

We are a community empowered by the Holy Spirit, called to bring God's comfort, to work for God's justice, and to share the hope and love of Jesus with all.

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Food Pantry Needs
~ see page 9

**St. Paul's Benefit
with Brooks BBQ**
~ details on page 11

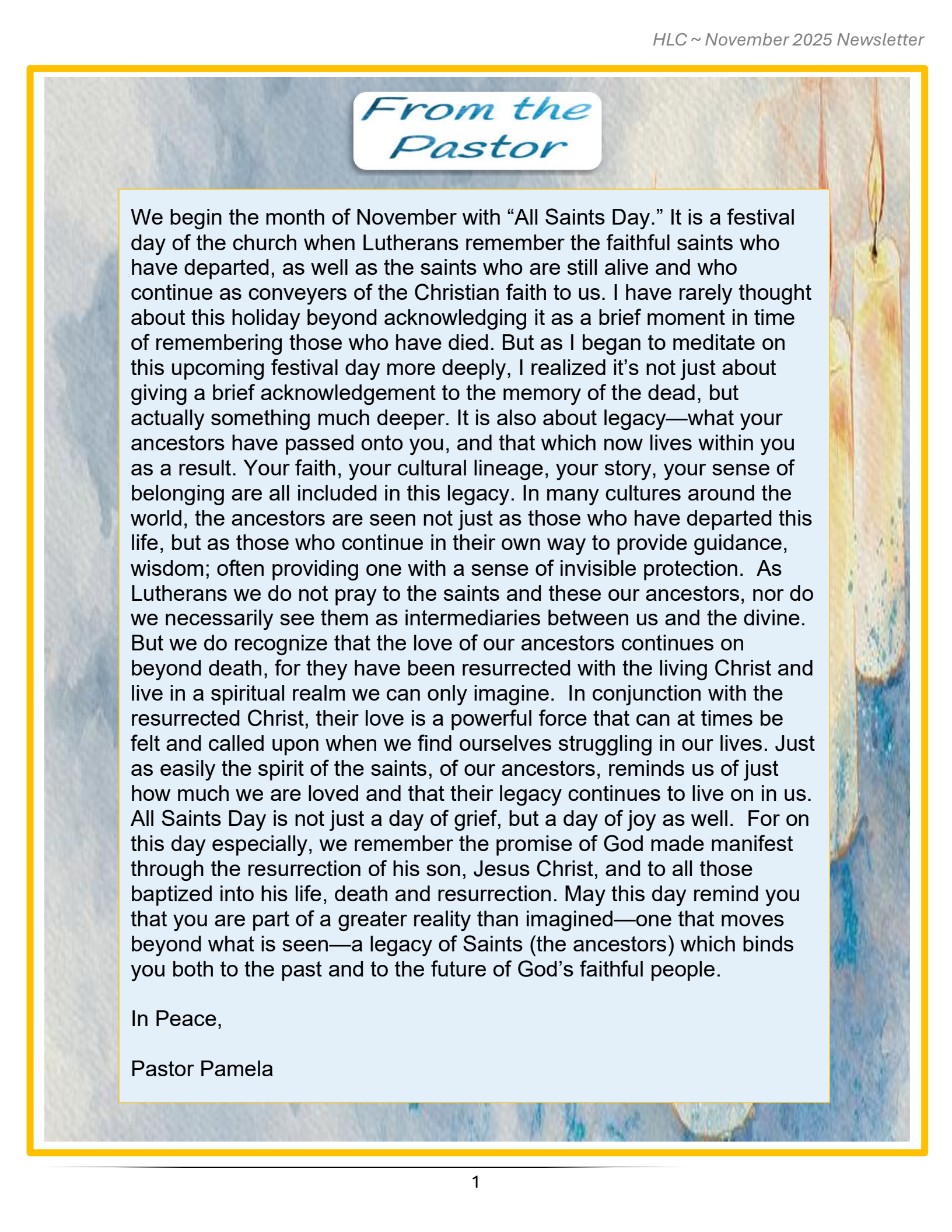
Red Cross Blood Drive
~ info. on page 12

