

**OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
1524 WEST MAIN, DURANT, OK 74701**



OUR SAVIOUR'S NEWS

NOVEMBER, 2018

PASTOR'S CORNER

2 Corinthians 9:10-15 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your benevolence. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

We have returned from our whirlwind trip to Iowa and it was a good time of visitation with family. Being at a college homecoming celebration I, also, had the opportunity to hear stories, and reflect on the legacy of the lives of so many people, including my Father-in-Law, who now resides in a facility for those suffering from forms of dementia. I am in the church office now typing out some words for you for this month's newsletter and I am reflecting on "All Saints Sunday" coming up and the "Harvest Potluck Banquet" that we have every year to have simple fellowship, and give thanks for one another, and the legacy of ministry that happened, happens, and will happen here (past, present and future.) So, as I sit here, with all of this in my mind, and I am catching up from being gone, I came across an email from the ELCA stewardship site. The email's opening letter talks about **gratitude** and **stewardship** and their interconnectedness.. I offer that letter to you here for your reflection and pondering this month as we give thanks for each other and all that God has done, given, and equipped us with, for ministry in Durant, Oklahoma!!

Dear friend in Christ,

Whenever we talk about stewardship, it doesn't take long before the topic of gratitude enters the conversation. The two are commonly linked, possibly because giving thanks and being generous are naturally understood as appropriate responses to God's abundant blessings.

Perhaps it's a surprise then that the Benedictine monk David Steindl-Rast implies that gratitude can be a disposition that precedes goodness, instead of just a logical response that follows. Quite provocatively he says, "In daily life, we must see that it is not happiness that makes us grateful, but gratefulness that makes us happy." Or, said another way, being grateful is a perspective we can cultivate that helps us see that God is good and our lives are blessed, as opposed to a quid pro quo acknowledgment after the fact.

Independently, the professor and researcher Brene' Brown writes that grateful people don't just have an inclination or "attitude of gratitude," but instead, these people engage in specific practices that fuel their sense of gratefulness. Saying grace before a meal, offering a prayer of thanks at the beginning or end of the day, or taking time to worship God are disciplines that exercise our trust in God's very nature of goodness. These practices don't just focus on blessings that have already materialized. Similarly, generosity and stewardship are faith practices that increase our confidence, our faith in God and God's ability to provide for our well-being in the present and future.

(continued on page 3, Pastor's Corner Continued)

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, October 14, 2018

In attendance: Robin Bell, Brandon Burnette, Gary Hicks, Martha Landua, Rade Radasinovich, Paige Poppe, Sarah Weisenbuehler, Pastor Jeff Corson, Kathleen Burnette (guest)

President Rade Radasinovich called the meeting to order at 12:19 pm. Pastor Corson opened the meeting with devotion and prayer. Minutes of the September 9, 2018 regular meeting of the Council, as well as, the August 31 and the September 30, 2018 financial reports were presented. **Gary moved to approve the minutes; second by Sarah; motion passed.**

Committee Reports were presented by the following representatives:

Brandon (Fellowship) – Brandon reported that planning for the October 31st TRUNK OR TREAT is well underway with sign-up sheets posted and filling up with volunteers; however, more individuals are needed. He mentioned that Southeastern's Theatre Department will present a play, "Alfred Hitchcock, the 39 Steps," November 8-10. Hopefully, this will become a church-wide event.

Martha (Secretary) – Martha reported that the "fall tree" is now in the Narthex for the collection of warm hats, gloves and socks for students who attend Washington Irving Elementary, which is again being billed as WARMING WASHINGTON IRVING. This collection will extend until November 11th.

Sarah (Education) – Sarah announced that the Adult Christian Education (ACE) class is in full swing in their study of Mark. Due to Sarah's absence on Oct. 21st, there will be no ACE that day and the Family Faith Formation scheduled for the 21st is postponed until the 28th in the Fellowship Hall with "Joseph's Dream of his brothers bowing down to him" as the theme.

