

## St. Paul's Lutheran Church November, 2009 'Newsletter'

### Giving Thanks    Ephesians 5:20 and Colossians 3:16

I was alone and desperately lonely in a drab hotel room. It was **Thanksgiving Day**. My wife and our two-year-old daughter were at home many miles away. As far as I was concerned there wasn't much to be thankful for, and they were feeling much the same.

The company for which I worked had given me a six week assignment in San Diego. I didn't have either time or money to take the train home for the holiday, so along with thousands of sailors stranded in that Navy town, I was away from my loved ones, adrift in a strange city.

In our childhood homes both my wife and I had been accustomed to celebrate Thanksgiving with family. And so after we were married we, too, planned festive occasions in celebration of Thanksgiving. We were young and in a hurry. Things were going our way most of the time and I don't remember giving much thought to the idea of being thankful except for making it from one payday to the next.

Out of the loneliness of this day, though, I began to be more aware of something that up until then I had taken for granted... the joy of being with loved ones on the special day set apart to express gratitude to God for His blessings. Sometime after I heard Dr. Stan Jones, a missionary to India, say that Christians should live each day in an "attitude of gratitude." And with that I began to understand as a family that Thanksgiving wasn't just a date on our November calendar; it was an attitude, a way of life.

Then I began to feel just a little bit of what the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote that we were to **"give thanks everyday for everything" and "be filled with gratitude."**

I've come to see that when we are faithful each day in asking the Lord to give us an attitude of gratitude, that day is Thanksgiving... **even if it is July.**

Written by Floyd Thatcher

### Sunday Morning Worship Service

Mary went to church one Sunday morning and winced when she heard the organist miss a note during the processional. She noted a teenager talking while everybody was supposed to be in prayer. She also couldn't help but notice that several blooms in the altar bouquets were wilted. She felt the user was scrutinizing what every person was putting into the offering plate, which made her angry. She counted at least five grammatical errors made by the preacher in his sermon. As she left the church through the side door after the closing hymn, she thought, *what a careless group of people!*

Amy went to church one Sunday morning and was thrilled at the arrangement she heard of "A Mighty Fortress." Her heart was touched at hearing a teenager read the morning Scripture lesson. She was encouraged to see the church take up an offering to help hungry children in Nigeria. The preacher's sermon answered a question that had bothered her for some time. She felt radiant joy from the choir members during the recessional. She left the church thinking, *What a wonderful place to worship God!*

Mary and Amy went to the same church, on the same Sunday morning.

November is a time for giving thanks, and we have found many delightful ways of doing that in our **Thanksgiving** celebrations. We love the smell of the turkey roasting in the oven, dressing, potatoes, corn and pie! Um! And getting together during the week with family to take a break in our routines is extra special. Taking the time to reflect on the many reasons we have for being thankful and offering thanks are very important activities in the lives of all persons, especially Christians.



**Thanksgiving  
Dinner**

### Worship Attendance

Oct. 4	130
11	53
18	36
25	40



Letter of transfer requested and accepted for **Jacob Lind** to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lester Prairie.

Funeral services were held for **Elmer Franke** on Thursday, October 29. Elmer was 101 years old. He died October 24, 2009. Elmer loved talking about family history and the past.

### Jesus, Justice, Jazz: The Tour

#### A Youth Day at Gustavus

In July, New Orleans hosted 36,000 participants for the ELCA Youth Gathering, where high school students were encouraged to do their part to take up the cause of world hunger.

Moving forward with a project called "Change for Change," Gustavus will be a regional site for **Jesus, Justice, Jazz: The Tour**. This Youth Day will be an opportunity for young people to have one more powerful experience of justice, faith, advocacy, music, storytelling and much more. All youth are welcome. Schedule for the Day is from 10:30 am-4:00 pm. Cost of the event is \$10 per person. (including lunch) **Date:** Saturday, November 7.