**Christmas Poinsettia
Order Forms**
~ see page 14

Our Core Values



faith
acceptance
compassion
gratitude
love



From the Pastor

We begin the month of November with “All Saints Day.” It is a festival day of the church when Lutherans remember the faithful saints who have departed, as well as the saints who are still alive and who continue as conveyers of the Christian faith to us. I have rarely thought about this holiday beyond acknowledging it as a brief moment in time of remembering those who have died. But as I began to meditate on this upcoming festival day more deeply, I realized it’s not just about giving a brief acknowledgement to the memory of the dead, but actually something much deeper. It is also about legacy—what your ancestors have passed onto you, and that which now lives within you as a result. Your faith, your cultural lineage, your story, your sense of belonging are all included in this legacy. In many cultures around the world, the ancestors are seen not just as those who have departed this life, but as those who continue in their own way to provide guidance, wisdom; often providing one with a sense of invisible protection. As Lutherans we do not pray to the saints and these our ancestors, nor do we necessarily see them as intermediaries between us and the divine. But we do recognize that the love of our ancestors continues on beyond death, for they have been resurrected with the living Christ and live in a spiritual realm we can only imagine. In conjunction with the resurrected Christ, their love is a powerful force that can at times be felt and called upon when we find ourselves struggling in our lives. Just as easily the spirit of the saints, of our ancestors, reminds us of just how much we are loved and that their legacy continues to live on in us. All Saints Day is not just a day of grief, but a day of joy as well. For on this day especially, we remember the promise of God made manifest through the resurrection of his son, Jesus Christ, and to all those baptized into his life, death and resurrection. May this day remind you that you are part of a greater reality than imagined—one that moves beyond what is seen—a legacy of Saints (the ancestors) which binds you both to the past and to the future of God’s faithful people.

In Peace,

Pastor Pamela



Hello,

New Facebook Page: Our biggest news is that “hello community®” has a Facebook Page! This will allow us to broaden the information we can share on building connection and community: You will find book suggestions, website links, articles, episodes of our podcasts, YouTube shorts (trailers of episodes), and many other resources. We would love it if you would “follow” us and let us know what you like and what would you like more of.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61581038772526>

New podcast episodes: We have four guests lined up to tape new episodes starting next week. Two guests are local and two will be taped on Zoom because they are not local (New York City and Syracuse). Looking forward to having engaging and informative episodes for you on a regular basis!

Haven’t watched all the episodes? Just click on the link below for easy access to all *hello community®* platforms

<https://lnk.bio/hellocommunity>

Till next time!

Catherine



Doors of Hope

Matthew 25:35

"For I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
naked and you clothed me..."

*Thank you so much
for your generous
gift of food in Sept.
and 4 beautiful afghans
to be purchased in our
store.*

*Your contributions are
much needed and
appreciated*

God Bless you.



TIS THE TIME for GIVING GENEROUSLY!

HEADS UP FOR ST PAUL'S ADOPT-A- FAMILY PROGRAM

As we have done for over 20 years, Hope will adopt a family for the holidays from the St. Paul's Center. I have signed us up for a family of four – Mom and 3 kids. As soon as I have the information from the Center on the make-up of the family, I will make up a poster and sign-up sheet and put it at the back of the sanctuary. Thanks all. Marilyn.



HOPE Lutheran Church

 **St. Paul's Center**

ELCA Good Gifts for World Hunger

I know how much I enjoy spoiling my children and grandchildren for Christmas! It really brings me joy to see their faces light up when they receive something they've really wanted. Do they NEED anything? No. My son just told me he only wants "consumables" this year. Nothing to add to the already massive clutter. They all have all they need.

Imagine then, if you will, the joy on the faces of families living in poverty who receive the life-sustaining gift of an animal that will provide them and their family with food AND income. THE ELCA Good Gifts Catalog – soon to be available at the church – lists a myriad of Good Gifts to help impoverished families lead healthy and well-nourished lives.