Paige (Worship) – Paige reported on the Worship Committee's meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 10. During Pastor Jeff's absence from the pulpit on Oct. 21st, Rev. Janice Heidelberger will serve as supply pastor. On Nov. 11th Pr. Kris Totzke, Assistant to the Bishop, will be visiting Our Saviour's. During Advent Services at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, the Joyous Light service will be used. Services will be preceded by Soup Suppers at 6:00 pm hosted by OSLC's Women of the ELCA. Free Will offerings will be deposited into the "Scholarship Account" to be used for W-ELCA convention and workshop registrations. On November 8th the BACKDOOR will be held at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Gary (Stewardship) – Nothing to report this month

Robin (Ministries) – Nothing to report this month

Pastor Jeff – Pastor presented a written report to council members. Pastor Jeff mentioned the busyness of this time of the year and listed several dates to remember: October 21 – Rev. Janice Heidelberger supply pastor in his absence; October 28 – Reformation Sunday; November 4 (All Saints Sunday) Harvest Banquet; Thursday, Nov. 8 – Backdoor event; Saturday, Nov. 10 – Church Strip & Wax Fellowship Hall floor & general cleanup; Sunday, Nov. 18 – Community Thanksgiving Service. In the planning stages is a "Blue Christmas" service for those individuals who have lost loved ones and who find the holiday season not particularly festive. This will be a joint venture of Our Saviour's, St. John's Episcopal and First Christian churches.

(continued on next page—council minutes continued)

COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED

Old Business:

*Paving of some of OSLC property by First United Bank for FUB parking

After discussion of the proposal from First United Bank it was decided to table this item until Council members have time for discussion among church membership, for time to think about the issue and to be ready to re-address this topic again at the November regular meeting. Pr. Jeff will meet with Mr. William Fahrendorf, Executive Vice President of First United Bank, prior to the next meeting to discuss some of the concerns and questions brought up during this meeting.

New Business:

*Begin Thinking about positions open for the 2019 Council

The following positions are up for reelection in 2019 for 2 year terms (January 2019-January 2021):

President (completing 2-yr term – Rade Radasinovich)

Ministries (completing 1-yr term of a 2-yr term [first yr. of term held by Evelyn Engel]) – Robin Bell

Stewardship (completing 2-yr term – Gary Hicks)

Worship (completing 2-yr term – Paige Poppe)

Sarah moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:03 pm; second by Gary; motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Landua, Secretary

The next meeting of the Church Council will be November 11, 2018, following Fellowship time.

PASTOR'S CORNER CONTINUED

As we continue to learn more about gratitude, it seems to me there is a need to better understand its relevance to a life of faith and living life as stewards. This issue of stewardNet is about some of those nuances and complexities and interdependencies.

We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life. Thank you for doing God's work with a faithful, generous heart!

Faithfully,
Steve Oelschlager
Stewardship Program Coordinator
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

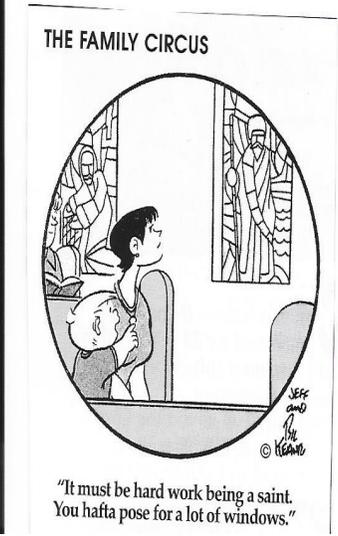
See you in Church,
Pastor Jeff

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
NOVEMBER**

**12 Angel Grube
13 Marilyn Comer
15 Devin Fox
17 Susan Remshardt
20 Rebekah Corson**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
NOVEMBER**

No anniversaries

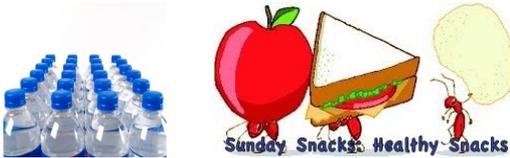


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PASTOR'S PANTRY

Nutritious snacks and water are being accepted at any time for **PASTOR'S PANTRY**.

