



# The Christ Messenger

Christ Lutheran Church  
Vienna, West Virginia

**November 2021**

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## Our Mission:

As Children of God, nourished  
by the Word, Sacrament and  
Fellowship of loving, forgiving,  
and hopeful believers—

WE are guided by the Holy  
Spirit to WITNESS to Christ's  
saving presence in the World!

*"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what He has done. Bring and offering and come before him. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:8, 29, 34*

The month of November is usually thought of as the time when we give thanks. During this time of the year, the signs of harvest are everywhere. Many places are decorated with squash and pumpkins, multi-colored leaves, corn, and other produce including jars of good stuff like pickles, jams, and jellies. Also, this month families will gather and sit down to bounteous feasts of turkey with all the trimmings, with apple cider and pumpkin pie. We will reward ourselves, those of us who can, with the bounties and fruits of the harvest. We will even remember the less fortunate than ourselves. We may hold dinners at shelters and soup kitchens, and we will make sure we've given a little extra to the food bank. And we will be satisfied. And all of that is good, but it might also be bad.

It's good because it is right that we should feast and thank God for what he has given us. It is right to celebrate and to share the bounty of the earth and the sea, it's good to express appreciation and to rejoice over the goodness of God. But it also might be bad depending upon our overall attitude and approach to life and to what God has done for us and continues to do. God desires us to do much better than just say thanks. God calls us not only to a day of Thanksgiving; he calls us to a life of thanks-living.

Giving thanks is important. When we give thanks as a community, as a family, we are reminded of all the good things and all the good people that we've been given or gifted with. We remember that we have been blessed; we remember that there is a greater good than ourselves – only for a moment or a day. But the temptation is then to return to self-sufficiency, to forget God, to say to ourselves – it was my strength that got me here – and then to yearn for more, and to expect it as if it were our right and our privilege. We can see it in our children. They are so grateful momentarily when we've gifted them. But their thankfulness can be very fleeting and are we so very different? We fill our lives with things only to find out there is no filling. There is where thanks-living comes into the picture. We begin to live thanks when we open our lives up to God and give God the first place. As we do this, as we humble ourselves before God and acknowledge that he is the source of all things, our awareness of his blessings increases, our joy becomes fuller, and we find ourselves living in his grace.

Like Abraham and Sarah, we discover that we have been blessed to be a blessing. Our continual thankfulness for our blessings will turn into a lifetime of living thanks, of living the blessings and sharing the blessings because we know in the deepest part of our hearts that God is the giver of it all. As you give thanks, in this upcoming month, remember your calling to be joyful always, to pray continually, and to give thanks in all circumstances. It is what God wants of and for you. In it you will find the fullness that God has in store for you.

Happy Thanksgiving Pastor Tom <><



### ELDERBERRIES

Elderberries met at Napoli's in Belpre, on Thursday, October 21, 2021. It was a nice, sunny morning and once again, we had enough privacy that we could actually hear each other. Our number was smaller but there was lots of conversation while we waited for our food. (Some had to wait longer than others.) Also, the zucchini fries were delicious, as usual. The conversation at one time turned to past members and memories and it took all of us to remember names!

Those attending were Jenny and Mike Knotts, Kay Rowan, Loreta Delaney, Fran and Tom Williams, Larry Armstrong, and Delores and Jerry Steege.

On November 18, we will meet at der Dog Haus in Parkersburg. (Our meeting date is on the third Thursday.) There is a sign-up sheet at church or call me at (304) 428-2056. Hope you will join us. Delores Steege



### Birthdays

- November 2 – Tyson Wagoner
- November 6 – Sally Hannan
- November 13 – Kay Rowan
- November 13 – Drew Padgett
- November 20 – Larry Armstrong

### November Schedule

#### November 1<sup>st</sup> – All Saints Day

Service at Noon at First Lutheran

#### November 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

Services 8:30 & 10:45

Sunday School at 9:30

Communion on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>

Social Committee Meeting – November 4<sup>th</sup> at 4pm (Parsonage)

Bible Study – November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 & 6:30

Elderberries – November 18<sup>th</sup> at noon at Der Dog Haus

Mid Week Advent Services start December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30pm.

More information to be announced later.

### Good Samaritan Center Item of the Month



### Evaporated Milk



Poinsettia orders will be placed soon. There will be more information coming out about them in the next few weeks. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

## Quiet Moments – November 2021

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

Dear Friends,

It amazes me whenever I meet someone of tremendous faith. I am humbled that my faith walk isn't as strong. For example, when I worked as a corporate trainer across the entire United States, I got to meet many people whether in my classes or during my travels.

Carol was one such lady. She believed that even in the most difficult situations our prayers should include thanks to God. She felt that God was already present and working for our good. I used to think that she was oversimplifying some difficult times, but I stand corrected. She was absolutely right. We are NEVER alone. It doesn't matter if we are dealing with personal, familial, or national issues; He is there. (I started to compare Carol's advice to when we would thank someone for coming to us during good and bad times.)

We are celebrating Thanksgiving this month let us truly be thankful for all our blessings even when some of them seem like issues. God is using those times to make us aware that He is a breath away. He's got this, and that is all we need to know.

Happy thanksgiving.

Blessings, Liz

### Christmas Open House at the Parsonage

Pastor Tom and Liz will be hosting an open house on Saturday December 10 beginning at 4 which will be prior to our annual Christmas progressive dinner. We so hope to see you there.

*Pastor Tom and Liz*

#### Church Address:

4513 Grand Central Avenue  
Vienna, WV 26105

#### Church Phone Number:

304-295-9241

#### Church Web Page:

<https://christlutheranviennawv.org/>

#### Church Facebook Page:

[Facebook.com/christlutheranchurchviennawv](https://www.facebook.com/christlutheranchurchviennawv)

### We keep the following people in our prayers:

Russell Behnke; Jerry John DiNicola; Sally Ebeling; Pam Goots; Heather; Mary Hennen; Laura Lemley; Joel McGuier; Rob Miser; Gary Miller; Gean Secreto; April Sowards, Caren Thomas; Donna Vincent; Terry & Vicki Wilson; Tiffany Wilson; police and first responders; our troops; Christians and other minorities in the Middle East; people in the Ukraine and eastern Europe; pray for peace; and for our military, especially for Airman Elijah Modesitt (U.S. Airforce); Jon Shorr serving in Afghanistan; Conner Allen serving in China; families of all those who serve in the military; for all who have been diagnosed with COVID 19 and/or hospitalized for the virus, for all who have died from the virus, for all of our medical personnel and first responders who are treating patients, for all families and loved ones separated by quarantines, for people who do not have access to medical care to be treated, for folks who are unemployed and the underemployed.

### Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9:00-12:00

The church office will be closed on Thanksgiving. Kelley Padgett will be out of the office on November 11<sup>th</sup> and the week of Thanksgiving. If you have any needs from the church at that time, please email the church office or contact Pastor Darr. Thank you.