In case you are not familiar with the ELCA's Good Gifts Program, here is some information:

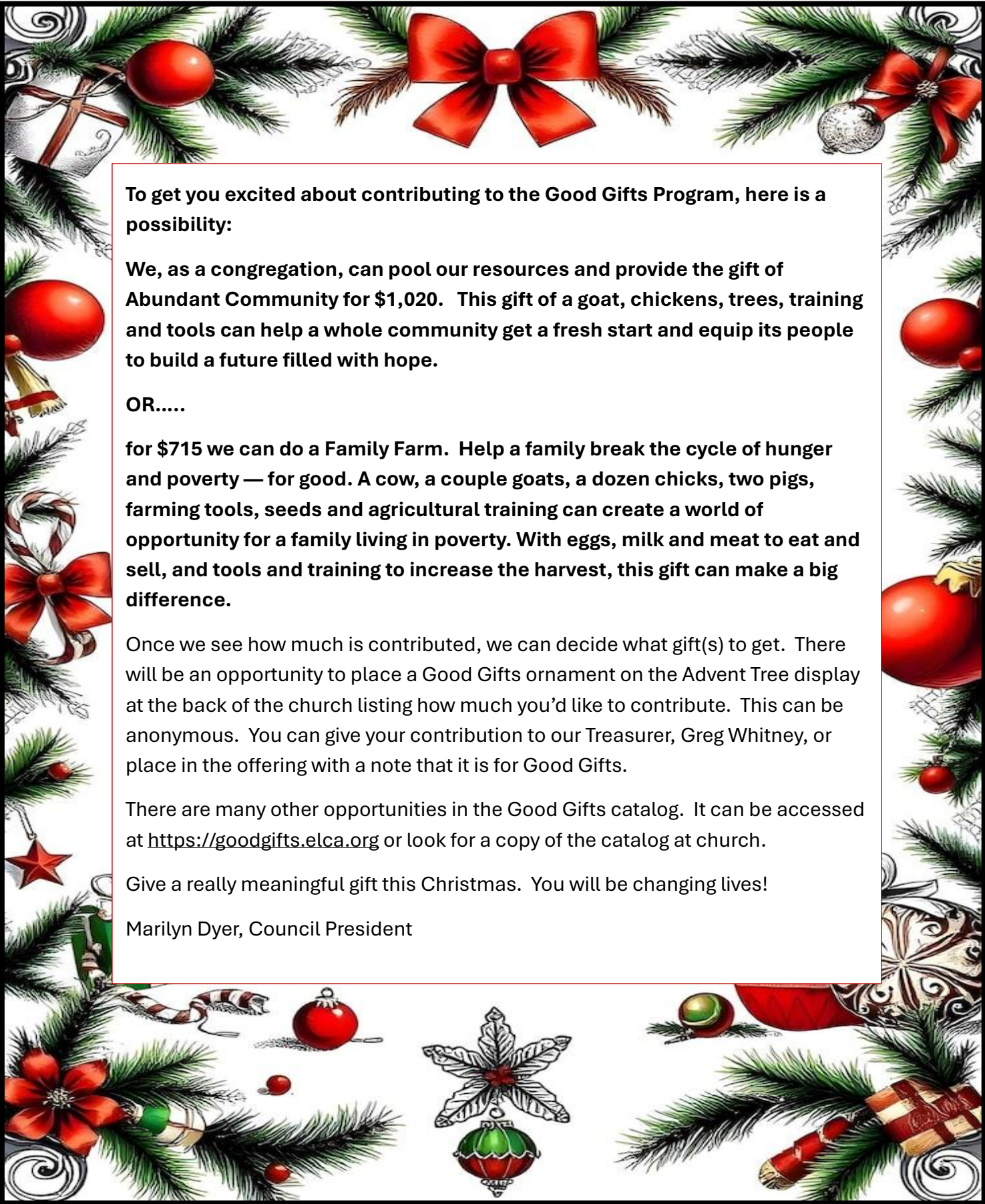
First, nearly 90% of your gifts directly support programmatic work. Your gifts support work in 86 countries.

\$\$ MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Every project in every community starts with listening. We believe that our congregations, companion churches and partners know their communities best. That's why *they* identify the needs and priorities in their communities, as well as the solutions they believe will make the biggest impact. The items in the Good Gifts catalog are real examples from projects currently supported through different churchwide ministries. The projects have been planned by our partners — meaning that each community receives exactly the kind of support it needs and none of what it doesn't.