In recent weeks there has been an increase in the number of people stopping by OSLC for help. Thank you for supporting this important ministry to our brothers and sisters who need assistance. Nutritious snack items and water are being collected in the basket found in the Narthex. In this small way, we are making a difference in the fight against hunger in our community.



VEGGIE BASKET

Have you noticed that the Veggie Basket is no longer in Our Saviour's narthex hallway?

The reason being that St. Catherine's closed their food pantry on 1st Street and are no longer giving out grocery bags of food on Wednesdays. This ministry served our community for several years but for several reasons they decided it was time to close their doors last August. The regional food bank on Main Street is still available for people to obtain food.

Thereby, Our Saviour's and St. Johns Episcopal are no longer partnering together to donate cans of veggies for St. Catherine's. You are encouraged to donate water and nutritious snack items for our own Pastor's Pantry.

THE BACK DOOR IS BACK!

After a summer break, Our Saviour's Back Door is up and running again! You and your family and friends are invited to our fall Back Door event to be held on Thursday, Nov. 8th at 7 p.m. to around 9 p.m. in Our Saviour's Fellowship Hall.

Several musicians will entertain you and the committee in charge will have plenty of coffee and cookies to serve you. If you haven't attended one of these musical venues in the past—come see what it is all about! You will be amazed at how our Fellowship Hall is changed into a coffee house atmosphere. Spread the word—bring a friend. All ages welcome.

Need to be somewhere—no way to get there? Call Rhonda!

To my family at Our Saviour's:

Most of you know that I retired approximately 1 1/2 years ago. Yes—I am enjoying it. I do stay relatively busy, but continue to look for opportunities to serve. I wanted to make you all aware that I am available if you need a ride to an appointment or if you find yourself stuck somewhere due to illness or car trouble. Please do not hesitate to call me, if I can help in any way. If you call me last minute, and I am unavailable, I will just simply tell you I cannot. However, I do want to serve not only our community but also here in our congregation. Just let me know if you need my help in some way. My cell number is 580-931-7494. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Rhonda Collier



HARVEST DINNER

Sunday, November 4th

Each family household is asked to provide a main dish plus one side dish (salad, veggie, dessert)

A single person household is asked to provide a dish of choice.

(No "sign up" ... Just "show up"!))

CHURCH WORKDAY—NOV. 10—8 AM to ?

All hands on deck! Everyone who can, please be at OSLC's workday! The biggest task is to strip and re-wax the Fellowship Hall floor. Evelyn has provided a "To Do List" of jobs both inside and outside that need to be accomplished. If you can do one or more of these "jobs" beforehand, please mark it off of the list. Come prepared to help spruce up our building and grounds!

SEE YOU THERE!



WARMING WASHINGTON IRVING ~ Winter 2018-19

An "Autumn Tree" is set up in the Narthex to accept your donations through November 11 of **warm hats, gloves/mittens and socks** (sizes children 11 to youth 3) for needy students at Washington Irving Elementary (OSLC's adopted school). If you can't get to the store to shop, monetary donations will be happily accepted by Martha Landua (project coordinator). All items donated will be presented to the staff at WIES for distribution to needy students during the cold winter days of this school year.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS & GENEROSITY
FOR WI STUDENTS, TEACHERS & STAFF!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Every day, we go out into the world as Christians and are living witnesses to the love of God. How do we know what that means? What do our sacred scriptures say about what it means to be the people of God? What can we learn from the characters who are featured in the Bible? Who is Jesus and what can we learn about Jesus from the Bible and from our experiences as a community of faith? As people of faith, reading and study of our faith stories helps us wrestle with these questions and so many more to guide us as we witness to the gospel in our world. To help us along our journey, here are some of our regular Christian Education offerings.

