these last three years on the church council. Thanks be to God.

Bart Ehrman, The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to Early Christian Writings.



Trunk or Treat 2025





Thank You

On behalf of myself and the youth group, thank you to everyone who helped make Trunk-or-Treat possible. We had some difficulty with the weather, but we were able to move the party into the fellowship hall and quickly rebranded the party from Trunk-or-Treat to Table-or-Treat. The rain could not stop our fun and everyone who came had such a great time. In fact, many of the kids did not want to leave! We had so many people giving out candy, a mummy wrapping contest, a dance party, and even a pumpkin contest. It was an amazing time of costumes, candy, and fellowship mixed with Halloween fun. Thank you to everyone who was a part of the event. You made it special for so many people!

Pumpkin Contest winners!

1st Place Pinocchio made by Vicar Abbey

2nd Place Cheshire Cat made by Scott and Lisa

3rd Place Ghost made by Nathanael and Pastor Orin

Diaper Drive for Crosslines

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Crossline diaper drive for October. We collected around 40 boxes and packages of diapers for Crosslines. This will help a lot of families for the weeks ahead.



If you have been wanting to learn more about what it is to be Lutheran, we have a **new-member class on November 23 at 4 p.m.** in the Fellowship hall. A light meal will be provided. If you have questions, please reach out to the church office, Pastor Orin, or Vickie Donnell.

We will welcome new members on November 30, during worship.



Dean McDowell and Donny McKinney

Dean was born and raised in St. Louis as a Missouri Synod Lutheran member. He has been a part of ELCA for 20 plus years. He formerly lived here from 2006 to 2011. In his 35 years with 3M he has relocated extensively, most recently spending 15 years near St. Paul, MN. He is now retired.

Dean has a chemical engineering degree from a college in Rolla, MO, and has earned his doctorate in business administration.

Regarding hobbies Dean says he is “a huge sports fan”, especially Missouri teams. He and Donny both enjoy cooking, biking and travel. They have a little dog. Dean’s experiences with our church have been open and welcoming. He and Donny appreciate that none of our members have been “pushy” regarding getting involved.

Donny finds himself grieving his 91-year-old mother’s recent death. He says prior to three years ago she was healthy and independent. He and Dean had moved her to a care facility, where she only lived for a few days. Donny states that his mom lived a “blessed life”. She was a member of a Baptist church near her home on the family farm near Nevada, MO. Donny claims El Dorado Springs, MO, as his birthplace. He has some college, and worked for 12 years at 3M. He was also employed at a sporting goods store in Des Moines, Iowa. For 12-13 years, Donny volunteered at our local GLO center, where he counseled LGBTQ youth.

Regarding hobbies, he calls himself “a big reader”; he manages a Facebook page, travels, cooks and cares for their dog.

Donny too calls Messiah “welcoming”.



Terry Miller

Terry was born and raised in Quincy, IL where he was baptized at Luther Memorial Church. After high school graduation he earned a degree in accounting at Western

Illinois University. His first job, where he only stayed for six months, was at Anthony Anderson accounting firm in Chicago. When he had a chance to forgo chilly winters, he relocated to West Palm Beach, FL. There, he worked for two years with a Defense Contract Audit Agency. Then, he and his first wife moved back to Illinois, where he was employed for 11 years at Quincy University. Next, he took a position at Tulane University Medical Center, where he stayed for 30.5 years. He retired in 2014. After retirement, he and his present wife, Rene, settled at Lake of the Ozarks. After 10 years, they came to Springfield.

Terry and his ex-wife had a daughter who died of a rare disease. They then adopted a girl from Korea. Rene brought a daughter and a son into Terry’s second marriage. The couple now have 10 grandchildren. Terry has attended a number of different churches through the years. He and Rene enjoy our services “a lot”. Terry has joined Alleluia Singers.

Terry is a big sports fan who especially likes the St. Louis Cardinals games. He also enjoys reading and doing yardwork. He and Rene take cruises and engage in other travels.

Linda Heitman



Linda was born and raised in Houston, TX, not in a Christian home, she states. Her abusive husband died in 1989. That marriage produced two sons, and now four grandsons. They all

reside in Texas. Linda became a Lutheran in the last four years. She and her fiancé moved here the end of last May. Regarding education, Linda says she has some college. She has worked in many capacities. She has managed two homeless shelters and a small bookkeeping and tax service.

Linda’s hobbies are gardening, knitting, crocheting, and reading. In addition, she is a published author. Her book Tortured to Triumphant chronicles her abusive marriage under the name Linda Pursley.

Linda began attending Messiah in June of this year. Part of the reason she chose our church is because we offer a Saturday night service. She enjoys our worship and has always felt welcome.

Messiah Lutheran Church
925 E. Seminole Street
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*He restores my soul, He leads me in the paths of
righteousness, for His name's sake. Psalms 23:3*

November Scripture Readings

Date	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
1/2	Isaiah 1:10-18	31:1-7	2 Thessalonians 1:1-4,	Luke 19:1-10
8/9	Job 19:23-27a	17:1-9	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,	Luke 20:27-38
15/16	Malachi 4:1-2a	98	2 Thessalonians 3:16-13	Luke 21:5-19
22/23	Jeremiah 23:1-6	46	Colossians 1:11-20	Luke 23:33-43
29/30	Isaiah 2:1-5	122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44

Mark Your Calendars

Nov. 02 All Saints/Baptismal Anniversary
Nov. 09 Commitment Sunday
Nov. 09 Annual Congregational Meeting
Nov. 11 Lunch & Scripture
Nov. 16 Church Council Meeting
Nov. 23 Parish Life Potluck/Cookie Decorating
Nov. 23 New Member Class
Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Eve Service
Nov. 29 Hanging of the Greens
Nov. 30 Receive New Members
Nov. 30 Advent/Healing Service