Your donation will be used where needed most within the wider category of each gift you've selected. (For example, a gift of vaccinations may be used to support other health care initiatives.) This allows our church to stay adaptive, flexible and effective in the work that it does. Because we seek to honor your generosity and keep administrative costs low, we do not track individual financial gifts to specific families or locations in the United States or abroad.

(Continued on next page)



To get you excited about contributing to the Good Gifts Program, here is a possibility:

We, as a congregation, can pool our resources and provide the gift of Abundant Community for \$1,020. This gift of a goat, chickens, trees, training and tools can help a whole community get a fresh start and equip its people to build a future filled with hope.

OR.....

for \$715 we can do a Family Farm. Help a family break the cycle of hunger and poverty — for good. A cow, a couple goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training can create a world of opportunity for a family living in poverty. With eggs, milk and meat to eat and sell, and tools and training to increase the harvest, this gift can make a big difference.

Once we see how much is contributed, we can decide what gift(s) to get. There will be an opportunity to place a Good Gifts ornament on the Advent Tree display at the back of the church listing how much you'd like to contribute. This can be anonymous. You can give your contribution to our Treasurer, Greg Whitney, or place in the offering with a note that it is for Good Gifts.

There are many other opportunities in the Good Gifts catalog. It can be accessed at <https://goodgifts.elca.org> or look for a copy of the catalog at church.

Give a really meaningful gift this Christmas. You will be changing lives!

Marilyn Dyer, Council President



NOVEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR

November 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1 Dia de Muertos	2 All Saints Sunday
3 Ken Newberry	4 Election Day	5 Charlie Huff	6 Zina Huff	7 Marilyn Dyer	8 Tonys Humphrey	9 Shane Pucci
10 Mateo Dooley	11 Remembrance Day	12 Victoria Dooley	13 World Kindness Day	14 Richard Dooley	15 Dr. Becca Erlich	16 Will Platnick
17 Theo Erlich-Platnick	18 Susan Radminski	19 Kathy Zorian	20 Lisa Rogers	21 Jake Freehart	22 Jim Freehart	23 National Cranberry Eating Day
24 Bodie Rogers	25 Denise Rogers	26 Bill Cosgrove	27 Thanksgiving Day	28 Judy Cosgrove	29 Edith Easterling	30 Cydney Rogers Birthday



EACH MONTH WE LIST NAMES FOR YOUR DAILY PRAYERS. EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY BRINGS UNIQUE GIFTS FOR OUR MISSIONARY JOURNEY. OUR PRAYERS SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR DAILY LIVES. (A REMINDER...THESE ARE NOT PRAYERS FOR HEALING.)



We wish you a very Happy and Blessed Birthday ...

Cydney Rogers ~ November 30th





Let's Help Our Food Pantries in November!

Food pantries usually see an uptick in need as the holidays approach. This year they expect even more of a crunch, as Federal workers are missing paychecks and SNAP benefits may be cut off.

We can help. Our two local food pantries (Doors of Hope in West Sand Lake and CoNSERNS-U in Rensselaer) need our support more than ever. Let's help them get through the winter months!

Don't know what to buy? Here are a few suggested items:

- Canned tuna or chicken
- Canned soups and stews
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Stove Top stuffing
- Rice
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Toilet paper
- Soap
- Shampoo



Let's all make an effort during the month of November to purchase a few needed items every week. Every bit helps. If each of us brought in a small bag each week, imagine how much food we could collect!

October was Happy Teeth Month!

It started out small. A few toothbrushes and a couple tubes of toothpaste. But it grew, and as of this writing the table in back of the sanctuary holds a display of toothbrushes, toothpaste and dental floss that would warm the heart of any dentist!

And we're not done yet! Sunday, November 2 will be the last day to contribute to our ever-growing collection. These will all be divided between two food pantries (Doors of Hope in West Sand Lake and CoNSERNs-U in Rensselaer) and our friends at the St. Paul's Center and delivered in early November.

Thank you to all who contributed. Just imagine all the teeth we are helping to keep happy!



ST. PAUL'S CENTER FUNDRAISER



SATURDAY 11/15
3:00PM - 6:00PM

PREORDER
TODAY!