Adult Christian Education (ACE):

- * Sunday mornings from about 9:30–10:15 am. We are studying the Gospel of Mark and meet in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome! No previous attendance necessary.

Family Faith Formation: Dreams and Dreamers of the Bible

“In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.” Acts 2:17

- * **Time:** Approximately 12–2 or so on the following Sundays. We gather for a light lunch after church then meet for song, story, and activities to help us learn our stories of faith. Here is the schedule for upcoming FFF events:

- * **Schedule:**

- * November 18, 2018: Joseph, son of Jacob—interpreter of dreams
- * December 16, 2018: Dream of Joseph, earthly father of Jesus
- * January 20, 2019: Dream of the Magi, Joseph dreams again
- * February 17, 2019: Paul’s dream
- * March 17, 2019: Peter’s dream
- * April 14, 2019: Dream of wife of Pontius Pilate
- * May 19, 2019: Dreaming dreams

Join us for one of these educational opportunities, and as always, continue with your own Bible studies and daily devotions. Talk to Pastor Jeff if you need help starting devotions or if you want some guidance with daily Bible reading.

May we all dream dreams of how God is calling us to live out the Kingdom of God on earth!

Yours in Christ,
Sarah Weissenbuehler

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The Durant Ministerial Alliance will hold a city-wide, ecumenical Thanksgiving service **at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, November 18 at 6:30 pm.** Rev. Andy Shelton, Pastor of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will preach. The offering will go to the DMA's voucher ministry, which serves needy folks in our community.

A COMMUNITY CHOIR has been formed to sing for the service.

Anyone interested in singing should contact

First Presbyterian Church's Minister of Music, Melissa Lilley,

at melissalilley16@gmail.com for more information.

A single rehearsal will be held at 5 p.m. on November 18 at FPC.

ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP TO VISIT OSLC

Our Saviour's will host the NT-NL Assistant to the Bishop, Kris Totzke, on Sunday, November 11th. She is visiting Sierra Leone the next week and a half and upon her return she will be traveling to Durant.. We look forward to hearing about her trip and updates on the Northern TX—Northern LA ELCA Synod/Mission area ministry.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

Yes, we will once again have an Angel Tree in our Narthex! This annual project of the OSLC Women of the ELCA is once again coordinated by Paige Poppe. Paige will be giving us detailed information about this project soon. Watch the bulletin for details.



I want to say thank you to Martha Landua and members of Our Saviour's for the shoe boxes. They were desperately needed. I thank everyone who saved shoe boxes for me. Blessings on you. I

plan to pack 250 this year.

Sincerely,

Dolores White Kiser

(P.S. Dolores has been sending shoe boxes filled with goodies overseas for several years. She is the mother of Joan Iker.)



Brandon Burnett, Fellowship Council Rep, tells us that the Southeastern Theatre Department will present Alfred Hitchcock's play, "The 39 Steps," on November 8 – 10. Let Brandon know if you are interested in attending as a church group.



NOVEMBER, 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 ALL SAINT'S DAY 9:30 ACE 10:30 am Worship & Harvest Luncheon	5	6 7am—7 pm General Election in Fellowship Hall	7	8 7 pm Back Door in Fellowship Hall	9	10 8 am—??? Church Workday
11 Veterans Day 9:30 ACE 10:30 am Worship & Fellowship & Council Meeting	12 Happy B'day Angel Grube	13 Happy B'day Marilyn Comer	14	15 Happy B'day Devin Fox	16	17 Happy B'day Susan Remshardt
18 9:30 ACE 10:30 am Worship Noon— FFF <u>6:30 pm Community Thanksgiving Service at ></u>	19 <u>First Presbyterian Church</u>	20 Happy B'day Rebekah Corson Newsletter articles due	21	22 Thanksgiving Day	23	24
25 9:30 ACE 10:30 am Worship & Fellowship 3:30 Light of Hope Board Meeting	26	27	28	29	30	

November 11, Deadline for Washington Irving cap, gloves & socks project