### Joyous Christmas Season

Sibley Co. Human Services is again coordinating Santa's Helpers Workshop for Christmas, 2009. This is a program to help disadvantaged families in the County. Last year alone, the workshop served 193 families with a total of 492 children. They are looking for donations of new toys, games, mittens, quilts, money and wrapping paper to meet their goal. Donations will be accepted until Monday, Dec. 7. They can be dropped off at the SC Human Services between 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

**Committee:** Dawn Kratzke, Kathy Franke, Stacy Hoechst and Kimberly Nachreiner

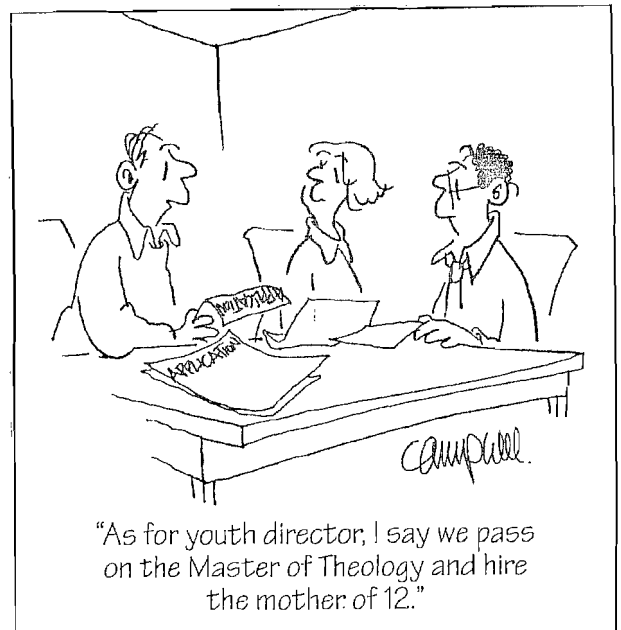
### **Wednesday, November 25:**

A community Thanksgiving Eve service will be held at St. Paul's November 25 at 7:00 pm. Please join up as we give thanks for the many blessings that God has provided to us.

Lois Quast attended the Fall Gathering at Trinity October 17. Guest Speakers were Elvera and Orville Trettin of Hector. The Trettin's were in Honduras last March as a part of a team that made it possible for over 1000 Hondurans in 8 villages to receive the gift of better vision. They encourage everyone to donate their old, broken and unused glasses to the Lion's Club Foundation Eye Glass recycling center. Don't throw them out. These glasses are sent or taken to Honduras enabling thousands to read, attend school and sew. PS...I take ours to Shopko in Mankato.

### Whatever, Whenever

The Junior High Youth Gathering will be held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center, Willmar, November 20-21 and 21-22. The Shasta Blvd. band will be playing. Several students from St. Paul's and Trinity and Pastor Bill are planning to attend.



Sometimes God uses life's disappointments to draw us closer to Himself or teach us patience and trust. He also may use them to redirect us toward his will. When God closes one door, He often opens another---if we seek it.



# November

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<p>1</p> <p>8:30 am Worship/H. Communion 8:30 am Sun School 9:30 am Cong. Mtg. <i>All Saints Sunday</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:00 Confirmation 7:00 pm Forum "The Shack"</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1:30 pm Communion Service @ Oak Terrace</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:30-4:00 pm High School Youth Day at GA College 9:30 am AIM</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30 am Worship 8:30 am Sun School 1:30 pm Worship at Oak Terrace 6:30 pm Council</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 am Naomi Circle 6:00 Confirmation</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1:00 pm Faith Builders Team Mtg. Redwood Falls</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:00 pm Supper 6:30 pm Joint Talent Show at Trinity</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30 am Worship 8:30 am Sun School 9:30 am Cong. Mtg. <i>Thrivent Elections</i> <i>Thankoffering</i> Food Shelf</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 Conference Pastor's Mtg. at rural Truman</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00 Confirmation 7:00 pm Bible Study for both churches at Trinity</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Jr. High Youth Gathering at Willmar</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Jr. High Youth Gathering at Willmar</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30 am Worship 8:30 am Sun School</p> <p>Food Shelf</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Community Service at St. Paul's</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00 am Thanksgiving Day Service at Trinity <i>Thanksgiving Day</i></p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 am Advent &amp; Christmas Decorating</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30 am Worship 8:30 am Sun School</p> <p><i>Advent</i></p>	<p>30</p>					

2009