\$20

ACCEPTING WALK INS UNTIL SOLD OUT

CHICKEN DINNER INCLUDES:

**HALF CHICKEN, BAKED POTATO,
COLESLAW, ROLL & DESSERT**

SCAN



OR VISIT:

STPAULSCENTER.COM/EVENTS

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**470 WINTER STREET EXTENSION,
TROY, NY**



**St. Paul's
Center**

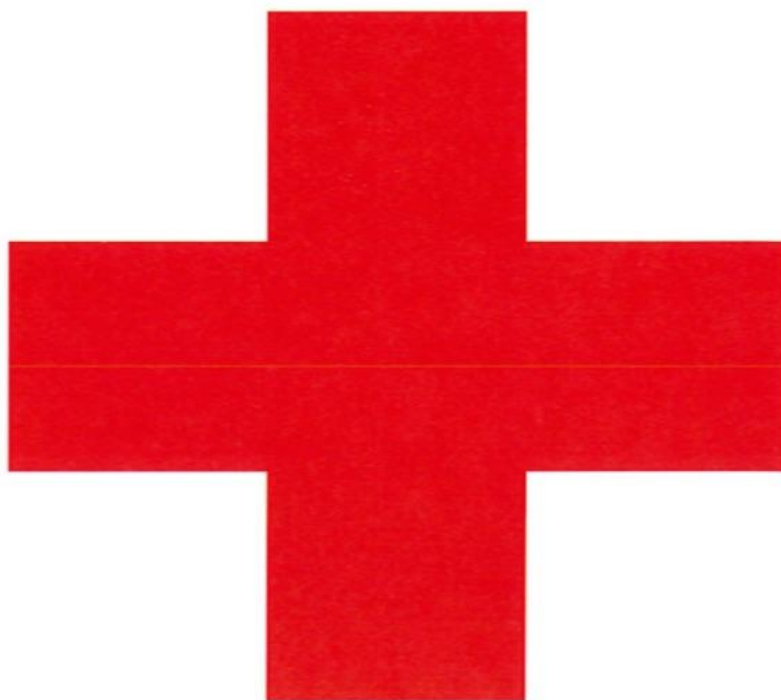


**HOPE Lutheran
Church**

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive
Hope Lutheran Church
470 Winter Street Ext., Troy, NY 12180

Saturday, November 29, 2025
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

To schedule your appointment, please call 1-800-REDCROSS, visit
www.redcrossblood.org, or, download the free Blood Donor App.

Use sponsor keyword: **hopelutheran**



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®



**Give blood Nov. 17-Dec. 7 for an exclusive pair of Red
Cross x PAC-MAN socks, while supplies last!**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

©2016 The American National Red Cross



Preparing for Advent and Christmas

It's hard to believe that the holidays are upon us. The first Sunday in Advent is November 30th – the weekend of Thanksgiving! In preparing our worship space for the season, the Christmas tree and Advent wreath stand need to go up on Saturday of that weekend. It would be very helpful to have some muscle (big strong manly men) to wrestle the tree out of its storage place and set it up! Once that's done, the altar guild can begin decorating it. As you know, we do a progressive decoration in keeping with the colors of the candles on the Advent wreath. This tradition also symbolizes our getting nearer and nearer to the birth of our Lord and Savior. On the last Sunday of Advent we place the Chrismons (those are the ornaments embroidered with Christian symbols that women of the church made many years ago) which completes the decoration in time for Christmas Eve.

If we have time, we can also decorate the window wreaths in preparation for hanging them as well as placing the candles in the windows.

Anyone who can offer an hour of their time, please text or phone Marilyn Dyer (518-505-6434) or Bonny Munteer (518-755-3203) to advise of your availability. We'll meet at 2 PM as there is a Blood Drive that day from 8-12. I know it's Thanksgiving weekend but hoping some of you will be around to help out. Thank you so much, as always, for your willingness to make our sanctuary joyful for the holidays.



Christmas Poinsettia Orders Now Being Taken!



It's that time again to start thinking about the upcoming holiday season! We'll be ordering beautiful poinsettias from Becker's Farm Garden Center to decorate the altar for the Christmas holidays in honor/memory of loved ones. This year you can choose red or white plants!

Please note:

Orders will be taken until **November 30th**.
All orders are prepaid.

Make checks out to Hope Lutheran Church.

Put checks with this order slip in the offering plate no later than **November 30th**. You may also mail in your orders, but please plan to have your order forms arrive at church before November 30th, when the order will be called in. Please indicate the number/color of plants ordered, circle the "Honor of" or "Memory of", fill in your dedication (for inclusion in the Christmas Eve service bulletin), plant color (if not circled, "red" will be assumed), and if you would like to take your plant home.

_____ Tabletop \$12 ea. (1 plant in 6.5" pot) _____ Hearth \$28 ea. (1 plant in 8.5" pot)

Circle plant color: **RED** or **WHITE**

Given by: _____

In Honor of: or ***In memory of:***

(Please circle one of the above and include name below.)

Taking home? Yes or No (please circle one)

Thank you!

Poinsettia Plant – Poisonous to Pets?

Not according to the article "Holiday Health Hazards" from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University. In the article <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/ClientED/holiday.aspx>, it is stated that poinsettias "...are not very toxic to pets. They do contain a milky sap that can irritate the mouth but if signs develop, they are usually mild." Further research online supporting this can be found at numerous sites including the

ASPCA's site (<http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/poinsettia.html>) which states that for pets, poinsettias are "irritating to the mouth and stomach, sometimes causing vomiting, but are generally over-rated in toxicity" and that "While poinsettias are commonly "hyped" as poisonous plants, they rarely are, and the poisoning is greatly exaggerated" (<http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/poison/poinsettia>).

Worship Volunteer Duties for November 2025

Please find your own replacement if you cannot be available on date of assignment.

	2-Nov	9-Nov	16-Nov	23-Nov	23-Nov
	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am
Altar Guild/ Comm. Asst. 2	Bonny M	Susan R	Charlie H	Donna S	Debbie F
Greeter	Ja'net M	Lois B	Marlies P	Diane C	Sandra G
Usher	Marion D	Athena B	Maureen H	Charlie H	Marion D
Assisting Minister	Mike D	Karen C	Sandra G	Luis C	Pam D
Comm. Assistant	Mike D	Pam D	Chris N (+ candles)	Luis C	Pam D
Snack Set-Up	Susan C	Marilyn D	Maureen H	Susan C	Marilyn D
Offering Counters	Marion D & Anna-Lisa H	Pam D & Bonny M	Maureen H & Pam D	Diane C & Charlie H	Pam D & Marion D



Upcoming Events for November of 2025

We have 'In-Person' Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 AM.

We also live-stream our services on our website, Facebook and YouTube.

Sharing the hope and love of Jesus with all

1st: Regional Food Bank Packing, 10:30 AM – Noon, Meet at RFB.

2nd: All Saints Sunday!

Prayers of Hope meets in the small classroom following worship service.

4th: Beginner Plus Tai Chi with Pam Dodson @ 7 PM in the sanctuary; (every Tues. except 25th).

5th: Qigong with Pam Dodson @ 1:30 PM in the sanctuary; (every Wed. except 26th).

Advanced Tai Chi with Pam Dodson @ 3 PM in the sanctuary; (every Wed. except 26th).

Worship & Music Committee Meeting @ 6:30 PM in the small classroom.

6th: Women's Bible Study @ 6:30 PM at Pr. Elaine Berg's home; (every Thurs., except the 27th).

11th: Veterans Day ~ Honoring All Who Served!

15th: St. Paul's Benefit ~ Brooks BBQ, 3 – 6 PM, Take-Out in the parking lot.

18th: Hope's Hands meets @ 10 AM in the small classroom.

19th: Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM in the large classroom & via Zoom.

20th: Grief Support Group @ 5:30 PM in the large classroom.

St. Paul's Board Meeting @ 6 PM in the small classroom.

21st: Hope's Dine-Out Dinner Group – TBD.

26th: Newsletter Articles Due.

27th: Thanksgiving Day ~ Give Thanks and Praise!

29th: Red Cross Blood Drive, 8 AM – Noon, in the sanctuary.

Decorate the Christmas Tree & Sanctuary @ 2 PM.

30th: First Sunday of Advent!

